Coaches,

Here are March’s Announcements. Please make sure you read everything and follow the appropriate steps.

**New Announcements and this Month’s Events**

1. Varsity Cheer Coach Lisa Vaughan has resigned. We have the position posted and will be hiring a new coach very soon. I would like to thank Lisa for her efforts over the last few years.

2. Spring Coaches, now is the time to be visiting our Saline Coaches Professional Development Website. This site is a great resource for coaches. All required videos are housed on this site.

Here are some of the highlights:

* The 5 videos that ALL Saline Coaches are required to view before their season starts are housed here.
* Videos to help all coaches utilize technology.
* A video to help coaches promote their program.
* Important dates for coaches.
* All of the monthly announcements so you can go back and read them again and again!
* The Saline Coaches Handbook that should be reviewed each year.
* All of the Saline Coaches’ Forms.

Here is a link to the new website:

<http://663262310158334559.weebly.com/index.html>

3. Spring Head Coaches, it is time to set up your one-on-one preseason meeting with me. I will be available anytime you are ready. Here is a link to the form you must fill out and bring to our meeting:

[Preseason Head Coaches Form](https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHZE1kSVYyQkt3Y3c/edit)

Also, at your meeting we need to make sure that all of the coaches from your program that will get paid have been entered into our Human Resources Spreadsheet.

4. The Spring Coaches meeting is March 9th at 3 p.m. in the Media Center. If you are a Saline Spring Coach and did not attend a Saline Fall Coaches meeting or the Winter meeting, then you must attend this meeting. Head Coaches, please make sure your staff makes plans to attend this meeting. **Also, all Spring Coaches must watch the Five Required Videos on the Saline Coaches Professional Development Website:**

<http://663262310158334559.weebly.com/index.html>

5. Spring Head Coaches, If you have not provided me with a list of the coaches on your staff for this spring I must have it now! **It is the time to get your paperwork in for your coaches’ pay. All Head Coaches, please work with all of your staff members to make sure they have completed their paperwork. We should have had your staff in place by February 1st! I**f you are a coach that is not a teacher in Saline Area Schools, you will now get paid by PESG. This is the company that is replacing GMS. Below is the letter that explains the transition process. Please make sure you follow all of the required steps so that you are able to coach for Saline and receive pay:

[Welcome to PESG](https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/viewer?a=v&pid=gmail&attid=0.4&thid=13ff35b7617512d6&mt=application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document&url=https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui%3D2%26ik%3D490455d19a%26view%3Datt%26th%3D13ff35b7617512d6%26attid%3D0.4%26disp%3Dsafe%26realattid%3Df_hjadmjni3%26zw&sig=AHIEtbRPlScMJBeFYxKz6ehhLuU3Od7YNw)

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Wolma in our department at wolmabe@salineschools.org.

6. Spring Coaches, your transportation should be booked already.

Last year we have had several issues with communication with transportation. Moving forward the communication with transportation should be handled by a coach. No parents should be communicating with transportation about plans. All arrangements must be handled by coaches.

The transportation coordinator that works with athletics is Anita Feldkamp; her direct phone number in the office is 734-429-8067. Fall coaches can begin booking their transportation.

Anita’s email:

 feldkama@salineschools.org

You should also keep Patti Henes’ contact information on you. Patti’s email is henesp@salineschools.org. Patti’s Cell – (734) 216-5596. Patti’s Office – 429-8067.

7. Saline is hosting several MHSAA Tournaments over the next few weeks.

 March 1st - MHSAA Hockey Regional Championships at the Cube at 3:30

 March 4th - MHSAA Hockey Quarterfinals at Yost at 5:30 and 7:30

 March 5th - MHSAA Hockey Quarterfinals at Yost at 5:30 and 7:30

 March 10th - MHSAA Boys Basketball Regional Semi-finals at 6 and 8

 March 12th - MHSAA Boys Basketball Regional Final at 7:30

8. We have extended, expanded, and adjusted our contract with [Salinespirit.com](http://salinespirit.com/). The website has really taken off.

These adjustments could potentially benefit your individual programs. If you use [www.salinespirit.com](http://www.salinespirit.com) as your team provider of spirit or team gear, 10% of gross sales of your gear will **go back to your program**. This can be a great fundraiser for your program.

Salinespirit.com will provide a flyer for you to hand out to your families and will have all of your program’s gear on their website.

Please make sure that you have touched base with Steve Jedele about your program’s needs and any type of spirit gear you would like to be available on the website. Also, let your players and their families know about the website and the gear that is available.

Here is Steve's email address:

**steve@stevescustomsigns.com.**

9. We have discovered a new issue with varsity jackets. Many students are now purchasing their varsity jackets before they actually earn their varsity letter, and the vendors are placing an unearned letter on the jacket. Since we have many vendors making the jackets with the varsity letter, it is impossible to monitor and control. We have created a form letter from our athletic office that will be given to your varsity letter winners at your banquets. The student-athlete will then present the letter to the vendor who is making the jacket to verify varsity status. I am asking all local vendors not to make jackets for student- athletes unless they present the official letter.

Here is the letter:

<https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHUFYwV3ZFNVpLeU0/edit>

The Saline Athletic Department has also named SalineSpirit.com as the official provider of Saline Varsity Jackets. **Students can purchase their jackets anywhere they want as long as they have the varification letter, but we are no longer allowing any vendors or coaches to hand out flyers about varsity jackets, except for Salinespirit.com**

10. I will be out of Town March 14th-18th at the MIAAA Conference. I will be available by email and cell phone.

11. Congratulations to our newest Be For Each Other Coach, Joe Welton. Joe will be watching our coaches to select who our next Be For Each Other Coach will be.

Remember, each head coach will randomly be assigned a program to adopt. Each head coach will work with the head coach of the program they are assigned. The head coach will visit their adopted team the day before a big competition and give a pre-game talk. Then on the day of the competition, the head coach will assist in coaching their adopted team. I also would expect that the athletes in the program of the head coach would attend the game that the head coach assists in coaching.

At our coaches workshop last summer we started to assign programs their “Be For Each Other Assistant.” Here is a list of each program’s “Be For Each Other’s Assistant.” Please get in touch with each other soon. I have witnessed some great work this year! Keep it up, coaches!

<https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHWVRlbVhnajdpajA/edit>

12. Please mark your calendar for May 10th - Prom. I am expecting to see coaches at prom. I would like our coaches making the effort to stop by EMU for at least part of Prom. We are not looking for chaperones, but if coaches let their athletes know they are going to come to Prom to see them, many of our athletes will make healthier choices. The positive impact of our involvement in Prom continues to be praised in our community. Our student athletes received the message that we care about their health and safety and about all aspects of their lives. I would like to continue sending this message by having coaches make an appearance at this year’s prom. Please let your athletes know you are going to come to Prom to see them.

13. We are working on this summer’s workshop to make sure it is the best we have had. This year we will be working with only our Head Coaches. Head Coaches, please save the date of June 16th from 6-9 p.m . **I am expecting all coaches to be at this workshop. If you are not able to attend, I need to know immediately.** We will be hearing from our committee about Student-Leadership and department promotion. We will also draw new Be For Each Other Coaches.

14. The athletic budget continues to be a point of discussion in our community and with our school board. This fall there was a committee that looked at a variety of athletic budget issues. One of the expectations from our school board that came out of these discussions was a transparent budget report from each program. We have been developing a template for all programs to use as they explain their budget to parents. Here is a draft of the form. If you have any questions about this form, please let me know. We are going to discuss this form, and my expectations in presenting this to parents, at the summer workshop on June 16th. Again, this is a draft.

<https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHSGJidkxiWXlzNjA/edit>

15. Winter Coaches, start making plans for your post-season evaluations. I would like to schedule a time for us to meet. Please bring the head coaches’ evaluation form with the self-evaluation portion completed. You also need to bring the coaches’ evaluations of your staff (that you and your coaches have completed).

[Head Coaches Form](https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHcDdnekozcV9hRFk/edit)

[Other Coaches Form](https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHdnBadmtIdGE4aFU/edit)

16. We are working very hard at promoting Saline Athletics on the Website and in Social Media. Jay Allen has taken over some of the promotional work. We need our coaches’ help in providing information to Jay so he can keep our fans and community updated. He will be contacting you as coaches. Please remember to work with him on providing stats, stories, and information. He has also started a new award for an athlete of the week. Please help your athletes by nominating them and providing information.

Jay’s Email - theannouncerman007@gmail.com

**Repeat Reminders and Announcements**

1. We have discovered that our students know how to go into Power School and change the screen shot of their grades. This “trick” does not change their actual grades, it only changes what the screen is showing, and they can print what the screen is showing. If you have a student-athlete that is on your grade-check report, instead of them printing off a grade sheet, ask them to show you their grades on Power School. You can also ask our office to run a new report. Please no longer accept a printed-off sheet.

March 26th is our next grade check. Please stress to your student-athletes to focus on their studies and keep these dates in mind. Winter athletes must pass 4 out of 5 classes from the first tri to participate in the winter season.

Here is all the information you need to know about this year’s grade checks.

<https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHSXBtd0pEMGwwMkk/edit>

Please remind your coaches and students about the Saline Scholar Athlete Patch. Starting with the 2013-14 school year all Saline Varsity Student Athletes who have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and receive a varsity letter at the end of the season will receive a Saline Scholar Athlete Patch. This is a one-time award, regardless of future status. Once a student athlete earns the patch, he or she will remain a Saline Scholar Athlete. Only Saline Varsity Athletes who participate in a sport sponsored by the Saline Athletic Department will be eligible.

2. Our committee for implementing strategies to improve school spirit, develop leaders, and support/promote our programs has met. If you have any ideas you would like to share with the committee, please feel free to email me those thoughts. I will pass them on to our chairs. If you would still like to join this group, please just let me know. Our plan is to have some suggestions or strategies for the entire department at this summer’s workshop on June 16th.

3. Here is the most up-to-date standings for the SEC Board of Directors’ Trophy:

<https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHd2pxNnRGUWt3aG8/edit>

Did you see who was in first place in the Red? Keep stressing the importance of winning that league title. I was a little surprised at our performance in the classroom. Let’s keep talking to our student athletes about excelling in the classroom.

Here is how the Board of Directors’ Trophy works:

We have a new trophy for the SEC. I believe this program is something our kids can really focus on. I want our coaches promoting this. Over the last few years the SEC athletic directors have been working on ways to strengthen our conference and to promote all of our programs. I would like to see us increase the importance on winning a league title. We also wanted to build some excitement about our conference and the accomplishments that our student athletes achieve. One way we hope to build a little excitement is with the competition for the SEC Board of Director's Trophy. Starting this fall we will be competing for the SEC Board of Director's Trophy.

**Here are the guidelines for the Board of Director’s Trophy:**

*The SEC Red Board of Director’s Trophy and the SEC White Board of Director’s Trophy will be awarded annually.*

*During each sports season, every school will have the opportunity to collect points toward winning their division’s Board of Director’s Trophy.*

*Points will be collected in two ways:*

*1. The schools can collect points based on their finish in each SEC sponsored sport.*

*1st Place – 3 pts*

*2nd Place – 2 pts*

*3rd place – 1 pt*

*If there is a tie for a place, both schools will be awarded the points, and the next lower place will be skipped.*

*2. The schools will collect points based on their ranking of percentage of varsity letter winner athletes from that season that have a cumulative 3.25 GPA.*

*1st Place (highest percentage of varsity athletes) –*

*2nd Place*

*3rd Place*

*4th Place*

*5th Place*

*6th Place*

*The total points from each sports season for each school will be tallied at the end of the school year. Every school will throw out their five lowest scores from the sports finishes. The school from each division that has the highest point total will be the winner of the Board of Director’s Trophy. The traveling trophy will be presented at the first SEC home football game for the winning school. The trophy will be presented to the winning school by the visiting SEC school’s athletic director and principal. The trophy will travel each fall to the previous year’s winning school. The winning school will also receive a smaller version of the trophy to keep at their school.*

*Timeline and Tracking Standings*

*Each division will have an athletic director that is responsible for collecting the results from league titles and each school’s percentage of varsity letter winners with a G.P.A. above 3.25.*

*Fall standings will be completed by November 10th.*

*Winter standings will be completed by March 15th.*

*Spring sports standings will be completed by June 10th and G.P.A. standings will be completed by August 15th.*

*The President Trophy Winner will be announced August 15th.*

**4**. The State of Michigan has developed new legislation to deal with concussions. This new law has three components.

First, our parents must be provided information about concussions and must sign a waiver. We have incorporated this information and waiver into our on-line registration. So, as a coach you do not have to do anything for this step.

Next, there are strict return-to-participate guidelines after a concussion. Saline’s guidelines have always been strict, and our training staff follows these guidelines.

Lastly, the sports concussion legislation requires all coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults involved with a youth athletic activity to complete a concussion awareness online training program. **The program that the MHSAA has does not meet this requirement.**

In order to meet the requirements of the law all coaches, employees, volunteers, and other adults who are involved with a youth athletic activity must complete the concussion awareness online training courses listed below:

<http://nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>

You will have to register and then watch the video. The video is approximately 30 minutes.

Once you have completed the video you will need to print the certificate of completion. Please **be sure to print or save** the certificate that is offered at the end of the training session. Lastly, you will need to turn in a copy of the certificate to Nancy in our office.

**Winter Coaches - Now is the time to get this requirement completed! This certificate must be turned in before you start your first practice!**

5. Most of our Fall and Winter Coaches did a great job with our Educator Appreciation Night. Head Coaches, how are you doing yours? I have written out this concept and added this form on the website under Coaches’ Forms. It would be great if every program recognized the educators that are making a difference in their student athletes' lives.

6. There is a new website that is tied to [salinehornets.com](http://salinehornets.com/) that coaches must use to report their scores to the press and to our office. This is for all high school coaches at all levels. **Winter Coaches need to be ready to use this site!**  Once the coach fills out the important information (scores, stats, highlights) on the website, the information is automatically sent to [salinehornets.com](http://salinehornets.com/), [annarbor.com](http://annarbor.com/), the Saline Post, the Patch, the MHSAA, the Saline Reporter, and to our office. Please check out this video on the website and see how easy it is to use!

<http://www.screencast.com/t/YoJfdGpz>

Set up your account here:

<http://pressboxapp.net/login.php>

7. Using technology to get better everyday should be a practice our department embraces. We have started to compile a list of Apps or websites that might be worth checking out (in no particular order).

Other Useful Apps or technologies.

1. [www.hudl.com](http://www.hudl.com) - Video Storage

2. Coaches Eye - Video App

3. Ubersense - Video app that superimposes an athlete’s movement onto another.

4. Remind 101 - text blast app

5. Easy coach - athlete profiles

6. Signupgenius.com - List Maker

7. Dartfish

If you have an app or technology that you use, please share it with me so we can add it to the list.

8. During the 2013-14 school year, the school calendar has professional development hours added to the end of certain Wednesdays. During these “Super Wednesdays” our coaches that teach will have to attend the professional development, unless they have a game schedule. Our coaches that teach will have to adjust their practices to make sure they meet their professional obligations. As a teacher if you miss the professional development time, you will need to make up that time and report it to your supervisor and your professional development team.

Here are the dates for the Super Wednesdays: 3/19, 4/16, 5/14, and 6/4.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

9. The 2013-14 Swarm Shirt was given to all Saline High School students during the first week of school. On the back of the shirt is a list of Saline Athletic Events. If a Saline High School Student wears the shirt to any of the events listed on the shirt they will get in free! I am hoping that every program will encourage their athletes to attend the Swarm Games. How will you promote your program leading up to your Swarm Game?

Here is the list of the Swarm Games:

[List of SWARM GAMES.](https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHQUFsc2RKQ0NDRlU/edit?usp=drive_web)

10. Have you been in touch with our strength and conditioning coaches about working with your athletes?

Our Hornet Strength and Conditioning coaches are Eric Williams, Ron Shiels, and Joe Welton. We believe with the combination of actual coaches working in the weight room, we will see improved communication, more sharing of athletes, more of a focus on athletic movement, and a direct connection with what we do during the school day and what is done after school. Our plan is for Eric to work with our athletes during the fall, Ron and Joe to work with athletes during the winter, and Ron to handle the spring. Then all three will train athletes during the summer. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the coaches.

Eric Williams – eewilliams32@yahoo.com

Ron Shiels – shielsr@salineschools.org

Joe Welton – weltonj@salineschools.org

11. If your program is going to use the concession stands as a fundraiser, you must work with our food service department. Here is the form you must fill out reserving the dates for concessions:

[Concessions Stand Reservations](https://docs.google.com/a/salineschools.org/file/d/0B73HF2l3tUJHY1V1aTNhb0JoLTQ/edit)

12. Are you looking for a quick and easy way to get an announcement out? Do you want to communicate with your parents or program followers without sending out endless emails? We have added a new feature to [www.salinehornets.com](http://www.salinehornets.com/) that will improve our communications. Please watch this video:

<http://www.screencast.com/t/jdKtTkSS5Vm>

Parents can go to your program’s home page and click on the banner to sign up for alerts through text or email. To get to your program’s homepage you can visit [www.salinehornets.com](http://www.salinehornets.com/) and then click on the program.

This is a quick and easy way to get information out to your parents, athletes and followers. As you meet with your athletes and your parents, please alert them to this new option for receiving information. As always, if you have questions about the website and how to utilize it as a communication tool, please let me know. Also, if you are having issues remembering your password or your username, please do not hesitate to let us know.

13. How are you showing the chemical health video? I know time is tight and technology can be difficult, but is there a more important message? Make sure your athletes are watching this video and then spend time discussing the content. Please visit [www.salinehornets.com](http://www.salinehornets.com/) and look for the video under Hornet HQ. All coaches should be showing this video to their athletes and parents. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

14. Each month I am going to give you some information from the MHSAA as a reminder about their rules and regulations. If you have any questions, please let me know.

**Preseason Downtime**

***Preseason down time:***

***Just prior to each season, to establish an official start to practice, this***

***period prohibits open gyms or sport specific camps or clinics from occurring at the school or sponsored elsewhere by the school. No competition, intrasquad or intersquad may occur with groups that resemble school teams. Voluntary conditioning, weight lifting and three [or four] player coaching may continue in the preseason down time. The fall sports down time is Aug. 1 to the start of practice, winter sports is 14 calendar days before practice begins and the spring***

***sports down time runs from March 1 to the start of practice. Middle schools observe this period 14 days before practice begins.***

***Because conditioning is so similar to actual practices in swimming, cross country and track, coaches in these sports may not provide instruction in any sport specific technique or conduct sessions which involve both time AND distance during the preseason down time.***

**Here are some important dates – Get these on your calendars!**

2014

March 1st until the First Day of Spring Practices - Preseason Downtime

March 9th - Spring Coaches Meeting @ 3 p.m.

May 10th - Prom

May 28th - SEC Fall Coaches Meeting @ Dexter @ 6

June 4th - Fall Coaches Meeting option #1 @ 6 p.m. in the HS Library

**June 16 - Head Coaches Workshop - 6pm in the HS Library**

June 29th-July 6th - MHSAA Dead Period

August 1st - Fall Coaches Entered into HR Spreadsheet for Pay

August 11th- Football Starts

August 12th - Fall Coaches Meeting Option # 2 @ 6 p.m. in the HS Library

August 13th - Fall Sports Start

August 29th - Be For Each Other Tailgate - First Home Football Game.

October 1st - Winter Coaches Entered into HR Spreadsheet for Pay

October 3rd - Homecoming

October 4th - Homecoming Dance

November 5th - Winter Coaches Meeting @ 6 p.m. in the HS Library

**2015**

February 1st - Spring Coaches Entered into HR Spreadsheet for Pay

March 1st to the First Day of Spring Practices - Preseason Downtime

March 8th - Spring Coaches Meeting @ 3 p.m. in the HS Library

August 1st - Fall Coaches Entered into HR Spreadsheet for Pay

October 1st - Winter Coaches Entered into HR Spreadsheet for Pay