

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**September 10, 2018**

**Subject:**

BCMS 2018 Spring Activities

**Presenter:**

**John Hayden, BCMS  
Ass't Principal/Activities Dir.**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

None

**DESCRIPTION:**

The 2018 spring activity season was defined by a slow start. We started practice the first week in April. Usually we practice for two weeks then begin our game schedule. Last spring we did not get our first contest in until April 26th. Four weeks of being inside. I don't remember a season that had such a slow start. Four weeks in the gym with middle school kids gets to be very trying for everyone involved. Once we got the season going however we were able to get a number of games in. Most sports had a very hectic schedule. Our total number of participants went up considerably last spring which was very good to see. All but two sports saw an increase.

Again, our softball numbers were low, however they were higher than the year before. I normally hire four coaches to run this program. However, last spring we only had two. One for seventh grade and one for eighth. This continues a trend we have seen across the conference in terms of girls sports. The two coaches I had were Joel Gilmer and Kendall Langert. These two guys do a tremendous job for our kids. Joel coaches three sports and gives his all to each one. Kendall is new to our district but coached two seasons for the middle school and in the winter coached in our youth hockey program. He really has been a great addition to our community. These two coaches both quickly found out that we have a very good softball program in Buffalo. They controlled the Mississippi 8 conference in wins and losses. From what I saw, they also controlled it in terms of experience as both teams seemed to really enjoy their experiences.

Our track numbers dropped again last spring. Most of the drop came from our males. We still had ninety-seven kids in our program. We brought back all four coaches from the previous year. That is always a great feeling at this level. I am not positive yet, but last spring might have been the swan song for one or both of the Hansons who have been with our program for what seems like forever. They expressed they were ready to be done in the beginning of the year. At the end, I think one or both were reconsidering. Track in Buffalo would not be anywhere near where it is if it weren't for these two great people. Last spring we hosted two track meets. The thing about hosting is that it is a great experience for our kids, but a lot of work for the Varsity Coaches and athletes. In track, all schools have their varsity teams host and run these meets. Coach Palmer and his staff have always treated us first class. Last spring our first meet was snowed out, the make-up was rained out and through all that, we were still able to get the meet in at our track at the Middle School. Track in Buffalo will continue to be successful because of the great coaches and the numbers of kids they are able to coach.

Quality over quantity describes our boys tennis program. Sixteen isn't a bad number, but we certainly could add more at least to create some competition in practice. However, the quality of the boys in the program is high. Kids are working on their tennis game in the summer more than they ever have. Karen Herbst coached the boys last spring and did a great job helping the boys improve their skills and have a great experience. The boys really enjoyed the season.

Golf is another sport that struggled with weather. When the season starts late, it is hard to justify the price to parents. Every date that is lost is one less day kids get to golf. This is one of the latest starts we have had. One way we have dealt with that scenario is that our coaches, Josh Ortman and Ross Mjelde have been willing to extend the season by a couple of weeks to allow kids to get out on the course more. This year, Buffalo Heights hired a new person to run the course. Joel Johnson proved to be a great partner for our kids. He was willing to give our kids a special rate when they golfed in the summer. He was a great advocate for our kids and his efforts have been greatly appreciated by me and our golfers.

Our baseball numbers came back to where they normally are, up from the previous year. Sixty-two boys on four teams is a lot. Last spring it was even more of a problem because of the slow start to the year. When that many baseball players, combined with thirty-five softball players are trying to find space inside, it makes having meaningful practices almost impossible. Once we got outside, our teams started playing good baseball. Our seventh grade kids were especially tough as I am not sure they lost a game at the 'A' level and only one or two at the 'B' level.

Finally, we got a late start but work has begun on the new field we are going to have in front of our building. This is really a project that will be "Doing what's best for kids". I have been told by coaches from other schools that our athletic fields were the worst they played on at the middle school level. That will change next fall. We will have the best.

## **ATTACHMENT(S):**

2018 BCMS Spring Participation Report