



Dr. Juliette Pennyman, Superintendent of Schools

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 3, 2023

**HUDSON, NY –** After serious deliberation, the Hudson City School District and athletic department have made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the 2023-24 varsity football season due to the lack of eligible participants not meeting the requirement of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association.

We understand the frustration that may be generated from this action. However, it's important to note that this is the option the district and athletic department selected due to several extenuating circumstances.

The decision stems from not meeting the requirement of 16 players dressed to play, disciplinary ineligibility and consideration for the opposing school districts that were scheduled to be played against so they have ample time to find a replacement game.

"We as a district feel deeply for our courageous student-athletes who gave their all this season, those who are ready and able to play and their faithful fans who were looking forward to the return of Bluehawk football this season," Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman said. "This difficult decision will be immediately followed by consideration of next steps for the program."

Considering Friday, October 6 was intended to be the varsity football team's Homecoming game, the District has been able to move the modified football game to this slot at 7 p.m., as the Bluehawks host Chatham. The senior student-athletes on the varsity team will be recognized during this game. The varsity cheerleading team will also support the modified football team during this game. The Hudson Senior High School's American Sign Language class will sign the National Anthem to kick off the game.

As many of you know, many school districts state and nationwide have seen declines in participation in all sports, particularly football with recent health studies. Hudson City School District is proud to also offer golf and soccer for boys varsity sports during the fall season, as well as many extracurricular clubs to participate in.

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