

7-18-17: Dear National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Quality Program Reviewers:

On behalf of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District, which includes the Board of Education, District/Building Administration, Staff and Students, we thank the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Quality Program Reviewers, Board of Directors, Committee Members, Mr. Michael Blackburn and Mr. Don Bales, the Quality Program Coordinator, for acknowledging the North Hunterdon High School Athletic Program at the highest Exemplary Level for the NIAAA Quality Program Award for 2016-2017.


The rigorous Quality Program Standards process is similar to a school receiving [National Blue Ribbon Schools Program](#) accreditation and has allowed us the opportunity to see our strengths and weaknesses in our Athletic Program. This validation process has given our school and community a great sense of Lion pride, knowing that our educationally based athletic program is following the highest Best Practice Industry Standards in the country.


North Hunterdon won the State ["Athletic Program of Excellence"](#) Award for 2015-2016 and we are even more proud for being recognized at the National Level for 2016-2017. There are currently 25 schools who have won the NIAAA National Quality Program Award since its inception, and North Hunterdon is the first NJ High School to receive this honor.

The NIAAA has become the first association to receive [accreditation](#) from [AdvancED](#). The NIAAA champions the profession of administering athletic programs in our nation's high schools and middle schools. No other body values, promotes, preserves, supports and stands ready to uplift the cause of the athletic administrator as does the NIAAA. The NIAAA award recognizes excellence in implementation and administration of a high school athletics program. The Quality Program Award also recognizes the continuing research and implementation of professional benchmarks and best practices through Evidence Based Criteria of Philosophy, Educational Compatibility, Mentoring Staff and Students, Program Safety and Risk Management, Program Access and Equity, Budget and Supplemental Fund-Raising, Personnel and Program Assessment, Technology, Sports Medicine, Innovation and Creative Leadership Strategies.

In conclusion, we believe by participating in athletics, young people have the opportunity to learn, grow and develop just as they do in the classroom. This principle is essential to North Hunterdon's approach to developing the whole child. Receiving this NIAAA Quality Program Accreditation demonstrates our dedication to our students. Thank you for selecting the North Hunterdon Athletic Department as the NIAAA National "Quality Program of Excellence" for 2016-2017. We are proud of our staff and community, which focus on the positive development of our students.

Respectfully,


Jeffrey Bender
Superintendent


Michael P. Hughes
Assistant Superintendent


Richard Bergacs, Ed.D
Principal



John Deutsch
Athletic Administrator



GETTYSBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

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Pride, Commitment, Respect, and Unity

Michael Williams, CMAA, Athletic Director
Ext 6210



Maria Myers, Athletic Secretary
Ext. 6225

Dr. Michael Blackburn, CMAA
Executive Director,
National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 650
Indianapolis, IN 46240

June 21, 2017

Dear Dr. Blackburn,

This letter serves as testimony to the benefits of National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) Quality Program Award (QPA). Gettysburg Area High School is proud and excited to be recognized as a 2017 recipient of the Quality Program Award at the Exemplary Level. Taking on the challenge of the QPA is a "journey" well worth the time and effort taken.

Our "QPA journey" gave guidance to our athletic department and school administration as we compared, assessed, and evaluated our policies and procedures to the best practices and standards of care identified by the NIAAA in the QPA Application, Application Guidelines, and scoring rubrics. These professional benchmarks are comprehensive and give a high school a pathway to assessing and improving their interscholastic athletic program.

The feedback from and the scoring by the reviewers are valuable and helpful. We will use their scores and comments to guide a revision of our 5-year strategic plan and support the development and construction of our athletic department budget in the future. This will, as the NIAAA so aptly puts it, drive continuous improvement of the athletic program of the Gettysburg Area School District.

Recognition and commendation by local media, community members, Board of Governance, school administration, and faculty and coaching staff strongly supports developing and maintaining an education-based interscholastic athletic atmosphere and philosophy. We want to serve our students in a way that promotes learning, sportsmanship, and citizenship, the primary indicators of the value and success of what we do in high school athletics.

I strongly recommend every high school begin a "QPA journey" of their own to better serve their students. It will be time and effort well spent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Michael Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Williams, CMAA
Gettysburg Area School District Athletic Director

QPA Testimonials

Our letters of congratulations arrived today. The official notification that all 12 high schools in the Howard County Public School System have been designated as Exemplary Level Interscholastic Athletic Programs was received with great excitement. Jeannie Prevosto from Mt. Hebron HS was the first to call me on the phone today - she was so excited she could barely talk. On behalf our entire interscholastic athletic team, I want to personally and professionally thank you for your outstanding support and exceptional guidance as we pursued the NIAAA Quality Program Award. Your timely and always helpful advice made what at first appeared to be a daunting challenge, a manageable and successful process. The NIAAA membership should take great pride in the leadership you provide to the QPA. Thank you, again, for the time spent with us at the NIAAA Convention in Indianapolis this past December. Please thank Jim Watson as well. I don't seem to have his address. The Howard County Public School System and our entire athletic community will be able to derive great benefit from the process. We plan to use the feedback from your evaluation team and our own debriefing to develop and implement a 5-Year Strategic Plan. I also want thank Ron Belinko - he is and has been a tremendous advocate for the NIAAA, the QPA, and the LTI. He has had a tremendous impact on the professional development of many, many athletic administrators from around the state of Maryland. His professional and personal encouragement, mentoring, and guidance over the past 10 years have been a joy. Without him, we would perhaps never embark on what has been an extraordinary journey.

Since we submitted our application, another of our athletic administrators has been designated as a CMAA. Another was recently designated as a CAA. We take great professional pride in our membership and involvement in the NIAAA. Our warmest regards and deep gratitude,

Mike Williams Howard County District Athletic Administrator

Thank you for your time that you and your staff spent reviewing and evaluating our NIAAA QPA application. This application process afforded us an opportunity to collaborate and share ideas. It was an exercise in affirmation. It gave us the opportunity, as athletic administrators and as a school system, to confirm our philosophies. This process personally afforded me the opportunity to work closely with professionals that I admire. It is commendable to see my colleagues receive recognition for their leadership, vision, and hard work to provide an educationally based program for our student-athletes.

Sincerely, Rick Lloyd, CAA Athletic and Activities Manager River Hill High School Clarksville, Maryland

On behalf of the Atholton High School administration, I wanted to thank you for acknowledging our athletic program at the exemplary level for NIAAA Quality Program. This program as allowed me the opportunity to see strengths and weaknesses of our program as a whole. At the moment, I am personally developing a three year plan to address areas of our program that need improvements. By setting goals and expectations we can continue to teach our student athletes to be better citizens in a fun and safe environment. At our most recent athletic booster meeting, I was able to tell our community members about the award. They were excited about the recognition and were eager to see the plans for the future. A special thanks to you and your staff for taking the time to review the application and documentations.

Sincerely, Mike Senisi Athletic Director Athletics and Activities Director Atholton H.S.

I have been involved in High School Athletics for 36 years. I was always taught by my mentors that we learn new things every day. When Mike Williams decided to take on this task, that's exactly what he was doing. Mike continues to lead our team by example, and I want to congratulate him for all of his efforts. This was not an easy task, but we have a great team of Athletic Directors in Howard County that work hard each day to promote our students. This accomplishment will certainly help us to continue to do this. Being exemplary is a great compliment to all of us. I would like to thank the NIAAA for this award. Hopefully we have opened the door to many others who will benefit from this in the future. Because of this project, I have decided to pursue the CMAA. Certainly, Mike and the NIAAA had a lot to do with my decision.

Sincerely, Gene Brown, CAA Marriotts Ridge High School Ellicott City, MD

Centennial is pleased to display our letter and our athletic program proud to be deemed exemplary by the NIAAA. This process allowed me to not only to look at the program here at CHS, but county-wide. By looking at all of the Policies, the bulletins we have worked on, the scheduling that we do, our philosophy, etc., I am better able to provide my coaches with even more resources. In going through the process, you are reminded of all of the wonderful resources provided by both our athletics office and the school system. I feel that the process is a great way to evaluate what we do already and learn about things that we can do better.

I earned my CAA in 2004 and I am extremely proud to put that at the end of my name. I attend the national conventions and state conventions and continue to take as many LTI Leadership courses as I can. I have completed my CMAA project and I am in the process of writing it up.

The NIAAA continues to offer all of us tremendous opportunities for growth. A big thank you to the NIAAA.

Jean Vanderpool, CAA Centennial High School Elkridge, MD

This experience has given our student-athletes, school and community a great sense of pride knowing that our school system's athletic program is one of the finest in the country. It is validation that we do things the right way in an education based student centered experience.

John Davis John (Jack) Davis, CAA Athletics/Activities Manager Glenelg High School

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your committee for reviewing and evaluating the Howard County Public School System's NIAAA QPA Application, as well as my high school's application, Mount Hebron High School, where I am the Athletic Administrator. I highly support the NIAAA Quality Program Award process for several reasons. First and foremost, the QPA is a tremendous comprehensive administrative tool. It is also a very rewarding opportunity for each administrator. He or she is given the opportunity to see their role as athletic administrators, and everything that it entails. This QPA process is reflective in its design. It provides standards in which to assess, evaluate and design a strategic plan for ongoing improvement.

Second, it gave me the opportunity to recognize the efforts and contributions of my colleagues as well as to share best practices in order to continue to provide a student centered, educationally based athletic program. The mission of our high school athletic department is to provide the best experience for all of our student athletes. I believe the QPA process helped identify areas we can continue to expand upon as we continue to fulfill our mission. My Principal also felt this to be a worthwhile process. It brings to the forefront the role of the athletic administrator, the effectiveness of our athletic program, as well as standards we need to continue to develop.

Lastly, the QPA process has helped us further develop our school's athletic department philosophy, mission and vision, which continues to evolve each year as we administer our athletic program.

Thank you very much for this award and the opportunity to provide feedback on the QPA. Overall it was a very worthwhile process.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Prevosto, CMAA Mount Hebron H.S. Howard County Schools

I wanted to personally thank you for coordinating this program. It has created a standard that we want to strive towards for our school and school system. Reaching this is not the end. This is a continuous standard that I will follow here at Oakland Mills and any other potential athletic program that I may lead. Having the segments broken down really helped me realize the strengths we possess and areas of improvement that need addressing.

Thanks again,

Troy Stevenson, CAA Athletic and Activities Manager Oakland Mills HS 410 313 6953

We feel very fortunate to have received the Exemplary level of the NIAAA Quality Program Award. The process allowed (and in fact required) us to take a serious look at all that we do. This helped us to see areas in which we are doing well and areas in which we can continue to improve. This process also afforded all 12 of our athletic administrators the opportunity to collaborate as we completed the process. This was invaluable so we could better appreciate everyone's role in completing the evaluation process. Again, thank you for this most prestigious honor for both Howard High School and the Howard County Public School System.

Michael Michael Duffy, CMAA Athletics and Activities Manager Howard High School

I would like to thank the NIAAA for creating a vehicle for evaluating our athletic program. The usual evaluation of a athletic program is on wins or the number of championships won. For a athletic program to be educationally based, you must be able to objectively look at what you are doing. This tool is the next step to make sure High School Athletics can meet the challenge of the future. We know that decisions in education are data driven. The evaluation process of your athletic program will now have the ability to show their true value for the school community.

Respectfully Vincent J. Parnell CAA Athletic and Activities Manager Wilde Lake High School

Go to the link below and play the video of the superintendent talking about Dysart USD. Listen to entire video especially when she recaps the successes for the 2011-12 school year.

<http://www.dysart.org/AboutDysart/superintendent/index.html>

I am truly honored to write a testimonial on behalf of the Dysart Unified School District Athletic Program. During my eight years as a high school athletic director coupled with my eight years as the district athletic director I have sent many hours addressing challenges. Our district athletic programs have created goals that center on having each of our four district high schools evolve into exemplary programs. I have always been impressed with the tremendous amount of support I have always received from the administration, staff, students, parents and community to help me guide our district to create exemplary athletic programs. When we learned of the Quality Program Award we finally found the vehicle we needed to assess our high athletic programs. We were able to use the ten comprehensive category assessment criteria to guide and enhance the planning and goals for each of our high school athletic programs. We welcome the feedback and expertise from the NIAAA. With this help, support and feedback from the NIAAA we have started on our new vision to involve our district's administrators, coaches, students, parents, community members and local businesses to enhance the planning efforts by our high school athletic programs. We are very fortunate to have taken the opportunity to become actively involved in the NIAAA Quality Program Award.

Dysart Unified School District thanks the NIAAA for their recognition of all four of their high school athletic programs to have been identified as a 2012 recipients of the NIAAA Quality Award Program Award at the Exemplary Level.

Jim Braden, CAA Dysart Unified Schools District Athletic Director

I am taking over as Athletic Director at Valley Vista High School for the 2012-13 School Year and what a way to start out with receiving this award. It is evident that our program is heading in the right direction and this award and process is laying a solid foundation for us all to build upon. This program is making a significant impact in our district by leading our coaches, students, parents and community to improve our successful areas and to re-evaluate and bring attention to those areas in need of improvement. The QPA will help us to improve further in all ten categories and address the needs to be a complete program. I encourage all high schools to participate in this program to truly assess where they stand as an athletic program.

Brad Larremore Assistant Principal/Athletics Valley Vista High School – Arizona

The benefits of pursuing the NIAAA's QPA have been immeasurable for our athletic department. Beyond the NIAAA recognition, we have found the process as a valuable tool to begin our strategic planning process. The QPA systematically can provide a base from which progress can be measured and establish a mechanism for improvement. The QPA process allows you as an athletic administrator to bring together everyone's best and recognizes the value of your athletic department. The QPA process also ensures the most effective use your athletic department resources by focusing on best practices in the industry.

The QPA process has lead our department to clearly define our purpose, establish goals and objectives consistent with our mission as well as communicate those goals to our student-athletes, coaches, parents, administration, and community. The NIAAA's easy to understand program assessment categories guides you in determining your strengths and weaknesses to provide a clear path to success. The QPA process has provided our athletic department great satisfaction among our coaches and staff in addition the NIAAA recognition has been a great public relations tool. The QPA process has increased our efficiency and effectiveness in pin pointing problem area's and finding solutions to ensure providing a first class athletic program for our student-athletes.

The Quality Program Award process has truly made our athletic program a better department for our school community!

Scott Garvis Athletic Director Newton H.S. Newton, Iowa 2015
