

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**February 12, 2018**

**Subject:**

**BCMS Fall Activities**

**Presenter:**

**John Hayden,  
BCMS Asst. Principal/  
Activities Director**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

NONE

**DESCRIPTION:**

Our Cross Country numbers stayed pretty stable from last year. We actually were up one runner. Once again, we needed to add a second coach to help Ms. Hillstrom safely handle that many middle school runners. The unique thing about our participation numbers this year is that we were down male runners but had a considerable increase in female runners. I love to see that. Cross country is the sport that ends up getting out of school the most in the fall as the middle school meets all have start times before the high school meets so our kids need to be there sooner. They were dismissed early six times this fall. This did not seem to have a negative effect on their academics.

Emily Moritz again coached our girls tennis team this fall. We have been lucky to have very positive and upbeat coaches for this program throughout the years and Emily is continuing that tradition. She seems to always have a smile on her face and her interactions with her players are always supportive. It is a lot of fun to watch their meets, but it is even better to watch practices to see why the kids love her so much.

Our girls soccer program demonstrated a trend that many people involved in school sports are noticing. We were down almost 20 girls from last year. Paul Lundberg was in his second year working with this program and while they were very competitive, the drop in numbers was disappointing. Paul is competitive by nature and he is instilling that in the girls he works with. I believe this will pay off as these girls get to high school.

As we got closer to fall and I still had no boys soccer coaches, I admit I began to get a little nervous. However, I was able to find a couple of dads to take the boys this fall. Jeff Bedard and Erich Reineck stepped up and offered to coach together. This ended up being a great plan. Both had coached in the youth programs and knew most of the boys coming out. When I hire parents, I am careful to meet with them and really stress the differences between a youth program and a school program. I really hit my philosophy of coaching and working with kids and lay out what I expect.

Sometimes parents find it hard to work within the school system. These two did not. They had different personalities which proved to be a good thing for our kids. The team was very competitive. It was good for me to get a perspective of our program and the conference from people who live in the youth soccer world.

Once again football was over 100 players - 117 to be exact. This was up from even last year. We were lucky enough to have Jen Nichols back from a one-year retirement. Having a staff full of teachers in our building makes a huge difference in the feel of the program. Having this many kids playing football is a positive and a tribute to the great coaches that we have at this level. However, I worry about the experience we are providing for some of our students with such large teams. The amount of time these kids get to play during games and the actual teaching they get during practice is limited. As a staff, we met after the season ended and are going to make some changes in the way we practice moving forward. We will be spending more time on individual skills and a little less in team time. One other idea we have that I will be exploring is to create two separate programs at each level, similar to having two separate schools. I really feel like this would make the experience much better for our kids.

Volleyball numbers rose dramatically this year. This is the one girl's sport where we see a positive number of participants. Ninety-five is a large number of girls to get touches to. However, our coaches divided the girls up into smaller teams and played a typical intramural schedule along with the game schedule and it seemed to be a nice mix of practice time and game time. The four coaches we have working with our volleyball girls are all employed in our district, so it makes it nice for them to be able to connect with their girls and each other during the day. I look for good things from our volleyball program based on how these girls did this year and the continued high numbers we are getting. I include this sport when I talk about creating two separate programs at each grade level.

Looking forward, we will be starting construction on our fields in front of our building this summer. This is going to take some creative problem solving for a year, and then will produce a great facility for our athletes beyond that. Providing better experiences for our athletes in football and volleyball is also something we need to be working on and will also involve some creative problem solving.

#### **ATTACHMENT(S):**

- **Participation Report**