

GPS Athletic Department

July 21, 2006

Dear Genesis Parents and Students,

I hope that your summer was refreshing and exciting! We are so excited to see all of the wonderful changes being made on our campus! The most visible at this time is our brand new, full-length soccer field, complete with sprinkler system. As Athletic Director, I am thrilled with all of the wonderful things that are happening with our sports program this year and would like to share them with you.

The philosophy of our athletics program is that athletics can enrich a student's physical, mental, and social well-being. Therefore, we extend the opportunity to all of our students. Extra curricular sports allow us to offer a middle and high school experience not often available elsewhere. Our goal is to offer a program in which each student can be involved and from which they can benefit.

Our upper school teams are going to continue to be a part of the Florida High School Activities Association. Our team sports in this league will be the following Varsity sports: Girls Volleyball, Boys Soccer, and both Girls and Boys Basketball. The individual sports in which we will participate will be Boys and Girls Golf and both Girls and Boys Tennis for any who wish to participate. Our athletes are becoming increasingly competitive with other larger schools and are forming some great rivalries.

Our middle school teams will continue to be a part of the Suncoast Christian Conference and the Pinellas Youth League and will include Girls and Boys Volleyball, Co-Ed Soccer, and Girls and Boys Basketball. Our teams are strongly competitive in these leagues and have built several rivalries that make for exciting seasons!

Other new changes will be the expansion of our sports program on our genesisprep.com website. Team photos, schedules, standings/records, announcements, and game directions will all be available online. **Unless we receive notice in writing, it will be assumed that we may use each athlete in any group photograph that we post online.** Please keep checking the website for any updates or changes in schedules.

Our fall sports program will include volleyball, soccer, and golf. Here are some more details about each sport and how students may join. Information about our winter and spring sports will come as we move closer to those seasons.

Volleyball – Varsity Girls, Middle School Girls and Boys

The Varsity Girls team is strictly limited to girls in 9th grade and above. Any middle school student is welcome to join either the girls or boys teams. **Practice for all volleyball teams will begin on Wednesday, August 16, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. I would**

like to meet briefly with the players and parents at 4:30 on that day. Regular practices will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 p.m., starting on Tuesday, August 22. Each player will need to wear proper tennis shoes and kneepads to each practice. I will be coaching all of the volleyball teams, so if you have any questions, please email me at mnightingale@genesisprep.com or call 727-232-1457.

Soccer – Varsity Boys and Middle School Co-Ed

Soccer is available for boys in 9th-12th grades for Varsity and all middle schoolers for our co-ed team. **Practice for our soccer teams will begin on Wednesday, August 15 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and will regularly take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00 p.m.** Each player will be required to bring shin guards and any other necessary equipment to each practice and game. Our new soccer coach is Mr. John Doak, who is ready to put our teams to work and our new soccer field to good use! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Golf – Varsity Boys and Girls

The Varsity Boys Golf team will qualify for district play this year! Be looking for an upcoming announcement regarding the district meet. Our golf team will continue to use River Ridge Golf and Country Club as our home course for both practices and games. **Practice begins on Wednesday, August 23, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and will regularly take place on Mondays and Wednesdays at these times.** Middle school students may join practices but are not allowed to compete at the Varsity level. It is a great way for our younger students to gain experience in preparation for Varsity competition. Players must have use of a set of clubs and are responsible for arranging transportation to and from the course for practices and meets. If you have any questions about the golf team or have transportation needs, please contact me.

Signing Up

All students may sign up for one or more of the above sports by contacting me by email at mnightingale@genesisprep.com or by phone at 727-232-1457. There is a \$40 fee per student per sport. **Players must be registered by Monday, August 21.** In order to be able to participate in practices, each student must have the following turned in:

1. Signed Consent and Release Form
2. Pre-participation Physical Form
3. Complete Emergency Contact Information
4. Fee(s) paid
5. International Student Registration Form (if applicable)

A student will be unable to participate in any practice or other athletic event until all of the above have been completed and sent in. **All of the necessary forms are**

included with this letter and may be returned to the office by mail or to Mrs. Nightingale in person at Orientation or practices.

Physicals may be completed by your family doctor. However, for your convenience, Dr. VanSant-Crowle is available to give sports physicals on campus on Wednesday, August 16, starting at 3:30 p.m., and Dr. Ruiz will be available at 4:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Please bring the physical form with you on that day. The charge is \$25 per student, and the monies go directly to our athletic program.

We are looking forward to a successful year, and we need your help. We not only need fans to cheer on our teams as they play, but we can always use parents to help with ticket and concession sales at home games. If you are able to assist our program in any way, please contact me.

Each new season brings exciting possibilities, and this year we are able to offer even more athletic opportunities to the student body. It promises to be a challenging and successful year in athletics, and I am looking forward to working with all of our athletes. Let's go, Panthers!

Misty Nightingale

Athletic Director