



TEMPLETON SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Dear Templeton Parents/Guardians,

Re: Winter Season Athletics Programming Registration

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to begin by thanking you for your patience in receiving the following information. As we are all aware, there has been a lot of uncertainty and concern around the return to sport due to the increasing number of positive COVID-19 cases in our province over the past month. This uncertainty affected our ability to move ahead with the programming we were hoping to offer in late November and December (as outlined in my last letter) and this is partly why you have not heard from me until now.

While the return to sport is still being impacted by the COVID pandemic, B.C. School Sports (BCSS) announced on Friday, December 4th that the recent restrictions on community sport imposed by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) **did not apply to school sport**. As such, school sports remains in Phase 2 of the Return to School Sport plan and, as such, we are moving forward in our attempts to offer some of the athletic programming **starting in January**.

On Tuesday of this week (December 8th) a post was sent to all Templeton students on Microsoft Teams conveying similar information to what is contained in this letter. ***Attached to that post were documents outlining what winter athletic programming (entitled "Winter Athletic Programming") we are offering at this time and the forms and fees that students need to bring into me when they registration should they wish to participate in one of our programs.*** Unfortunately, on-line registration is not possible at this time. To reiterate some of the messaging from my previous correspondence, there is **NO DROP-IN** participation allowed for these programs due to the COVID restrictions on sport and, again there are Fees attached to almost all of the clubs/clinics being offered. **I would also like to note that the number of students allowed to participate in a particular program is limited because of the COVID restrictions on the maximum amount of participants allowed in a certain area.** (Again, please see the "Winter Athletic Programming" for the maximum number of participants per program). I will try to get the required documents and forms uploaded to the Templeton website by Monday but, for now, I would recommend accessing them through your child's Teams account.

There appears to have been some confusion around the type of programming we can offer. ***I want to make clear that the programs being offered are NOT try-outs for a particular school team.*** Rather, the format of these programs will be that of a **Skills Clinic** where students are given the opportunity to work at and improve on their individual and team-based skills while adhering to required physical distancing protocols. ***In short, traditional game-play will not be the main focus of the programs being offered.*** Some sports, such as Volleyball and Badminton, may lend themselves to the possibility of more game play than others because, due to the separation of opponents by a net, appropriate physical distancing can more easily be maintained. Sports like basketball, however, which have more "frequent or sustained contact" (to quote the BCSS memorandum), are not allowed to have a traditional game play component at this time. As stated in the BSCC memorandum, ***"students from different educational learning groups must remain physically distanced at all times; there is no grey area here."*** As such, the basketball sessions being offered will be more focused on skill development and skills challenges.

I would like to thank all the students who indicated their interest in participating in a particular activity or activities on the sign-up sheets in the Main Gym over the past month. This has given us an indication of what we might be able to offer in the new year. Now is the opportunity, to take the next step and actually register for those particular program or programs. **Registration for Templeton Athletics Winter Programming started this week in the Main Gym area during the Flex Times and will continue will all of next week (December 14th to 18th). Depending on program numbers, registration may continue the first week back at school after the winter break but again, a reminder that the number of spaces in these programs is limited.**

To conclude, it is important to be aware that a number of developments may occur between now and the return to school in the new year that could impact the delivery of the programs outlined in the "Winter Athletic Programming" document. For example, the PHO may move school sports back to Phase 1, the Winter break may be extended as has been done in Alberta and Manitoba which would change the dates of the programs and number of sessions, coaches and sponsors may choose to withdraw their services, etc. We beg your patience with this as we try to get some kind of extracurricular sport off the ground in our school. Thank you for your time and kind attention to this letter. I look forward to offering those Templeton students, who are interested in Athletics, the opportunity to do so in the new year! If you have any further questions, please contact me at dbraun@vsb.bc.ca.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DB', followed by a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Mr. David Braun

Athletic Director

Physical & Health Education / Social Studies Teacher

Templeton Secondary School

In Vancouver, we live, work, play, and are present on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples - s̓k̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), sel̓íl̓wítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and x̓m̓əθk̓ʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.