



Brookings School District

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

BROOKINGS ACTIVITIES DEPT

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To: Board of Education
From: Jeff Dvorak, Director of Activities
Re: Administrative Report - Activities
Date: 12/2/2024

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

Fall Sports Wrap Up

The last of our fall sports, Volleyball and Football, closed out our seasons in November. The VB girls fell to Watertown in the SoDak 16 contest while the FB squad also lost to Watertown, who was the eventual 11AA champion.

Student Council Movie Night

We are lucky to have a group of Learners who are interested in offering some regular opportunities to our student body to engage socially. This coming December 14, we will be offering a holiday movie night for our student body, with the specific details still being ironed out.

eSports

The season has begun! Our club eSports team has started competitions this week. Our volunteer advisor, Brad Nupen, along with the help of our tech systems administrator, Travis Vlaminck, have spent time re-organizing a room at the CTE building to create a great space for us to hold this activity. It sounds like there are currently about 40 schools in the state competing in the six different games. There is no need to travel since these contests are all on-line. The only exception to that will be the state competition which will be held in Aberdeen this spring.

Fall Musical

If you did not get a chance to get to our fall musical, *Hello Dolly*, you missed a good one. We averaged around 400 spectators for each of the performances. It was impressive to see our young actors handle such a high-level piece so well. Not only was the level of music demanding, but also it was great to see such commitment to a time period play that would probably not be the top choice of most teenagers. Kudos to directors Mette & Winghart and the cast/crew in the selection and execution!

Winter Sports Beginning

We are off and tumbling! Gymnastics started practice at the beginning of November with right around 20 gymnasts in grades 7-12. We hosted our intrasquad scrimmage a few weeks back and also hosted a quad right after Thanksgiving. We have a really young group this year with only one senior and 13 of our girls being freshmen or younger so it was great to see us get second in that quad, only a point behind SF Lincoln. We will head to Pierre the first Saturday in December for our first big invitational and host our own Patty Jorgenson Invite on January 11

Wrestling for our girls and boys started on November 18. We have 8 girls and around 30 boys currently practicing. On the first weekend in December, the girls will open up with a tournament in Watertown while the boys will head north to an invite in Wahpeton, ND.

Our basketball teams have also started practice. The girls have around 25 girls out while the boys had over 40 players show up for practice on day one. In talking to the coaches, both were optimistic that we will be improved from a year ago and they are ready to kick off the season with our home doubleheader on December 13 vs Watertown

Concerts

In an effort to help 8th graders transition to high school band, Directors Soukup and McMahon worked together for a combined 8th grade and high school band concert right before Thanksgiving break. It was great to see the collaboration between the younger and older musicians at the OLPAC, and, as usual, it was another night of quality music.

At the beginning of November, the Bobcats were well represented with 26 orchestra and choir students auditioning and being selected to attend the All-State Choir and Orchestra event in Sioux Falls at the Denny Sanford Premiere Center. I didn't get to see the concert live but watched it at [2024 SDHSAA All-State Choir & Orchestra](#) ...it is always impressive.

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

NFHS Courses

Coaches in the BSD (and across South Dakota) are required to complete several courses online at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) website. Each season there is a deadline for completion of these courses and documentation of completion (completed by the AD and Supt) must be sent to the SDHSAA office to avoid a \$500 fine. For coaches of high school sports, coaches must take a Fundamentals of Coaching course once in their career, a First Aid and Safety course every other year, a Concussion course every year and a Collapsed Student course every other year. Most fall sports also have to take a Heat Illness course every year. At the middle school level, BSD requires coaches to complete all of the same courses except for the Fundamental course.

Winter Meetings

Prior to the start of winter sports, I meet with the coaches of each sport and discuss a variety of topics to ensure that we are prepared and ready for the season. We cover everything from expectations to assistant coaches to schedules to equipment. Then, on November 18 this year, we had our Winter Sports Meeting for all players, coaches and parents. Our attendance this year was pretty strong (75+%). At this meeting I spend the first 30 minutes discussing common questions about travel, eligibility, health and safety, appropriate communication, insurance, etc. Then, the coaches break out to discuss their individual sport's specifics.

A GREAT PLACE TO COLLABORATE

Sports Marketing

I am continuing to work on updates to our Sports Marketing plan. After meeting with other Administration and Dr. Schultz, I have a timeline to complete a draft by mid-January to present to the Board for approval.

Swiftel Partnership

This past week I was pleased to be told by Swiftel administration that they have agreed to a three-year commitment to support the Bobcats club eSports team. I feel that the cross section of learners who participate in eSports has not been participating in many other activities at BHS so a huge "thank you" to Swiftel for helping us get this program off and running and getting these young gamers involved in a school activity.

Bobcat Backers

In mid-November I met with the Bobcat Backers to discuss a couple of large requests. First, was a request from Kerry Brown, our Strength & Conditioning coach, for a substantial upgrade to our weight-room. Second, was a request from Savannah Ratermann, our Avera Trainer, for a new taping station in our training room. The Backers are considering these requests as both are quite significant. I just really appreciate having such an active, generous groups in our corner.

A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EXCELLENCE

Use of SDSU OLPAC/Concert Fees

We are very fortunate to have the OLPAC available to us for our concerts. It is a high-level facility that gives our MS & HS concerts a professional feel. Currently, we are charged a fee to pay for the workers at SDSU who must be there to help us manage our events. For high school concerts, we charge our normal \$6 for adults and \$4 for students (activity cards being honored) which helps cover that worker cost. This fall and winter (and in the past) we have not charged admission for middle school events. However, it is our intention to charge a lower admission (\$2 per person; activity cards honored) for the middle school choir concert in February, the middle orchestra concert in May, and the middle school band concert in May. This should cover the cost of all middle school concerts.