



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2015

CMS and OrthoCarolina to launch new STEM program tied to high school athletics

StatSquad combines learning, statistics and sports

CHARLOTTE, N.C., March 31, 2015—Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and OrthoCarolina have partnered to introduce a new STEM-based internship program that uses sports and statistical performance to better prepare students for careers in data analytics and get them excited about science, technology, engineering and math. The program, called StatSquad, is being rolled out to five CMS high schools this spring sports season.

StatSquad, developed by Charlotte-based National Amateur Sports (NAS), provides an after-school learning opportunity for high school students to study the data analytics of sports. Students collect, input, edit and analyze scholastic athletic program data which is shared with athletic administrators and coaches to potentially be used as part of their game strategy.

“StatSquad expands mathematical education outside the classroom to real world scenarios and provides our students with first-hand experience in how to collect data and make informed decisions,” said CMS athletic director, Susan Doran. “We are grateful to OrthoCarolina for creating an opportunity to better prepare our students for success after graduation.”

Over the past decade, STEM jobs have grown at a rate three times faster than non-STEM jobs, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, which expects STEM jobs to grow at nearly double the rate of other occupations over the next 10 years. STEM workers also command higher wages, earning 26 percent more than their non-STEM counterparts.

The launch of StatSquad marks a unique partnership between the Athletic Department and Career and Technical Education (CTE) within CMS. CTE is responsible for helping students gain academic and technical skills to prepare them for high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand occupations.

“For many of us, sports and sports statistics are part of our everyday lives. It’s something we get excited about and it’s a shared cultural passion,” said Dan Murrey, CEO of OrthoCarolina. “It’s imperative that we seek out unique ways to encourage the next generation of students to consider STEM subjects that can lead them to careers in medicine, technology or a number of other fields. StatSquad is a pioneer program that will set a great example, and it’s a program that we’re proud to support.”

The five high schools implementing StatSquad this Spring are Mallard Creek, William A. Hough, East Mecklenburg, South Mecklenburg and Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology. CMS will expand it in coming years to all high schools.

“I spent my professional career playing for organizations that redefined the use of statistical models to make key coaching and personnel decisions, so I’ve seen firsthand how this type of information can drive success,” said NAS ambassador Roman Phifer. “With StatSquad, we’re creating a program that creates the next generation of leaders both on and off the field.”

For more information on StatSquad visit www.NASAthletics.com.

About OrthoCarolina

OrthoCarolina is one of the nation’s leading independent academic orthopedics practices serving North Carolina and the Southeast since 1922. OrthoCarolina provides compassionate and comprehensive musculoskeletal care including operative and non-operative care, diagnostic imaging and rehabilitative therapy. Widely known for musculoskeletal research and training, OrthoCarolina physicians have specialized expertise in foot and ankle, hip and knee, shoulder and elbow, spine, sports medicine, hand, pediatric orthopedics, and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Our 120 OrthoCarolina physicians see nearly one million patient visits throughout western North Carolina each year.

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About NAS

National Amateur Sports (NAS) is a Charlotte, N.C.-based company specializing in information technology (IT) management and marketing support for school districts athletic programs. Through the right combination of online marketing, community relations, sophisticated technologies and development of STEM programming, NAS creates win-win corporate and public partnerships that provide supplemental funding to amateur athletic programs. With an experienced leadership team possessing more than 45 years of combined experience in sports marketing and IT management, NAS strives to create positive life experiences for young athletes. For more information, please visit <http://www.nationalamateursports.com>.