

Dear MPH Community,

As we have wrapped up our Fall 2020 season, I wanted to take the time to recognize all the terrific members of our community that made these last several weeks a success. Before I did that, I also wanted to reflect on what a unique experience this fall season was for all that were involved.

Now the season has ended, there is no doubt it was great success! Our teams made it through seven weeks of practices and games without missing one due to COVID. This season more than any previous season was **not** about wins or losses. Sure, our athletes and coaches came to compete every game, match and race. However, looking at the larger picture of just having the opportunity to play and being part of a team when there is so much uncertainty in the world, ranked at the top for our coaches and athletes. When we started the season way back on September 23rd many of us, including myself thought we were probably only going to make it two weeks before the season would be shutdown. 2020 has been the year of doing things differently and adapting while amid a global pandemic. Some things done differently this year, we had Sr. Day(s) on the first couple of home games for our kids, we streamed all our home soccer games, and we also had limited spectators. All these adjustments were cumbersome to start but our team first community really stepped up to make these adjustments a success.

It was remarkable the new level of detail and steps our athletes and community had to go through just to get to get to school each day. Then you add the extra layer of practices and games. The attention to detail was outstanding, and I am so thankful for the cooperation by our families, coaches and athletes.

Some of our fall head coaches were asked to share their thoughts on the season;

Nick Stam 07' Head Cross Country Coach-

"With our students currently living in a world consumed by a pandemic, running was a perfect socially distant activity to turn to. The Cross-Country program had some of the largest turnout in numbers, including many students that were new to the sport. As we prepare for what may be a tough winter with rising cases and increased restrictions, a handful of our athletes look to continue some road running in small groups outside of school to prepare for other sport seasons on the horizon, and for next year's Cross Country season. This year we were limited to traveling with 10 runners per team, but look forward to our future years when everyone will be able to participate in races as everyone on the team has made great progress over the timeframe of a very short 6 week season. Congratulations to all and I look forward to coaching such a great group again next season!"

Don Ridall Boys Varsity Soccer Coach-

"Boys varsity soccer team had a great season! Due to the pandemic, it was a short season and most of the games were played vs much bigger schools. Their final record was 5-5 including wins over rival Faith Heritage and season ending win over Class B Homer 7-1! The most important thing was that they got a chance to compete the entire season while adjusting to new safety protocols. They were led by 7 seniors who kept the team motivated all season!"

Pat Bentley-Hoke Varsity Girls Soccer Coach-

“The girls (and their coaches) were so grateful to have a season at all, and it showed, even through their masks! We had 11 newcomers to the team this year, including three girls who’d never played soccer before. The whole team rallied to work together, to learn and grow practice by practice, game by game. Our captains, Natalie Storie and Annie Pratt, provided great leadership to support this developing program. Thanks to our awesome parents for their patience and support!”

Dave Garzia Varsity Girls Tennis Coach-

The fall tennis season being shortened meant the girls would be up against additional challenges. The team's ability to come together and keep spirits high during these unprecedented times was what was most impressive about this group. Their determination to improve as well as their poise and resilience were what helped propel us to play some of our best tennis towards the end of the season. The future looks strong for this group as we hope to use the momentum from this season to build upon.

Finally, I just want to give a hearty thank you to our coaches. Coaching a season under normal circumstances is an incredible challenge. The outstanding care and concern for the safety and well being of our student athletes was on full display every day. Our athletes and families are lucky to have such terrific mentors, and people working with their children every day. Special thanks not only go out to our head coaches but to all our assistant coaches as well. Thank you for the time you put in everyday, the sacrifices of being away from your own family, and for making our athletes better at their craft. MPH fall coaches are

- Don Ridall-Head Coach Boys Varsity Soccer
- Tony Venezia-Asst. Coach Boys Varsity Soccer
- Will O’Malley-Asst. Coach Boys Varsity Soccer
- Brian Wright-Asst. Coach Boys Varsity Soccer
- Pat Bentley-Hoke- Head Coach Girls Varsity Soccer
- Joe Gregory- Asst. Coach Girls Varsity Soccer
- Katie Blanford-Asst. Coach Girls Varsity Soccer
- Nick Stam 07’ -Head Coach Varsity Cross Country
- Dave Garzia- Head Coach Girls Varsity Tennis

I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday seasons that are on the near horizon!

With Gratitude,

Jim Ryan
Athletic Director