

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

February 14, 2011

Subject:

BCMS Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

John Hayden

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

NONE

DESCRIPTION:

This was a hectic fall in the Middle School Activities program. It seems the season starts quickly, and continues to move very quickly coming to a screeching halt just as it seems we are getting going. We had a large number of students participating this fall in all of our programs.

In girls soccer, we had seventy-four participants. With such a high number, I felt justified in hiring an extra coach to work with these girls. The extra coach allowed us to break down practices into smaller numbers, and also gave us the opportunity to schedule inter-squad games to be played while the other coaches took the girls to away games.

Boys soccer saw their numbers grow to 42. Having 42 comes close to a point where another coach is needed. Fortunately, the coaches I hired to work with our boys are superb. Ben Watkins and Joe Pokorney were excellent at giving these kids a positive experience. Both are young guys who love working with kids and really gave everything to our soccer program. I received a wonderful compliment from a conference AD who met these two coaches and watched a game of theirs. He was there because their coach thought there might be trouble at the game. After watching, he let me know that he had a lot of respect for them and couldn't believe his coach would think there would be a problem.

Football was down this fall!!!!!! However, in our great program, down means only 122 players for this season. Down just seven from the big up year we had last fall. That is far greater than most other schools. Again, our kids had a great year both in fun and on the scoreboard.

Volleyball also had a large number of participants. We were down to 91 from 93 last fall. I hired an extra coach to work with this large number also. Playing extra games in an inter-squad league schedule really helped provide a positive experience for these girls.

We did have fewer intramural options this fall simply because we had such high participation rates in our sports. The one intramural I would like to highlight is our Environmental Club. Julie Brooks heads up this great activity. This club spends time one day a week after school heading up our recycling efforts at the Middle School and doing other things to support our building being as environmentally friendly as possible. It is a great learning experience for those kids involved.

These numbers are great because we believe it is important for kids to stay active and involved at this age. The benefits for students include better classroom performance, strong social relationships and a healthier lifestyle. High numbers also create some problems for the program. The problems that we face are based on limited resources. We have a budget, which

allows for only so many coaches, officials, and buses. We also have limited space in the gym and on the field. Finally, we are a part of a conference of schools that has rules and guidelines we must follow. These limitations, combined with the large number of participants, requires us to be creative in how we can make this a positive experience for all of our students.

This fall we tried to make the experience for all of our athletes positive. We hired extra coaches in both volleyball and girls soccer. We added extra games in both of those activities as well. We created inter-squad competitions that allowed girls to get extra playing time and coaching at an appropriate level. To make the inter-team competitions meaningful, we bought t-shirts to give to the kids as incentive. Some of these inter-squad competitions took place when the rest of the team was playing at another location, and some of them took place on Fridays when our regular schedule was not in session.

The people within our Activities Program work very hard with the goal of making the student's experience the best it can be. We do not focus on winning and losing. We try to connect what goes on in school with what goes on after school. This fall I met with all the coaches and went over our ideals and beliefs as coaches and a department. I have sent the power point used in this discussion for you to review. Any feedback is appreciated.

ATTACHMENT(S):

BCMS Sports Participation Report

"Coaching is Teaching at it's Best" Power Point