



Marshall Sports Medicine Institute



## **Baseline Concussion Testing Program**

Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

Our school is participating in a baseline concussion testing program through our association with the Marshall Sports Medicine Institute. Per Cabell County Schools, the participation of all student-athletes is mandatory. These baseline tests are provided at no cost, compliments of the Marshall Sports Medicine Institute.

We will be conducting Neurocognitive Baseline Concussion Testing, which refers to testing under normal conditions before injury, usually conducted in the pre-season. This is neither intelligence nor achievement testing.

The baseline test provides a snapshot of how one’s brain functions in normal, everyday circumstances by evaluating memory, brain processing speed, attention, concentration and reaction time. This baseline information is then stored on a secure, HIPAA-compliant server for accessing later if a student-athlete is concussed and needs post-injury testing.

In the event a student-athlete sustains a concussion, the student-athlete is tested again “post-injury” by physicians at the Marshall Sports Medicine Institute, or an outside physician of your choice. Usual office visit charges will likely apply for post-injury testing, as with any doctor visit or clinical test. However, it is fairly common for most insurance companies to consider the post-injury test a covered medical service. Please check with your insurance provider as needed.

Post-injury testing scores are then compared to the baseline scores acquired earlier and assessed for deficiencies or abnormalities. The physician will objectively base their decision for return-to-play clearance on post-injury test comparisons, depending on when post-injury test scores return to baseline (normal), among other clinical considerations.

If you should have questions about participation in this program, please contact the Marshall Sports Medicine Institute’s concussion services coordinator, Tom Belmaggio, MS, ATC, CSCS, at (304) 691-1880 or school administration.

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I hereby give my consent and approval for my son/daughter to participate in my school’s Baseline Concussion Testing Program.

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Athlete Name

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School

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Signature of Parent / Guardian

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Date