

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

February 14, 2022

Subject:

BCMS Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

**John Hayden
BCMS Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report

DESCRIPTION:

Paul Anderson coached our Cross Country team again this fall. This is one of the sports that is able to compete against other Lake Conference schools as most have a middle school program connected to their high school program. This is the second year we have been competing with those schools. However, it is the first year we did it in person. Our numbers were down this year. I will be monitoring that in the upcoming years as this year has been unique when it comes to sports participation. It seems like the real drop was in 8th grade.

Finding officials and coaches are two things that Middle School ADs struggle with.

I have been blessed to have had a tennis coach for a number of years. This year I was in the market for a new one. It proved to be a difficult task. Luckily, I was able to convince Pam Melenich to do it this fall. Pam did a tremendous job of not only teaching our kids, but her years as a Varsity Coach proved helpful in the organizational aspect of the job. Along with Pam, BHS Senior Turner Marr helped coach the team. This also proved very beneficial as Pam was able to utilize him to find more time for individual instruction.

It was great to see our Girls Soccer numbers up again this year. We were up from the year prior, but not where we have been in the past. Stephanie McGinn joined Paul Lundberg coaching this year and it was a great fit. Paul coached the 'A' team and Stephanie was able to work with the 'B' girls. Stephanie came to us from Waconia where she had coached middle school sports. It was fun to watch as the two coaches were able to work together and help our girls enjoy the sport at each level.

Our Boys Soccer numbers stayed consistent with last year. A few years ago I wrote that I had hoped to find a consistent coach for our boys program. I have had that for three years. The last two it has been two consistent coaches. Patrick Lundberg and James Miller have coached this team last year and this fall. These two both do a lot

for our department. Patrick coaches in the summer and knows many of the boys he works with in the fall for BCMS. This connection is extremely beneficial. I still have hope of bringing soccer back to campus.

This was the first season of football on our new practice field. Because of the drought, the practice field doubled as a game field as the old varsity field was ruined by the dry weather of the summer. The new grass that was put in on the practice field held up wonderfully. One of the unique things about this football season was that it was all brand new to every kid in our program. Because we did not have football last year, neither 7th nor 8th grade athletes knew what it was like to play for the school. We realized that at the equipment handout when trying to get kids fitted for gear took a lot longer than we were used to. Every aspect of the program had to be taught from getting the right equipment to what it is like to practice every day to what is like to ride on a bus to another school with football gear. It was fun to help mold how we want things to go and not have to worry about breaking bad habits. Our numbers were good in football. Ninety-four is strong. We have been as high as one hundred and twenty but ninety-four we will take. On the field we had some very good teams. I feel these two grade levels combined were the best we have had in a number of years.

Our volleyball numbers were also very good. We were playing on a shortened season because of the weird COVID year that had us playing volleyball in the spring last year. I believe that helped keep girls engaged and ready to go this fall. Also, we have a coaching staff that has been together for a while. Jason Tornell, Nicki Schahn, Laura Elder and Kaitlin Kolbinger are all teachers in our building, very popular with kids and make volleyball enjoyable for their girls. Jason and Nicki have extensive backgrounds in volleyball, and Laura and Kaitlin coach the lesser skilled girls and make it enjoyable. I anticipate these girls will have an impact on the high school program.

It was great to have fall sports back in full this year. We have already begun making improvements for next year as we have extended the irrigation from the practice field to run under the track and now have a fully irrigated old varsity field. After the summer, the football field was dead. We had our grass company come out and re-seed the football field. By next fall, I anticipate it will look as nice as the practice field did this fall. We also moved the wiring for the scoreboard to be in the old visitors press box because we have removed the old one. These improvements should make it possible to move soccer back to campus and avoid the transportation time to Northwinds.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- **BCMS Fall Participation Report**