

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

October 11, 2021

Subject:

BCMS Spring Activities

Presenter:

**John Hayden,
BCMS Asst. Principal/Act. Dir.**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

None

DESCRIPTION:

Spring 2020 began with great optimism. We finally felt like we were on our way to having a “normal” sports season. As the season drew closer, it was obvious it wouldn’t be a typical spring, but it did prove to be a great spring for those involved.

Participation numbers in girls’ sports have been down for a number of years. With only two weeks before the start of the season, we only had 10 girls signed up combined for 7th and 8th grade softball. That isn’t enough to even field one team. At that same time, Head Varsity Coach Brad Zrust came to me and let me know the participation numbers at the high school were down as well. He wanted to bring up 5-8 8th graders to play on the 9th grade team. We decided the best thing for the program was to move all 10 girls signed up for middle school softball regardless of grade. That plan meant BCMS had no softball teams in the spring. That was very disappointing. The positive was that all girls in the program were able to play and from every indication, girls enjoyed the experience. We were not alone in the disappointment of participation. It was common with other schools as well.

Baseball numbers were much more typical of past years. Our forty-six baseball players were two more than the 2018-2019 spring season. Last spring, we were lucky enough to fully open our new baseball fields across the street from the middle school. After years of visioning, planning and work it was very gratifying to see these great fields in use. Our grounds crew, led by Jack Strong, were phenomenal making these fields by far, the best middle school fields around. From installing the temporary fences, making sure the grass was plush, green and manicured and finally perfectly grooming the infield with the temporary pitching mounds, our facilities at BCMS became the envy of other coaches as they made sure to let our coaches know. John Heltunen showed great leadership in getting this facility completed for our students.

Boys tennis also experienced a drop in numbers. The low numbers could not be attributed to coaching. Last spring, with the help of Matt Lubben, I was able to persuade the legend Tom Kuzma, to come out of retirement and coach our Middle

School program. It was an honor to watch the professionalism and passion that he brought to this position. After all these years, it didn't take long for kids of this generation to understand why kids of their parents' generation love this man. The participation numbers were small, but the ones lucky enough to come out competed hard and loved the season.

Co-ed golf also saw numbers closer to typical. Golf seemed to be an activity that thrived during the pandemic. Being outside in an individual sport appealed to people. Our kids were able to participate against other schools that also had good numbers. We didn't miss a meet and I was told courses were in good shape. It was a good year for golf.

Track did not have a typical season but they also had an enjoyable season as kids were happy to get out and enjoy the season. The quarantine hangover went away while they were able to get outside every day. It wasn't a typical season because we were not able to run our home meets at the high school like we normally do because of high school league quarantine rules. The risk of exposing our high school kids to a lot of middle school kids while they are running our meets, didn't seem to make sense. Instead, we ran our meets at the Middle School. This wasn't a problem since we have a great facility, but the experience at the High School is far more rewarding for the kids and the program. Overall, it was fun to have a track season that had kids participating in front of their parents and family members.

Our spring season was more enjoyable than usual because of the missed 2020 spring season. Even though numbers were down in most sports, the experience for the participants was refreshing. Kids who had been limited in their ability to get active were able to enjoy after school activities for the first time. It was refreshing.

ATTACHMENTS:

- BCMS Spring Sports Participation Report 2020-2021