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August 2024 - Activities Director Board Report

Tomahawk High School:

And so it begins..... The month of August brings the unofficial start to the 2024 - 2025 school year with High School Sports beginning this month. Football begins practice on Tuesday August 6th under the direction of second year Head Coach Dewey Reilly. The Hatchets will be moving back into the Great Northern Conference for football during the 2024 Fall Season. There is a lot of excitement with our program being able to compete with our traditional rivals and having shorter travel distances for the student body to attend road games this fall. Next sport to begin, will be Girls' Swimming on Tuesday August 13. This will be the first year for our new staff member Ava Magee both in the district and as the Head Coach of our Girls Swimming program. Ava has done a wonderful job during the transition this summer, providing contact days, communication, and her vision with the athletes that we were able to add a couple new swimmers to the program this fall. The last two high school sports to get going are both starting on the same day, Monday August 19. Cross Country begins the year underneath the returning Great Northern Conference Coach of the year Connor Ahrens with their traditional Bond Falls Camp. The coaching staff, parents, and students have been preparing for this throughout the summer. When they return to Tomahawk, no rest for them as they host their annual Alumni Scrimmage at Bradley Park the following Saturday. The Girls team looks to defend their 2023 Great Northern Conference Championship with many key members returning, while the Boys team will be looking to regain our traditional power for our program this fall. That same day, a new, but familiar face, Keith Hanse, will begin his second stint as the Head Coach for the THS Volleyball Program. New this year in the WIAA, volleyball added a division, so it will be the first time Tomahawk is competing at the Division 3 level in the state of Wisconsin. With the new division, there comes new challenges to go along the traditionally strong Great Northern Conference schedule.

Upcoming Dates - High School Activities:

Fri. August 16 - JV/V Football @ Colby - 10:00 AM (Scrimmage)

Thurs. August 22 - Varsity Girls Swim @ Merrill (MARC Center) - 5:00 PM

Fri. August 23 - Varsity Football @ Crandon - 7:00 PM

Sat. August 24 - V/JV Cross Country v. Alumni Run (Bradley Park)

Sat. August 24 - JV2/JV/V Volleyball @ Merrill - 9:00 AM (Scrimmage)

Thurs. August 29 - JV/V Cross Country @ Rhinelander Invitational - 10:00 AM

Fri. August 30 - Varsity Football @ Wittenberg-Birnamwood - 7:00 PM

Fri. August 30 - Varsity Volleyball @ UW-Whitewater - TBD

Sat. August 31 - Varsity Volleyball @ UW-Whitewater - TBD

Tues. September 3 - JV Football v. Wittenberg-Birnamwood - 5:00 PM

Thurs. September 5 - JV/V Cross Country @ Nine Mile Park (Wausau) - 4:00 PM

Thurs. September 5 - Varsity Girls Swim @ Lakeland Union - 5:30 PM

Thurs. September 5 - JV2/JV/V Volleyball v. Rhinelander - 5:30 PM / 7:00 PM

Fri. September 6 - Varsity Football @ Wausau East (Thom Field) - 7:00 PM

Sat. September 7 - Varsity Volleyball @ DC Everest Invite - 9:00 AM

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Tomahawk Middle School:

After all of the High School programs get off and running, the Middle School sports are facing a unique challenge this year as they begin. The WIAA calendar has flipped over for the 2024 - 2025 school year resulting in games being pushed back into other seasons. To combat this, the WVC/GNC Middle School Athletic Directors decided to move everything up a week so the students do not cross over into other activities. Middle School football will begin on Thursday August 15, under an almost completely new coaching staff, with a good mix of older and younger alumni giving back to the program. Their first game will be before the official start of the school year to combat the schedule change. The next two middle school sports begin similar to their high school counterparts on Monday August 26. Middle School Girls Cross Country like their High School counterparts are the returning WVC/GNC Small School champions as they look to retain the traveling conference trophy. The boys numbers have improved at the middle school level this year, and we expect to see a great effort from those new individuals in the sport. Volleyball numbers have also looked to increase currently going into the fall season at the middle school level. We are currently looking to be able to sponsor numbers for 3 out of the 4 teams we budget for, which is a huge positive at the middle school level as it means more court time and playing time for our students involved in Volleyball.

Upcoming Dates - Middle School Activities:

Thurs. August 29 - 7th / 8th Grade Football v. Northland Pines - 4:00 PM / 5:30 PM

Tues. September 3 - 7th / 8th Grade Football @ Antigo (Schofield Stadium) - 4:30 PM / 5:45 PM

Thurs. September 5 - 7th / 8th Grade Volleyball @ Rhinelander - 4:00 PM / 5:00 PM

Thurs. September 5 - 6th/7th/8th Grade Cross Country @ Nine Mile Park (Wausau) - 5:30 PM

Activities Director Notes:

With Staff In-Service coming up, I will be reaching out to new staff members within their respective domains in regards to our open activities such as Forensics, Drama, NHS, and Science Club. We have a lot of new faces coming in this year, those specific activities are tied into their classwork and feel that if our new staff is willing to step up and run the club that coincides with the students' education, it is a win overall for our district.

Nichol Feltes reached out to the Main Street Group on behalf of the High School Student Council and we will be adding a new component to Homecoming week at the school district this year. The grades will be able to window paint downtown on mainstreet "Hatchet Pride" items along with schedules of what is going on at the school district that week. This is a great opportunity to continue to build up our community and school pride which I am excited to see that first week of October when our old rival the Medford Raiders come to town for football for the first time since 2009.

Kelly Tollefson worked underneath the summer school banner, but I wanted to give a "shout out" to her and her staff this summer with summer swim lessons for the community. All of the students and staff that worked with Kelly throughout the summer represented our school to the highest level, and believe our community is safer for our students with the amount of water we have because of their efforts. Thank You so much to Jack A, Morgan K, Abbey R, Brynne S, Dori S, Kaylee R, Kylie P, Ella P, Trey M, Max A, Aubrey T, Ethan G, and of course Kelly Tollefson for all of their efforts this summer.

Another "Shout Out" for the summer is for Allison Ewart coming in to provide CPR Classes for our Coaches at the end of July. It is great having that ability within our district to maintain certifications through a staff member. The Coaches all commented how relaxing it was and informational with Allison as she made the class fun and exciting for them.

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Lastly, a big thing coming this month is we bought the hudl camera system for the district. Most of our Coaching staffs use the hudl system for scouting and exchanging of game film. These cameras now take the burden off of the Coaching staff having to spend extra time to upload and cut film, as the program does during the game for them. The big piece of this is we will be able to provide a free live stream of all of our home events at Tomahawk School District to the community. Now throughout the year, family members near and far if unable to get to the game will be able to login in for free and see the Hatchets compete.

Report Respectfully Submitted by:

Ryan Flynn

Activities, Recreation, and Pool Director

Tomahawk School District

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