



## TWINSBURG CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

11136 Ravenna Road · Twinsburg OH 44087-1022

Phone: 330.486.2000

Fax: 330.425.7216

Kathryn M. Powers, Superintendent  
Martin Aho, Treasurer  
Jennifer C. Farthing, Director of Curriculum

Timothy Sullen, Director of Human Resources  
Denise P. Traphagen, Director of Pupil Services  
Andrea Walker, Director of Student Wellness  
Chad C. Welker, Business Manager

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Dear Twinsburg Schools Families:

It's hard to believe we are at the end of July! Those of you with athletes know that August 1<sup>st</sup> is an important date as historically, the fall sports season officially begins on that date. I am sending this evening's correspondence regarding our high school and middle school fall sports season.

As you know from my correspondence to you of last week, the Summit County Public Health Department forwarded guidance last Friday that recommended the start of competitions for moderate to high risk sports to begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>. That guidance document led to a series of meetings this week, which included the Suburban League Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors. The focus of these meetings was to determine the safest way to begin the fall sports season. Interestingly, the Suburban League member school districts are from four (4) different counties: Summit, Portage, Cuyahoga, and Medina. Each of these county's Boards of Health have released various guidance documents. Portage County's guidance document most significantly aligns with the Summit County guidance document. The Suburban League Superintendents determined that it is virtually impossible to align all athletic activities with specific dates between all fifteen (15) member school districts, thus, we have determined that we will each work directly with our own county Health Commissioners to develop plans that support the needs of our local school district.

On Wednesday, Summit County Superintendents participated in a virtual meeting with Summit County Public Health Commissioner Donna Skoda and Environmental Commissioner Tonia Burford. During this meeting, the Commissioners provided the following guidance regarding the classification of sports:

Low Risk: Golf, Tennis, Cross Country (with solely dual meets permissible)

Moderate to High Risk: Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Cheerleading

So, what does this mean for our Tigers?

1. The following teams categorized as "low risk" will begin their traditional start on August 3<sup>rd</sup>:
  - \* Boys' and Girls' Golf
  - \* Girls' Tennis
  - \* High School Cross Country, with the understanding, per the direction of the Summit County Public Health Department, that teams can only compete in dual meets.
2. All other high school teams will continue the implementation of their Phase 3 plans with the exception of cheerleading. Once phase-in plans are developed and approved for our high school

cheerleaders, conditioning sessions and try-outs will occur. During these phases, our teams will not be permitted to scrimmage or play other schools' teams.

3. Football, Soccer, Volleyball, and Cheerleading coaches will develop timelines that detail how they will begin to trend up the conditioning activities in preparation for the season. For example, Coach Bell will need to determine when the athletes will begin to wear shoulder pads and helmets. The timelines, once developed, will be forwarded to Commissioner Skoda for review and approval.

4. TCSD athletics will remain aligned with the recommendation from Summit County health officials and begin competitive play on October 1st or thereafter.

5. Middle School coaches will meet with Mr. Fantone next week to develop phase-in plans. More information will be forthcoming.

6. Fall sports high school coaches will communicate more specific information directly to our parents and student athletes.

6. Our Tiger Marching Band will continue through the phase-in plan previously approved. Mr. Bonitz will communicate any changes directly with our parents and students.

7. In the event that the District pivots its on-campus school option to remote teaching and learning, all athletics and co/extracurricular activities will be paused.

This pandemic causes us to realign opportunities for students, keeping the safety and health of all at the center of every decision. I am very grateful to our administrators, coaches, and music educators for working together to reach this solution. I am confident that we can continue to provide athletic and co/extracurricular activities for our students, along with wonderful academic experiences, as long as everyone continues to do all that we can to remain healthy.

Thanks for your continued partnership and support. I will continue to provide updates as we move closer to the new school year.

Enjoy your weekend!  
Kathi Powers, Superintendent