**Good Morning,

We hope this email finds you, your family, and your loved ones healthy and happy.   Please accept this notification as to the initial set of information as it relates to the Winter Athletic Season at Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School.**

**As we all know, our world is in a state of constant flux.  We do not know exactly what this upcoming season will hold and what it will look like.  Still, in any other year, we would be well into our registration process for winter athletics and where some families have started asking some legitimate questions, we want to at least share with you what we do know and what to expect in the coming weeks.**

**Traditionally, these are the sports offered at HWRHS in the Winter Season:**

* **Boys Basketball**
* **Girls Basketball**
* **Gymnastics \***
* **Swimming & Diving**
* **Boys Ice Hockey**
* **Girls Ice Hockey \*\***
* **Indoor Track**
* **Wrestling \*\*\***

**Last year, for the first time, HWRHS was approved to be a Guest in Manchester-Essex's Ski Team Program.  However, this year, the North Shore Ski League did not approve the agreement and, regrettably, we will not be offering participation on a Ski Team this winter**

**\* Gymnastics - HW is a Host as part of a cooperative agreement with Manchester-Essex Reg. High School**

**\*\* Girls Ice Hockey - HW is a Guest as part of a cooperative agreement with Marblehead High School**

**\*\*\* Wrestling - HW is a Guest as part of a cooperative agreement with Salem High School**

 **There are several checkpoints that will be happening over the next couple of weeks that will help provide some insight as to what the winter will look like.  Here are some of the highlights:**

* **Toward the end of next week, the department of the EEA (Energy and Environmental Awareness) will release their initial guidance on sports.  This guidance will neither be sport specific nor tell schools what sports they can and cannot run.  Rather, they will set the initial framework by which those decisions will be made with high level, overarching concepts.**
* **Several days after this EEA release, DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) will then partner with the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association - the body that governs HS Athletics in our state) to interpret those guidelines.  It is here that further frameworks will be provided.  It is also here that sports may or may not be told they can happen given the current conditions across the state.  Finally, this could be when it is decided if the beginning of the season is delayed.**
* **Finally, for sports that can operate, the individual MIAA Sport Committees will take time to evaluate all the parameters they have been given and come up with sport-specific rules by which their sport can safely operate.**
* **Once all this information is parsed, evaluated, and finalized, decisions need to happen on a local level (within the Cape Ann League and here in the HWRSD) as to how we will be operating during the season.  These decisions include discussion around: cooperative agreement teams, schedules, venues, and how we will safely run our teams given this guidance.**

**In addition, once the various sports and teams are "Green Lit," HWRHS will run a registration process as usual.  This process will include online registration and payment through Family ID as well as an eligibility check of every registered student-athlete.   When we get that far, we will update you on the specifics of that process.  A lot of this work has begun in the background and we look forward to continuing this work to prepare for all the eventualities that could come our way. Certainly, this is a lot of information to be taking in.  Over the next few weeks, the information will be coming fast and furious...While we wait for this information, we want to provide your children with a chance to talk to their program's Head Varsity Coach (we can only offer this for Sports hosted by HW).  Therefore, each coach has set up a zoom meeting at the start of next week. The link, day and time is listed.  This is an optional meeting for potential student-athletes and will not include any COVID related information.  It is meant for the potential student-athletes to talk to their coach in a logistically sensible manner.**

**Boys Basketball: Monday, November 2nd at 6:00 PM**<https://zoom.us/j/95925000099?pwd=NVJsU29WSVdFZE9WV21Dd3IybkZSdz09>
**Meeting ID: 959 2500 0099**
**Passcode: dH7c5m**

**Girls Basketball: Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84337716169?pwd=RlhrMUM5T0RnMHdrWmJob2Z5bmx5dz09>
**Meeting ID: 843 3771 6169**
**Passcode: 044928**

**Gymnastics: Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:00 PM**
<https://zoom.us/j/97055639805?pwd=Nmw5WjBXdGQ3TkJIazlTMkNhdXVFdz09>
**Meeting ID: 970 5563 9805**
**Passcode: 6jws5k**

**Swimming & Diving:  Tuesday, November 3rd at 7:00 PM**
<https://zoom.us/j/95074432420?pwd=T3M3SU1MSTJYWnBEcFF5QUJvWGZQZz09>

**Boys Ice Hockey: Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM**
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76672451105?pwd=MGVpdHN2K3VnNW5iR3BOVHloYXZidz09>
**Meeting ID: 766 7245 1105**
**Passcode: vQiF1T**

**Indoor Track: Monday, November 2nd at 7:00 PM**<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74288279971?pwd=QzNwa2hGWDh2QWxFNldiYTl5WWlQUT09>
**Meeting ID: 742 8827 9971**
**Passcode: GfT7qw**

**We know this is a long and windy road, one with neither a map nor a lot of answers.  What the fall coaches, student-athletes, and families have accomplished so far has been nothing short of remarkable and all have navigated the season with grace and dignity.  This may seem completely overwhelming and impossible.  We have proven it is not...We got this!!**

**We cannot predict every exact answer right now, but we assure you we will always continue to work and strive to provide the best, safest, and most meaningful experience possible through sport.**

**With best and warmest regards,**
**Craig Genualdo**
**Athletic Director**
**HWRHS**