

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

February 8, 2021

Subject:

BCMS Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

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

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

NONE

DESCRIPTION:

I believe in the importance of after school activities for students, especially during this time of quarantining and distance learning. This year, as the summer was winding down, I was not sure what after-school activities we would be able to offer for our students at BCMS. I was happy to get the news that we would be able to offer soccer, cross country and tennis like we normally do. Certain protocols were needed, but for the most part, those activities were able to run normally. Football and volleyball were restricted at first, but midway through the fall, we were also allowed to run those activities.

Our participation numbers in cross country were good. We had less than last year, but more than the couple of years previous. Paul Anderson again led this team. Paul is a veteran coach who kids enjoy and who makes our job in the activities department simple because he handles everything professionally without needing much from us. This is one of the few teams we have that compete against Lake Conference teams. The modification to their season was that they did not hold any in-person meets. Instead, each team ran the distance that they would in a meet on their own track and then reported scores to one central site and that is how they determined winners. It was an interesting site to watch a soccer game being played while cross country kids were running around the track. While they didn't get to get on a bus, the kids enjoyed being together and had a great season.

Similar to cross country, our tennis participation numbers were strong this fall as well. Emily Moritz again coached this team. She is on par with Paul as a great coach to have in our department working with our kids. She is so positive, upbeat and friendly. When you mix that with some competitiveness, you can build a great program. Due

to high school limitations for spectators, we switched venues with them a few times which meant we practiced and played matches at the high school and middle school. Our students and parents never complained and in fact embraced it and competed well wherever they were. We were able to travel to other schools as well.

Girls soccer seemed to feel the effect of COVID as their numbers dropped considerably this fall. While we were in the hybrid model for learning this fall, we wanted to have kids participate on the days they were in school. This was not possible for soccer due to the low numbers so we had all girls, every day. We were able to have soccer on campus as football was not in session. This worked well. It is nice not have to have a bus transport them every day. They were able to get a lot more practice time. Coaches Paul Lundberg and Leslie Miller did a nice job of keeping things positive and getting girls a lot of playing time. It was fun to watch games and feel like it was a normal year.

Boys soccer numbers were very steady again this year. We did not have a drop off this fall. Patrick Doyle again coached the team and he will tell you it made a difference having them on campus. His knowledge of the kids in the program has been very helpful. I like the consistency we have seen in the program the last few years. I am excited to watch the continued growth as Patrick continues to run the boys.

Organized football was originally not given the okay to start in the fall. As we went into the school year, I met with our football coaches and discussed how we could do something so those kids that wanted to play football could still have an experience. Our coaches went to work and designed a football "camp" that took place after school, behind the school. Kids did not wear pads. Our coaches met with the Varsity staff to learn their systems and taught the kids the new concepts that they will need when they get to the High School. At the end of each day they finished with a flag football game to end on some fun. At the end of the "season" they played a flag football game under the lights on the big field. It was a great night and I was amazed at how many parents showed up to watch their child play. That demonstrated to me how much parents not only want their kids to participate but also how much they want to watch them.

The okay to begin volleyball was given sometime in September. At that point, we had already met with other middle school ADs and had come up with a plan to incorporate volleyball into a window in March. We had communicated that plan to our parents by that time. We made a decision along with STMA, Princeton and Cambridge/Isanti that

we would stick to our plan and we did not start volleyball this fall. We will have a volleyball season that starts on March 15th.

Fall seems like a lifetime ago. As I reflect on the season, I feel like it was a relatively "normal" season. Soccer, tennis and cross country were run like other years. Football and volleyball were missed. Like a lot of things, we look forward to an actual full complement of sports next fall. The fall led into a difficult winter season. However, I am proud to say that we have been able to get all sports offered this year.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- **BCMS Participation Report**