



Hopewell Valley Regional School District

Office of Visual & Performing Arts

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Ron Heller
Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Hopewell Valley School District is currently implementing an innovative program for our student-athletes that we believe will also benefit to our co-curricular music students. This program will assist our team physicians/athletic trainers in evaluating and treating head injuries (e.g., concussion). In order to better manage concussions sustained by our student-athletes, we have acquired a software tool called ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing). ImPACT is a computerized exam utilized in many professional, collegiate, and high school sports programs across the country to successfully diagnose and manage concussions. If an athlete is believed to have suffered a head injury during competition, ImPACT is used to help determine the severity of head injury and when the injury has fully healed. **Because of the physical demands of marching band, we are going to begin implementing this program with our marching band students. While we have begun camp already, the test will be administered to students Friday morning, before they begin any physical activity for the day.**

The computerized exam is given to athletes before beginning contact sport practice or competition. This non-invasive test is set up in “video-game” type format and takes about 30-45 minutes to complete. It is simple, and actually many athletes enjoy the challenge of taking the test. Essentially, the ImPACT test is a preseason physical of the brain. It tracks information such as memory, reaction time, speed, and concentration. It, however, **is not an IQ test.**

If a concussion is suspected, the athlete will be required to re-take the test. Both the preseason and post-injury test data is used to help evaluate the injury. The information gathered can also be shared with your family doctor. The test data will enable these health professionals to determine when return-to-play is appropriate and safe for the injured athlete. If an injury of this nature occurs to your child, you will be promptly contacted with all the details.

I wish to stress that the ImPACT testing procedures are non-invasive, and they pose no risks to your student-athlete. We are excited to implement this program given that it provides us the best available information for managing concussions and preventing potential brain damage that can occur with multiple concussions. The The Hopewell Valley School District administration, coaching, and athletic training staffs are striving to keep your child’s health and safety at the forefront of the student athletic experience. If you have any further questions regarding this program, please feel free to contact the Hopewell Valley Athletic Department at 609-737-4000 ext. 3534.

Sincerely,

Ron Heller
Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts
Hopewell Valley Regional Schools