

## **ATHLETICS**

### **FY11 BUDGET DESCRIPTION**

Michael Lahiff, Athletic Director

The Athletics budget services student-athletes over three seasons (fall, winter and spring) as well as a conditioning program throughout the summer. There are 700 slots through all of our individual sports that provide opportunities for students to get involved.

Thanks to donations, the athletic budget, and the PEP grant, the fitness center has had a much needed revamping. A new floor was purchased last year by the athletic department. All of the original equipment which is still being used was donated by the Fight Night Boosters. The Pep Grant funding was used to replace outdated or broken equipment.

Softball returned to Watertown last year and the addition of lacrosse for boys and girls this spring provides more opportunities for students to be involved. Our goal is to increase our participation rate so a larger percentage of the student body is active. Athletics provides a different fitness level due to the daily participation that takes place over a longer period of time.

The Middle School athletics program continues with a more coordinated effort between the high school and middle school coaches. Middle school coaches are now hired under the direction of the high school head coach in each sport along with the high school Athletic Director.

User fees were implemented in the 2009-2010 school year. A \$175.00 annual fee for high school student-athletes and a \$25.00 annual fee for middle school student-athletes were put into effect to help with budget constraints.

The Middlesex League voted to split into large and small conferences in a tiered set-up for the 2011-2012 school year. The addition of Arlington and Wilmington to the Middlesex League will bring about a structure of two six-team conferences. This is a step in the right direction for small schools such as Watertown. Watertown is the smallest school in the Middlesex League with a school population of approximately 700 students. Lexington High School is on the other end of the spectrum with a school population of approximately 2000 students. We have gone to independent status for some teams as we make the transition to the new league structure. Boys hockey, football and now girls soccer will hopefully build up interest with a more competitive schedule.