

**James Monroe High School  
Athletic Department**  
"Tough City, VA"

*Kenton Griffin – Athletic Director  
Carlos Evans – Asst. Athletic Director*



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Jacket Family,

I hope this finds you safe during adverse times. COVID-19 has affected all our lives in a plethora of ways, and while I admit that starting out as your athletic director under these conditions has been unusual, I am committed to excellence. James Monroe High School has a longstanding tradition of athletic success and this year will prove to be no different. I am thrilled to lead our athletic department. Having grown up in Fredericksburg as a child of the FCPS School System, it means a great deal to represent JMHS Athletics as your director.

Earlier this month, the athletic department submitted a formal "Return to Athletics" Health Plan to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). With this plan in place, our athletes were able to begin out-of-season conditioning. On July 7, 2020, our fall sports teams began workouts with CDC guidelines in place. Our coaches did a wonderful job of practicing these safety measures and guidelines, while performing sport-specific drills and workouts. However, we have suspended all workouts pending the decision by the Virginia High School League that will give us more guidance about athletics and activities for 2020-2021.

The VHSL Executive Committee met on July 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss our athletic calendar going forward for the 2020-21 school year. League Director Billy Haun recommended three options to be voted on by the executive committee on Monday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. Below are the three athletic models that will be voted on by the committee.

**Model 1:** Leave VHSL Athletic Calendar as is. Cheer, Field Hockey, Football & Volleyball would not be played in the 2020-21 athletic year. Golf & Cross Country would be allowed to start this fall. Winter & Spring Sports would not be impacted.

**Model 2:** Swap Fall & Spring Sports. All fall sports would be moved to the spring and vice versa. Tennis, Baseball/Softball, Soccer, and Outdoor Track would take place in the fall season. However, Boys & Girls Lacrosse would not be played at all (deemed a high-risk sport).

**Model 3:** All sports would be delayed until December. Three condensed seasons would begin at that point.

- Winter: December 14-February 20 (First contest date - December 28)
- Fall: February 15-May 1 (First contest date - March 1)
- Spring: April 12-June 26 (First contest date - April 26)

James Monroe High School supports Model 3, as all our student-athletes will be allowed to participate in athletics and activities in some capacity this school year. Please be on the lookout for information regarding this in the next couple of weeks. I want to thank you for being patient and understanding as we navigate through a “new normal” with COVID-19. The safety and welfare of your children, our coaches, and the school community is paramount. We will be creative in keeping your children engaged and active in these difficult times.

Please keep up with the JMHS Athletic Department via our webpage and social media platforms. Our COVID-19 Health Plan, Student/Parent Waiver, and VHSL Physical Forms are located at <http://www.jmhsathletics.bigteams.com>. The Student Athlete Handbook and Parent Forms will be electronic this year and will also be on our website. Additionally, please follow our social media platforms on **Twitter** (@jmhs\_athletics), **Facebook** (James Monroe High School Athletics), and **Instagram** (jmhsathletics). These platforms are regularly updated and will have pertinent information and content going forward. Sign up for alerts through <http://www.cityschools.com/fcpsalert/fredericksburgalert-com/>. Lastly, you can always reach me via e-mail at [kgriffin@cityschools.com](mailto:kgriffin@cityschools.com).

Be well and stay safe,

**Kenton Griffin**

Athletic Director

James Monroe High School

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