

CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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NEWS RELEASE

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Clifton Public Schools Joins Girls Flag Football League

On the 36th annual National Girls & Women in Sports Day, The Clifton Mustangs proudly announced the launch of Girls Flag Football.

Sponsored by the Jets and Nike, Girls Flag Football has now expanded from eight teams to more than 40 teams this year across Northern New Jersey and Long Island. Clifton was one of eight teams added to the League from the Super Football Conference on February 1, 2022, at MetLife Stadium

Athletic Director, Tom Mullahey, CHS teacher, Michelle Shackil, and CHS senior Morgan Arp attended the event at MetLife Stadium on February 1, 2022, where a Women in Sports Panel held a discussion with the players, presented the League's expansion, and announced the additional teams.

According to the Jets, the League's goal is to "provide character building, perseverance, teamwork and dedication skills that will empower these girls throughout every aspect of their lives."

This past Fall, Shackil, who currently coaches gymnastics and lacrosse, coordinated the effort with Mullahey when she saw the opportunity for Clifton athletes about a year ago.

Flag Football is a spring sport with practice beginning in March for an April kick-off. Most games are played at home with plenty of opportunities to see the Mustangs in action during their debut season. The Mustangs currently have over 80 students interested in trying out for the team.

In addition to the discussion and announcements at MetLife, the Jets and Nike surprised the players with lockers stuffed with equipment, uniforms, cleats, socks, and more. Furthermore, players have the opportunity to earn a \$1000 scholarship at the end of the season.

"I am beyond thrilled that Clifton will add a Flag Football team to our long list of outstanding sports teams," said Clifton Superintendent Dr. Danny Robertozzi. "This is an essential step in empowering students by leveling the playing field for all. This type of progressive program helps remove some of the barriers that student-athletes faced in the past. I am so excited that Clifton's Athletic Department is a part of this phenomenal program. I applaud Ms. Shackil for recognizing and exploring the opportunity and Mr. Mullahey for making it happen for Clifton."