NEWS RELEASE

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DPS TO START ELEMENTARY BASEBALL LEAGUE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NIKE RBI

Danville Public Schools (DPS) is thrilled to announce an new partnership with Major League Baseball's Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (Nike RBI) program. This dynamic collaboration will launch a brand-new elementary school baseball league, set to begin in Spring 2026.

Nike RBI is the MLB's premier youth initiative dedicated to expanding access to baseball and softball for children in underserved communities. Thanks to this incredible partnership, DPS students will now have the chance to learn fundamentals at an even earlier age.

The momentum for baseball's return to Danville has been building since DPS began revitalizing middle and high school programs three years ago. Now, with Nike RBI's support, elementary students will have the opportunity to play as well, learning fundamental skills, developing teamwork, and discovering a lifelong passion for the game.

"Through Danville RBI, baseball will be accessible for all students," Michael Pritchett, Head Baseball Coach at George Washington High School, said. "This eliminates the barriers that may have kept kids from playing."

Those barriers, such as equipment, uniforms, and access to organized leagues, will be covered by the Nike RBI program, ensuring every student has the opportunity to participate.

Pritchett plans to form three teams per elementary school:

- Kindergarten & 1st Grade – T-ball
- 2nd & 3rd Grade – Coach-pitch
- 4th & 5th Grade – Player-pitch

If there is interest, softball teams may also be added.

Player sign-ups have begun, and skills clinics are scheduled in September to help young athletes build their ability and confidence before league play begins in the spring of 2026.

“We are incredibly grateful to Nike and the MLB for their generous support of our feeder programs,” George Washington High School Principal Johnny Cressell said. “This program is an investment in our future by empowering our elementary students, strengthening our community, and building a pipeline of excellence for years to come.

DPS is also looking for school and community members to get involved. Pritchett needs volunteer coaches, as well as school liaisons.

Those interested in volunteering can reach out to Michael Pritchett at (434) 710-2816. Player registration is taking place online at this link.