

June 2010

Dear Parents of Gryphon Student-Athletes,

While we hope that you are having a relaxing start to your summer, we want to let you know that plans are underway for another exciting fall athletics season at SHC.

Holy Child had an amazing athletic season this past year. Eleven of the thirteen varsity teams in the upper school competed in the post season or sent student-athletes to compete in the post season. Six of the nine varsity teams eligible for the NSYAIS Tournaments competed in the New York State Association of Independent Schools Tournaments. We also had three Academic All-Americans, three Basketball Coaches Association of NY Scholar-Athlete, a NYSAIS Individual Champion, an FAA Individual Champion, four FAA Scholar-Athletes (a school record), and 2 National Championship Qualifications in Track. Along with the success on the fields and courts, we have seen a tremendous growth in the number of student-athletes competing in our program. In the upper school, 185 out of 256 girls played a sport this year, up from 171 last year. That means that student-athletes represent 72.3% of the upper school student population. We had a total of 377 rosters spots for the year, up from 355 last year, which is a 6% increase; which means that each student-athlete played an average of 2 sports. In the Middle School 34 students out of a total of 37 in the 8th grade played a sport this year, roughly 92%. These numbers are extraordinary for a school our size.

This past year we reached maximum capacity for many of our teams. This coming year, as participation rates continue to increase, there is a chance that we will not be able to accommodate all of the Upper School girls who wish to compete in all of our Upper School sports. It is our intention to provide every girl with the opportunity to participate in interscholastic sports, but sometimes facilities limit the number of players we can have on our teams. The decision to limit the number of student participants on any given team will be made with great consideration about each individual student. Should you have any questions about the selection process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please remember that in order for your daughter to be able to practice and/or compete in Holy Child Athletics, she must have completed and returned the medical clearance form (this form must be filled out by a doctor, which includes a medical exam). She must also return the interim sports form to Gina Romeo, R.N., as well as the emergency

contact form to Stacey Breindel, by August 2, 2010. For your convenience, we have posted these forms on the athletics page on the SHC website (www.holychildrye.org) and urge you to return these forms as soon as you can. For Upper School Student-Athletes, **forms turned into us on the first day of pre-season will be considered incomplete until they have been approved by Mrs. Romeo; your daughter will not be able to play on the first day of practice without approved forms. The same applies for all Middle School students; those students without completed forms cannot participate in the first practice.**

Throughout the year, we encourage you to use the athletics portion of the website to check for updates and changes to the schedules, directions to other schools, and weekly, monthly, and full season schedules (including practice times). All of the fall practice and game schedules, as well as the winter and spring game schedules, are already available online. Additionally, there is an "e-notify alert system" on our website which allows you to get emails or text message alerts when there are changes to the schedule. I encourage you to check out the tutorial on the athletics page on the SHC website to learn how to set this up.

Upper School Pre-Season

Please note the following for **Upper School** student-athletes: If an Upper School student-athlete misses any pre-season practices, she will be automatically placed on the junior varsity team, no matter what grade she is in. Injured student-athletes will not be penalized, but should still attend practices, when possible. While pre-season is not required, the coaches and the athletics administration strongly recommend and encourage your daughters to attend all of the practice sessions. New York State does require a minimum number of practices for each student-athlete, prior to their being able to participate in their first game or scrimmage. If your daughter does not attend pre-season, there is a strong likelihood that she will not be eligible for the first few games of her season. You can review all of our policies and procedures, including the attendance requirements, in the Student-Athlete and Parent Handbook, which is posted on the athletics webpage. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at: j.pizzi@holychildrye.org or 914-967-5622, extension 204.

Monday, August 23rd

2:00 pm: Meeting for NEW student-athletes and parents in the library

2:30 pm: Meeting for all RETURNING and NEW fall student-athletes and parents in the gym

3:00-6:00: Practice for all of the fall Upper School teams

Tuesday, August 24th - Friday, August 27th: Please check the athletics page on the website for practice times

Monday, August 30th - Thursday, September 2nd: Please check the athletics page on the website for practice times

Fall Teams

Varsity, Junior Varsity, & Thirds Field Hockey
Varsity & Junior Varsity Soccer
Varsity Cross Country
Varsity & Junior Varsity Volleyball

Middle School Practice Schedule

Tuesday, September 7: Meeting in the gym for all girls playing sports in grades 6-8. The meeting will run from 3:15-3:45

Wednesday, September 8: Regular practice begins for all middle school teams. Please check the athletics page on the website for practice times

Fall Teams

7th/8th Grade Field Hockey & 6th Grade Field Hockey
7th/8th Grade Soccer
7th/8th Grade Cross Country

Our goal is to provide the highest quality program possible. Parents can help us achieve this goal by returning all required forms on time and by positively supporting your daughters and their teams on the fields and courts.

Best,

John Pizzi, Jr.

Colm MacMahon

Julie Crane

Director of
Athletics

Head of the Upper
School

Head of the Middle
School