



NEWS RELEASE

Northwood High School is First Maryland School to Earn Level 1 Status in NFHS School Honor Roll Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dan Schuster

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (December 15, 2020) – The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is pleased to announce that Northwood High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, has earned Level 1 status in the NFHS School Honor Roll. Northwood High School, one of 26 high schools in the Montgomery County Public Schools, is the first school in Maryland to earn Level 1 status in the NFHS School Honor Roll.

The newly instituted NFHS School Honor Roll is a national recognition program designed to promote professional development for high school coaches by completing specific online education courses through the NFHS Learning Center (www.NFHSLearn.com).

In earning Level 1 status, more than 90 percent of the coaches at Northwood High School completed the core course “Fundamentals of Coaching” along with three of the Learning Center’s most significant courses – “Concussion in Sports,” “Sudden Cardiac Arrest” and “Protecting Students from Abuse.”

“We want to congratulate the coaches and administration at Northwood High School for taking this significant step in prioritizing professional development,” said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, NFHS executive director. “These four courses will definitely help the coaches at Northwood High School to handle the daily challenges in high school sports and should serve as a challenge for other schools to follow their example.”



“The Montgomery County Public Schools athletics program joins the National Federation of State High School Associations in congratulating Northwood High School for being the first school in the state of Maryland to earn Level 1 status in the NFHS School Honor Roll Program,” said Dr. Jeffrey Sullivan, CMAA, system-wide director of athletics, Montgomery County Public Schools. “This honor recognizes the commitment of Northwood Athletics to promoting professional development and championing the certification and compliance of coaches. This achievement will serve as an inspiration to other schools in MCPS and Maryland, as we collectively raise the standard of excellence and promote the value of education-based athletics in our schools.”

As a physical sign of completing Level 1 certification, Northwood High School will receive a large display banner for its school gymnasium to commemorate its accomplishments and dedication to professional development and education-based activity programs.

Schools can earn Level 2 status (and a Level 2 banner) on the NFHS School Honor Roll when more than 90 percent of their coaches – excluding volunteer coaches – complete courses that pertain specifically to sports they coach, along with “First Aid, Health and Safety,” “Heat Illness Prevention” and “Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.”

A Level 3 banner will be awarded for schools that reach 90-percent completion for the “Sportsmanship,” “Strength and Conditioning,” “Teaching and Modeling Behavior,” “Engaging Effectively with Parents” and “Bullying, Hazing, and Inappropriate Behaviors” courses.

“Earning the NFHS School Honor Roll banner is a symbol that the school and its coaches are committed to providing a great experience for young people, and it’s something that everyone can be proud of within their communities,” said Dan Schuster, NFHS Director of Educational Services.

For more information on the NFHS School Honor Roll and to apply for participation in the program, please visit <https://nfhslearn.com/home/administrators>.

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About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping



those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

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