

For Passion?

A look into whether students participate in clubs, sports and activities for passion or for their resumes.



by Laura Evans

With such a competitive academic environment at BVN, students may feel pressured to push themselves to get involved in several different clubs and activities in order to stand out when applying for colleges.

Senior Archie Goyal is currently in the process of applying to colleges. Goyal is the co-president of Diversity Council, and she also participates in Debate, Political Science Club, Scholar's Bowl, National Honor Society (NHS) and Science National Honor Society. According to Goyal, her experience in these clubs and activities has aided her in submitting her applications.

"[My participation in clubs and activities] has definitely made it easier in my personal essays, in which I had to write about issues that I feel passionate about," Goyal said. "Participating in these different clubs has helped me explore different parts of my character and what

I like. Also, in terms of filling out the application, it's much easier because they have a whole section of how many activities you've done and how involved you are."

Goyal said that she joined

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-Ashmika Behere

many of her activities and clubs with her resume in mind.

"A lot of it was initially like, 'Okay, if I don't like it, at least it'll be on [my] resume,'" Goyal said. "I think as I got more involved and as I explored what the [clubs were] about, I became more passionate about [them]."

With a large assortment of clubs and activities, Goyal has developed a stronger interest in some clubs than she has with others.

"I would say I'm probably most passionate about either Diversity Council or Science NHS," Goyal said. "Science NHS is relatively new and bringing new ideas to

the table in how we can make it a more interactive Honor Society... I think that's just really interesting."

Sophomore Melina Peshoff, while further away from college than Goyal is, still keeps her resume in mind as she participates in Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, Student Council and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

"I think that the clubs are more resume based, but I think that FCA is more of a passion, too," Peshoff said. "[FCA] is kind of both because it's really about your relationship with God, but it's also a good thing to have on your resume just to say that you do more than just sports or some other clubs. I think that it is important to have one sport on your resume to have for colleges, but I do three, so that's more passion based."

Peshoff noted that, along with the contribution to her resume, she has gained important virtues from the sports and clubs that she is in.

"I think that the sports are a good way to benefit [how] I work with people, like my teamwork and leadership," Peshoff said. "The clubs are a good way of just talking and meeting with new people and learning different opinions

Junior Ashmika Behere holds a black rat snake at the Snake Trip. The Snake Trip was offered twice a year through the Kansas Herpetological Society.





For the Resume?

and personalities and just really being more open to my environment.”

Though just a sophomore, Peshoff is still familiar with the pressure around applying for colleges.

“I think that there is a lot of pressure on students right now to go to a good college,” Peshoff said. “The stereotypical thought of Blue Valley North students is that, to get [into] a good college, you need to have a loaded resume with so many sports and activities.”

While Goyal and Peshoff have said that they participate in their clubs for both the resume and personal interest, Junior Ashmika Behere noted that her passion for ecology encouraged her to join Environmental Club. Behere has participated in Environmental Club for a year and attended Eco-meet, an environmental competition where high school students have the chance to earn scholarships.

“Environmental club is really big for me, and I really wish I could have started it earlier,” Behere said. “Obviously, we all live on the Earth and it’s really important that we work together to take care of it because, as of right now, we are not on a good track.”

Behere traces her passion

for the Earth and nature back to her experiences in elementary school.

“Liking animals and wanting to do something with animals actually started in second grade,” Behere

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- Archie Goyal

said. “We did a project on animal life cycles, and ever since then, I have just been fascinated by how awesome they are. Since elementary school, I’ve always known I want to be a zoologist or a marine biologist or something in there.”

When reflecting on her time in Environmental Club, Behere sees the impact of her passion in her club involvement.

“I think [my passion] has made me more successful in those clubs because I care more,” Behere said. “I try to make time because time is obviously a really big thing for people in high school. When you have seven hours

worth of homework, it’s hard to make extra time for those clubs or those activities.”

While passion like Behere’s can be helpful for success in a club or activity, focus on a resume isn’t necessarily a bad thing. In cases like Goyal’s, the original attempt to make a good resume can push students to an activity that they enjoy that they wouldn’t have done otherwise.

“There are a lot of clubs for a lot of different things, so I think it’s really important that you explore all of those different areas,” Goyal said. “A lot of times, if you think that you are not going to like something, you just don’t try it out. I think that it’s better to try it out and make sure that you exhaust the possibilities because I do think that makes it easier to find your interest, especially when you’re thinking about what career you want to have in the future and what you want to major in.”

Junior Liam McConnell browses the Naviance Family Connection website in the library. Naviance was a resource for college and career planning, and the website offered students resources to create their resumes.

