



News Release

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NORTHSTAR PREPARATORY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES 2018-19 WINNIPEG PROGRAM PLANS

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Working Together with Winnipeg School Division to Build a Brighter Future for Young Athletes

WINNIPEG - The Northstar Preparatory Institute (NPI) has unveiled more details about its upcoming 2018-19 season and academic partnership with Winnipeg School Division (WSD).

The NPI's primary mandate is to work in conjunction with the existing infrastructure of the basketball community to raise the profile of amateur basketball in Manitoba. Additionally, NPI aims to provide enhanced opportunities to local students that might otherwise look outside of Manitoba for elite basketball programming.

"While we will undoubtedly seek out talent to make the program truly elite, we intend to prioritize recruitment of our players from within the province of Manitoba," said Daron Leonard, Director of Basketball Operations, Northstar Preparatory Institute. "There is a strong and vibrant basketball community in Manitoba that reflects the diversity of the people of this province and we will strive to make this program an extension of that uniqueness."

Over the past several years, the emergence of elite private high school athletic programs has become commonplace throughout North America. NPI's programming benefits young athletes by providing intensified, sport-specific training in a structured environment to accelerate overall athletic development. The concept itself is simple – recruit talent for a team, travel to major competitive

events, gain exposure for the players, and prepare the athletes both athletically and academically for college life.

To accomplish this, Northstar Preparatory Institute will forego the traditional local high school schedule and instead will compete in the National Prep Association (NPA), a Canada-wide league affiliated with the nation's premiere scouting service, North Pole Hoops.

"The WSD Board of Trustees and Administration has identified partnerships and activities in the community as a strategic priority and we are pleased to be working with NPI in its role as an advocate for students with athletic talents as they explore opportunities in competitive basketball," said Sherri Rollins, Chair, WSD Board of Trustees.

Student athletes from the program will all attend Churchill High School in Winnipeg, where administration and the student body will welcome them with open arms.

"Student athletes are supported and encouraged at Churchill High School, recognizing the importance and connection of sports and school success," said Ryan Hughes, Principal, Churchill High School. "Academic achievement is a priority for all students at Churchill High School. Churchill offers engaging academic programming and student athletes in sports academies are required to maintain a high level of academic marks as part of their commitment to the program."

In the coming weeks, Northstar Preparatory Institute confirms they will be releasing more information related to its WSD partner school, upcoming player identification sessions, and 2018-19 application process.

To learn more about Northstar Preparatory Institute, contact www.northstarbasketball.ca/.

For more information:

- Media requests for general information, contact Northstar Preparatory Institute by e-mail: prep@northstarbasketball.ca.