

School Board Workshop:

May, 13 2024

Subject:

BCMS Winter Activities

Presenter:

**John Hayden, BCMS
Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

NONE

DESCRIPTION:

Participation this Winter was great. We had more students playing sports than we have had in a while. The only reason our overall numbers were slightly down from 2022-2023 was that we weren't able to offer a few intramural activities because we couldn't find supervisors.

The middle School play, *Mystery at Shady Acres* was performed on January 12-13, 2024 at Discovery school. Over 30 students participated in the show. We began with auditions on November 28-29 and rehearsed at BCMS for the duration of December. Having the Bestlands in charge has been a huge positive for our program. Their connections to the Buffalo Theatre community are extremely beneficial. From props and costumes to set pieces, our productions have improved greatly. One of the issues we maneuver through is not having an auditorium in our building. Rehearsals start in our building but after Winter Break we bus kids to Discovery where we have our performances. The Bestlands connection with BCT helps as we are able to negotiate how we can book time there while they are also in rehearsal. One cool thing that was different this year was that we had three high school students who came to every rehearsal and performance as student mentors. This was a great experience for both our kids and the high schoolers.

Knowledge Bowl had a great winter also. We had two teams coached by Rob Nosbush and Eric Cagle. It is easy to see why this activity is doing so well. It is a fun activity that allows kids to take advantage of skills that they don't normally get to show off. Being smart is cool. Many of these kids would not get the opportunity to represent their school without an activity like this. The coaches have added to this activity by keeping things fun for the kids. We hosted our annual Knowledge Bowl Meet again this winter. Watching the energy that fills the building when so many schools bring their teams is a lot of fun.

Our student council, yearbook, and various choir, band and orchestra groups all continued to offer students opportunities this winter. The winter season at BCMS is a great time for students to take advantage of opportunities like these to participate in activities not related to athletic competition.

Wrestling numbers were huge this year!!!! I looked back through the years I have been giving this report and I have never been able to say that. The thirty wrestlers that participated is the largest number I could find in my 22 years of doing

this. I attribute that to a couple of things. Corey Moore, who athletes like, did a great job of telling football players that wrestling would be good for them. Also Jason Mauer who coaches three sports for BCMS and works three days in our lunchroom is an endless recruiter. He talks to almost every kid and in those conversations, he is recruiting for wrestling. We even had three female wrestlers this year. These high numbers have now created a need for wall mats and probably another wrestling mat at some point. The wall mats that we had in the wrestling room had to be taken down a number of years ago because of new fire codes. We never replaced them because with low numbers we could be in the middle of the room and not worry about the walls. With thirty, that is no longer the case. This will need to be addressed by next year.

Boys basketball was the only sport where participation numbers went down. The good news is they were only down eight and we still had sixty-three students out. That is still a high number for what should be four teams. Like always, our coaches worked hard this year to create enough playing time for everyone. With that many boys out, we hired five coaches so we could have more organized practices and games. This year we were lucky enough to have two female coaches in the boys program. The 8th graders were coached by Corey Moore and Ashlyn Clasemen. These boys had a great season and were competitive all season long. The 7th grade teams were coached by Joel Gilmer, Cyre Beaumont and Jacob Braun. This was the first year coaching in our program for both Cyre and Jacob. Our 7th graders are new to school sports so this was a transition year for them. They have a number of committed players in this grade. Look for them to be very competitive as they come through the system.

Girls basketball numbers were up this year. Another thing I haven't been able to say much recently. These numbers were really driven by our 7th grade class. Twenty-seven of them came out this year. They were coached by Joel Gilmer and Jacob Braun. The large number at this grade will help them as they compete against each other for playing time during practice. Our 8th grade numbers were not great but were only slightly worse than when this group was in 7th grade. This group was coached by Corey Moore and Cyre Beaumont. I am hopeful that as the High School program gains some stability, our program will continue to grow as kids decide they want to be a part of what goes on in the High School.

We did have a large number of BCMS students playing at the High School level. What we have noticed since joining the Lake Conference is that the need to back fill some high school rosters with middle school athletes has increased. The changing dynamic in regards to middle school students moving up sparked a conversation between Nick and I. We agreed to relook at our Middle School Move Up policy this summer to see what, if any changes need to be made to it.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- BCMS Winter Participation Report 23-24