**DISTRICT ATHLETE OF THE MONTH**

Cincinnati Public Schools Athletics has recently launched the CPS Athlete of the Month program that will be awarded to one male and one female student athlete. This award is meant to recognize model student-athletes that demonstrate great leadership, responsibility and integrity all while performing at a top level on the field/court as well.

We’ve earned sponsorship for our program from Dick’s Sporting Goods, Buffalo Wild Wings, FC Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Reds Community Fund, Bruegger’s Bagels and Postmark restaurant, who all will give prizes to each winner at the end of the month. Our winners also will receive social media shout outs and their picture will be posted on our Athletics website.

All students that win CPS Athlete of the Month also will be eligible to win the Dave Dierker Scholarship, which will award the selected student a monetary donation for college as well as a brand new laptop.

**ELEMENTARY ATHLETICS INITIATIVE**

Elementary students districtwide are enjoying new sport opportunities through an initiative focused on athletics. New physical education programs like Fun-At-Bat (provided by Major League Baseball) and The First Tee (youth golf initiative) have been introduced to and funded for several elementary schools with plans to grow more interest and participation in Olympic sports around the inner-city.

In addition, multiple basketball skills clinics and a volleyball clinic have been introduced at CPS high schools throughout the month of October and early November.

During the clinics, instruction is provided by our CPS Varsity Coaches and H.S. Student-Athletes. Their efforts have shown great leadership as we bridge the gap between elementary and high school athletics. This initiative not only provides a great experience for our youth, but also brings the CPS community together.

At the end of the day, our Elementary Athletics Initiative will continue to connect our H.S. Student-Athletes and Elementary Student-Athletes in a peer-to-peer mentor approach. Our goal is to provide more opportunities and introduce a variety of sports to our students at a younger age.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Brent Langhorne, Elementary Coordinator at langhob@cps-k12.org. We are eager to provide more equitable opportunities for elementary students in our district.
**Hurricane Harvey Relief**

Houston, Texas recently experienced some of the worst hurricane damage in several years. In efforts to help with relief for citizens and the community in Houston, Cincinnati Public Schools Athletics hosted a weekend of football games in which we accepted donations that Matthew 25 Ministries ended up packing up and taking to Houston. Any fan bringing at least five non-perishable items received their game ticket for a 50% discount, and monetary donations also were accepted.

At the end of the weekend, our five home football games which were held at Stargel Stadium, Withrow High School and Woodward High School saw several truck-loads of donated items! A big shout-out goes to the Aiken Falcons football coaching staff as they led the campaign for donations and ultimately transported the materials to Matthew 25 Ministries.

**OHSAA Student Leadership Conference**

On Tuesday, October 3, each of our high schools sent a small, but special group of student-athletes to Ohio State University for the OHSAA Student Leadership Conference! Throughout the day, 1,600 students from all over Ohio listened to motivational speakers and learned about leadership qualities for the classroom and on the field. Each of our students that attended the conference brought back great ideas and talking points for their own school’s Student Athlete Leadership Teams in addition to having the opportunity of spending an whole day on a real college campus!

CPS sent 50 student athletes, 5 coaches & 7 athletic directors to the conference at Ohio State University.

CPS Athletics recently launched a new Facebook page to promote & highlight sports within the district. Make sure you like our page to get updates on games, events & more!

[www.facebook.com/IAMCPSAthletics](http://www.facebook.com/IAMCPSAthletics)