

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

October 10, 2022

Subject:

BCMS Spring Activities

Presenter:

**John Hayden,
BCMS Asst. Principal/Act. Dir.**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Review

DESCRIPTION:

ATTACHMENT(S):

The Winter season at the Middle School is relatively quiet. We have just a few sports and a few activities. That is a good thing because Spring hits early and is very busy. Last Spring, we had 234 students participate in five different sports. We had another 35 participate in an intramural activity. That means 269 kids were involved in some sort of activity in the Spring of 2022.

Softball numbers have been dropping for a number of years. It got so bad that in 2021 we moved the eight girls that signed up to play at the Middle School to the High School so they could play with the High School team. Word of course got out that you needed to sign up for Middle School softball to be eligible to move up to play at the High School. With this information out in the community, we ended up with forty-one softball players last spring. When I saw the high numbers, I decided to hire Macy Wurm as a third softball coach to help Sue Zrust and Kaitlin Kolbinger. Our Spring weather was cold and wet. There usually is a number of cancellations and postponements and last year was no different. Our last softball game didn't get played until the last week in May. That is about two weeks later than usual because of having to push everything back. Between Sue, Macy and Kaitlin, we had the right mix of competitiveness and fun for the girls. One change I hope to make this upcoming Spring is to keep the girls on campus for softball.

Baseball numbers stayed consistent with recent years. Our forty-five baseball players were more than we had a few years ago, but I would still like to see more. When you are running an A team and a B team at each grade level, having only twenty-two players makes it difficult. Those numbers are what we have seen for the last ten years or so. One thing I have tried to do to increase our numbers is to improve the image of our program. Our baseball facilities are very good for a Middle School program. We even have temporary home run fences that are short enough that kids could reach them if they can get a hold of one. We have gotten better uniforms and last spring we added three great coaches. Jack Strong, Ramon Vega, and Jason Mauer joined the program last Spring. Jack is the American Legion coach, Ramon has coached baseball in BBA for many years including last summer, and Jason Mauer is a mainstay in our

program that every kid who is lucky enough to work with him loves. The level of coaching our boys got was greater than it had been in a few years. I hope to continue to grow and add about five to ten players per grade level.

Boys tennis also had a coaching change. This year Barry Johnson took over the program. Barry is a veteran of our Activities Program, but is new to coaching tennis. It was great to have his experience in the program. He not only understands the goals and philosophies of our program but he believes in them and coaches towards those goals and philosophies. One of the things that Barry did was rely on some High School girls tennis players to help him at practice. This was a great experience for our kids to see girls as coaches and to see the level of talent they have. It was also great for the High School girls to be mentors and coaches. It was really cool to watch.

Co-Ed golf had forty boys and six girls. We usually get a lot of boys and struggle to get girls to come out. I continue to push girls to try golf. This is a perfect time for them to do this as our program is non-competitive and provides plenty of time on the course. I can't say enough good things about Buffalo Heights and how well they work with our program. They are very welcoming to our kids and really support the concept of grooming kids to be lifelong golfers. I really appreciate their help.

Track numbers were up from 20/21, when we had only sixty participants. Last spring, we were at 85. That is still down from pre-COVID years when we were regularly over one hundred. If this fall is any indication, I anticipate that number getting closer to the century mark this year. The track season itself was more normal than the two previous. Along with the changes made to our baseball and softball facilities, we also added a discus pad and net by the football shed. This allowed us to run meets here as opposed to having to have them at the High School. Coach Palmer likes to have one meet a year at the high school so our kids have the experience of the High School track and the scoring system. Last year this was not able to happen due to cancellations and the High School schedule. That meant we needed to host meets here. We are lucky to have such a nice facility to be able to do that. When we moved the middle section of the stadium bleachers, we also lost the press box. That meant we needed to run the power from the scoreboard to the other side of the field to be able to use the scoreboard and the PA system. All of that had been completed in the fall and we took some time in the spring to work out the kinks. Having that kind of a PA system is important to being able to run a track meet. John Heltunen in Buildings and Grounds and the Technology staff lead by Ryan Lindenfelser were instrumental in getting this work done and making the stadium facility one of the best middle school venues around and actually better than some high schools.

Last Spring, really was the first season we got to use our facility to the full extent that it was meant for. It usually is a busy season, but well worth it as we were able to get more normal numbers out for activities. We spent the spring improving programs and facilities. I feel like we are in a good place and ready to improve even more this spring.