Dear Erlanger-Elsmere Schools Staff and Families:

Today, with the support of the Board of Education, I have directed Mr. Bill Pilgram, Director of Athletics, to provide guidelines to the coaches, players, and parents/guardians of our high school and middle school fall sports teams to enter KHSAA Healthy at Sports Stage 3-Performance, Return to Practice and Competition effective Monday, September 14, 2020.

Over the last several days, I have met with, spoken to, and received emails from many families, community members, and students. Those discussions and comments have expressed both support for and concern over my decision to not have our fall sports teams practice or compete. Last night the Board of Education and I heard from many of you during the public comment portion of the meeting agenda.

Please understand the initial decision I made was one I considered to be in the best interest of our students, families, school district, and community. As the superintendent, I have a responsibility for the safety, health, and well-being of all those that I serve. It is a responsibility I take very seriously each and every day.

As our school district, community, and society continues to navigate the uncharted waters of living during a pandemic, I will continue to make decisions that I feel are in the best interest of our stakeholders, that prioritize the safety of our students, staff, and families, and that provide the educational opportunities they deserve.

What I have realized recently is that we are going to have to find a way to live and thrive within our current reality. Sports are an important part of our society’s culture - never has that been more evident than over the last six months. The clear message from many of you was that in these very difficult and unprecedented circumstances we need to embrace all opportunities to return students to school activities and reconnect them to their peers and schools.

I remain fully committed to welcoming students back into our schools in the near future. We will press forward with those plans and may move our target date of October 13 up on the calendar. When we return to our school buildings, we will continue to offer a virtual educational model for those caregivers that do not feel comfortable sending their child/ren into the school environment. We will not allow sports to be a barrier to that goal. We will be closely monitoring the
implementation of all Healthy at Sports guidelines among our coaches, students, and fans.

We will be asking a great deal of our student-athletes, their families, and our coaching staffs in the coming days and weeks. It will take everyone’s cooperation and dedication to make this a success. You will be receiving further communication in the next few days from the Athletic Department, your child’s coach, or the school as guidelines are developed for each sport and event.

In the meantime, should you have any questions please contact your child’s coach, the Athletic Director, or your child’s school. Thank you and enjoy your weekend.

Sincerely,

Chad D. Molley
Superintendent