

**School Board Workshop:**

**February 12, 2024**

**Subject:**

**BCMS Fall 2023 Activities Report**

**Presenter:**

**John Hayden,  
BCMS Activities Director**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Review

**DESCRIPTION:**

We had fourteen students come out for cross country this fall. What was nice about this is we had almost as many females as males. Our program at the Middle School level seems to have been made up of more males than females. It was nice to see a healthy number of girls come out this fall. Paul Anderson was back to coach the kids again this year. He has done a great job of integrating us into the schools in the metro area which has been great for our kids. It is fun to get the reports back after a meet involving metro area schools and see our kids at the top of the finishers.

Having Ben Watkins again coach the girls tennis team is such a great thing for our kids. Ben is such a popular person and the girls have a great time playing for him. He is also a huge advocate for the sport here in Buffalo, so equipment, supplies, etc., are always kept up and in great shape for the kids. While our numbers were down a little bit this fall, the level of talent was up. The girls we had come out were the top end kids which showed when we played our matches. With a smaller number, the girls we did have were always able to get a lot of court time when we competed against other schools. This no doubt will help them as they mature. One of Ben's connections runs a tennis facility in Rogers. In the last couple of years, Ben has been able to get our girls a match at the facility against Rogers. It is a great experience for our girls.

Girls soccer numbers went up this year from an already high number the previous year. We were at thirty-three girls this fall. It is awesome to see that many kids come out for a sport that was lacking in participants a few years ago. I believe there are two reasons for the nice number, one is the fact we were on campus again this fall. It makes a huge difference when kids don't have to get on a bus to go to practice. The other reason for the high numbers was that Trish Legueri was back to coach this year. As I stated last year, Trish is great for our program. She brings a competitive nature

while making the experience enjoyable for all the girls. I also stated last year that one of the issues we have is finding the right level of competition. Some schools have competitive programs, while others struggle and when we face one of those schools it isn't good for anyone. Dustine Jerde also helped coach this year. Dustine is an ESP in our building and well-liked by kids. She was a big help in communication.

Boys soccer numbers were down this fall to twenty-five boys. While they were down, it was a great number to have as we were able to field two quality teams and coach the sport without having to just manage behavior like they ended up doing a lot the year before. Ashlyn Claseman and Jan Fournier coached the boys. Ashlyn and Jan are both strong personalities and do a great job with the boys. Our boys don't give the gender of the coach a second thought. I really think these two were great for our boys this fall. The boys were very successful in the season. The boys and girls get to play a number of games on the old varsity field and I think that makes for a great atmosphere. We are lucky to have such a nice facility.

Football continues to be our biggest sport. This year we suited up ninety-four kids. Up from ninety last year. We came down a little talent level this year. The last two years were crazy good years for our teams. This year's 7th graders struggled to stay competitive with many schools. At times I spoke with some bewildered coaches trying to figure out how to get on the winning side of the scoreboard. Our 8th grade was still very good. We stress a couple of things in our activities program at BCMS. Every kid is going to know they are loved by our coaches and every kid is going to have fun and enjoy the game. Even while our 7th graders were struggling, I was proud of our coaches because I could see that what we talk about as a program was being put into action by our coaches. I can't say enough good things about Coach Litterer. He has been so supportive of our program and has embraced our staff into his program. Look for the middle school program to be a younger version of the varsity program as we move forward. I am as optimistic for the future of our football program as I have ever been.

Volleyball had a drop in participation this year. If you remember however, last year I told you they had the highest number we had ever had. So, while we were down, we still had 80 girls out for volleyball this fall. That is a lot of girls to try to get touches. Once again we had to hire an extra coach, we divided each grade level into multiple teams and did our best to make a very confusing schedule make sense for parents and families. Because we play other schools A teams, we have to have an A team. We end up with one A team and multiple B teams at each grade. It can be very challenging finding games for this many kids. Luckily over the years we have developed great

relationships with other schools. Even though they didn't have near the number of kids we did, other schools were willing to add games so we could get games for kids. Communication also is a challenge with this many participants. Making sure parents know when their kids are playing and when they are staying home is important and can get confusing. Our coaches did a great job despite feeling overwhelmed at times. Coaches were Tonielle Popelka, Jill Castle, Nicki Schahn and Sara Melsness and we added Sue Zrust to help break the kids up. We ended up purchasing the net system that I mentioned last year. It was a huge upgrade that was noticed by everyone. Poles were lighter and easier for our kids to carry, nets were easy to hang for our kids and the pads were really nice looking.

I love the fall because of the excitement for the new year, and because we are at our busiest. It really is rewarding to see so many kids taking advantage of opportunities we have for them. I also want to give credit to Kelley Jaszewski, the Activities Secretary. She does so much to keep our department running and providing these opportunities. Without her we would not be able to run so effectively. In her second year in the position she has become invaluable.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

- 2023 Fall Activities Participation Report