

We are two weeks away from the start of the high school tennis season. I hope you are excited for the season.

Tryouts will begin on Monday, August 14. 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. 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 courts we have available. We have 67 players who have completed the interest form to let us know that they are planning to play. I've included a list of those who have completed the interest form with this message.

We will communicate our final tryout plan in our August 7 Weekly Email. 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>

UPDATES

Uniforms

Because of the turnaround time required for items, we need to launch and close the shop prior to the season starting. As a reminder, we are a no-cut program, and all players have an opportunity to compete in matches against other schools. All players will need a white uniform top. The design is consistent with the tops from past seasons, so many players typically use the same uniform top as in the past. Our experiences with Under Armour lead me to believe that the tanks will run large.

All players will also need black shorts or a black tennis skirt for matches. Again, you are welcome to use items that you already own or have purchased previously. Our sales rep added a few additional t-shirts and sweatshirts that have a design consistent with our uniform top. None of those items are required.

You can access the BSN Team Shop - <https://bsnteamsports.com/shop/SMETN223> - You order and pay through the website. Items will all ship to me at school in bulk, and we will distribute items to players from there.

We want all interested players to be able to play, so if cost is a concern, let me know, and we will work to make sure you have a uniform to wear.

Lancer Day

The Lancer Day Parade will be held on Thursday, August 31. Typically, the tennis team builds a float and invites all members of all teams - Varsity, JV, and Blue/White - to be part of the decorating and parade. We will be looking for a family or two to host the build and a driver/trailer for the float itself. Seniors will come up with and submit our theme once student council makes it available.

Match Schedule

As match/tournament dates are finalized, we are getting them added to our schedule. When you look at the tennis team schedules on the SME Lancers athletic website, you will find a list of all events we play against other schools' Varsity and JV teams. There are more matches listed than any individual can play. We assign players to matches on a weekly basis through our weekly email messages.

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

PAPERWORK

To tryout, players need to have a completed KSHSAA Physical Form on file with the SME athletic department as well as a Concussion/Head Injury Release Form, and a Transportation Form. You can find a link to those forms here -

[KSHSAA Physical Form](#), [Concussion/Head Injury Release Form](#), and [Transportation Form](#). Paperwork needs to be submitted to the SME office by the start of practice. You can either bring completed forms to the SME office - the office is open weekdays from 8:00-3:00, bring them to one of the Lancer Launch events - August 1 or August 8, or email them to Mrs. Dusek - the athletic department assistant - jeannedusek@smsd.org. Please be sure to also complete the athletics section that's part of the online verification process in both family and student accounts in Skyward.

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 I can be sure to have as accurate a count of players as possible. As of Monday, July 31, 67 players have completed the form. You only need to complete it once. I have included a list of players who have completed it with this email message. I use that count to help in scheduling practices and events as well as ordering supplies and working with our uniform vendor.

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 both being outside and playing outside. I know that many of you have been taking lessons, attending clinics or classes, and competing in tournaments. Take advantage of the many opportunities that still remain to play. If you need help finding opportunities, reach out and I can offer some more specific recommendations.

*** Reminder for USTA Tournament Players** - If you are planning to play in a USTA L4 event over Labor Day weekend, be sure to reach out to me - andrewgibbs@smsd.org - to discuss your plans for the season. Remember, KSHSAA does not allow you to compete in outside (non-high school) tournaments or attend group clinics/classes after you've joined the high school team and attended your first practice. We need to communicate so that we can keep you eligible and account for you in our tryout process.