



BEYOND THE GAME

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND THE COMMUNITIES OF CINCINNATI

ATHLETICS

FALL 2018

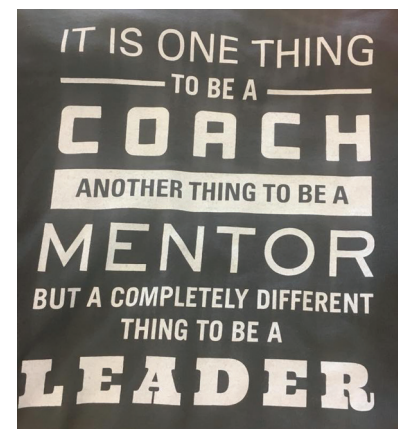
★ AAA PATHWAY

As student-athletes, it is critical that team coaches and administrators support the “student” identity as much as, or more than, the “athlete” identity. New in the 2018-19 school year, the AAA (Academic and Athletic Accountability) Pathway is an initiative put in place through District Athletics to over-prepare and over-equip our students, coaches and administrators with the resources necessary to reach the next level.

For students, the next level primarily focuses on getting into college. Standardized test preparation, academic intervention plans, study table requirements and collegiate eligibility expectations encompass the “student” aspect of AAA Pathway.

While our student-athletes take care of these important classroom elements, we still encourage setting an expectation for excellence on the field/court. Our growing Athlete of the Month program, mixed with unique strength and conditioning programs from school to school challenge students to strive for greatness in all athletic endeavors.

Finally, our mission also includes enabling coaches and administrators to be leaders amongst their student body. Since July, we’ve hosted three separate Coaches’ Professional Development Days to emphasize the greater meaning behind developing our students. With a focus on teaching life lessons and evolving as people beyond the game, these coaches and administrators will now confidently lead groups like Student Athlete Leadership Teams (SALT) to conduct give back projects, community service and more! We are excited to partner and collaborate with our great partners at Activities Beyond the Classroom. Through our partnership we were able to add Armand Tatum as the District AAA Pathway Director.



Coaches gather at Woodward High School (left) for a Professional Development event. Each coach received a complimentary t-shirt (above).

★ STARGEL STADIUM

2018 will mark the final year that the current Stargel Stadium in the West End of Cincinnati will host football games for Cincinnati Public Schools. The season started on an exciting note with Stargel Stadium hosting the very first Ohio High School football game of 2018 when Woodward battled Withrow in a CPS match-up!

On Friday, October 26, the Taft Senators had their senior night as they played host to Aiken High School in a battle for the CMAC Championship! Moreover, this marked the final regular season game ever played at the historic venue. CPS Athletics invited the Stargel family to be involved in a special pre-game ceremony to recognize the impact the former CPS coach had on the community and students throughout the district.

After clinching an OHSAA post-season berth, Taft High School hosted one last home playoff game on Saturday, November 3, where they came up short and ended their season against the London High School Red Raiders.

We are excited to prepare for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Stargel stadium.

[Read more about the regular season finale here!](#)



District Athletics Manager, Josh Hardin presents a commemorative plaque to Jason Stargel, grandson of Willard R. Stargel at the final regular season game (right).



★ ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

The Cincinnati Public Schools Athlete of the Month program is back and continues to positively impact model student-athletes districtwide! Each month, CPS Athletics awards one male and one female student athlete to represent the district as the Athlete of the Month. These students are nominated by their coaches and Athletic Directors for being responsible, trustworthy leaders within their school and community, on and off the court/field.

2018-19 features a new piece to the program as CPS Athletics video tapes presentations and interviews. At the end of the school year, we hope to capture the academic, athletic and community accomplishments that each student embodies. In addition, all Athlete of the Month recipients from 2018-19 will be eligible to apply for the Dave Dierker Scholarship (\$2,000 and a free lap top)!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL SPORTS ATHLETES OF THE MONTH!

[CeAyre Hall – SR – Withrow Football](#)

[Roshni Rai – SO – Aiken Cross Country](#)

[Muhammad Bah – Senior – Shroder Football](#)

[Meredith Bruce – SR – Clark Soccer](#)

[Tyrese Banks-Dorn – Junior – Walnut Hills Football](#)

[Tre'Sha Younge - Senior - Walnut Hills Cheer](#)

★ ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS

The vision behind elementary athletics is to provide more opportunities to our younger students and to prepare them for the next level. We continuously focus on building fundamental skills; however, we also emphasize character building traits such as responsibility, determination and more at each event we run.

In 2018, elementary athletics continues to make tremendous strides in regards to providing new opportunities for our students, districtwide. CPS Athletics has hosted a number of youth volleyball clinics and elementary school soccer exhibitions at a variety of different facilities CPS Athletics continues a great partnership with Activities Beyond the Classroom to provide more opportunities for the students at CPS.

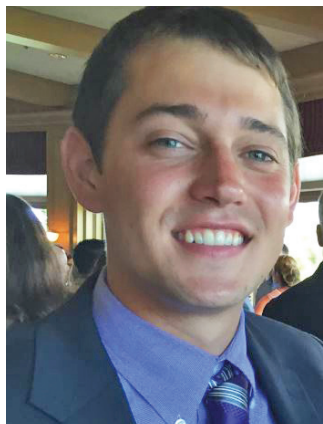
One area of importance is connecting the gap between our high schools and elementary schools. Varsity volleyball teams have made it a mission to give back and assist at our clinics to prepare students for what to expect when they move on to Jr High and High School, in addition to building mentorships and acting as role models for our younger students.

Real competition is also one of the new pieces of the 2018 school year. For the first time in recent history, CPS Athletics has provided support by organizing a scrimmage schedule, supplying sport equipment/transportation and hiring certified referees for each scrimmage. This program allows our CPS elementary schools to travel to other CPS schools within a geographical boundary set by CPS Athletics. The parent support, mixed with phenomenal work from our Resource Coordinators and Activities Beyond the Classroom, has helped pave the way in making these scrimmages successful and we look to continue implementing travel and scrimmages at as many schools as possible moving forward!



Westwood Elementary School soccer players pose in their new jerseys before a scrimmage!

BTG SPOTLIGHT: BRENT LANGHORNE ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS COORDINATOR



Why are elementary athletics so important?

Elementary athletics is very important to the development and growth of CPS students. Our goal is to build healthy habits through athletics and extracurricular activities. Whether it's being a good teammate on the field, or encouraging our elementary student-athletes to do the right things in the classroom, we look to instill character traits into every sport program that we offer in order to continue developing our students.

How do you determine which sports/extracurricular activities to focus on?

We want to offer as many sport opportunities as possible. Our district has a variety of students, and there will always be a variety of interest. Our three areas of focus are weekend camps/clinics, after-school programming and organized scrimmages. This model allows us to develop skills, provide a positive outlet after-school and build a culture that encourages CPS students to work together.

What has been your favorite project so far?

It's been exciting to see the growth of elementary athletics, and the different programs that have been offered thus far. This past fall, in partnership with Activities Beyond the Classroom (ABC) Soccer, we were able to provide a structure for eight CPS elementary schools to participate in organized scrimmages. Each team received cleats, shin-guards, team jerseys and every scrimmage had certified referees. Programs like this start to build a strong culture at the elementary level for many of our under-served communities.

What's next for CPS elementary athletics?

We have made progress, but there will always be room to improve. After Christmas break, we will continue our after-school Futsal and Fun-At-Bat programs, as we simultaneously roll out a new after-school swimming program at the Gamble-Nippert YMCA. In addition, we will have organized basketball scrimmages for several of our elementary schools. The future is very bright for CPS Elementary Athletics.

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