

# Mt. Blue High School Athletics Update

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## Spring 2021 Recap

- The spring season went very well and could be called a tremendous success.
- Weather, transportation, and COVID issues at other schools caused an extremely high number of postponements and cancellations.
- Mt. Blue Athletics did not have to postpone or cancel due to COVID-related concerns here on campus (or in the district).
- Attribute it to district-wide implementation of masks, hand sanitizer, health screeners, diligent attendance records, and following MPA sport-specific guidelines.
- We met or exceeded expectations for participating in an athletic season during a global pandemic.
- We had many successes on the field, court, and track.

## Spring Participation

- Approximately 145 student-athletes participated in spring athletics at MBHS in 2021.
- This total number is a bit lower than what we normally have (150-170), but was similar to what other area schools in the KVAC had for participation.

## Girls Lacrosse

- Inaugural season in varsity competition in MPA
- Three games won; Go Blue!
- Solid foundation for the future of the sport at Mt. Blue



## Boys and Girls Tennis

- Both boys and girls had large teams and both won playoff matches.



## Boys Lacrosse

- Reached Class B Quarterfinals
- Not able to play many JV games due to injury/eligibility



## Baseball and Softball

- Most baseball participants we've had in years - enough for varsity and JV teams
- Varsity baseball finished with their first winning record in more than six seasons!
- Participation was down in softball, but able to field varsity and JV teams.
- Difficulty in finding a full season's worth of opponents for the JV baseball and softball teams.



## Spring Track

- Low turn-out this spring for track athletes. We attribute it to the emergence of girl's lacrosse and the popularity of tennis.
- We had approximately 145 student-athletes participate in spring athletics at MBHS in 2021.

## Lessons Learned

The number one thing that COVID taught me this spring was just how important these sports were to the general well-being of the student-athletes who participate in them. The abbreviated winter season was similar in this regard, but the fact that the spring season was complete in its length, and most importantly, took place outside, was nothing short of

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transformative for our student-athletes. Several parents and staff members took the time to share with me the difference they saw in their children and students.

## **Summer 2021 Participation**

This summer there was athletic programming for field hockey, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, football, softball, and cross country. Approximately 135 kids participated. This number was down as football and girls basketball numbers were low. But it was the first summer that once weekly softball practices were held which had relatively strong turnouts.

## **Fall 2021 Athletics is Shaping Up**

The student sign up list for our fall sports (cheering, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, boys and girls soccer) are low in some sports (cheering, golf, boys soccer) and high in others (cross county and girls soccer) but it is hard to determine actual numbers until the fall sports meeting (Aug. 15) and the first day of pre-season (Aug. 16).

## **Coaches**

Our fantastic fall coaching staff returns completely intact from last year. We do have an opening for varsity baseball in the spring which we have a few great candidates for.

## **Equipment and Uniforms**

The boys varsity soccer team will have new uniforms this fall. The Mt. Blue All-Sports Boosters paid for half and the team fundraised for the other half (as per normal practice). We are hopeful that we will get 20 ft. high netting installed behind the goal posts on the concessions end of the Caldwell Competition Field.

This will keep footballs, soccer balls, and lacrosse balls from landing on the paved walkway down to the concessions and bathroom facilities.

## **Mt. Blue TV**

Mt. Blue TV will resume its high quality coverage of all MBHS varsity football games this fall. We have worked with the station to expand to also cover soccer and field hockey games this fall. This will depend on the sponsorships that they can procure. The recent TV production of MBHS athletics by MBTV has been great. There are plans for “senior spotlight” segments that will run at halftime of games as well as coaches interviews

## **The New Normal**

Although we are thrilled to be headed towards a relative return to normalcy for the fall season, there are some concerns that exist. Basic COVID guidelines will need to be diligently followed (health screeners, attendance, masks when indoors). Even though our student athletes are well practiced in these guidelines, our coaches and staff will need to continually remind student-athletes to follow them.

## **Transportation**

Transportation continues to be a major concern for the Athletics program. We have struggled to bus our teams in recent years due to a lack of trip drivers. Although Richard Joseph has navigated this issue in recent seasons, it continues to make scheduling, rescheduling, and coordination with middle school activities very difficult.

GO COUGARS!

Chad Brackett, Athletic Director