

School Board Workshop:

November 13, 2023

Subject:

BCMS Spring Activities Report

Presenter:

John Hayden

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

None

DESCRIPTION:

With all the snow we had last winter, we were sure we would be getting a late start to the spring sports season. However, when spring came, it came hard. We ended up getting started on time and actually had very little weather-related issues throughout the spring. The only cancellations we had were the first week while we let the fields dry a little more.

Our baseball program went through a relatively tough spring. The High School program brought up fifteen 8th graders. Most 8th graders who had any traveling baseball experience were called up. That left the kids who were just learning the game in 8th grade. On top of that, for one reason or another, we did not have any 7th grade travel ball players come out. We ended up combining 7th and 8th grade and playing just one A game and one B game. The game results were as expected, but Coach Jack Strong reported that he was impressed with the growth of the players as the season went on. The 8th graders who were basically the 9th grade team really took their lumps at the Freshman level. After the season, I was able to meet with Mike Bielke who let me know he feels this did not benefit the program so he will not be bringing that number of middle schoolers up in the future. I also think we were able to address the issue with the 7th graders not coming out. I hope to be able to move on from this unique season.

We were able to keep softball on campus for all practices and games for the first time in my 22 years here. It was a great success. Coaches, players and parents all agreed it was a good thing. It was also great to have so much going on everyday here at school. Our numbers were a little down from the previous year, but they still were good considering where those numbers have been prior to 2022. Kaitlin Kolbinger, Macy Stockamp and Sue Zrust were again our coaches. The mixture of these three is great for the program as one is very competitive, one does it for the B kids and just wants them to enjoy being out and one fits right in the middle. It was a great season.

Track remained one of our most popular sports. Having that many athletes participating is great but of course comes with issues that we don't have in other sports. When we travel to a meet somewhere, we take two buses and a trailer. That obviously increases the travel expenses. If we are going to do more than just babysit that number of kids, we need more coaches than we originally budgeted for. At meets, our kids are limited to the number of events they can sign up for regardless of their ability level. Those are just a few issues. Those aren't complaints. Just the reality and reasons we stay pleasantly busy in the spring. Our track coaches this year were led by

Mindy Day from Hanover Elementary. Mindy has a wealth of track experience and has been with our program for four years. She did a great job of taking the lead which means coordinating our coaches and volunteers to make sure this experience is positive for all of our students.

Once again Barry Johnson coached our boys tennis team. Barry is a little bit of a Pied Piper when it comes to coaching. Kids really like him and he does a great job of encouraging kids to go out for an activity. Our numbers in tennis have gone up since Barry started coaching. Another thing Barry has done is recruit high school tennis players to come help him coach. This helps with not only the amount of swings kids get, but also gives the boys a connection to the high school program. Another positive for our boys last year was the schedule. We played Wayzata, Maple Grove, St. Louis Park and Delano in addition to STMA and Becker. All schools have solid tennis programs. This will only continue to improve the strength of our program.

Golf was probably the one sport that was delayed the most at the start of the season. Course conditions dictated when we could start and Buffalo Heights is always wet in the early spring. The people at the Heights have been and continue to be super to work with. They appreciate us and love having our kids there. They are a great community asset.

Overall we had a larger number of kids participating in our activities in the spring than 2022. The reason for this is the large number of students involved in our "intramural" activities which consisted of Book Club, Game Club, Knitting Club and Strength and Conditioning. We also had forty-seven athletes participating at the High School in a High School sport. All of these activities give our kids lots of opportunities to be active and involved in the spring and you can see they took advantage last spring.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- BCMS Spring Sports Participation Report