



**Drake University Athletics**

2507 University Ave  
Des Moines, Iowa 50311-4505  
T 515.271.2102  
F 515.271.4189  
1-800-44-DRAKE, x2102  
[www.godrakebulldogs.com](http://www.godrakebulldogs.com)

May 4, 2021

Governor Kim Reynolds  
Iowa State Capitol  
1007 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

Thank you for your appreciation and gratitude for Drake University hosting the Iowa High School State Track & Field Championships. You are correct that this event – the largest and best high school state meet in our country – creates lasting memories for the competitors and we are proud to offer the opportunity to the best in Iowa to compete on our famed Blue Oval.

One year ago, we were unable to host the state meet as it was cancelled, along with all other spring sports at the high school and collegiate level. To see the progress our communities have made in the past year that has allowed athletic competitions to resume has been comforting to many.

We have been pleased to provide spectators the ability to attend athletic events on our campus since November. Beginning with our successful men's and women's basketball teams, we increased the percentage of attendance throughout the season at the Knapp Center. For the Drake Relays, the percentage of capacity increased again from what we had permitted for Knapp Center events. I am very pleased that we have increased the capacity for the high school state meet compared to what we made available for the Drake Relays. This increase in spectator capacity meets the request made to us that each participating student-athlete receive two tickets.

The capacity percentage we will have for the Iowa High School State Track & Field Championships will be greater than the percentage used by 25 of 30 Major League Baseball teams. Additionally, our capacity percentage will be almost identical to what was permitted at the Kentucky Derby this past weekend in Louisville as just over 51,000 fans attended the spacious venue that holds more than 160,000 spectators.

Our great state meet will have full fields of competition as 24 individuals and 24 relay teams will compete in every event in all four classes for both boys and girls. We are thrilled they will have the ability to pursue state championships inside historic Drake Stadium and having each participant with at least two family members in the stands cheering for them will certainly add to their experience.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your kind words about us hosting this year's Iowa High School State Track & Field Championships.

Sincerely,

Brian Hardin  
Director of Athletics