

Dear Harbor Student Athletes and Families,

I hope you all have been enjoying your summer and are gearing up for a great 2018-2019 school year at Harbor. I would like to introduce myself to our new families and welcome back our returning families. I serve as director of athletics, dean of faculty and students, and upper school advisor here at Harbor, and I'd like to provide you with some information about our athletic program.

At Harbor, we regard the experience of playing on a team as a very important component of the growth and development of our well-rounded leaders. There are life lessons to be learned on a field or a court. Participating, playing hard, playing together -- our teams always hold onto these values, to varying outcomes (sometimes ending a season undefeated and sometimes with more modest results). Regardless of any season's results, our ultimate goal is that all our student-athletes gain in self-knowledge and grow to become better teammates, more effective leaders, and self-confident students.

Because our coaches are also our teachers and advisors, the relationships between students and teachers continue on the fields and court, thus extending the classroom-learning environment. Often, this gives teachers and coaches opportunities to reinforce lessons students are learning in class and on the field. Moreover, as teacher-coaches, we often see different aspects of students on the field than we do in the classroom, providing a more well-rounded view of our students and offering teaching opportunities in a different setting.

During the 2018-2019 school year, students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will participate in soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and lacrosse in the spring. Boys and girls will play on separate teams for each sport. Everyone plays -- there are no tryouts for any of Harbor's teams. This year, our fifth graders will join the sixth graders in the winter for basketball season.

Following are some other important details about our athletic program:

- Students are expected to participate in all games, home and away. When we schedule games with other schools, we are making a commitment to those schools. This includes the scheduling of referees, organizing transportation, and playing a game, so it is important that all members of our teams honor that commitment.
- If a student has an unavoidable conflict on a particular game day, the student must bring in a signed note well in advance of the game day.
- We also participate in a soccer tournament in the fall and a basketball tournament in the winter.
- Schedules of tournaments and regular games will be found on the school calendar on our website, as well as in our "Weekly Update" communications.
- If there is inclement weather, the AD will determine if games will be played by noon on game day, after which game status will be posted on our website.
- All student-athletes are transported to and from the games by the Harbor bus, unless other arrangements have been communicated by the coaches and athletic director prior to the game. Games with other schools are scheduled for after 3:00 p.m. and require parent pick-up at Harbor after the game. Please make every effort to be on-time for student-athlete pick-up.

- When we are in-season, sport practices take place during students' physical education classes. When we are off-season, athletes will have regular physical education classes, rather than sport practices.
- **The first practice of the school year will be held on the first day of school, September 5, 2018.**
- **Student-athletes are required to have a Harbor physical education uniform, including sweatpants and sweatshirts, sneakers, cleats, shin guards and white or green athletic socks. Mouthpieces are required for goalkeepers, but are optional for field players.**
- Each team member will be given a sports jersey; he or she is responsible for this uniform and must return it to the school at the end of each sport season.
- On game days, each student-athlete must wear his or her sports uniform to school to show school spirit and be recognized as a member of Harbor's interscholastic sports teams.

We love a home team crowd, and we hope to see you on the sidelines to cheer on the Hawks! If you have any questions about the status or location of a game, please see the school website first for up-to-the-minute information on game cancellations or game directions; for all other information, feel free to contact me by phone or email (ddecker@hcdsny.org). Thank you for your support of our athletic program at Harbor.

Go Hawks!

Debbie W. Decker
Dean of Faculty and Students
Director of Athletics
Upper School Advisory