

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

May 9, 2016

Subject:

BCMS 2015-16 Winter Activities Report

Presenter:

**John Hayden
BCMS Assistant Principal/AD**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

None – report only.

DESCRIPTION:

The big story in the Middle School Activities Department this past winter was our numbers, or lack thereof. Sports participation was down this winter, but other activities such as intramurals like weight training and art club were up. Overall, our numbers were down from last year but it still seemed busy in our building.

Our total number of participants in girls basketball was down by ten. Coaches Dave Holler, Troy Holland, and Joel Gilmer, along with new comer Aimee Mooney, did a great job of making this a valuable experience for the students who came out this year. There is a nice mix of competitiveness and relationship building with all of these coaches. Other schools experienced the same drop in numbers, so playing games became interesting each day.

Boys' basketball numbers were down 12 from last year. Being down 12 still means we have 61 kids trying to get into games with four teams, (A & B each grade). This again is a difficult situation. We again hired a 5th coach to address the space concerns and help give kids the individual attention they deserve. Our basketball coaches have coached for a number of years together and have got a good system in place of running these extra kids and teams and making it a valuable experience. Dave Holler ran our intramurals this winter and did an awesome job. He worked hard to make sure these games were meaningful to kids and their parents. It was probably the best it has been run since we started it.

Wrestling participation is a concern here at the middle school. We have great people involved in this sport at the youth level and we just hired a great young high school coach, but for some reason we seem to lose kids at the middle school level. I am convinced Eric Cagle is the right fit to coach here. He is a popular teacher who is committed to wrestling and our kids. It has always been a mystery why we aren't able to get more kids out. This year we added some youth coaches to help out. The kids that were in the room grew as wrestlers and as a team. Just need to get more of them.

While our sports numbers were slightly down, many activities were up. Winter activities included Speech, Knowledge Bowl, Drama, Yearbook, Chamber Choir, Jazz

Band, Math Counts, Student Council, 6th Grade Singers, Guys Group, and Chamber Orchestra. Chad Anderson really worked hard on our weight training program and increased the participation in that program. That is a great place for kids to be if they are not participating in an activity. With the low sports numbers, I have to keep remembering that we are providing a number of other opportunities for kids which are being taken advantage of.

BCMS was not alone in having low numbers this winter. Almost every school in the Mississippi 8 experienced the same drop. I did a longitudinal look our basketball numbers and have attached that information as well. We can talk about some conclusions and what we will be doing in the future.

ATTACHMENT(S):

BCMS Winter Participation Report
BCMS Basketball Numbers