Bellevue West Mock Election Results

On Oct. 28, students participated in a mock election, voting on candidates for the offices of U.S. Senate, House of Representatives, Governor and Mayor of Bellevue. 1,024 students voted, giving the school a 61.9 percent in-vote rate.

Concussions in youth athletes prompt new legislative steps

Katie Allen
Sports Editor

A new legislation regarding concussions in schools, “Return to Learn,” was implemented in schools starting July 2014. Its main purpose is encouraging a full recovery by lessening the workload in school to cooperate with the recovery of the injury.

Concussions, as many athletes know, is something to not take lightly. Defined as a traumatic brain injury, they can impact more than just a player’s game. School performance and everyday activities can also be affected by concussions. "Academically, concussions can adversely affect academic performance in a variety of ways. Taking concentration, focus and memory can become difficult which can have an adverse effect on classroom/academic performance. Sleep issues related to the injury can cause the student to be tired in classes, more clumsy or find it difficult to concentrate. Dizziness, sensitivity to light and noise can make things as simple as getting from one class to the other difficult because of the noise and activity levels in the hallway," Nebraska Medical Center and Sports Medical Program co-director Rusty McKune said.

Every athlete has to take a concussion test before they compete which involves a battery of memory and attention activities. If a player is suspected of a concussion, the test is then taken again. How their score varies from their initial may be an indicator of a brain injury. Coaches also have to participate.

"Every year as a coaching staff, us as coaches have to take a concussion test ourselves and if they ask us about it, I think that’s something really good with the kids because again you don’t want to jeopardize their school because they’ve had it," head coaching athlete Jerry Schumacher said.

The new protocol calls for more than the facts from the test. When a student has a concussion, teachers have to be wary of their pupils. Student athletes have conditions to abide by during their time of injury. "The teams to learn protocol shall recognize that students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need additional or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculums and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered," Executive Director of the Nebraska Brain Injury Network, Peggy Reiner said.

"Concussions affect school activity because it is a traumatic brain injury. It affects a lot of different things," Schumacher said. According to the Nebraska Brain Injury Network, the Graded Symptom Scale is a method used to monitor people with concussions at intervals. As symptoms increase, school activity decreases. The Concussion Management Team monitors some school activities based on what the triggers are that upset their conditions.

Concussions affect school activity because it is a traumatic brain injury. It affects a lot of different things being able to think things thoroughly through in a classroom situation is tough for the kids who’ve had one," Schumacher said.

"The teams to learn protocol shall recognize that students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need additional or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculums and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered," Executive Director of the Nebraska Brain Injury Network, Peggy Reiner said.

"Concussions affect school activity because it is a traumatic brain injury. It affects a lot of different things, being able to think things thoroughly through in a classroom situation is tough for the kids who’ve had one," Schumacher said. According to the Nebraska Brain Injury Network, the Graded Symptom Scale is a method used to monitor people with concussions at intervals. As symptoms increase, school activity decreases. The Concussion Management Team monitors some school activities based on what the triggers are that upset their conditions.

Concussions affect school activity because it is a traumatic brain injury. It affects a lot of different things being able to think things thoroughly through in a classroom situation is tough for the kids who’ve had one," Schumacher said.

Emma Larson
Reporter

On Oct. 21, 4-H held a Youth Development Auction, which raises money for the organization. According to its official website, the 4-H is a branch of 4-H that resembles a local office of the national organization. It gives youth the opportunity to participate in 4-H programs and projects. "4-H is a program that teaches youth responsibility and leadership," Jones said. "It gives those who participate a background in agriculture, and other areas like home environment, science and technology." Jones said.

There are various ways to participate in 4-H. The group-participate mainly in leading projects, such as 4-H arts, 4-H foods and 4-Wall, and broaden the participants’ opportunities within the program. Jones is mainly involved in the agronomic aspect of the organization. She has shown a variety of animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, dogs, cats, ducks, geese, and horses. She has also shown state exhibits, such as quilts, drones, and seedlings. Sophomore Mikala Burg has been a member of 4-H for 4-H for 10 years, and she has worked with Jones through the organization. She explained her dedication to the club and constant volunteer work helped her earn the award.

Another student who significantly the 4 values members work to main is junior Jones who has been involved with this program since she was young, becoming an official member when she was 5 years old.

"It is a program that teaches youth responsibility and leadership," Jones said. "It gives those who participate a background in agriculture, and other areas like home environment, science and technology." Jones said.

There are various ways to participate in 4-H. The group-participate mainly in leading projects, such as 4-H arts, 4-H foods and 4-Wall, and broaden the participants’ opportunities within the program. Jones is mainly involved in the agronomic aspect of the organization. She has shown a variety of animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, dogs, cats, ducks, geese, and horses. She has also shown state exhibits, such as quilts, drones, and seedlings. Sophomore Mikala Burg has been a member of 4-H for 4-H for 10 years, and she has worked with Jones through the organization. She explained her dedication to the club and constant volunteer work helped her earn the award.

Another student who significantly the 4 values members work to main is junior Jones who has been involved with this program since she was young, becoming an official member when she was 5 years old.