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## October 2024 - Activities Director Board Report

### Tomahawk High School:

As the leaves start to change in the area, the days get shorter, and the air cooler, we are reminded that the first activities season of the year is already on the downswing and driving towards playoff time. It has been an up and down fall so far for the Hatchets. Football has been very competitive back in the GNC, dropping multiple close games, while getting a win in dramatic fashion over Rhinelander. The injury bug has hit Coach Reilly's team, with a couple key injuries, but the players have adjusted well and continue to compete at a high level under the staff's guidance. We are still in a position down the stretch here to possibly qualify for the playoffs as an at-large team, but need to take care of business on our end. Volleyball has had a similar season as football, a couple key injuries, and replacing nine seniors, it has been trial by fire getting our inexperienced players varsity ready for Coach Hanse. As we enter the back stretch of conference play, the team continues to show bright moments and growth. It will be interesting when the WIAA playoffs start and we drop down to the newly formed Division 3 as Volleyball went to 5 divisions this season. Do not be surprised to see the Hatchets potentially playing in a Regional Final and beyond at the end of the month. Cross Country has had the opposite start to the season than the other sports. They came in with some injuries, and Coach Ahrens is now getting these individuals back for the home stretch of the season. The girls program will be a contender in the GNC Conference meet, and if fully healthy for WIAA tournament time, there is an opportunity of seeing them get back to state. On the boys side the Conference seems to be wide open this year with Lakeland graduating some runners off of their state qualifying team this year. Coach Ahrens is looking for a top 3 finish on the boys side, and do not be surprised with our mileage regiment that they do not surprise people down the stretch. Girls' Swimming has also followed the trends this season under Coach Magee with injuries to key individuals affecting the nightly lineup for the swim program. Even though small in numbers, the girls seem to be having an enjoyable season with Coach Magee and continue to build up their yardage for the WIAA tournament series coming up at the end of the month.

It is currently Homecoming week in Tomahawk, and as the students are enjoying the daily activities, I cannot help but appreciate the traditions occurring. Even though it will be a tall task for the football team, it is great having an old Lumberjack Conference Rival in Medford coming to town for the big game. The week has also been perfect as almost every team has had a home game this week, with Cross Country hosting their Hatchet Invitational next week. The THS Student Council under Nichole Feltes has done an excellent job getting ready for the week and driving the activities. New this year, we had downtown window decorating to work on more community involvement this week. The windows look great, and we are hoping to make this a new tradition and grow to more windows in the coming years while working with Main Street Group. Elizabeth Lavaque has taken over as the new Band Director for the district along with advisor for our National Honor Society. Again, similar to the Student Council, her and her students have done a great job working on getting the parade set up. I am excited to see their performance, and how she continues to incorporate playing during game play. Esports season has been rolling since the start of school. Coach Ott adjusted well to our new room for the program, and we even picked up a new event to go compete in, in person in the area so the students are able to experience in person competition. The One-Act Play also continues to build towards the end of the year and hopefully returning to the State Competition this fall. Tomahawk will once again hold the District Theatre Competition which is open to the public to attend and view. Once their competition season ends, they will also have their traditional Public Performance for the public in November to watch what the students have been working on

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throughout the fall. FBLA has been working with Hatchet Innovations, and Mr. Huseby on creating a school store run by the student that will put an emphasis on Hatchet products for the community. Please pay attention to the grand opening coming in the next couple of months with an increased availability for Hatchet Clothing, and products for the community to purchase. Lastly, we held a career fair during the Link Crew days for the freshman. We had positive feedback from the club advisors on this, and we are going to work on improving and making it more formal for next year. This was a great opportunity for the freshman to see all of the new clubs they could be a part of, and we were able to gain more sign ups from that class than in years past.

As you can tell it has been a great, but busy start to the 2024 - 2025 school year for our students in the High School and look forward to gaining some momentum out of the fall into the winter activities for our students. It really is amazing how much our students do day in and day out extra on top of their class schedule. As a community we should all continue to be proud of the way they represent us in the Blue and Gold.

### **Upcoming Dates - High School Activities (Home Events):**

Thurs. October 3 - Varsity Swimming v. Rhinelander - 5:30 PM (TSD Swimming Pool)  
Thurs. October 3 - JV2/JV/V Volleyball v. Northland Pines - 5:30 PM / 7:00 PM - DIG PINK NIGHT (Fieldhouse)  
Fri. October 4 - Varsity Football v. Medford - 7:00 PM (Hatchet Field)  
Thurs. October 10 - JV2/JV/V Volleyball v. Wittenberg-Birnamwood - 5:30 PM / 7:00 PM - SENIOR NIGHT (Fieldhouse)  
Sat. October 12 - JV/V Boys/Girls Cross Country v. Invitational - 10:30 AM (TSD Grounds / Hatchet Field)  
Mon. October 14 - JV Football v. Merrill - 5:30 PM (Hatchet Field)  
Thurs. October 17 - Varsity Swimming v. Ladysmith - 5:30 PM (TSD Swimming Pool)  
Fri. October 18 - Varsity Football v. Lakeland - 7:00 PM - SENIOR / PARENT NIGHT (Hatchet Field)  
Sat. October 19 - Drama Department hosts One-Act Play District Theatre - TBD (TSD Auditorium)  
Mon. October 21 - High School Choir Concert - 7:00 PM (TSD Auditorium)

### **Tomahawk Middle School:**

Middle School sports will be finishing up in the next two weeks for their Fall Season. Football has had very competitive games throughout the fall at both the 7th and 8th Grade levels. As what is typical with Middle School Football, the 7th grade has played in multiple low scoring one score games. They are sitting at a 3-2-1 record for the season with multiple 6-0 games, and even a 0-0 tie with Lakeland last week. 8th Grade has battled injuries throughout the year, but have finally got on track for the season with back to back wins to be at a 2-4 record going into their final games next week v. Rhinelander at Hatchet Field. The middle school volleyball program has benefited from playing more games this fall. Due to numbers, we did not split the teams into A and B programs in 7th and 8th Grade, but have kept the grades together. This has allowed the girls to play in 6 sets a night versus the traditional 3 sets. Another positive of this move, is we are keeping the girls together with their classmates to build strong friendships and bonds while learning to play together for an entire season instead of having classmates separated to get games in. Lastly, Cross Country competed in the GNC Middle School in Antigo on Mon. 9/23. The boys' top finisher was Connor Zorn with a top 20 finish, the boys placed 5th overall as a team. The girls' top finisher was Charlee Lund with a top 3 finish, and the girls placed 6th overall as a team. The team will be hosting their home invitational next week, and finish up their season at the WVC/GNC Meet in Stevens Point.

### **Upcoming Dates - Middle School Activities (Home Events):**

Mon. October 7 - 7th/8th Grade Volleyball v. Northland Pines - 4:00 PM / 5:00 PM (Fieldhouse)  
Tues. October 8 - 7th/8th Grade Football v. Rhinelander - 4:00 PM / 5:30 PM (Hatchet Field)

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Thurs. October 10 - 6th/7th/8th Grade Boys / Girls Cross Country v. Invitational - 4:30 PM (TSD Grounds / Hatchet Field)

Mon. October 14 - Middle School Boys Basketball Starts

Tues. October 22 - 7th / 8th Grade Band / Choir Concert - 7:00 PM (TSD Auditorium)

Mon. October 28 - 6th Grade Band / Choir Concert - 7:00 PM (TSD Auditorium)

Tues. November 5 - TMS Boys Basketball v. Antigo - 4:00 PM / 5:00 PM

## **Activities Director Notes:**

Facility Scheduling for the winter is in full swing. As the weather gets colder, we will be seeing an increased use of our facilities this winter between youth sports, the community education program, community groups, and our traditional school based functions. The next month will have a lot of time spent on those moving parts and making sure the school is open for the community in the coming months.

I have been looking into the possibility of a Girls Hockey Co-Op along with the addition of a Girls' Wrestling Team for the 2025 - 2026 school year. Both these processes have to be completed by February 1 for the WIAA. It is in the very initial part of the process of gathering information, looking at financials, meeting with interested parties to see what is needed and what the district can provide to help facilitate these items for our female athletes in the winter season. Right now, wrestling will again have strong numbers in the program for females. The WIAA has set a timeline for these students to be eligible for the WIAA Tournament Series, that the program needs to be a stand alone female program for the 2025 - 2026 school year, with the following school year offering a full female team state tournament.

The other major item that the school board should be aware of at this time is WIAA Conference Realignment. We have Merrill High School slated to join the GNC for all sports for the 2025 - 2026 school year. That will leave the Wisconsin Valley Conference with five member schools. The WVC is looking at options along with the WIAA that may involve Great Northern Conference schools. This is an active conversation at our conference AD Meetings, but there has been no formal proposed plans at this time, but as the year progresses there will more than likely be some realignment talk coming down the line that would directly impact the Tomahawk School District.

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me at any time!

GO HATCHETS!

Report Respectfully Submitted by:

Ryan Flynn

Activities, Recreation, and Pool Director

Tomahawk School District

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