

VOORHEESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOORHEESVILLE, NEW YORK 12186



September 18, 2020

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A meeting of the Colonial Council Athletic League consisting of superintendents, principals, and athletic directors was held virtually this morning to assess the risk factors associated with “moderate risk fall sports”.

The Leagues school districts are:

***Academy of the Holy Names, *Catholic Central,
*Cobleskill-Richmondville, *Cohoes, *Ichabod Crane,
*LaSalle Institute, *Lansingburgh, *Mohonasen,
*Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk, *Schalmont,
*The Albany Academies *Voorheesville, *Watervliet**

A statement came out from the Colonial Council League today stating:

“We, as a league, believe it is essential to err universally, on the side of caution, as we navigate the COVID pandemic situation. Recognizing that we have recently returned to school and are still assessing the impact of the Corona Virus, the Colonial Council Athletic League has elected to move cross country (boys and girls), soccer (boys and girls), and girls’ swimming and diving to Fall 2 with a March 1st start date. The low risk sports of golf and girls tennis will begin on September 21st.”

This late announcement is due in part to ensuring all aspects of athletics and student athletes’ safety was assessed, with input from as many school district representatives as possible before coming to a final decision. In addition to safety factors, the availability of transportation, schools’ practice and playing fields were also taken into consideration. We are all in agreement that extracurricular activities are an essential part of a student’s junior and senior high school experience, however, safety and the ability to adhere to CDC, DOH and SED guidelines is paramount. As we progress into the winter and spring, a greater sense of normalcy will hopefully resume, which in turn will allow us to create a more traditional practice and contest schedule. School districts in the Colonial Council will continue to update their websites and communicate with their stakeholders as more information is available.

VCSD’s Soccer, Cross Country, Tennis, and Golf programs are members of the Colonial Council. Our girls swim team is a merged team with Guilderland and therefore participates in the Suburban Council.

Starting on Monday, September 21st, VCSD will offer the following sports to align with the Two Sport League affiliations the district is a part of: **Varsity Girls' Tennis, Varsity Golf, Guilderville Girls' Varsity Swim and Diving Team.**

At this time the district will push back our **Soccer and Cross-Country** programs to the Fall 2 season (March-April) as aligned with the Colonial Council decision.

We value our students' participation in athletics and understand how athletics positively impact child development. Our goal is and will continue to be to put the safety of our students and school community first while creating the opportunity for our students to have the best experience possible during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sapienza, Athletic Director/Dean of Students
Frank Macri, Superintendent