All University School Sports Honored as Academic Team Champions

The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) placed every University School varsity team on the organization’s Top 10 list for academic achievement in their respective sports. University School’s girls’ swimming and diving team, girls basketball and boys lacrosse captured 1st in their sport’s classification, and numerous other University School teams ranked in the Top 3 for their respective sports – boys’ cross country, girls’ cross country, and the 3A state-title winning varsity football team.

Similar to FHSAA’s commitment to recognize teamwork not only in competition, but in the classroom as well, University School teachers and coaches work hand-in-hand to meet individualized needs for both the “student” and “athlete” part of student-athletes.

“I try to be flexible and understand that students have a huge load here; juniors can be taking three or four AP courses in addition to extracurricular activities and without the kind of luxury that college students have in terms of time to study,” said Upper School history teacher Charlie Redler. “I think that type of balance requires some flexibility, without watering down the curriculum. Even though it’s rigorous, [students] think that the approach we take to working with them is fair.”

It is expected that each sport might individually reflect academic high-achievers, but the FHSAA considers the cumulative team grade point average for each. Considering that University School’s varsity football roster boasts 41 student-athletes, a Top 3 position is particularly impressive.