

School Board Workshop:

February 13, 2023

Subject:

BCMS 2022 Fall Activities

Presenter:

**John Hayden, BCMS Assistant
Principal/Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

None

DESCRIPTION:

Once again our **cross-country team** was coached by Paul Anderson. Paul has done this a long time and after a few years of coaching against the Lake Conference schools, Paul has made connections with other coaches. This has helped us become a mainstay in this conference. It also helps that our kids are showing themselves to be good runners. Paul has also created a strong partnership with BHS Head Coach Dave Knudsen. Together they are trying to put together a strong 7-12 program. Dave knows that Paul is getting kids ready to run at the High School. Our number of runners has gone up and down in the last few years. This was another up year with 19 coming out this fall. We would like to get more girls out next year.

Our high school **girls tennis** program has been competing in one of, if not the toughest, conferences in the State when it comes to tennis for a number of years. Competing at this level has forced the whole program to get better. Our Middle School program has improved along with the other levels. This fall we took a big step forward with the addition of former boys varsity coach Ben Watkins as our girls coach. Ben brought not only his varsity experience but also his varsity expectations to the Middle School and it showed. At the middle school level, Ben noticed that there is a wide range of talent on the team. The high-end talent worked hard and wanted to get better. The lower end just wanted to be outside it seemed. After the season, Ben believes that there is a lot of promise for a few of the girls. We just have to keep growing the number with promise.

For the second year in a row our **girls soccer** numbers were good. Having thirty girls out is a positive in our program. Coached by Trish Legueri and Tyler Bruder, the girls reported really enjoying the season. Trish and Tyler were a good team. Trish played college soccer and has coached in the Wright County program for a number of years. Tyler was a Bison soccer player and is now teaching in our building. Trish brought a strong competitive drive and Tyler added to that, but also was great at making sure the girls had fun. As with tennis, there is a wide gap in the talent level on the team.

Our A team was very competitive, winning a majority of their games. Our B team wasn't as successful in wins and losses but at that level it is about helping kids grow as soccer players and really helping them have fun. The biggest issue the girls had this season is finding comparative levels of competition. We played a number of teams that we could have scored at will. We also played teams which wouldn't let us get the ball out of our own zone. This was the first year I can remember that we kept our soccer teams on campus. It was really nice to look out front of the building and see football games and soccer games going on side by side. It was busy but felt right.

Boys soccer grew in numbers this fall. Ashlyn Claseman and Leslie Miller coached the boys. It was really fun to watch the dynamics of having two women coach the boys. The boys respected them as their coaches and it showed in their play. I heard from a few parents who said they were very happy with the season and the emphasis the coaches put on having fun yet being competitive. The boys were very successful in the season. Playing games here on campus added to the fun atmosphere of the soccer season for the boys.

Football has rebounded nicely the last two years. This year we suited up ninety kids. Last year I mentioned that between the 7th and 8th grade teams, I couldn't remember a time when our program was so dominant. This year's group was even better than last years. Neither grade lost an A game and the B teams were very competitive as well. Not only were our kids winning, but they won big. It was a lot of fun to watch and imagine what the future of high school football in Buffalo will look like. One thing that stuck out about this season is how much fun and excitement our kids had this fall. Having coaches who understand the importance of having fun yet pushing kids to be disciplined and competitive is so important. Kids want to be winners and it is important for our coaches to teach them it takes work to do that. Like most things in our world, the cost of equipping kids for football has gotten more expensive in the last few years. What has offset some of that has been our Varsity program really embracing our program and handing down really nice jersey's, buying us practice equipment, etc.

Between the boys program, the girls program and all the levels of football it took some creative scheduling and cooperative coaches to make our situation work. If 7th grade football was home, 8th was away. If the boys soccer program was home, the girls were away. All teams got opportunities to play on the stadium field under the lights.

Volleyball had probably the highest total number of participants I can remember this fall. Ninety-three girls came out. It is not very often that we get more volleyball players than football players. We are always happy to have kids out and participating after school. However, ninety-three really is a problem in volleyball. We will never turn kids away, but we need to find creative and effective ways to make this

experience enjoyable for everyone. We have tried offering intramural volleyball at a different location but have not had great success getting students to sign up for it. Kids want to travel and be with their friends. We end up dividing into a number of teams at each grade level. Because we play other schools' A teams, we have to have an A team. So 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, Amanda Bicknell, Nicki Schahn, Kaitlin Kolbinger and we added Sue Zrust to help break the kids up. We have a desperate need for new net systems. These are expensive and we need five. We are working on partnering with JO Volleyball to get some purchased.

A busy fall but a very rewarding season. It always energizes me to see the large number of kids having a great time participating in an afterschool activity. I love looking out my window at a full parking lot and busy fields on game afternoons.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2022 Fall Participation Report