

Tryouts for the girls' tennis team begin on Monday, August 18. We'll have at least 2 sessions on Monday. Session 1 will be from 3:00-4:30, and Session 2 will be from 4:30-6:00. Both sessions will start at the upper courts at Harmon Park. If we need to add an additional session, we will start groups at 3:00, 4:00, and 5:00. With 3 sessions, each session would last an hour. Whether we have 2 or 3 sessions will depend on the number of players we need to evaluate and the number of available courts. We will communicate the specifics of the tryout plan in our Week of August 11 Email.

While we are a no-cut program, we use the tryout process to evaluate players and sort them into our V/JV group and Blue/White group. You can read more about the way that our program is set up and our sorting process here - <https://smeasttennis.wixsite.com/tennis/tryout-information>

If you have friends who do not receive my email messages, please feel free to forward this message to them. If you are receiving this message and do not plan to play this fall, please let me know, and I will remove you from the email list.

As we approach the beginning of the season, there are several things that you and your families need to do.

#1 - PAPERWORK

To tryout, players need to have a completed KSHSAA Physical Form on file with the SME athletic department and Concussion/Head Injury Release Form, and a Transportation Form. You can find a link to those forms here - [KSHSAA Physical Form](#) (the physical needs to have been conducted after May 1, 2025), [Concussion/Head Injury Information and Release Form](#), and [Transportation Form](#). Additionally, the SMSD Athletic Packet Online Verification forms need to be completed in both the student and parent/family Skyward accounts. **All paperwork needs to be completed and submitted by the start of tryouts.** You can either bring completed forms to the SME office - the office reopens on Friday, July 25 - or bring them to one of the Lancer Launch events - August 1 or August 8.

#2 - INTEREST FORM

We do most of our team communication through email. Even if I currently have an email address for you and/or your family, please complete the linked Google Form - [Girls Tennis - Interest Form](#) - so that we can have an accurate count of players. In addition to updating our rosters and contact list, I use that count to help in scheduling practices and events, ordering supplies, and working with our uniform vendor.

#3 - GET OUT AND PLAY

Our tryout process and practices take place outside in the afternoon in August. It is usually quite warm. If you have spent most of the summer inside, you will want to get acclimated to not only being outside and but also playing outside. I know that many of you have been taking lessons, attending clinics or classes, and competing in tournaments. Continue to take advantage of these final days of summer. There are several upcoming events you can still play:

- [USTA Events](#) - There are USTA events each weekend between now and the start of our season
- [KC Summer Slam](#) - There are two Summer Slam events remaining: Jaguar Slam (played at Grain Valley HS, Lee's Summit North, and Blue Springs South HS) - July 22-24 and Owl Slam (played at Gardner-Edgerton HS) - July 29-31. You can play both singles and doubles and select your division: Varsity, JV, or Novice.
- Attend a HS Clinic - Several area clubs offer sessions specifically designed for HS season preparation
- Get out with your friends and teammates and play. We are fortunate to have many area courts that you can use. Use them.

*** Note for USTA Tournament Players** - KSHSAA adjusted their rules for competing in outside events - primarily, USTA tournaments - last spring. You are now allowed to participate in one outside tournament once you have joined the HS team. KSHSAA requires that you submit notification to the school at least 30 days prior to that event. Last spring, I worked with several of our boys' players, our building administration, and KSHSAA to develop a letter that we can use to provide notification. Under this new rule, you could potentially start the season with the team and use your one outside tournament to compete in a USTA L4 over Labor Day weekend. We can also discuss some other possibilities of how to use this new rule to play your outside event later in the season.

Regardless of your ability to get accepted into a USTA L4 field and your outside tournament plans, please go ahead and complete your [interest form](#) and get your KSHSAA and SMSD paperwork completed. If you are planning to use this outside event exemption, reach out to me to discuss your plans - andrewgibbs@smsd.org. I know that each situation is different, and we can work together to figure out how to use this new rule to help you reach both your HS and USTA tennis goals.

*** Parent Roles** - My email next week will list several parent roles that we always use help in providing. These include snacks, help with transportation, Lancer Day parade support (we do have a location for float building - Thank you, Trinkle family, but will need a truck and trailer), all-sports booster club representative, and various other roles.