

School Board Workshop:

May 12, 2025

Subject:

BCMS Winter Activities Report

Presenter:

**John Hayden, BCMS
Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

NONE

DESCRIPTION:

Our school **theatre** production was once again a highlight of the winter season. This year's play, *Kokonut High*, was a light-hearted and entertaining show that gave 30 student actors and 8 crew members a chance to shine on stage and behind the scenes. The production was led by Deb and Greg Bestland, who continue to raise the bar for our theatre program each year. Their dedication and creativity have created a space where students can express themselves and grow in confidence. The two performances in January played to full houses in the Discovery Theatre, showcasing the talent and hard work of everyone involved. It was truly rewarding to see our students perform with such pride and joy. This event continues to be a special experience for both our school and the broader community.

Knowledge Bowl had an outstanding winter season with two enthusiastic teams led by coaches Rob Nosbush and Eric Cagle. This activity continues to thrive, offering students a fun and competitive outlet where academic strengths are celebrated. It gives students the chance to showcase knowledge and problem-solving skills that often go beyond the traditional classroom setting—proving that being smart is something to be proud of. Rob and Eric have done a great job of making the experience enjoyable and meaningful, creating a team environment that students love being part of. For many participants, traveling to meets and representing BCMS is a special opportunity that brings a strong sense of pride. Thanks to the coaches' efforts, the program has grown in both size and spirit.

Our **student council, math league, speech team, yearbook staff**, and the many **choir, band, and orchestra** groups all continued to provide meaningful and enriching opportunities for student involvement this winter. These programs allow students to explore their interests, build leadership and communication skills, and express their creativity in supportive and inspiring environments. The winter season at BCMS is an ideal time for students to get involved in activities beyond athletics, and it's exciting to see so many of them take advantage of these opportunities to grow, connect, and shine in different ways.

Our winter **intramural** program was a big success, with over 100 students participating in a variety of fun and engaging activities. Options included weight training, game club, knitting club, and a writing club, giving students many ways to connect and get involved. Weight training was the most popular, with 59 students

attending throughout the season. These programs continue to offer a positive outlet for students who may not be in competitive sports but still want to stay active and social. We're proud of the variety and the strong turnout this winter.

This year, 22 students participated in middle school **wrestling**. While that number is down from 30 last year, it is still well above what we've seen in previous seasons. The program continues to grow in strength and interest. Longtime community member Tyler Reiss returned as head coach, joined by Steven Doudt, who brought great energy and support. Our connection with the high school wrestling program remains strong, thanks to varsity coach Blake Trullinger's involvement and leadership. This connection helps our athletes feel prepared and excited about continuing wrestling into high school. Looking ahead, we have a plan to switch the current wrestling and weight rooms this summer. This change will make it easier and more cost-effective to install wall mats and improve the practice space for our wrestlers.

Boys basketball had an outstanding turnout this year, with 78 students participating—up from 63 last year. This large number reflects the ongoing excitement around the program. To support the increase, we brought in additional coaches, including Ron Spier, who returned after a long break and did an excellent job with the 7th grade team. He coached alongside Ashlyn O'Connor, a dedicated multi-sport coach who continues to do a fantastic job. Their teamwork and organization helped the 7th graders develop both skills and confidence. The 8th grade group was especially large, with 49 players coached by Joel Gilmer, Jan Fournier, Jeff Davis, and Blake Trout, who supported both grade levels. Our boys basketball program is thriving and continues to build a strong foundation. High participation and strong coaching are helping these athletes grow and push each other to improve every day.

This season, 38 girls participated in middle school **girls basketball**, which is just one fewer than last year. Participation remains strong, showing continued student interest and support from families. A highlight this year was the implementation of our new "play up" policy, which allowed 7 girls to compete at the high school level. This gave our top athletes a chance to grow and be challenged in a more competitive setting. All three coaches were new to our program: Bjorna Jayson, Caleb Quernemoen, and Tristan Moore. They brought fresh energy and built positive relationships with players. The season focused on fundamentals, teamwork, and sportsmanship, with strong improvement shown across all levels. Overall, it was a successful and exciting season for our girls basketball program.

The winter season at BCMS is typically a bit slower than the busy fall and spring, especially when it comes to sports. This year followed that trend in terms of athletics, but our students stayed very active thanks to a wide range of activities and intramural offerings. From Knowledge Bowl to theatre, and from writing club to weight training, there were many opportunities for students to get involved. Participation was strong across the board, with hundreds of students finding ways to connect, grow, and enjoy their time outside the classroom. It was great to see so many students take part in what winter has to offer. Their energy and involvement made for a fun and rewarding season.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- BCMS Winter Participation Report 24-25