



# GREEN LAKE

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

AN ENVIRONMENT OF EXCELLENCE

As the President of the Green Lake School Board, I am writing to reinforce the School Board's position on the delay of Fall sports. This decision is based upon the recommendations from the Green Lake County Health Department, the state, and the CDC.

The Green Lake School Board reached a difficult decision on Wednesday, August 19, voting 5-1 with one absent to delay the start of fall sports by 30-days. This vote upheld the recommendation from the Princeton-Green Lake Activities Council. The Council, made up of both Princeton and Green Lake board members, athletic directors, and administrators, met two days earlier to determine the safest path forward for fall sports. An 8-2 vote in favor of the temporary postponement to allow both schools to adjust to the return to classrooms before returning to competition was brought back to their respective boards.

Ultimately, Green Lake School Board followed the recommendation and voiced their desire to put student safety and education first. The school's safety plan follows the advice and recommendations of the CDC, State and County health departments, and focuses on limiting social interaction, stringent cleaning practices, and virtual learning. Delaying Fall sports and allowing all involved to acclimate to the new learning environment, will work to support that plan.

The School Board's decision was made to protect the health and safety of not just all students, but to protect the health and safety of our staff and faculty, not to mention the overall health of our community. Many of our students have contact with high risk individuals and risking continued exposure through close contact sports was viewed as a health and safety risk we could not in good conscience allow. Unlike professional sports organizations, we do not have the resources to isolate our student athletes after exposure to a broad network of cities and schools. In the last week, many other schools have reported following a similar path or have canceled all close contact sports completely.

This decision was not made lightly, nor were political or ideological positions considered. As a school board, we consider facts, expert opinions, and multiple options before making any decision that will impact our students, our teacher, our staff, and our community. We fully understand the disappointment student athletes feel regarding this decision, as well as their parents. We also understand the disappointment of the students who will not be allowed to participate in the fall drama production, or students that may not be allowed to participate in forensics or any other extracurricular activities. This decision affects all the students, not just the athletes.

We are all trying to operate effectively in these unprecedented times. No amount of training could adequately prepare our administration or those in elected positions for these types of decisions. Please continue to be considerate and respectful to the school administration and staff regarding the board's decision. The Green Lake School Board will have further discussion at their regularly scheduled board meeting on Wednesday, September 16 at 5:00 p.m. Until then, students will not be able to practice or play with any fall sports team or other extracurricular groups.

Sincerely,

Sarah Allen, Green Lake School District Board President

