

Buffalo Hide Academy Board Report

10/7/26

Charlie Speicher

MAPS “Heavy” Documentary Premiere at Buffalo Hide Academy



Buffalo Hide Academy was proud to host the community premiere of *HEAVY* in September, the documentary created in partnership with MAPS Media Institute highlighting our Heavy Music Symposium and the incredible students who have helped bring this program to life. The premiere was an outstanding success, bringing together students, families, BPS staff, administrators, community members, and project partners to celebrate the film and, most importantly, our students. Seeing their creativity, personalities, experiences, and perspectives represented on the big screen was an incredibly meaningful moment.

HEAVY captures much more than a music class. It tells the story of how Browning Public Schools students are using heavy music, art, filmmaking, collaboration, and community to create spaces where young people can belong, express themselves, develop new skills, and pursue opportunities they may never have imagined for themselves. We are extremely grateful to MAPS Media Institute for telling this story with such care and for giving our students another opportunity to have their voices heard. The premiere was a powerful reminder of what can happen when schools, community partners, artists, and students are willing to try something different together.

Science Field Labs @ BHA



Buffalo Hide Academy students continue to take learning beyond the classroom through our science-based field labs, including a recent trip to Chief Mountain—an incredibly important cultural site and one of the most remarkable natural classrooms available to our students. The area’s biodiversity, geology, plant and animal life, and changing seasonal conditions provide opportunities for hands-on scientific observation while also grounding learning in place, culture, and the Blackfeet relationship with the land. These experiences extend well beyond science and support our whole-school curriculum, creating natural connections to history, writing, mathematics, wellness, culture, and IEFA. At BHA, we believe some of the most meaningful learning happens when students can see how academic subjects connect to one another, to their community, and to the land around them, and Chief Mountain provides an extraordinary setting for that kind of learning.

National Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation @ De La Sal School



Buffalo Hide Academy students were honored to participate in activities recognizing the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools. Students joined the community in a remembrance march from Blackfeet Community College to De La Salle Blackfeet School, where they participated in activities alongside the Crazy Dog Society honoring the children, families, and generations impacted by the boarding school era. The experience provided our students with an opportunity to learn through community, culture, history, and ceremony while recognizing the strength and resilience of the Blackfeet people. Experiences like this are an important part of BHA’s commitment to culturally grounded education—helping students understand difficult chapters of history while strengthening identity, connection, and responsibility to community.

Current Enrollment at BHA

School: Browning High School Calendar: 26-27 William Buffalo Hide

	Student Membership			Absent Days	Present Days	ADM	ADA	Unexcused Absences		Percent In Attendance
	Grade	Count	Days					Days	Avg. Daily	
	09	3	99	30.71	68.29	2.91	2.01	29.83	0.88	68.98%
	10	9	300	121.62	178.38	8.82	5.25	119.62	3.52	59.46%
	11	36	1042	437.02	604.98	30.65	17.84	432.62	12.70	58.06%
	12	67	2002	889.11	1112.89	58.88	32.74	878.23	25.84	55.59%
	13	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
	14	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A
Total	6	115	3443	1478.46	1964.54	101.26	57.84	1460.30	42.94	57.06%

Attendance continues to be an important area of focus at Buffalo Hide Academy. Our overall attendance rate currently sits at 57.06%, although that number requires some important context. A significant portion of our early absences are connected to students who automatically rolled over onto the BHA roster from last school year but have not yet attended or fully re-engaged with us this year. This is particularly evident within our senior class, which is our largest group at 67 students and currently has a 55.59% attendance rate. Because students who have not yet appeared are still included in our enrollment and attendance data, they have a substantial impact on our school-wide percentage. Our staff is actively reaching out to these students and families, determining their plans, encouraging them to return, and working to remove barriers when possible. While we have gotten off to a slower start than we would like, we remain optimistic that our attendance numbers will improve as enrollment stabilizes and more students reconnect with school. As always, BHA will continue emphasizing relationships, persistence, flexibility, and individualized support to help students get back through our doors and moving toward graduation.