



SANDRA "SAM" HIMMEL – SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FLORIDA'S SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR 2020

*"Where Learning is the Expectation
and Caring is a Commitment"*

THOMAS KENNEDY
DISTRICT 1

VIRGINIA BRYANT
DISTRICT 2

DOUGLAS A. DODD
DISTRICT 3

SANDRA COUNTS
DISTRICT 4

LINDA B. POWERS
DISTRICT 5

For Immediate Release
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Return to Athletics – Spectator Experience and Ticket Information

As we approach the beginning of our Fall athletic seasons, we want to start by thanking all of our student-athletes and their families, our students, faculty and staff, and our community partners for their support and understanding as we navigate through this uncertain time.

COVID-19 has prompted Citrus Schools to think more critically and creatively than ever before when it comes to how we operate in the athletic arena. The desire to maintain a safe and meaningful season has led to the implementation of new guidelines as we move forward with Fall athletics.

To ensure everyone has a safe experience while attending our athletic events, we will start the Fall season allowing 25% capacity at each of our events. Closely following social distancing and masks guidelines, along with a reduced capacity, will provide our students, staff, and the community, the best opportunity to enjoy their athletic experience this Fall.

The reduction in spectators has caused us to re-examine how tickets will be purchased. All ticket purchases will be purchased online. Starting today, Wednesday, September 16th, season tickets will be available for purchase through an online box office. Fans not wishing to purchase season tickets will be able to purchase single-game tickets the week of each game. Please note, single-game tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Once again, anyone needing to purchase their Fall sporting event ticket(s) will need to do so online through our online box office as we will NO longer be selling event tickets at the gate. The decision to move ticket sales exclusively online was done to allow us the

opportunity to better manage our capacity levels while ensuring our ability to enforce social distancing guidelines.

To purchase tickets, simply visit our district website www.citruschools.org. Click on the button in the middle of the homepage marked “Athletic Event Tickets”. This button will redirect you to our box office. From there you will choose the corresponding school you will be purchasing tickets from. Once you have purchased the online ticket you can either print the ticket and present it at the gate, or you can download the e-ticket to your phone or other electronic device and have it scanned upon your arrival.

Keep in mind, ticket numbers were determined by the size of the venue and a recommendation of 25% capacity. Tickets will be dispersed to student-athletes, marching band, and cheerleaders’ families first, then currently enrolled students and our staff, followed by the general population.

Please note that senior citizen passes, and walk-up tickets will not be available or honored this season due to these new protocols.

SEASON PASSES:

Parents will use their child's student ID number as the passcode to buy season passes. **IMPORTANT** - this passcode can only be used **ONCE** to get two season passes for a specific sport. Once the passcode is used for that sport, it **CANNOT** be used again for that same sport for season passes.

INDIVIDUAL GAME TICKETS:

The school/coach will issue presale passcodes to parents for single-game tickets. Fans can purchase two tickets per transaction, but make multiple purchases **This special passcode will be available the Monday before game week for football, and two days before each volleyball match. However, please check with your individual school on when they release pre-sale codes.**

Students and faculty will be given a special day to purchase tickets for each event BEFORE tickets are released to general public.

AWAY GAMES:

For away games, the host school will provide a passcode for our parents to use to purchase tickets. Again, this code will be given to our schools/coaches to disseminate to the players/participants.

SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

In past seasons, **all employees** were allowed free admission to all regular season athletic contests with their school board identification badge. **This is no longer an option for our Fall athletic season.** ALL faculty and staff must purchase a ticket so venue attendance numbers can be accurately counted and managed. There are NO exceptions to this rule.

MASKS:

Masks are mandatory for all spectators for all indoor & outdoor events. Fans are also asked to self-assess if they are sick before attending a game. If any fan is not feeling well and/or have COVID-19 symptoms, please stay at home. If any fan is caught not wearing his/her mask, they will be asked to leave the game.

PARKING:

\$4 per vehicle for each game. School staff will be collecting payment as vehicles enter the parking lot.

CONCESSIONS:

Pre-packaged items will be available for sale during games. Cash only.

ATHLETIC EVENT POLICIES:

- NO weapons of any kind
- NO alcohol or tobacco products of any kind
- NO pets of any kind
- NO artificial noisemakers
- NO re-entry at varsity football games
- NO sideline access at football games unless approved by the athletic department with appropriate credentials and sideline pass
- NO refunds and fans may be removed for unsportsmanlike behavior
- NO solicitation or outside group fundraising of any kind without prior approval of the athletic office
- NO outside food or drink of any kind (except teams' water/snacks given by staff)
- NO loitering
- Purses and bags may be subject to search prior to entry
- All media groups, newspapers, photographers must have prior approval and appropriate credentials for access to the sides of the fields.

*All ticket policies subject to change based upon guidelines and mandates from the Citrus County Health Department and the Florida High School Athletic Association.

As with any change, we understand there will be some growing pains – all we ask is that you simply be patient as we continue to work on providing you the very best fan experience possible. As always, should you have any questions or concerns regarding these initiatives, please contact the athletic directors at your child's school.

Again, we thank you in advance for your cooperation and support of our students. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to show your support for the student-athletes of Citrus County.