

Buffalo Hide Academy

School Board Report

8/4/26

Summer 2026 Recap:

Buffalo Hide/Firekeeper Alliance and Fire in the Mountains Partnership

Firekeeper Alliance (Charlie Speicher, Cinnamon Salway, Robert Hall, Colin Sibbersen, Sienna Speicher, Andrew Heavy Runner, and Steve Von Till) was honored to once again partner with Fire in the Mountains to develop and facilitate the festival's mental wellness, educational, and community programming. Browning Public Schools had a tremendous presence throughout the weekend, with Buffalo Hide Academy and Browning High School students serving as workshop presenters, performers, student interns, filmmakers, musicians, and ambassadors for the Blackfeet Nation.

Buffalo Hide Academy staff played a central role in coordinating the student internship program, facilitating workshops, leading the Firekeeper Alliance Mental Health Response Unit, and supporting festival operations. The event provided students with authentic leadership, workforce development, and creative learning experiences while showcasing the remarkable talent and professionalism of our youth on an international stage.



Enslaved & Kevin Kicking Woman Collaboration

One of the most memorable moments of the festival featured an extraordinary collaboration between legendary Norwegian progressive metal band Enslaved and BHS Instructor and Blackfeet musician Kevin Kicking Woman. Together they performed *Spirit Helper*, blending Kevin's morning prayer song and musical traditions with contemporary heavy music in a powerful celebration of culture, creativity, and mutual respect. The performance exemplified BHA's mission of building meaningful connections across cultures while highlighting the importance of honoring Indigenous voices within the global heavy music community.



Buffalo Hide and Neurosis Short Film

We proudly premiered an original short film created in collaboration with the legendary band Neurosis. Set to music from their new album *An Undying Love for a Burning World*, the film tells a story of hope, community, and resilience in the face of suicidal despair. Browning Public Schools students played an integral role throughout the production, serving as actors, production assistants, lighting and sound support, and creative collaborators while working alongside professional filmmakers Jason Nix and Bobby Cochran. The project provided students with an exceptional hands-on filmmaking experience while advancing Firekeeper Alliance's mission of reducing suicide through creativity, community, and authentic storytelling.

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Director and founder of Firekeeper Alliance Charlie Speicher shares his thoughts:

"The film serves as both an artistic collaboration and a reflection of Firekeeper Alliance's mission to reduce suicide by strengthening the protective factors that sustain life. Through authentic human connection, we believe hope grows stronger when we stand together. This project represents what is possible when internationally respected artists, visionary filmmakers, educators, students, and the Blackfeet community unite around a shared purpose. We are deeply grateful to Neurosis, Jason Nix and Bobby Cochran, our student participants Haley Running Crane, David Fast Buffalo Horse, Reb Pollock, and Paul Medicine Horse, Sim Schildt, Larry Ground, and Lee Little Mustache, and everyone who helped bring this vision to life. We hope this film reminds viewers that even in our darkest moments, we are never meant to walk alone. Keep the fire burning."



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Welcome to Buffalo Hide Academy

Buffalo Hide Academy is excited to welcome Dave Ritter as our new mathematics teacher. Dave brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm, and a genuine commitment to supporting student success. We are thrilled to have him join the Buffalo Hide Academy family and look forward to the positive impact he will have on our students and school community. Welcome to BHA, Dave!