Dragon Fans,

As we all know, COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact on most every aspect of our lives and that includes area school districts. This pandemic has completely changed how this school year will look and unfortunately, that includes the number of allowed spectators at school contests. Yesterday, after weeks of deliberation with Jefferson County School Activities Directors, County Superintendents, and the Jefferson County Health Department, a plan was approved to start the 2020-2021 school year.

This Friday night, August 21st we will host Herculaneum High School at J.C. Culwell Stadium for a football jamboree. We are required to limit the number of people allowed into the stadium. Since the band, cheerleaders, and dance team will not be present for the jamboree, our football players and football coaches will be allowed to bring four people of their choosing to the jamboree. Each De Soto football player and coach will receive four tickets to distribute. Every person entering the stadium must have a ticket (regardless of age). Each Herculaneum football player and coach will receive two tickets. The volleyball jamboree against St. Clair will be hosted at De Soto High School on August 25th. Since volleyball is an indoor sport we are required to take even further measures to reduce spectators. Each volleyball athlete and coach will be given two tickets each to distribute to individuals of their choosing.

Everyone entering the gymnasium or stadium must wear a face covering and be COVID-19 symptom free. There will be areas in the stands indicating where people are to sit to ensure proper social distancing. Family members are expected to sit together in the stands and we ask that you do not gather in large groups anywhere in the stadium. Once you are in your seat and socially distanced you may remove your face covering. If you move to go to the restroom, you must wear a facial covering. The jamborees (like all events moving forward) are closed to the general public and student body. Anyone without a ticket will not be admitted into the stadium.

Moving forward all participants in football and volleyball contests (grades 7-12) will be allowed a maximum of two tickets each per event. Each member of the band, dance team, cheerleading squad, volleyball team, and football team will be sent a Google form to fill out during practice. In this form students will list two names that will be used as a passlist. This passlist will be used for admission to volleyball and football contests. Additionally, the list will be sent to our opponents to use for admission when we are the visiting team. If you would like to make changes to the passlist for certain games those changes must be made no later than 24 hours prior to the contest, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Also, on nights when JV and varsity volleyball games are being played together, JV volleyball spectators will be asked to exit the building to ensure adequate social distancing for the varsity game. Lastly, no admission will be charged at these contests.

Traditionally, spectator attendance at soccer games, softball games, and cross country meets is not typically at a level we feel a passlist is needed. At this time we are not requiring a passlist for those sports. However, if it is apparent that appropriate social distancing is not taking place at those contests, then a pass list will be put into place.

This plan will be reevaluated as new information and data is released by the Jefferson County Health Department. While this is very unfortunate, I will say that in the days, weeks and months leading up to the start of the fall sports season there was extreme uncertainty that we would even have a season. As of August 20th we are allowed to have all of our normal activities and our students are allowed to play. This is great news and that should be the point of emphasis. Our students get to play. That has been our goal and we have a responsibility to take appropriate measures to make sure that can continue as long as possible.

With Dragon Pride,

Jon Roop (Activities Director)