

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**May 13, 2013**

**Subject:**

BCMS 2013 Winter  
Activities Report

**Presenter:**

**John Hayden**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

none

**DESCRIPTION:**

BCMS experienced our highest number of winter sports participants in my tenure here. The three sports offered in the winter are Girls basketball, Boys basketball and wrestling. Together one hundred and seventy three students participated in all three. Obviously those are unduplicated numbers. That is almost 15% of our student body involved in some sport after school in the winter. I only see that number rising as our wrestling program is making great strides in getting kids involved.

This year's middle school play was called The 12 Daughters of Hercules. Teresa Weise again did a wonderful job of directing the play and was complimented by Janice Skelly in the set production area. The cast included a number of students who practiced daily from January through the show dates in March. The show took place at the Discovery auditorium. It was a great show, which seemed to keep the audience engaged. It is truly a joy to see the pride on the faces of the students in the show and the smiles on the faces in the crowd.

The Middle School Speech team also had a fine season. They were able to compete a number of times around the Central Minnesota area. Jan Heyerdahl did another outstanding job working with these students. Jan was able to add Natalie Polaschek to the mix this year as more of a permanent fixture to the staff. The combination of these two coaches has been extremely successful for students. It is awesome to see how these kids grow while in this activity.

We had sixty-five girls out for basketball during the first half of the winter season. Sixty-five players and four coaches make for a crowded, noisy gym. Veteran Troy Holland was joined this year by three "rookies". Jen Heebink, Kayla Lian and Jackie Hillstrom. These three coaches were wonderful role models for their athletes and they also teach in our building. Having teachers as coaches helps students connect with their coaches and also has a possibility of keeping the staff consistent for some time. These coaches did a nice job of getting girls playing time and also getting them

extra court time during intramural games when not on road trips. This was a very successful year for the girls.

Boys' basketball went second this year and numbers were high. We had eighty-eight boys participating. This is up twenty-six from last year. Barry Johnson and Troy Holland coached the eighth grade again this year. They have done this together for over eleven years. This year we had two new seventh grade coaches. Bruce Hall and Ken Jugasek from the High School took over our seventh grade program. We added another High School teacher in Michael Hernandez as an extra coach to help alleviate some stress. An extra coach allowed us to spread into both gyms with the boys during practice, and also added a better intramural program for our boys when they were not on the traveling team on a given day. This large number of participants is very encouraging for the high school program because along with quantity, this class also has quality. Both 'A' and 'B' teams had great seasons in a very competitive conference this year. One interesting event this winter was Brainerd busing their middle school team down for a game. It was a different team for our kids to play and added some spice to the schedule. We may be asked to return the favor next year.

Looking forward, the Mississippi 8 conference is again going through some changes. We have added Chisago Lakes, North Branch, Princeton and St. Francis starting in 2013. St. Francis does not have middle school sports. Chisago Lakes and North Branch are reluctant to travel this far to play us. Middle School AD's from around the conference have been meeting to try to work out schedules which will accommodate everyone's concerns. There have been some tough meetings with people trying to be committed to the conference, but more so being loyal to their district. I am hopeful we will eventually come up with a plan that will appease everyone and improve the level of competition for our kids. The most likely scenario will be splitting the conference up into two divisions and each school playing the other teams in their division twice, then playing one or two crossovers. More work to do yet however.