

**School Board Workshop:**

**May 11, 2026**

**Subject:**

BCMS Winter Activities Report

**Presenter:**

**John Hayden**  
**BCMS Activities Director**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Report only.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Our middle school theatre program once again provided students with a tremendous opportunity to grow, connect, and showcase their talents through this year's school play, a fun and lighthearted take on Robin Hood. The performance gave many students their first opportunity to experience what it is like to perform at night on a real stage in front of family and friends, which is always a special moment for our young performers. One of the best parts of middle school theatre is watching students gain confidence, step outside of their comfort zones, and become part of something bigger than themselves. The energy and excitement throughout rehearsals and performance night were outstanding, and it was clear how much the students enjoyed being part of the production. Overall, it was a great night for our students, families, and our Bison theatre program.

Knowledge Bowl continued to be a very strong academic activity for our students this year, with 46 students participating in the program. Having that many students choose to be involved in an academic competition says a great deal about the students in our building and the support they receive from their families. The continued leadership and consistency of coaches Eric Cagle and Rob Nosbush has been instrumental in helping the program grow and creating a positive experience for students year after year. Knowledge Bowl provides a tremendous opportunity for students who may not traditionally participate in athletics or performing arts to still represent BCMS and be part of a team. It continues to be an activity that allows students to build confidence, friendships, and school pride while celebrating academic strengths.

Our student council, math league, speech team, yearbook staff, and the many choir, band, and orchestra groups all continued to provide meaningful and enriching opportunities for student involvement this winter. These programs allow students to explore their interests, build leadership and communication skills, and express their creativity in supportive and inspiring environments. The winter season at BCMS is an ideal time for students to get involved in activities beyond athletics, and it's exciting to see so many of them take advantage of these opportunities to grow, connect, and shine in different ways.

Our winter intramural and club offerings once again remained very popular with students and continue to provide important opportunities for connection and involvement after school. Many of our consistently well-attended clubs returned this winter, giving students a variety of ways to get involved based on their interests and strengths. One exciting addition this year was the Writing Club led by Mr. Tornell, which quickly became a very popular activity with approximately 25 students signing up to participate after school. It was especially rewarding to see that level of enthusiasm for an academic-focused activity, as it speaks to the interests and talents of our students. Programs like these continue to reinforce the importance of offering a wide variety of activities so every student has an opportunity to feel connected and involved at BCMS.

Wrestling participation saw a decline this winter after several years of encouraging growth in the program. With lower numbers, it becomes challenging to compete consistently at a high level as a team, especially when facing larger programs and entering meets with only a handful of wrestlers available. Even with those challenges, our coaches continued to work hard to provide a positive experience for the students who participated and help them grow throughout the season. One very exciting development this year was the addition of Julia Carlson to our coaching staff. Julia began her wrestling career here at BCMS before continuing at BHS and eventually wrestling four years at the college level, so it was special to welcome her back into the program. She immediately made a positive impact with our athletes, and we are excited about the future leadership and energy she brings to BCMS wrestling. In addition, the move and renovation of the wrestling room and weight room is scheduled to be completed this summer, which will provide an improved space for our students and programs moving forward.

Boys' basketball participation was slightly lower this season, particularly within the current 7th grade group. From time to time, we see classes where some student-athletes choose to focus on opportunities outside of school basketball, and this year reflected one of those cycles. Even with some travel players not participating this winter, Coach Ortmann and the coaching staff continued to work hard to promote the value of school basketball and create a positive experience for the students who did come out. The coaches reported that the athletes showed significant growth throughout the season, both in their basketball skills and in their development as teammates and competitors. Just as importantly, the program continues to contribute to the strong overall depth of basketball talent within our district and will help support the continued success of the high school program in the years ahead.

Girls' basketball participation remained steady this winter, allowing us to field three teams and provide a large number of game opportunities for all of our athletes. One positive development has been the continued effort by Head Varsity Coach Jordan Zrust to encourage travel basketball players to also participate in school basketball, which helped keep our numbers consistent this season. Our teams were very competitive throughout the winter and continued to show growth both individually and as a program. It is encouraging to see the connection between the middle school and high school programs continuing to strengthen as the BHS girls' basketball program also continues to improve. Overall, it was another strong year for girls' basketball and a positive experience for our student-athletes.

Overall, while participation numbers in a few of our winter sports were slightly lower this year, we saw tremendous involvement in our intramurals, clubs, and activities programs. The continued growth in these opportunities reflects the importance of providing a wide variety of ways for students to get connected after school. This winter, we still had nearly 500 students participating in some type of activity, club, or sport outside of the school day, which is an outstanding number for a middle school our size. That level of involvement says a great deal about our students, families, coaches, advisors, and staff who continue to support extracurricular participation at BCMS. When students are connected to school through activities, great things happen, and overall, this was a very positive winter season for our students and programs.

**ATTACHMENT:**

- BCMS Winter Participation Report 25-26