



# Brookings School District

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

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## **BROOKINGS ACTIVITIES DEPT**

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To: Board of Education  
From: Jeff Dvorak, Director of Activities  
Re: Administrative Report - Activities  
Date: 11/2/2024

### **A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN**

Gymnastics...has just started practice with our early season try-out process. We will host five events this year with our Intrasquad scrimmage kicking things off at the end of November.

Football...continues our winning ways as the boys defeated Tea Area 23-13 in the first round of the Class AA playoffs on Halloween night. We will head to Watertown to take on the Arrows in round #2. With a win, we would head to the Dome on November 15.

Volleyball...has just one match left in the regular season. The girls currently sit a little below .500 and are seeded #12 in the SoDak 16 playoff scenario with a potential match-up with #5 Watertown if that playoff match were today. Recently, we have won back to back matches and have seemed to find our stride as we head into post-season play.

Cross Country...wrapped up the season at the end of October at the state meet out in Rapid City. The boys team finished in 7<sup>th</sup> place, just one place outside of receiving a plaque but certainly a solid showing.

Comp Cheer & Dance...also competed at the state competition in Rapid City a few weeks back. While the Comp Dance crew had one of our finest showings of the year, it was the Comp Cheer squad who really shined. After completing what Coach Siemonsma called our "best performance of the year" the team captured 3<sup>rd</sup> place, which has been our highest team placing at a state event yet this year...nice job.

Oral Interp & Debate...both hosted events at BHS with both groups filling nearly every available room. The Fall Interp Fest, which was held the last week of October, was huge with well over 200 student entries from dozens of surrounding schools. A week later the Debaters hosted our Novice Event where we held three rounds of public forum debate for first year debaters which was a great showing for what is many competitors' first tournament. We had a total of 49 teams (so 98 students total), representing Brookings, Watertown, Milbank, and Aberdeen Central in competition. The Brookings team of Eli Ellsworth and Kerrick Zhang went undefeated on the night and walked away with the overall win.

Drama...is getting closer to showtime for *Hello Dolly*. Tickets will go on sale November 9 with shows happening on Nov 21, 22 and 23. We had researched the possibility of using an on-line system for ticketing, but in the end there was not a good system for handling our activity tickets in an on-line format. So, we decided to stay with our traditional, hard-copy tickets sales.

Club Sports.....Swimming is ready to host our first meet of the year on November 10 while Bowling opened up the season with a win over McCook Central - Montrose and looks to be poised for another successful season

eSports...is off and running. With "club" status and a volunteer coach, Brad Nupen, we have started gathering our high school age learners to sign up for the six eSports games that the SDHSAA has sanctioned. The plan is to use current technology that the school has along with some minor purchases to get us up and running. Also, we are hoping to partner with Swiftel to offset any other costs that may arise. Currently, in about 1 day, we had around 40 Learners sign up on our interest survey, so this looks to be a very popular addition.

### **A GREAT PLACE TO WORK**

#### Requests for Extra-Duty

I have received three requests for the addition of extra-duty positions to the extra-duty pay schedule. Those include an Art Club advisor, 1-2 Educators Rising advisors and a Drama Assistant. After receiving those requests, I have spent the past few weeks gathering more information that the extra-duty committee asked for from those individuals who submitted the requests. I have passed this additional information along to the committee, and we will be working through that process over the next month.

#### Professional Development

I have started to look at ways to provide PD for coaches and advisors. Currently, there exist no days/time for extra-duty advisors to meet and collaborate, connect, or communicate with each other or outside resources. Any meeting we may have must fall outside of the school day or in the summer. I feel that this is a missing piece in creating better relationships among and retaining coaches/advisors. With our coaches/advisors coming from all grade levels and various schools, there is a definite hurdle in finding PD time that works for everyone involved.

### **A GREAT PLACE TO COLLABORATE**

#### SDSU use of BSD Facilities

A meeting recently took place between myself, Principals Foster & Wiebersick, along with two representatives from SDSU; Kelsey Marker and Patrick Hales . There is interest on the part of SDSU to use BSD classrooms to teach a Music and a Science Education course. The thought is that it would be beneficial for these future teachers to get into actual classrooms to get a feel for what it is really like. The benefit for the school would be to help the profession as well as getting our foot in the door for potential substitutes and teachers down the road. We need to have further discussions to be clear on a MOU involving liability, use of equipment, access to building, etc.

### Winter Sports Meeting

As we head into our winter sports season, we will be bringing parents, coaches and athletes from basketball, wrestling and gymnastics together to discuss the upcoming season. This is a great opportunity to discuss everything from eligibility to fundraising to team rules. This year's meeting will happen on November 18 at Jostad Gym, and we are hoping to continue our high attendance rate.

## **A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EXCELLENCE**

### 5<sup>th</sup> Street Gym

As the School District undergoes a process to potentially sell 5<sup>th</sup> Street Gym, I am continuing to take requests from outside activities to use that space. If/When I approve these requests, I am making it clear that if we do indeed sell the Gym, all usage will be subject to the new owner's intentions and wishes. Also, I am quite certain that the School District has a fair amount of equipment in 5<sup>th</sup> Street Gym that we will need to retrieve and store/sell/etc, if we part with that building.