



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Saint Louis Priory School is currently implementing an innovative program for our student-athletes called ImPACT (Immediate Post Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing). This software program will assist our team physicians/athletic trainers in evaluating and treating traumatic brain injuries (e.g. concussions) sustained by our student-athletes. ImPACT is a computerized exam utilized in many professional, collegiate, and high school sports programs across the country to successfully 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.

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 15-20 minutes to complete. It is simple while posing several cognitive challenges to the brain. Essentially, the ImPACT test is a pre-season 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 given to the physician in care of your son or 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.

The data is valid for two (2) years. The test will be administered in ninth and eleventh grades (Forms 3 and 5) at the beginning of the fall sports season. You will be notified via email of the scheduled testing dates if they do not coincide with a scheduled sports practice. All Priory students are required to have a valid test on file before participating in sports.

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 Saint Louis Priory School administration, sports medicine, and coaching 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 me at 618-530-5093 or derrick.neuner@stlukes-stl.com or Tom Fiala at 314-434-3690x145 or tfiala@priory.org.

Sincerely,

Derrick Neuner, MS, LAT, ATC
Head Certified Athletic Trainer
St. Luke’s Hospital / Saint Louis Priory School