



Burlington High School

Unified School District #244

830 Cross Street, Burlington, KS 66839

P (620) 364-8672 F (620) 364-8680

The following outlines BHS primary areas of focus and transition, as well as highlights of our building and program achievements that support student growth and school improvement.

Building/Program

- ✓ The BHS staff will welcome four new certified staff members. This past year was a year to prioritize trust and communication with a new administrative team. With three new principals in a five-year stretch, prioritizing staff needs was a priority this past school year
- ✓ Enhanced professional development to focus on individual needs of teachers. More resources were made available for first- and second-year teachers
- ✓ Students involved in our extracurricular activities continue to excel academically, maintaining a collective GPA of 3.40—demonstrating strong commitment both in and out of the classroom.
- ✓ Several positive building changes. **(Listed below)**
- ✓ Highly successful activity/athletic season for BHS. **(Listed below)**
- ✓ High school staff are strong advocates for students and have been receptive to new admins
- ✓ We continue to host well-organized and efficiently run events, consistently receiving positive feedback from visitors and fans outside of Burlington. **(Example BIT)**
- ✓ Parent/Teacher Conference participation exceeded 83%, reflecting strong family engagement and a shared commitment to student success.
- ✓ Discipline referrals decreased by over 30%.
- ✓ Completed 30 on campus physicals for 9th-12th grade students on May 12.
- ✓ We had excellent help from both school and non-school employees alike, we had great table workers at basketball games, help from BHS athletes during volleyball and track season, and patrons from every school contributing to our bigger events like wrestling and scholar's bowl, forensics, senior portfolios, and prom.
- ✓ The technology staff at BHS is second to none, the many hats they were to accommodate students daily and for events very much appreciated.
- ✓ Devra Parker is a strong advocate for teachers and a valued asset to BHS.

Building/Program Focus/Transition Areas

- ✓ Prioritize staff recruitment by maintaining an active presence at educator recruitment fairs across Kansas to attract high-quality candidates.
- ✓ Minimize staff turnover at BHS.
- ✓ Blackout Days due to substitute teacher shortages.
- ✓ Continue to improve the productivity of lunch tutoring sessions.
- ✓ Continue to improve communication with coaches and activity sponsors
- ✓ Increased transparency with parents and community members
- ✓ Revamping state testing procedures.
- ✓ Analyzing state testing data that has indicated a four-year decline.
- ✓ Continue to improve the chain of command within the high school.

Building Changes

- ✓ Semester Final Opt Outs
- ✓ Monthly Awards Assemblies
- ✓ Grading Scale
- ✓ Hired four new certified staff members
- ✓ Consistent handbook with the MS
- ✓ Revamped PowerHour tutoring
- ✓ Reconfigured student graduation requirements
 - PF, Marketing,
- ✓ Seniors schedule changes
- ✓ Second semester 5 courses required
- ✓ Increased building safety

Activity/Athletic Recap

- **Football:** the 2025 season was full of learning experiences for a young team after graduating many starters and over 85% of our offense. Senior captains Brody Kitt (OL) and Alex Mautz (DB) were both 1st Team All-League. 2nd Team All-League Kicker Tate Sowder put his name in the record books with 8 successful PATs in a row. In a must-win game vs Iola to keep the playoff streak alive (9 years in a row) the team rushed for a total of 482 yards, ranking 3rd all time by a BHS team. That game was carried heavily by Senior RB Hunter Cole who carried the ball 45 times for 343 yards (3rd overall) and 5 touchdowns (1 of 7 players to ever score 5) Senior RB Alex Mautz also added his name to the record board with 5 rushing touchdowns as well against Osawatomie.
- **Cross Country:** Our boys team placed 3rd in the Pioneer League as a team. This is the first time the boys have placed as a team in a very long time and not finishing at the bottom by a large number of points. Making this season one to remember and build excitement and goals for the coming seasons. Isaac Miller finished 2nd, and Brecken Pedersen 6th. This placed both boys' 1st team in Pioneer League. Sophia Matney finished 6th and was also 1st team in All-League .
- **Volleyball:** The Ladycat Volleyball team finished 31-8 and are Pioneer League champions. We had a total of 32 girls playing volleyball this season, which is the largest girls sport at BHS. All Pioneer League teams include first team members Korryn Bolen, Bianca Bortolotti, and honorable mention members Mac Medlock, Alexa Splechter, and Jaycee Belcher. All Grasslands Team includes first team members of Korryn Bolen and Bianca Bortolotti. All Grasslands Team includes honorable mention member Jaycee Belcher along with Coach Harrison being awarded All-Grasslands Coach of the Year. There are some notable individual achievements including Camden Swank with over 600 career digs. Alexa Splechter with 1,500 career assists, 500 digs, and 100 aces as a junior. Korryn Bolen had over 700 career kills. Jaycee Belcher has over 600 career digs. The Ladycats got to host regionals and advanced to the semifinals.
- **Boys Basketball:** The boys basketball program had another outstanding season that resulted in our 2nd straight substate championship and state tournament appearance! The Wildcats finished the season 24-5, going 11-1 in the Pioneer League and finishing as League champions for the 2nd straight season and 5 of the last 6 seasons. The boys finished their state tournament run as the Class 3A State Runner-Ups, the 2nd best finish in boys basketball school history! We finished with 4 players receiving All-State recognition: 1st Team Gaige Navarro, 2nd Team Mason Collins, and Honorable Mentions Maddux Cheever and Troy Over. Gaige and Mason were also 1st team All-

Pioneer League while Maddux was 2nd Team. Mason Collins finished the season 7th all-time single season FT%, Troy Over finished 10th all-time in single season assists, and Gaige Navarro finished 2nd all time single season rebounds and 9th in single season 3pt %. Maddux Cheever finished his career 6th all-time in assists, 25th all-time in scoring, an unprecedented 3-year team captain, and is 1 of 2 players in school history to start on multiple State Teams (Tyrel Reed.) Coach Justin Logan was also recognized as the KSHSAA 3A Boys Coach of the Year and finished Runner-Up as Sports In Kansas 3A Boys Coach of the Year. This season's success was off having to replace 4 starters from a year ago, including one of the most decorated players in our school's history (Sage Fejfar) – this next season will present a different challenge of returning a vast amount of experience and high expectations. We look forward to the opportunity, understanding the privilege, and excited to embrace another process of representing ourselves, our school, and our community to a high standard!

- **Girls Basketball:** Behind an experienced group, that featured two seniors who were four-year lettermen and three-year starters, and three juniors, three of which were three-year lettermen and two were three year starters, the girls basketball program had an outstanding season , with an overall record of 22-4, capturing their first 20 win season since the 2013-14 season. The Ladycats swept league for the first time since being a part of the Pioneer League to become Back 2 Back League Champs. The Ladycats reached the Sub-State Championship game for the second year in a row, falling to a very talented Osage City team who went on to become 3A State Runner-Up. Three girls received all-league and all-state honors. Mac Medlock and Alexa Splechter were the top two vote getters to get 1st Team All-League. For both it was their third overall all-league selection and 2nd selection as first team. Mac and Alexa also received multiple all-state honors, both receiving as high as 2nd Team 3A All-State. Hattie Burgio was also named 2nd Team All-Pioneer League and honorable mention 3A from multiple publications. It was a season that included multiple team and individual milestones and records including: the single game 3PM vs Council Grove – 16 – breaking previous record of 14 vs Holton the previous season and single season 3PM Record – 164 – breaking previous record of 148 set during the 2004-05 season. Mac Medlock became the 9th overall 1,000 point scorer in Ladycat history and third player to reach that achievement during her junior year. Hattie Burgio broke the single season rebound record, snatching 224 boards and is also the all-time leading rebounder in Ladycat history with 662. Alexa Splechter also became the single season assist leader, dishing out 152 assists on the season. We graduate two outstanding seniors, Jaycee Belcher and Hattie Burgio, who have been highly impactful to our program and also leaders in the school. This team was relentless in their daily approach and when battling during games. They were a connected group who committed themselves to excellence. We will continue to build strong and confident women who embrace doing hard things and commit to doing things the right way.
- **Boys Wrestling:** The boys program was a young, developing group this season, with seven freshmen stepping up to fill varsity weight classes. Seniors Kyzer Lehmann and Bowen McIntosh led the team to five dual wins while helping guide a group that showed steady improvement throughout the year. The team returned to the state tournament, with Kyzer Lehmann and freshman Tate Stahl earning qualifications, and Tate Stahl also capturing a league championship. After not qualifying a wrestler last season, having a senior reach state for the first time highlights the growth made over a four-year journey. At the same time, a freshman qualifier and league champion points to the strong potential and direction of the program moving forward.
- **Girls Wrestling:** The Ladycats put together a strong season, highlighted by three state qualifiers: 100 lb senior Isabella Matney, 105 lb junior Neveah Myers, and 115 lb senior

Jaylin Reppert. With just four returning wrestlers, the team still earned seven dual victories, showing resilience and steady growth throughout the year. A number of freshmen joined the program and made immediate contributions, gaining valuable experience on the mat. The underclassmen consistently stepped up in key moments, helping fill important weight classes and competing with confidence. Their development and commitment have continued to build upon a strong foundation for the future of Burlington girl's wrestling.

- **Cheer:** The cheer program continues to grow and build on its success. During the 2025–2026 season, the team competed in two competitions: the KSHSAA State Cheer Competition and Rally in the Valley. With each performance, the team showed noticeable improvement and continued to raise its level of skill and execution. Looking ahead, the program hopes to expand its competition schedule even further. This year, the team had the opportunity to learn from collegiate programs, with dancers and cheerleaders from the University of Kansas, Pittsburg State University, and Wichita State University teaching routines and techniques. The team also attended summer camp, where athletes made significant progress in their stunting and jumps. Overall, the program continues to move in a positive direction, demonstrating growth, dedication, and a strong commitment to excellence.
- **Baseball:** (24-25 Recap) The baseball program finished the '24-'25 season with a 22-7 record and fell short in the substate championship to Humboldt. The Wildcats also finished 2nd in the Pioneer League. The Wildcats completed their league championship without losing to a league school. The Wildcats finished the regular season 20-2, landing the 2 seed in Region 3, hosting regionals. The Wildcats were not done as they made a late push, winning the regional championship on our home field. The Wildcats won their quarterfinal matchup against Frontenac 5-3, before losing in the State Semifinals 2-1 to Girard. The Wildcats won the Third-place game 13-6 over Russell/Victoria bringing home some hardware for the first time in 45 years (1981). Final record for the 2026 Burlington Wildcats was 25-3.
- **Softball:** The Ladycats season has been about growth as a young team continued to improve throughout the year. They have battled through ups and downs but stayed committed and kept getting better each day. The team is led by seniors Adisyn Sleezer (3B), Camden Swank (OF), and Kynli Hoch (P/OF), while juniors Alexa Splechter (SS) and Karlee Docman (UTL) contribute at a high level. Several freshmen also stepped in and have made an impact, helping set the foundation for the future. As we head into the final stretch, the focus is on finishing strong and building momentum going into regionals.
- **Track/Field:** (24-25 Recap) The track and field program finished the 24-25 season with State Champions in the 100m hurdles (Keely Hoback) and 4x100m relay (Alexa Ratzlaff, Hoback, Olivia Lyons, Haylei Potter), 4x400 (Olivia Lyons, Mac Medlock, Lyra Codney, Haylei Potter) Brody Anderson State Champion in 100m and 200m. Keely Hoback place 3rd in the 200m, Haylei Potter placed 8th in pole vault, Lyra Codney 8th in 400m. The program also had state qualifiers in the boys 4x800 and girls 4x800m.
(25-26 Active Season) The Wildcats currently have the highest number of participants compared to previous seasons. Wildcats are off to a good start this season, improving weekly and bringing home medals across throws, distance, sprints, and jumps. The boys 4X800 broke a 38-year-old school record at State with a time of 8:27.11 and placed 11th. Team members included Isaac Miller, Ian Dekat, Brecken Pedersen, and Logan Ferrara. Freshman Sophia Matney and Isaac Miller both qualified in the 3200. Isaac placed 10th and ran a PR. Isaac Miller also qualified in the 1600.
- **Golf:** (25-26) So far, the Golf program is competing well. The varsity has placed 2nd in

each Tournament this year, and several golfers have earned individual medals. Ryan Hoyt has an average of 81, and we have 6 other golfers who shoot between 85-98. We had several new golfers this season, and all have shown improvement. Ryan Hoyt not only qualified for state but moved on to day two at state.

- **Scholars Bowl:** Our Scholars Bowl program continued excellence by qualifying for state for the second year in a row. The Scholars took home as the Regional Runner - Ups and then traveled to Southeast of Saline to compete for the title. The Scholars went 2-3 at State, bringing home two victories and falling just short of the finals. We have a number of state qualifiers returning for next year as well!
- **Kidwind:** Camryn Davis, Navaeh Myers, Tate Sowder, Brandon Hazlett, Kash Handley, Payton Steward, and Eli Grow made up the Yin Yangs. They finished in first place at Kansas State Kidwind in the Homebuilt Generator category. This finish qualified the team for 2026 World KidWind in Wisconsin. The team competed at the end of May and received an award as one of the 5 High School Wind Champions.
- **Band:** Mr. Bostic and the BHS Band continue to show why they are the “Best Little Band in Kansas”. Participation remains high across all classes, and the band brings energy to all our football and basketball games. The band traveled to a few competitions this year, including competitions at Baker and Emporia State, along with the annual trip to Neewollah. The band also had success at the Pioneer League Championships, finishing in 3rd place overall, narrowly missing a 2nd place finish. The band also competed at the State Large Band competition at the end of the year, earning a ‘2’ overall score.
- **Theater:** The theatre program completed its second full season under the direction of Adrienne Fleming and Jen Plummer. In the fall, the department presented a successful dinner theater production of *Café Murder*, which drew strong attendance on both nights. This spring, students took on the ambitious and highly technical production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, requiring extensive backstage coordination and crew involvement. To expand student engagement and community participation, the directors invited the middle school to attend a full performance and provided complimentary student tickets to encourage larger weekend audiences.
- **Forensics:** The Forensics program continues to produce state qualifiers at a high level. We took 16 entries to the state tournament on May 2 (the largest allowed KSHSAA entry). As a team, the Wildcats placed 3rd overall. Sage Bell is a State Champion in Prose and a State Runner-up in POI. Korryn Bolen placed 3rd in Prose and 2nd in Informative. Jule Rolf placed 5th in both Extemporaneous and Improptu. The program also hosted the Burlington Invitational Wildcat Weeknight forensics tournament for the third time this year, expanding it to over 300 total competitors and 29 schools, making it the largest weeknight tournament in Kansas. Three students have qualified for the national tournament of champions, making 2026 Burlington’s second appearance at this national tournament. Congratulations to Korryn Bolen, Sage Bell, and Arnesia Williams for their accomplishments in qualifying for this tournament. Sage Bell competed for the 2nd year in a row at NSDA Nationals. Sage is our first student to be a two-time NSDA Qualifier and is Burlington’s first student to qualify for both the National Tournament of Champions and NSDA Nationals in the 2025 and 2026 seasons. Korryn Bolen has been nominated as an NSDA Academic All American- recognizing her competitive success, academic achievements, character and leadership.
- **FBLA:** The FBLA program had a strong performance this year in all competitions. At District’s in February, we had 22 students receive on stage recognition. At State FBLA, 20 students attended and competed at the end of March, and a total of 16 events received on stage recognition! 3—1st places; 2—2nd places; 2—3rd place, 2—4th place, 3—5th place, 2—7th place, and 2—8th place! Of those state qualifiers, we have

13 students that qualified to compete at Nationals in San Antonio TX this year. The largest number of National qualifiers in Burlington history! You can only take one event to Nationals, so many students had to decide what event they were going to take. National Qualifiers—Brinley Belcher (1st at state), Jaycee Belcher (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 7th at state), Emma Bohannan (1st at state), Korryn Bolen (1st, two—3rd place, and 5th), Bianca Bortolotti (8th place at state), Maycee Carlson (8th place at state), Ally DiPaolo (5th at state), Brandon Hazlett (two—4th place, 5th and 7th), Mackenzie Krueger (1st at state); Jackson Nuessen (3rd place), Alonna Rodgers (1st at state), Arnes Williams (two—1st, 2nd, 3rd) and Avery Zimmerman (1st at state). The team will complete at the end of June/first week of July.

- **FFA:** FFA continues to travel all over the State of Kansas competing in a variety of Welding, Ag Mechanics, Communication, Parliamentary Procedure, Food Science, and more events! Led by Julie Carden, the team once again held huge events in and for our community, including Day at the Farm at the Cattle Show. The FFA crew continues to be one of the largest and most active organizations at BHS. FFA has had many successes this year in horse judging, 5 American Degree Recipients, 7 State Degree recipients, District Star Greenhand in Agribusiness, Parliamentary Procedure placing 3rd, winning Fort Scott Aggie Days Livestock Judging including high individual out of over 75 teams from 3 states, and receiving our National Chapter recognition in the Silver Division at State Convention. At State FFA Convention, the chapter was recognized for the following: 7 State Degree recipients, Mackenzie Krueger as a State Finalist (Top 3) for her Sheep Proficiency, Alonna Rodgers as a State SAE Grant recipient, Emma Krueger as a Gator finalist, National Chapter Award in the Silver Division, Scholarship recipients for \$1000 and \$5000 through Kansas FFA and National FFA, and Alonna Rodgers for talking a perfect 50 on her set of reasons at state livestock judging.
- **FCCLA:** FCCLA has grown significantly from last year, increasing to 12 members, with a core group of five playing a major role in the organization's success. After strong performances at the state level, these five members earned first place in Parliamentary Procedure and qualified for Nationals. Those students are: Emma Bohannan, Sage Bell, Mackenzie Krueger, Alonna Rodgers, and Arnesia Williams.