Dear Parents and Guardians,

Chicago Public Schools’ Office of Sports Administration is pleased to open student registration for the new Elementary School Sports Program – the official interscholastic league play for CPS 5th – 8th grade athletics. *Registration forms to sign up by Wednesday November 16th are included in this packet.* The program will officially launch with Winter Boys and Girls Basketball in January 2017. Practices will occur 2 times per week at your child’s school starting the week of January 9th and the first game will be on Saturday, January 14th.

In order to increase athletic participation across the district, the program will follow an inclusive model. There will be no cuts or tryouts to join teams, but rather multiple teams will be established to accommodate student interest.

The Elementary School Sports program will use a conference structure to foster a sense of community between elementary schools that are geographically near one another. Games will take place on weekends with the hope that it will be easier for family and friends transport children, attend games and take part in game day activities. Most games will be hosted by neighborhood high schools, providing students and families and opportunity to get to know their neighborhood schools and ease the elementary to high school transition.

To help deliver the expanded program, CPS is partnering with the Chicago Park District. The Chicago Park District will provide staff to coach teams and officiate contests. The Park District will also provide additional facilities to accommodate the anticipated volume of students and program size.

As always, parents and guardians are encouraged to get involved in the program. Information enclosed will include the process to become a coach and/or game day volunteer (e.g., timekeeper).

Enclosed in this packet, you will find the following forms and information:

1. Student Information Form
2. Consent and Release Form
3. Elementary School Sports Program Overview
4. Transportation Information
5. Important Dates for Winter 2017

Please review the packet carefully and, if you choose to register your student, fill out the two forms completely and accurately. Registration and consent forms must be received by your child’s school ***no later than*** ***Wednesday November 16th, 2016*** if your child wants to participate in Winter Basketball. Following registration, more detailed information will be sent home including instructions for getting involved as a coach or game day staff, game/practice schedules, team rosters, your child’s coach’s contact information and conference shuttle schedules. If you have any questions, please contact your school’s Elementary School Liaison, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Sincerely,

 Randy Ernst

 Executive Director, Office of Sports Administration