

News Release: Students Face Off for First Varsity Lacrosse Games

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For Immediate Release

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UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Girls' and boys' lacrosse teams from eight high schools face off today for the very first interscholastic varsity lacrosse games in Prince George's County public schools. Eight girls teams and seven boys lacrosse club teams transitioned to the interscholastic athletics program this school year, where they are officially funded as a varsity sport.

"I am thrilled that the many students who have taken part in lacrosse at the club level will now have the opportunity to compete in varsity games," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). "And I will be there for the first game at Dr. Henry A. Wise High School."

The first lacrosse club team was formed at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1996, and new club teams have formed in Prince George's County over the past ten years. With this growth, students, parents, community members, and elected officials have lobbied for inclusion of lacrosse as a varsity sport. To meet the demand and with hopes of boosting participation in spring athletic programs, lacrosse was added to girls' and boys' athletic programs at Bowie, Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr., Eleanor Roosevelt, Frederick Douglass, Northwestern, and Oxon Hill. Charles Herbert Flowers, DuVal, and Friendly started with girls' lacrosse, and Gwynn Park started with a boys' team.

"Like everything else, expansion of varsity sports comes with a price tag," said Earl Hawkins, Athletics Coordinating Supervisor for PGCPS. "We started with schools where we saw the most interest, and will expand the program as more schools start club teams and budget allows. Expanding lacrosse as a varsity sport will also provide more scholarship opportunities for our students."

Moving forward, Hawkins' goal is for this year's new varsity lacrosse teams to take part in Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association (MPSSAA) regional and state playoffs during the 2016-2017 school year.

For a complete schedule of PGCPS interscholastic games, [click here \(http://pgcathletics.digitalsports.com/pages/schedule/league-schedule.php\)](http://pgcathletics.digitalsports.com/pages/schedule/league-schedule.php).