

Athletic Changes starting the 2018-2019 School Year

We are so blessed to have such great and supportive families here at Heritage Academy-Gateway. Our athletes are top-notch, and our coaches truly care about each scholar athlete. We are passionate about creating all-around great athletes, and for the learning opportunity for the development of character that is available to each scholar while participating in sports.

Heritage Academy is passionate, dedicated, and committed to the continued success of our developmental and competitive athletic program. We will be implementing some changes to the Athletic Department starting with the 18-19 school year. We value each individual scholar athlete, and feel that these adaptations will be positive for everyone involved.

Here are the changes:

1-All scholars in a PE or a 4th hour sports class (unless the class requires different attire like swimming or kenpo) will be required to have the Heritage PE attire from our vendor. You may also get this from someone else who might be selling their used PE clothes. This is the red t-shirt with navy blue shorts. Shorts are to be no shorter than 4" above the knee per the Dress Code standards. No longer will the scholars be allowed to wear plain colored shirts and other shorts. Here is a link to where you can order and purchase the Heritage PE uniform:

<http://phoenix.educationaloutfitters.com/find-my-school/heritage-academy-gateway-campus/gym-uniform/>

2-Going forward, we will only put the following teams into our league (the Canyon Athletic Association CAA) for competition:

High School Varsity level teams

High School Junior Varsity team (limited to 1 team)

Junior High "A" Teams

Junior High "B" Teams if the league specifically has a league for these teams

All teams that do not have a maximum number of participants (cross country, swimming and track and field)

3-Intramural play/games will be introduced. This format will be available for any sport that has the following:

High School Junior Varsity teams if there is more than 1 JV team

Junior High "B" teams where there is not a "B" team specific option to compete in the CAA

Junior High "C" and "D" teams

These teams will still receive the following:

-A team jersey/uniform or a Heritage t-shirt that will be able to keep for the season

-They will still get an opportunity to compete and receive game experience. The same number of games (but it will be formatted differently as intramural games where they may play 3-4 games after school or on a Saturday in a tournament format or they may play against other Heritage teams from the 2 other campuses as available). We are confident that this experience will be a better experience than what they have had in the past where their confidence and self-esteem can be strengthened.

-This will be different than just scrimmaging. Officials will be hired to officiate the games.

-They will still receive instruction from a coach during their 4th Hour class that will focus on the fundamentals and preparing them to tryout for one of the higher teams the following year. There is never guarantee that they will ever make an higher team, but building and focusing on the basics will help their chances.

-Since they will still be receiving a similar experience as the higher-level teams, the cost for the semester to participate in the sport will remain the same.

4-We are currently in the process of applying for acceptance into the AIA (Arizona Interscholastic Association) and if we are accepted, that will start the 2019-2020 school year). This would be for high school level sports only.

5-Team Fundraisers-I have received permission to ramp-up the team fundraisers here at our campus for our athletic teams. These will be organized through your head coach and I invite you to get involved and help with these fundraisers so that our athletic programs can continue to be run at a higher-level.

6-4th Hour class format. This is a big change. We will no longer have classes where the scholar can take just 1 sport for an entire semester. The sport will only be during the season of play per the dates established by our league.

The ideal situation and is what we strongly recommend is that every scholar participate in 3 different sports throughout the year. Playing multiple sports will only make them a better athlete overall. If you choose this option, the scholar will rotate from one sport to the other all year long.

Here is the other option (remember we recommend multiple sports every year and this is why we have the 3rd sport free of charge). Anytime inside a semester that is not officially in the league's season window of weeks, the scholar will be a part of a "Strength, Conditioning and Sports" PE class. This class will be taught by a PE coach who is on-staff here at campus. They will be combined with athletes from other sports. This may include both on the front and back end of the season. This class will be divided into different units. The goal will be to help each scholar become more well-rounded as an athlete. It will expose them to different games and activities that improve teamwork and leadership skills, cardiovascular endurance, coordination, strength and agility. The multi-sport athlete will also be introduced to practice procedures and routines that they can do at home to improve.

7-As our league fees increase, it requires us to periodically raise the Athletic Fees to continue to offer quality programs. There will be a \$10 per semester fee increase for the 18-19 school year for athletics.

Thank you in advance for your interest in the advancement of our scholars as student athletes. We strive to instill the value of hard work and integrity as we develop character through participation in sports. Your continued support of our outstanding athletic programs here at Heritage Academy-Gateway is appreciated. We are looking forward to many more great years of athletic development and competition to come.