



Bristol Township School District

5 Blue Lake Rd.

Levittown, Pennsylvania 19057

August 26, 2020

Dear Bristol Township School District Community,

On August 21, the PIAA Board of Directors made the decision that each school district must decide what is best for their district regarding fall athletics. Weighing the importance of the physical and mental well-being of our student athletes against the health and safety of the Bristol Township community at large is a challenging task. While BTSD wishes circumstances were different and COVID-19 cases were more stable, they are not. Therefore, the School Board, on August 25, 2020, made the difficult decision to not approve the Suburban One League (SOL) fall sports schedule.

This means that Bristol Township schools will not be participating in fall sports at this time, but we are hopeful that PIAA will follow through on its stated commitment to provide a season for all athletes by presenting us with an opportunity to compete later in the school year. Until further notice, athletics, band, and cheerleading activities at Bristol Township schools are suspended. The athletic department will be working with coaches and directors to implement a plan to continue voluntary off-season workouts after the start of the academic year.

We are dedicated to keeping our students, coaches, directors, staff members and their families safe. We also consider returning students to a safe, in-person learning environment to be our primary responsibility to the community. A major part of that responsibility involves mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Congregate settings where people are in close contact with one another, such as in athletic competition, will facilitate the spread of the virus, and could hinder or delay our efforts to open our schools for in-person learning.

Thank you for understanding as we do what is right to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie Gehrens".

Dr. Melanie Gehrens
Superintendent of Schools
Bristol Township School District