The fall sports season is here! It is a fun time for the athletes and fans looking forward to volleyball and football games. Unfortunately, it is unlikely we will have a middle school football team this fall. Football has seen a decrease in participation not only in Cornell and Wisconsin, but throughout the country. There are a variety of reasons for this, so in hoping to have another physical activity competition for our students, we surveyed them last spring on their interest in playing soccer. However, this too did not have enough interest for us to explore any further.

As students’ interests change, we are attempting to change with them. Our archery program has great participation numbers, and I wouldn’t be surprised if we have an “esports” or “electronic sports” video game competitions as we have seen in some area middle and high schools as well as colleges.

On a financial note, you may remember that the Board of Education levied $300,000 less last year than they could have to keep property taxes in check. This did result in the district spending down some reserves and having a budget “in the red” this year, but that was planned for, so please do not be alarmed when our financials are published this fall. The district continues to make adjustments to weather the declining enrollment seen across much of the state as well as lower than inflation increases in revenues from the state and federal government.