

The first week of the boys' tennis season was unbelievable - weather was fantastic, play was competitive, COVID protocols were followed, and the coaching staff is excited to get to work with all of you. Hopefully, it was a harbinger of the season to come.

I have attached the rosters for the Varsity/JV group and the Blue/White group. After our initial sorting after the first two days, we played 154 short sets over the last three days to make these determinations.

Remember, **uniform and team wear orders are due on Monday, March 8.** You can access the team store through the following link: <https://www.bsnteamssports.com/shop/SMETEN2021> There are more details included later in this message.

We'll have practice for Varsity/JV Group starting at 3:15 p.m. on Monday. Because we have players in the V/JV group in both hybrid A and B groups and some learning remotely, we're going to push back the start time of practice to allow those of you who are not in the building more time to get to the courts. On Monday at 5:00, we'll have an organizational meeting for all Blue/White team players. We'll meet at the large shelter near the restrooms at Harmon Park to organize Blue/White teams.

I have fielded a couple of questions this week about Outside Competition and Lessons. According to KSHSAA rules, you **cannot** play in an organized, non-high school team competition - this includes USTA, UTR, JTT, Club Sunday or Saturday Match Play - once you have started to practice with the high school team. You also **cannot** participate in group lessons, academy sessions, or clinics. You can take a private lesson or a semi-private doubles lesson with a high school teammate. We ask that private lessons and semi-private doubles lessons are scheduled for times that do not interfere with team events.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, 3/8

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Park Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
- Blue/White Organizational Meeting/Draft - Harmon Park Shelter - 5:00-6:00
- **Uniform/Team Wear Orders Due**

TUESDAY, 3/9

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Park Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
- Blue/White - Match Day #1 - 5:00-6:00
 - 2 Matches at Harmon Park Upper Courts
 - 1 Match at SME Courts

WEDNESDAY, 3/10 - Signing Day Celebration for Seniors Blake Eason and Hudson Mosher

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Park Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
- Blue/White - Match Day #2 - 5:00-6:00
 - 2 Matches at Harmon Park Upper Courts
 - 1 Match at SME Courts

THURSDAY, 3/11

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Park Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
- Blue/White - Match Day #3 - 5:00-6:00
 - 2 Matches at Harmon Park Upper Courts
 - 1 Match at SME Courts

FRIDAY, 3/12

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Park Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
-

UNIFORMS and TEAM WEAR

Our team store through BSN Sports will remain open through March 8. You can access the team store [here](#). We never want cost of a uniform top to keep someone from being part of our team. If you need assistance with cost of a uniform, please communicate with me, and we'll help make sure that you have a uniform.

Uniform Top - Columbia Blue/Black

Everyone - V/JV group and Blue/White group players - will need the Columbia Blue top for matches. If you have one from past seasons that fits, you may continue to use it. The Black top is optional for V/JV players.

Match Shorts - Black

Everyone will need black tennis shorts for matches. These do not need to be the shorts from the team store. They can be shorts you already own. In the past, V/JV players have had a pair of white tennis shorts as an optional look. Again, these can be shorts you already own.

Team Wear

The team store also has some other items - sweatshirts, long-sleeve shirt, quarter zip, sweatpants, hats. All of these are optional.

I do have some uniform and team wear items that were not picked up after school was shut down last spring. I will have them with me at practices this week.

Uniform/Team Wear - Items Not Picked Up Last Spring

- Jones, Brodhay
 - Mun, Joseph
 - Sutherland, Dylan
 - Winn, Aiden
-

BLUE/WHITE TEAM INFORMATION

One of the commitments in our program is to offer opportunities for as many players who are interested in playing chances to play. Over the years, we have tried several different versions of a Blue/White team. We've used Blue/White practices as lessons or clinics with some time to play. We've assigned players to times and days of the week based on grade level or last name, but we have found that the most important things are having an opportunity to play matches and being able to be with friends.

Blue/White teams typically consist of between 5 and 7 players. Players select their own teams. We'll select teams during the meeting on Monday, March 8. Start talking to teammates and putting your Blue/White team together. Blue/White teams will compete in our Blue/White league against each other throughout the season. The season concludes with a Blue/White Tournament usually played during the week between the varsity regional and state tournament.

League matches between Blue/White teams consist of 2 doubles matches a 1 singles match. We've modified World Team Tennis rules and allow open substitution between games within a match. Each player on a team must play in one of the team's three matches. Teams earn a point for each win and for having their entire team in attendance for the match.

In addition to league matches, we hope to get all Blue/White team members into at least two interscholastic matches during the season. We try to keep Blue/White teams together when scheduling them for interscholastic

matches. For example, if we have 18 spots for a match against another school, we may send 3 Blue/White teams to compete.

MATCH SCHEDULE

While we make assignments for individual events a week in advance, you can access the [entire match schedule](#) for the season at the [Sunflower League website](#). KSHSAA limits the total number of matches an individual can play, and we have almost 3 times that number of events.

Also, the designation of varsity or junior varsity on a particular event has more to do with what level of team our opponents will be bringing to the event. I work closely with other schools to try to make matches as competitive as we can. There are times when V/JV group players will compete in matches designated on the schedule as JV matches. There may also be times when Blue/White group players will compete in matches designated on the schedule as Varsity matches

Because of the unpredictability of spring weather, we often have to reschedule events. We also look at adding additional matches to get players more chances to compete.

TEAM PICTURES - Saturday, 3/20 at 8:30 a.m. - Location TBD

Order forms and more details will be coming as soon as I get them.

ALL-SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB

Shawnee Mission East has many organizations and individuals who do an outstanding job supporting our students, faculty, staff, activities, and athletics. One of those groups is the All Sports Booster Club. Please consider supporting their efforts. Over the last several years, the Booster Club has specifically supported the tennis teams through the purchase of equipment including windscreens, ball carts, and tennis balls; the purchase and installation of court signage that recognizes our state championship teams and individuals; and the support for travel to events.

The All-Sports Booster Club is hosting a pickleball tournament and social time - The Lancer Spring Smash - on Saturday, March 20 at Homestead Country Club.

The success of this event is critical to the mission of financially supporting all athletic teams. This will be the ONLY fundraiser for the All Sports Booster Club [a 501(c)(3) foundation] for the 2020-2021 school year. The ASBC has supported the financial needs of your teams at East over the last 10 years by awarding more than \$400,000 in grants, and two annual scholarships per year to graduating seniors. Now we need your help.

Sign up to compete if you can, or make a donation. Volunteer opportunities will also be available for coaches, teams, and students who want to help in a socially distanced environment.

To sign up to support financially and/or participate please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-lancer-spring-smash-tickets-134345983453>

NEXT WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Monday, 3/15

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
- Blue/White - Match Day #4 - 5:00-6:00
 - 2 Matches at Harmon Park Upper Courts
 - 1 Match at SME Courts

Tuesday, 3/16

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
- Blue/White - Match Day #5 - 5:00-6:00
 - 2 Matches at Harmon Park Upper Courts
 - 1 Match at SME Courts

Wednesday, 3/17

- V/JV Practice - Meet at Harmon Upper Courts - 3:15-5:00
- Blue/White - Match Day #6 - 5:00-6:00
 - 2 Matches at Harmon Park Upper Courts
 - 1 Match at SME Courts

Thursday, 3/18

- V/JV - Intrasquad Dual Match Tournament Semifinals - 3:00
 - 4 teams of 8 - one match will start at Harmon and one match will start at SME
 - Each player will play both doubles and singles

Friday, 3/19

- V/JV - Intrasquad Dual Match Tournament Finals and 3rd Place Match - 3:00
 - 4 teams of 8 - one match will start at Harmon and one match will start at SME
 - Each player will play both doubles and singles

Saturday, 3/20

- Team Pictures for All Player - 8:30 a.m. - Location TBD