

I hope this email finds you and your family staying safe and healthy.

It's been a crazy several months for sure. Hopefully you've been able to find ways to enjoy your summer despite the challenges.

I'm sure like my family, you too have been monitoring the return to school discussions. My heart goes out to the teachers and administrators who are working through all of the possible scenarios to give our kids a safe and productive learning environment.

In addition to wondering what our return to school will look like, our high school athletes are also anxious to understand what opportunities they will have to play the games they love so much. There are still a lot of unknowns on that front and so much will depend on the status of the pandemic.

It's not lost on us that our Jr. Eagles players are likely as eager to understand what opportunities they will have to play basketball this year. At this point, we aren't expecting to get access to public school facilities for practices and games for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year.

CNR Basketball, the league we play in, is largely comprised of high school feeder programs. There is a chance CNR will not have access to some of the gyms they've traditionally used for their fall and winter leagues as a result of public schools limiting access to outside groups. Should this be the case it will be extremely difficult for CNR to operate a fall or winter league in the same manner we've become accustomed.

CNR has been able to host a summer league in St. Charles County this year and it's gone extremely well so far. Time will tell what opportunities teams will have in the fall and winter based on the recommendations and guidelines set by local health authorities.

I share all of this as background for the introduction of a new opportunity available in our area. In collaboration with my friends at the Lombardo All-American Athlete Center, we have created an opportunity for youth basketball players to continue pursuing their passion for basketball skill development and competition.

New teams are being formed under the Crossover Elite umbrella. Crossover Elite has been around for the past 3 years. The purpose of Crossover Elite was to allow a group of Liberty and Ft. Zumwalt South players the chance to play together on the same team during the non-traditional basketball season (Spring/Summer/Fall). [Go HERE to get more background on Crossover Elite](#). This concept has proven to be a great way to provide the players from both programs a chance to compete at a high level while also continuing to instill team basketball principles in their game play. Historically, Crossover Elite teams would only play during the spring, summer and fall. During the winter, the players would go back to their respective feeder teams to play during the traditional basketball season.

Realizing it's hard to predict how long we'll be unable to use WSD gyms, the opportunity to participate in a program like Crossover Elite out of the Lombardo All-American Athlete Center will give our kids an avenue to continue pursuing basketball in a safe environment. Should CNR be able to host a fall and winter league, Crossover Elite teams will participate. However, should the situation surrounding the pandemic call for only "in-house" competition and practice we will be able to offer that to our players. All practice and games could be held at the Lombardo All-American Athlete gyms under this more restrictive model.

Crossover Elite is in the process of finalizing dates in mid-late August for player evaluations / open tryouts. Should there be enough interest in this opportunity from our program, along with interest from the FZS program, Crossover Elite may not need to host open tryouts. There are a limited number of teams so it's possible we can fill the teams they are looking to add with players from our respective programs.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please visit this Google Form and complete the short registration. We will then follow up with you with any tryout information, etc.

<https://forms.gle/GF48FgHFwokbcwvP6>

Crossover Elite has created a short list of Frequently Asked Questions to help us in understanding this new opportunity. [Go HERE](#).

### **So what will happen to Jr. Eagles Basketball?**

If we are able to get inside WSD gyms at any point this season and host practices for our Jr. Eagles teams, we will offer Jr. Eagles teams as we have in the past.

If we aren't able to host practices, but CNR has enough available gym space where we can play games, we'll offer Jr. Eagles teams for the purpose of playing games in CNR. While it's not the best scenario, it will at least give our kids a chance to enjoy being with their Jr. Eagles teammates and get some games in.

Whether it's a Crossover Elite opportunity or as part of the Jr. Eagles Basketball program, we will be adhering to the guidance of the local health authorities.

If you have any questions feel free to email or call.

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