



## Blue Mountain Union School

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### Athletic Department Report October 25, 2021

#### Fall Season

- High school practices for soccer, cross country, and fall cheer began on the 19th of August and middle school the first week of school. We had seventy-three student athletes registered in grades 7-12 and ninety-five students in grades PreK-6 participate.
- We retained almost all of all coaches from last year with the exception of the varsity boys coach and combining middle school girls and boys soccer position due to numbers.

#### Winter Season

- Guidance is still forthcoming for the winter season. At this point and time the VPA has not set for any formal guidance. State officials released a full plan shortly but some guidance includes strongly recommending all student-athletes be vaccinated and masks be worn by athletes in all indoor practices and games and spectators would be allowed depending on district policy. First practices will be held November 29<sup>th</sup> for high school students with other to follow.
- At this point and time, we will be posting all of our middle school positions this fall in addition to the varsity cheerleading coaching position.

#### Health Requirements Update

- Last year due to covid implications and access to health care providers student athletes were given an extra year for their physicals. This year students in grades 7-12 will once again be required to provide confirmation of an updated physical within the two year window. We have implemented a system to also send reminders in advance of expiration to help families.
- We have once again required Impact Baseline Testing for all fall 7-12 student athletes within a two year period. This baseline can be use in conjunction with student's primary care provider to identify potential concussions and aid in the return to play process. The testing has moved to a self-administered test online using school issued redemption codes.

#### Extra-Curricular Policy/Procedure Notification

- Due to the unavoidable cancelation of the open house our Mandatory Athletic Meeting for all student athletes in grades 7 – 12 was done in a virtual version. Parents were asked to take some time to review the slides with their student athletes and reach out with any questions they had. A copy of the slides can be found here:  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pEpITZNMNgO7YG4DCqtax54cAWpWX3L72AnbGVfRRG4/edit?usp=sharing>
- The Athletic & Coaches handbooks were completed and posted electronically.

#### Facility / Field Maintenance

- This summer we completed a project around the Softball & Baseball dugouts which included replacing eave stone for better drainage and supplementing the walkway stone for traction and safety.
- We took core samples having them analyzed late last year and working with Josselyn Turf services built a plan biased upon results. Maintenance of the field surface itself included slice

seeding with a sports turf blend of Rye/Fescue/Bluegrass, fertilization, aeration, and using a premium compost blend to top dress and increase the nutrients available just before the start of the season. Between the work completed and the amount of water available to the fields this summer and fall the playing surfaces have been tremendous for most of the season.

- We have also had both the Softball & Baseball fields evaluated for material level to ensure safety. Both are below the acceptable level with Softball needing 2”-3” and Baseball needing 3” – 4” to be properly crowned and allow for proper drainage. The material we use is a special mix of sand, silt, and clay with an added conditioner to ensure proper drainage and compaction levels. Approximate costs for this project on both the Ron Brown and Gerry Piper Fields would be \$18,000.00

#### **Frances Elliot Phillips Cross Country Trail**

- Back in the spring of 2018 we entered into agreement with the Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) help take care of the trails on Blue Mountain property. Greg Western, their Executive Director and primary caretaker, has reported back that the trail work planned is complete. He shared some photos of the work attached here:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10n253-MVSA2jA05xTOPICXgHijXKU\\_6W?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10n253-MVSA2jA05xTOPICXgHijXKU_6W?usp=sharing)
- We are extremely grateful to Greg and the CVTA. It was also nice that he reported “While I was out there a number of days in a row, it was great to observe how many people are using the trails, including pretty much every day I was there I saw a class or student group of some kind going down into the woods, as well as general community members.”
- A listing of the work completed by the CVTA and workgroups on Blue Mountain property include: “Surfaced with gravel 1,040 feet of trail, excavated to make trail wider and more gradual 675 feet, built 84 feet of boardwalk, installed 9 culverts with 170 feet of ditching.”

#### **Transportation**

- Obtaining transportation has been extremely difficult this fall with a continued shortage of drivers from our contractual vendor. Often we are left in a position where there are not enough drivers to cover our athletic trips to arrive in a timely manner that would allow for safe warmup. We have had to leave late, double regular routes, or obtain secondary vendors in order to transport this season. We are in hopes that the Winter will be better given the time difference but anticipate Spring will again be an issue.

#### **Northern Vermont Athletic Conference - NVAC**

- This year marks the first year all of our teams will formally be part of the Northern Vermont Athletic Conference – Mountain Division. As many of you know we were accepted into the Northern Vermont Athletic Conference after the unexpected departure of three of the six schools in the Central Vermont League.

#### **Northeast Athletic Conference - NEAL**

- This summer an effort was started to organize the local middle schools into a scheduling conference. This was done in efforts to ensure game schedules for local student athletes and alleviate some of the redundancy of current scheduling model. Given a majority of our partner schools took part we have joined for the year, not only ensure games for our middle level athletes but evaluate the potential opportunities it will create.

#### **Combined Statement on Recent Concerns in School Athletics**

- In light of the recent concerns surrounding inappropriate and offensive conduct by athletes and fans at high school sporting events around Vermont the Vermont Principals’ Association, VPA, along with Vermont Superintendents Association, VSA, and Vermont State Athletic Directors Association, VSADA, have issued a combine statement. The VPA has required the that it be read

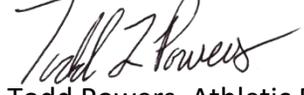
at all athletic contests effective immediately. A copy of the statement can be found here:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18zeIDEMHkEslQQlcd57Wr-ZcyuOdwcgf/view>

- The VPA began implementing anti-bias training for coaches and referees at the start of the 2021 winter sports season. This is a free course anyone can better educate themselves from the National Federation of High Schools at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/implicit-bias>

### **School Spirt Fundraiser**

- Finally, our annual school spirt wear fundraiser is active until Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Items can be found at: <https://bmhs-holidaystore21.itemorder.com/sale>

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Powers, Athletic Director