



**EMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

## **Athletic updates & changes for the 2018/2019 school year**

Greetings to all & I hope everyone was able to enjoy a restful/enjoyable summer. School is right around the corner, and with it another season of ELS athletics. Perhaps some of you have already heard, but I wanted to address some of the exciting changes taking place within our athletic program this year and into the future. I hope this letter provides you with a good basis of information regarding where the athletic seasons are headed. It was my wish to get this out before “back to school night” so you could have time to ask questions, review calendars, etc.

Essentially, we are looking to pursue some alternate options apart from the league we have been a part of for many years (the BCLAL). There are a few reasons for this: the main reason being the lack of schools who can field teams at all levels. Over the past few months, two schools within our league have closed their doors, while others are struggling to field teams. This year will be somewhat of a transitional year for ELS athletics as we strive to find extra games and re-align a few of our seasons. Though some seasons may remain the same, the timeframe for others (especially the “A” team seasons) may be re-organized and lengthened. We have a great opportunity here to provide our athletes with a positive and challenging experience that will benefit them in many ways. As with any major transition there are bound to be a few inconveniences & challenges. We will do our very best to communicate changes and coordinate schedules in the smoothest way possible. I thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to strive to give our athletes the best experience possible here at Emmanuel.

Beginning this school year, our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade “A” teams for volleyball and basketball will make the transition to the “Cactus Christian Schools League.” This league, composed of 19 various Christian and charter schools from around the valley, is split up into two separate divisions (small school & large school). Emmanuel will compete in the “small school” division meaning our games will be against schools such as: Grace Christian (Tempe), Christ’s Greenfield (Gilbert), Chandler Christian, Valley Lutheran JH (Tempe), etc. One of the main challenges will be that the seasons align differently from what we have been accustomed to in the past. Also, since this would be our first season in the new league, we are under “probationary status”

meaning we would not be able to participate in post-season tournaments (unless deemed necessary to complete a bracket). For this reason (among others) we will continue to play a much abbreviated BCLAL schedule against teams such as Pilgrim, Emmaus, and Grace for whatever teams they are able to field. We will also still be able to participate in our regular league tournaments which have now been turned into “invitationals”, hopefully adding enough teams to make a tournament worth-while. After this school year, the intent will be to have all “A” teams (soccer, volleyball, basketball) officially join the Cactus Christian Schools League while still supplementing our schedule against the teams we have played in the past. Again, I think this is going to be a great benefit for our athletes as they will receive more practice repetitions and more in-game experience against quality competition. I also believe we have a group of students in our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade who are eager to improve and would enjoy the opportunity for more games and practices. More information regarding the break-down of each sports season is listed on the next few pages (changes from previous years are highlighted).

Hopefully the above information and the break-down of seasons below will give you a clearer sense of where our athletics will headed in the 2018/19 school year. Please let me know if you have any questions/concerns or if something remains unclear. I will also be available to chat at our “back to school night” Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Blessings on the last few days of summer!

In Christ,

Mr. Stelter  
Emmanuel Athletic Director  
[tstelter@elstempe.org](mailto:tstelter@elstempe.org)

**\*Note:** Due to lack of teams within our league, there will be no girls' softball offered at Emmanuel for the 2018/19 school year.\*

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**Sport: Flag Football**

**Grade level:** Boys in grades 5-8.

**Coach:** Mr. Campbell (assisted by parent helpers)\*\*help is still needed!

**Season length:** August 20<sup>th</sup>- September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Tournament date:** Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Tempe Sports Complex

**Additional information:** A complete schedule for the flag football season is posted online. Hard copies will be available on back to school night.

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**Sport: A-team Volleyball**

**Grade level:** Girls in grades 7&8

**Coach:** Mr. Stelter

**Season length:** late August- mid October (CCSL); mid October- November 10<sup>th</sup> (BCLAL)

**Tournament date:** Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> @ Valley Lutheran High School

**Additional information:** A complete season schedule will be available soon. Some game dates have already been posted online. The goal will be to complete the season schedule before the first practice (8/26). All games in the CCSL will be "away" games as league rules state they must be played in a gym. For the first month of the school year, our practices will be held on Sunday evenings at ALA (5:30-7:00pm). Around mid-September we will transition to practices being held outside at Emmanuel. These will be coordinated together with the drama schedule to minimize conflict. Girls also have the Saturday morning 'ALA Jr. Coyote camps' available to them to improve upon skills during the season.

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**Sport: B-team Volleyball**

Grade level: Girls in grades 5&6

Coach: Miss Wempner

Season length: late September- early November

Tournament date: N/A

Additional information: Schedule will be posted/sent out by September. Some game dates are already online.

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**Sport: Soccer**

Grade level: \*Co-ed\*Boys & girls in grades 5-8.

Coach: Mrs. Wait

Season length: mid- September- November 17<sup>th</sup>

Tournament date: Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> (location TBD)

Additional information: This is the first time in recent memory that Emmanuel has offered soccer as a co-ed sport. Most (if not all) other schools we compete against will also be co-ed. A season schedule will be posted/sent out by early September. Some game dates have already been posted online.

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**Sport: A-team Boys/Girls Basketball**

Grade level: Boys & girls in grades 7 & 8.

Coach: Mr. Stelter (boys) /Mrs. Kiecker (girls)

Season length: Mid January- March 2<sup>nd</sup> (BCLAL); March 4<sup>th</sup>- late April (CCSL)

Tournament date(s): January 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> (ALA tip-off); March 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> (JH Memorial @ ALA).

Additional information: As with volleyball, we will be playing a Cactus Christian Schools League schedule in basketball as well. Our abbreviated BCLAL schedule will run from mid- January until the tournament on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>, we will play our CCL schedule (while still taking the week off for break). All games in the CCSL will be "away", but we will still hold all practices at Emmanuel.

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Sport: **B-team Boys/ Girls Basketball**

Grade level: Boys & girls in grades 4-6.

Coach: Mrs. Heyn & Miss Wempner (boys)/ Mr. Kiecker (girls)

Season length: Mid-January- late February

Tournament date: Jamboree @ ALA on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

Additional information: We are excited to officially open basketball up to all 4<sup>th</sup> graders this year! Please check to handbook for specific fee information pertaining to 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

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Sport: Track & Field

Grade level: Boys & girls in grades 3-8

Coach: Mrs. Wait & Mrs. Heyn

Season length: Mid-march – mid-April\*

Tournament date(s): ALA meet (TBD); BCLAL meet will be on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ So. Mtn. HS.

Additional information \*Note that the track “season” will coincide with the extended A-team basketball season. Most track practices will take place during PE or recess times, with only a few after-school practices to be scheduled opposite of basketball days. Athletes who play basketball may still compete in both track meets.