



Luther Knight Athletics

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Joel Babinec – Athletic/Activities Director



3.22.20

Dear Luther Families,

This morning as I participated in an online, virtual church service for the second time this week, there were a number of things that ran through my mind as I listened to our pastor's sermon. The first was how much I already miss worshipping with my fellow believers. The second was a reminder again from God's Word that this Corona Virus we are experiencing is just one big bump our journey and one that God will use to bless and further His kingdom work. While it brings a great deal of uncertainty with it, we also know the certainty we have in our Almighty, Good and Gracious God! ***"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."***
Psalm 46:1

The purpose of this letter is to update you on things as best I can with regard to athletics at Luther and to offer some tips as we move forward in these unprecedented times.

On Monday, March 16, the following statement was made by the WIAA:

Consistent with Governor Evers' Executive Order issued on Friday, March 13, 2020, the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Associate has updated athletic participation limitations.

There will be no WIAA athletics at any member school from Wednesday, March 18, 2020, to Monday, April 6, 2020. (This will be updated as information becomes available.) ***NOTE that the April 6 date has been updated to "indefinitely" - in other words, in place until the health emergency is lifted.***

- This includes all participation including, but not limited to training, practices, scrimmages, and contests.
- Schools and/or coaches may not bring students together during this time period for extracurricular or athletic purposes such as practices or other instructional/organizational purposes.
- Schools and/or coaches may not be involved with students during their time period to provide instruction for practice purposes.
- Coaches may provide individual workouts virtually, but shall not encourage or organize their team assembling to practice.

The order: <https://evers.wi.gov/Documents/EO/SignedSchoolClosure.pdf>

On Thursday, March 19, the WIAA Board of Control met and made the following statement with regard to the spring season:

Given the directives of Governor Tony Evers and the Department of Health Services, and after lengthy discussion, the Board decided to postpone any decision to cancel the spring sports seasons and the spring State Tournament Series until a later date. This position is consistent with the current state and local guidelines, as well as advice from the Sports Medical Advisory Committee. A clearer position may unfold as developments arise and new information becomes available. The WIAA will continue to follow the directives and guidance of state health and governmental officials pertaining to the outbreak.

In this same meeting the WIAA Board also addressed the Winter Sport season which was abruptly cancelled and made this statement:

The Board discussed bringing closure to the 2020 winter seasons as result of the cancellations of the Boys and Girls State Basketball Tournament Series. It determined how teams and athletes will be recognized in accordance with their advancement to the various levels of the tournaments.

As we move forward, some thoughts to share with you....

- Pray! Our Father invites us to pray – to pray often! Pray for strength of all our medical profession members, emergency personnel, all who continue to work on a daily basis to help provide - for your teachers, for students and for families who will now experience teaching and learning in a whole new manner.
- Family - I think a huge blessing of this virus could be the strengthening of the family bond and family time. Take time to communicate with your children. Fathers – what a great time to re-establish / establish family devotion time! This is the most important thing we can do! Stay in God’s Word – we will be strengthened and find comfort.
- Share - Find a way to share a link to one of our church services, devotions, etc that your church, pastor, Time of Grace has developed. A great mission opportunity for many who are hurting right now and need to hear REAL comfort.
- Serve - Our school year’s theme is one of service. As best we can in this time, find a way to serve someone – whether that’s contacting an elderly neighbor – just to check on them – or whatever you can do. Ask yourself and find a way to serve in this time.
- SCHOOL WORK - By this time I’m sure you have some direction from your teachers on what you will need to do with your classwork. Remember you are STUDENTS first. Use this time to be active in your studies. Participate and ask questions of your teachers. This is a totally new format, not only for you, but for you teachers as well. They are dedicated educators who have some great plans in place and WANT you to be successful. Parents – this is new for you as well. Be active in this new learning process. God will bless our efforts as we work together! I am confident in that.
- Be Active - Within the constraints of mass gathers, find time to work out! Take care of the physical body as well as the spiritual body. Maybe you and your athlete can do workouts together! (or maybe you just do 50% of what they do!)

Reminders of other information that has been shared with you already:

[Letter from Principal Wichmann](#) 3.20.20

[WIAA News Release – Spring Sports](#) 3.13.20

Finally – what a blessing that we have a strong Christian family, not only at Luther, but within your congregations as well. What a blessing that we have a God that is all-loving, all-knowing, and all-protecting! God’s blessings to you all in the days ahead....

Serving you in Christ,

Joel Babinec, Athletic/Activities Director