## SCHOOL AND YOUTH



Photos by Lauri Schwartz

Jamilla Carrizales serves it up.



16s boys blue team present a formidable block and attacking team.



Every team member is invaluable and engaged in the match.

# Madison Starlings Volleyball Club invites girls and boys to join

**By Lauri Schwartz**
*Madison Starlings Volleyball*

Madison Starlings is a volleyball club that is committed to equity and inclusion. We are seeking girls ages 12–18 and boys to play, learn and possibly compete on teams. There are opportunities for all skill levels, beginner to advanced. We have competitive teams for boys and girls on separate individual-age teams.

Tryouts for middle school girls and boys will be Sunday, Oct. 8, at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Tryouts for high school boys will be Monday, Nov. 6, and Wednesday, Nov. 8. Tryouts for high school girls will be Sunday, Nov. 12, and Wednesday, Nov. 15. For full details, visit starlings.org/Madison.

Kids can contact us for consideration of tryout any time if they miss the October and November tryouts. We have options for them to participate in an open gym and just begin learning.

Kids can participate through volunteering to earn their dues if they choose.

Starlings Volleyball USA is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1997 in San Deigo, California. Madison Starlings is a local chapter founded in 2010. We are committed to providing high quality club volleyball to all athletes, regardless of income. All are welcome and encouraged to become involved as players, coaches or volunteers. We are a 501(c)3 and welcome your donations.

Visit starlings.org/madison or contact us at madisonstarlings@gmail.com.



Photo by Vivian Washington

Standing (L-R) Jasmine Daniel, Yasmin Vazquez, Krystal Herr, Laniyah Brown, Analexis Romero-Maldando; kneeling (L-R) Lauren Thompson, Hannah Ahamed, Victoria Allard, Clara Corona-Forte

# 14-year-old Clara enjoys playing with Madison Starlings

**By Clara Aaliya Corona-Forte**
*Madison Starlings*

My name is Clara Aaliyah Corona-Forte, and I am 14 years old. I'm going into ninth grade at East High School. In middle school, I was in Starlings for one year. It was the best decision I made in eighth grade. I made so many friends, had fun traveling around Wisconsin to go to games and tournaments, and it was really good for my body.

The main thing I like about Starlings is the diversity. There are many people who have different backgrounds, and it's fun seeing that you aren't the only one who's a different race. Everyone is treated equally and as a person. The coaches make sure you learn many things throughout the season, and you can see how much better you have gotten.

Also, the teams are by skill level, so it shouldn't be too easy or too hard. It is perfect for whatever level you are at in volleyball. Not to mention that the team you get in is just one big family. That's how I met one of my friends that I know and love to this day.

If you are thinking about joining volleyball, it might be best to join Starlings since anyone can learn and grow their skills.



Photo by Lauri Schwartz

Kashia Her (front row middle in blue long-steeve shirt) in a photo taken at a tournament at UW Parkside last season.

# EHS senior found "family" in Madison Starlings

**By Kashia Her**
*Madison Starlings*

My name is Kashia Her. I am a senior at Madison East High School. I have been playing volleyball for over four years. I started in eighth grade with little experience and a lot of aspirations.

I joined volleyball to try another sport and keep active, but I fell in love with it and can't imagine my life without it. My experience playing volleyball has taught me lifelong skills and lessons. From the drive for improvement to the importance of communication, this sport challenges me in a forward-looking way. It has made me incredibly self-aware.

I've learned that no matter how hard one tries for success, the reality is that this is a team sport. Everyone has to understand each other as individuals and as a whole. Successfully facing adversities isn't only noticing the way you are or are not contributing, but it is also noticing a teammate who may be experiencing personal negativity that contributes to our team's lack of progress. These types of setbacks can make or break team spirit and momentum.

Club volleyball is a culture. In this community, you spend time every week with people who encourage you to grow as a person and a player. Playing in tournaments is like no other experience. You feel the rush of hundreds of athletes who have the same hunger as you and your teammates do. There is a mutual yearning to win.

I found refuge in Madison Starlings volleyball club. Starlings is a family that has provided a place for me to express my love for volleyball and has introduced me to the most caring, inclusive and diverse family I could ever ask for. Many East students are members of the Starlings family, which allows us to grow our connections. I will finish my last season with most of the girls I started with, and these remarkable athletes have taught me so much.

My time with Starlings has created memories that fill my soul and shape me as a person. Starlings has granted me lifelong competencies and people I consider family.