



BEYOND THE GAME

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

ATHLETICS

WINTER/SPRING 2020



★ CPS ATHLETICS HOSTS THE 3RD ANNUAL SALT CONFERENCE

CPS Athletics recently hosted the 3rd annual Student Athlete Leadership Teams (SALT) Conference. More than 70 student-athlete leaders representing 14 high schools were in attendance at the event.

The day started with a valuable call to action by District Athletics Manager Josh Hardin which charged students to consider the ongoing impact they can have on their corner of the world. Students then moved into their own breakout rooms. These breakouts were personal development sessions that capitalized on students' collective ideas about leadership and culminated in each student creating their own leadership statement.

Students came together to brainstorm ideas of “in-reach” projects and found common needs across their communities that could lead to collaboration and collective impact in the future. The day wrapped up with a powerful word form Leland Brown III of the NCAA Office of Inclusion on his own leadership journey, struggles and how he daily chooses to impact his network.

This project will kick-off each school's commitment to continuous service in their community.



★ STUDENT VOICE AT THE FRONT: CPS ATHLETICS ADVISORY COUNCIL KICKS OFF

In the 2019-2020 school year CPS Athletics has introduced the CPS Athletics Advisory Council. This team of people consists of coaches, ADs, school counselors, teachers, AAA coaches and student-athletes. The goal of the CPS Athletics Advisory Council is to open the planning books up to kids and important stakeholders 4 times a year to gain valuable insight and feedback into decisions.

At the inaugural meeting in December, attendees shared thoughts on the upcoming Student Athlete Leadership Teams Conference, ideas for collaboration with elementary programs and voiced a desire to be more involved with college athletics departments. Because of that meeting the

SALT conference focused on in-reach projects to provide the continuous and lasting impact student-athletes wanted. We are also excited about an upcoming partnership with UC Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and their support of our SALT teams.

In February, attendees shared their thoughts on a district structure and uniform set of expectations for all SALT teams. Attendees also shared thoughts on upcoming initiatives in CPS Athletics and are playing a huge role in these plans.

As a whole, CPS Athletics is focused on seeking student voice first, with input and support from critical stakeholders in buildings, to provide the best experience for all student-athletes.

★ AAA PATHWAY HIGHLIGHTED IN EDUCATION WEEK

The Academic and Athletic Accountability Pathway was highlighted for the unique and comprehensive support provided to Cincinnati Public Schools student-athletes in academics, future planning and personal development. In its 2nd year, the AAA Pathway has seen tremendous growth in student engagement and progress toward continuous eligibility and academic improvement. Through the tireless work of AAA Pathway coaches in each school, student-athletes have had an extra layer of support to help them succeed as a whole person.

Read the article: <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2020/02/26/like-college-athletes-these-high-school-players.html>



★ ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS UPDATES

It was another exciting winter season for CPS Elementary Athletics, as we had increased participation in Basketball, Futsal, and Swim for Safety Lessons. Check out highlights below:



BASKETBALL 24 schools participated in our after-school basketball league, which consisted of students in grades 4th-6th. Each participating school played in several games throughout the season, with girls and boys teams playing back to back on game days. The friendly competition was also a great opportunity for schools to display how awesome CPS students are, with after-school “student sections” that were loud and proud, as well as halftime performances from cheer/dance teams. THANK YOU to our CPS Elementary Schools for being part of the growth of elementary athletics. We look forward to another great basketball season during the 2020-21 school year!



FUTSAL 15 schools participated in our after-school futsal program, which consisted of K-2nd and 3rd - 6th grade students working on soccer skills in their school gymnasium. Students showed tremendous growth during the 4 week program, and it was great to see students keep their soccer skills sharp during the winter season. THANK YOU to our partners which include Kings Hammer, Cincinnati CUP, Queen City Street Soccer, and FCC who all assisted our schools during the month of January to ensure quality soccer instruction!



SWIM FOR SAFETY In partnership with the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati, 10 schools participated in our swim for safety program, which is designed to teach important water safety lessons for 1st grade students. Each participating school was part of a 2 week program after-school (back to back weeks) in which a group of students/chaperons traveled via yellow bus to their local YMCA. Once they arrived, students participated in swim lessons that were led by certified YMCA instructors! This was a great opportunity for students to learn important safety measures as well as have fun in a safe and positive environment! THANK YOU to the YMCA, as well as the Bill Kent Foundation for making this program a success!

CLICK HERE for an **IMPORTANT** student athlete/parent memo that addresses this spring season and next school year.