

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

May 10, 2021

Subject:

BHS Activities Updates and
2020-21 Winter Activities Report

Presenter:

**Tom Bauman,
BHS Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report Only

DESCRIPTION:

Updates/Program News will be provided at Workshop

- Conference Membership/Region & Section placement update
- COVID-19 challenges and updates

Buffalo High School has completed its winter activities for the 2020-21 school year. Coaches have shared a short narrative summary of their seasons for you to review. The report also includes a detailed summary of participation numbers including coaching ratios.

WINTER ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES

GIRLS HOCKEY: Head Coach Dave Carothers (3rd Year)

We were so happy to be able to get our winter sports season in even though we started a few months late, it was something that all the kids (and probably many parents) needed. This year our High School program was made up of 21 players including our two goalies. It was not until the second day of tryouts that the coaching staff made the decision to not have a JV program this year. We were hoping for a few new players to show up but that did not happen. Our team consisted of 5 seniors, 8 juniors, 5 sophomores and 3 freshmen. We had 6 players on our roster that are still U15 eligible. We all practiced together each day with all 21 girls. Thankfully, we did not have many injuries (1 player missed 6 games with a rib injury) and no cases of COVID-19. We also had 3 new coaches join our staff. John Varner was our goalies' coach, Sydney Driver and Courtney Johnston also came aboard to help with our forwards and defensemen. We all worked very well together in practice and games. I will be stepping down as the head coach as well as Allie Olson will not return to concentrate on her work and getting married.

This year we played in 18 regular season games and 1 section game. We finished with a record of 5-14 and had a record of 1-7 in the Lake Conference. Once again, our team kept most all the games close in the Lakes Conference but we had a tough time scoring goals this year after losing Jada Habisch to graduation last year. Our season ended with a close 2-1 loss to eventual section 8 champions from Alexandria.

Highlights for the year:

- 3 game winning streak in the middle of the season after 6 straight losses
- Great goaltending from both goalies all year with a 90%+ save percentage and they both saw plenty of pucks.
- Isabel Varner and Allisen Carothers both were selected to the Lakes Conference all-conference team and Raegan Wurm received honorable mention.
- Isabel Varner and Allisen Carothers both were named to the All Section team and Raegan Wurm was honorable mention.
- Isabel Varner and Allisen Carothers were both named to the Sr. Classic game that will be played in mid-April representing Section 8AA and A.
- The teams' top 15 players had a cumulative GPA of 3.8.
- Allisen Carothers was named to the All State Academic team with a GPA of 3.8 or higher.
- We will have 3 girls going on to play College hockey - Isabel Varner, Allisen Carothers and Mya Morningstar.

I will be meeting with the current U15 players and parents in the coming weeks to see what their plans are for next season to help determine if we will have enough players to field a JV team, but at this point I am guessing we will not.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Head Coach Grant Stewart (4th Year)

We once again had good participation this winter season even under the COVID protocols. COVID had its impact with players deciding not to participate this season but we were still able to field four levels of play. We did bring up three 8th graders this season to the 9th grade team to make sure our numbers were adequate and able to accommodate unforeseen circumstances like injuries.

The COVID protocols and mask mandates had their impact on the players but the players were great about it and never complained. They were thankful for the opportunity to play and compete. Our season theme was "Together – We are One" and the girls did a great job in a restrictive situation (pods, etc.) of staying together and united.

We knew that the Lake Conference would bring its challenges again for our program. The Lake Conference is arguably the toughest conference for girls' basketball. I suspect we had one of the top 7-10 toughest schedules in the state. Games were

limited this season to 18 games, and we finished 7-11 in our regular season and lost our first section game vs Rogers. It's worth noting that 11 of our 18 games this season were conference games. We won every non-conference game we played but one and that was a very close game vs Chanhassen. We did win one conference game vs Edina. The players never gave up and went out there and competed hard every time. The desire to win has never waned. Varsity was very junior heavy and thus we will have a good group of players returning for their senior varsity season. There are also some promising players rising through the ranks and eager to make their mark.

Our team once again won the 8AAAA highest team GPA award this season. Lauren Feddema won Lake All Conference and Jordan Anderson (10th), Lindsay Hartman (11th), and Macie Guida (11th) were awarded honorable mention.

We worked hard all season to remain positive with the team and continue to compete despite the challenges. I am most proud of how the players stayed positive and never let our win/loss record get us down. We had our ups and downs but overall, they did a great job of staying positive and competing. They are continuing to get better and look forward to what is yet to come for these athletes. Go Bison!

BOYS BASKETBALL: Head Coach Josh Ortmann (5th Year Head Coach and 9th year in the program)

The Bison Boys Basketball team made great strides in the 2020-2021 season. The team finished with an overall record of 7-8 and finished 4th overall in the Lake Conference. This year was as interesting of a year as we have ever been a part of. Through it all, the leadership of our players helped us navigate a grueling 15 game schedule. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our season was cut short and cancelled right before playoffs. We did earn a 3 seed in section 8AAAA which would have given us a home game in the quarterfinals.

Although we did not have the opportunity to finish, we were excited that we still had a chance to play 15 games. Juniors Antonio Bluiett and Zach Zrust were voted to the Classic Lake All Conference Team, and Senior Cameron Green and Junior Carter Jackson were voted to the Classic Lake All Conference Honorable Mention Team.

There were many positives from this year and we cannot wait to see what the future holds.

DANCE TEAM: Head Coach Mary Sansevere (3rd year).

Assistant Coach Sarah Nowezki (2nd year). Assistant Coach Payton Salonek (3rd year)

The 2020-21 "COVID-19" dance team season was filled with challenges for the BHS dance program. We had a dancer attend our first practice of the season that tested positive for COVID-19 later in the day. For the health and safety of the rest of the team we canceled practices for that week. That first week, every winter sport - including dance team - was ordered to be put on pause until after the holidays. The team couldn't practice in person until several weeks later. During the pause we did online zoom practices to keep the team connected with each other. The virtual practices included stretching and conditioning and working on choreography segments. We also created several fun virtual team bonding events for them to participate in. We checked in with them individually on a regular basis to see if they were doing OK and to see if they wanted to talk about or share any personal challenges or struggles they might be dealing with due to the social isolation and the difficulty of distance learning.

That said, I couldn't be prouder of how our 2020-2021 dance team came together and rose to the challenges they faced while they and the rest of the world were dealing with living through a pandemic. Throughout the season we made sure to keep them focused on setting both personal and team goals and to try to stay positive when everything was so uncertain and changing daily. When the dancers returned to practice in person, our competition season was shortened and they had limited time to prepare for the first competition. Because of that and because we have a small team, we opted not to compete in the high kick division. It was impossible to socially distance themselves when performing high kick routines where the dancers often connected in a kick line. The risk was too great of possible COVID-19 exposure to each other which with a small team and with the possibility of just a few dancers needing to be quarantined, it could put us in the position of not having enough dancers to compete at all which would have shut the team down completely. We chose to focus on the jazz division because we felt we were able to choreograph a good routine and still be able to socially distance themselves from each other even while performing. In 2021-2022 we plan for the dance team to go back to competing in both high kick and jazz.

With the shortened season and the limited amount of time they had to learn choreography quickly and prepare for the first competition, we focused on improving and perfecting individual dancers' skills so that we could modify and increase the difficulty of the choreography being used in the competition routines as they improved. This plan worked out because the JV jazz team won their first competition and both the JV and Varsity team scores steadily increased at each competition. Ultimately, both teams ended the season with their highest team scores ever in the history of the Buffalo Dance program.

To balance out the level of intensity and competitiveness they continue to face at Lake Conference meets, we try to schedule a couple of competitions where our team goes up against smaller dance teams with similar levels of ability and number of dancers. This took more time, effort and planning to manage to accomplish in the limited season we had in 2021 but it was a beneficial decision because it helped boost the team's

confidence and helped the dancers maintain a positive attitude and keep their spirits up. We wanted to make sure that, win or lose, dance team would still be a fun and memorable experience for all.

Captain Vanessa Wong was named All-Conference Dancer and Captain Olivia Cepress was named Honorable Mention All-Conference. For the second year in a row, the Buffalo Dance Team won a state academic gold award with a team GPA of 3.84. For the first-time ever, we also had a Bison dancer chosen for the All-State Team and that was sophomore Marisa Pence.

We were presented a whole new set of challenges to work around in the "COVID-19" sports season and we always had a Plan A and Plan B for everything and we made sure to have a mindset of being flexible as information changed almost daily and many decisions we made would end up being modified. We are now in the midst of planning for next year, gearing up for our spring tryouts which will be held in May. Spring dance team tryouts is traditionally done for the following year so coaches have the chance to evaluate the individual dance skills and get a general idea of the number of dancers we will likely have for the next school year. Spring tryouts are also important so coaches can begin planning costumes, music, choreography, the season schedule, optional summer conditioning, team bonding events and many other details. We have a young team so we only had two seniors that will graduate this year. It looks like we will have many returning dancers as well as many new dancers that have expressed interest in becoming involved in dance team.

For the last couple of years, we had a fall performance season. That was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19 but we hope to have a fall performance season back again in 2021. The fall performance team is non-competitive and separate from the winter sport season but we consider it an important part of our program. The fall performance season focuses on bringing the dance team together to build unity and provide team bonding opportunities without the pressures of competition and to work on physical conditioning and dance skills. Most of all, the fall season is meant to promote Bison Pride and school spirit and by giving our dancers opportunities to perform for their friends and family by performing at community events, pep fests and at football games. The non-competitive fall season has been well received by the community and by other students and fans at football games and it has helped promote our program by performing in front of people that rarely if ever have seen them perform.

During the off-season, coaches have been talking frequently and meeting virtually while working on planning a summer conditioning program. We are already discussing themes, competition costumes and different music options, planning choreography, and discussing other ideas for the 2021-2022 season. To help facilitate focusing their time and energy more on coaching and working with the dancers, Beth Davis Salonek continues to volunteer a considerable amount of her personal time and energy providing extra administrative support to the coaches above and beyond the duties she

already has had as a past dance team booster club president and apparel coordinator. Her hard work has been much appreciated by the coaches and parents.

I also want to make sure to give recognition to our assistant dance coaches in this summary because there is no way that our program would be what it is without them. We are in our third year of coaching together and we all bring different strengths to the program. Both Sarah Nowezki and Payton Salonek work incredibly hard and go above and beyond daily for this team. Coaching dance team is complicated and requires year-round involvement and planning. Our roles as coaches is complicated and multi-layered and goes beyond just practices and competitions. We want to do what we can to build a strong, cohesive and competitive team while helping enhance and bolster the character, maturity and confidence of the dancers. We want to offer them an opportunity to have memorable and fun experiences, make lifelong friends and learn many skills that will serve them well in the future long after they are done dancing and out of high school. We feel fortunate to have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of the student/athletes we coach and take our job seriously.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE: Head Coach Dan Schirmers (3rd Year)

The season was a great success with the improvements the young team had, not with our conference record though. The team had outstanding leadership with Levi Pederson as our captain and Jack Ireland and Cooper Polzin as his assistants. The COVID presented some problems with training and meets, however the team was so excited to be swimming and diving they flowed with the protocol we had to go through.

We had a diving coach up until 6 days before the season started and then we lost her. Thankfully, with a lot of perseverance from Mr. Bauman, we did get our diving coach, Beth Keskey on a part-time basis and then we got Vance Winter and Sam Yost to come back out and strengthen our team. Sam was All - Conference.

The team had two seniors and three juniors, with the nucleus of the team being 10th, 9th, 8th, and 7th graders, most of them making the section team. They realized that they are very close to competing with the teams in the Lake Conference, maybe not winning the meets but in their events with some of the top swimmers and divers in the state.

The team unity these boys showed throughout the year was fun to watch as coaches. The way they cheered and supported each other and pushed one another really showed us that they have the drive to make it to state and take down records next year.

GIRLS GYMNASTICS: Head Coach Alicia Malewicki (1st year as Head Coach)

Martha Driscoll-Nelson (37th year in the program) and Willie Pecarina (8th year in the program)

The 2021 Gymnastics Season was one for the books. Overall, the season brought many challenges with the Pandemic as well as many positive memories for the team. The team consisted of nine girls- Emma Hill, Cate Lotthammer, Abby Steinmetz, Allie Schmit, Molly Hedden, Audrey Strike, Mackenzie Wahl, Kaylee Dehmer and Lily Jenness. These nine girls reached huge milestones during their short season.

The girls had an overall season record of 5-4 with a Lakes Conference record of 3-3. The team started off their first meet with a 132.325. During the final four regular season meets, the girls reached a new team high score for the season at each meet. The highest score of the season was a 140.05.

During the section meet, the girls scored a 139.00 which was their second highest score of the season. They came in 6th place in the 8AA section. The team did win the section 8AA Academic Award and were the 2021 State Gymnastics Academic Champions with a GPA of 3.998.

Individual Lake Conference and Coaches association awards went to the following gymnasts: All Conference: Emma Hill, Molly Hedden and Abby Steinmetz. All Conference Honorable mentions: Allie Schmit and Audrey Strike. Molly Hedden earned the All State Honor on Vault. All state Honorable Mentions were given to the following Gymnasts: Molly Hedden on Beam, Floor and All-Around. Emma Hill on Vault, Bars, Beam, Floor and All-Around. Abby Steinmetz on Beam and Floor. Audrey on Vault.

This season has been filled with strong leaders from our five Seniors; Molly Hedden, Emma Hill, Cate Lothammer, Allie Schimt and Abby Steinmetz. Beyond thankful, the girls were able to have a season and it was a privilege to coach these nine girls and watch them grow as athletes and as young adults. Us coaches are looking forward to next season and building our program. Go Bison!

BOYS HOCKEY: Head Coach Aaron Johnson (8th Year)

The boy's hockey team had a successful 2020-2021 season. The team finished with an overall record of 4-15. The Bison were a very young team this season playing in the rugged Lake Conference. Our varsity roster consisted of 11 sophomores, 6 juniors and 3 seniors. The kids were grateful for the season and the opportunity to play games. The team improved dramatically over the course of the season. We played our quarterfinal section game in Roseau vs. the number 1 seeded Rams. The hard work and improvement by the team was on display as we battled to a 2-1 overtime loss. The 35 members of the Boys Hockey team had a great experience and learned many valuable life and hockey lessons. The boys were positive leaders around school and represented

our program with class. Our young group is excited to continue to be a part of the Lake Conference and play against some of the best teams in the state and nation on a nightly basis.

WRESTLING: Jeff Granrud, Head Coach (1st year), Blake Trullinger, Assistant Coach (6th year), Dan Scherber, Assistant Coach (1st year with this staff, multiple prior years)

The 2020-2021 season was highlighted by continued growth in an ever-changing year. As a coaching staff, we had high expectations (top 4 in Section 8AAA) as a team and individually. We had higher expectations of the young men and women we worked with during the school year as far as academics, following strict guidelines, and growth as young men and women. All our expectations on and off the mat were exceeded this season.

As the MSHSL allowed a season, our completed schedule included some of the toughest teams in the state. This allowed us to see the grit and determination of our wrestlers. Each wrestler battled and competed to the best of their abilities. The challenge of our schedule helped our young men grow. Some of the lessons were winning graciously while using losses as a learning tool to grow, refocus, and further improve technique. The wrestlers competed with Bison Pride every event.

The team, as well as individuals, earned awards during the season. Academically, the team earned a Gold Academic Award from the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association (MWCA) by compiling a GPA higher than 3.500. Unfortunately, the Lake Conference does not incorporate opportunities to recognize athletes for academic excellence. Senior Ryan Scherber was awarded a scholarship from the MWCA for wrestling, academics, and how wrestling has positively impacted his life. Athletically, the Bison wrestling team was third in the Lake Conference. Senior Ryan Scherber and Junior Owen Herbst were Lake Conference All Conference, while Senior Sully Scherber, and Juniors Macray Klohs and Brennan Halderson were named Honorable Mention wrestlers.

As a coaching staff, we believed that we could move up the section rankings from last year and be in the top four. We went 8-15 filling all our weight classes most of the year. The guys continued to foster a family atmosphere, allowing us to move wrestlers in and out of the lineup as well as to different weight classes throughout the season. We were seeded fourth in the Section 8AAA team tournament and were even highlighted as a "Lean and Mean" team in Minnesota's wrestling publication called 'The Guillotine'. We had six wrestlers qualify for the state preliminary qualifier. Junior Owen Herbst qualified for the state tournament held at STMA. Herbst placed 3rd as he improved from a 6th place finish as a sophomore.

Overall, this group of young men and women that I was able to work with was truly amazing. We had over 24 wrestlers on the roster with three managers that selflessly

gave the best that they had during the season. The wrestlers have a passion for the sport of wrestling, especially, Buffalo Wrestling. Each wrestler brings their own great perspective and experiences to the team helping us to truly be FAMILY. We continue to strive to teach family, whether it is helping each other with homework, encouraging each other during struggles, or celebrating with each other when we overcome adversity. It was an honor to be able to lead Buffalo Wrestling this year and we hope to continue to do so for years to come.

MOCK TRIAL: Head Coach Jason Swanson (7th year Varsity Coach, 11th year in the program), Asst. Coach Lisa Nordmeyer (2nd year) Attorney Coach Karen Wolff (15th year)

For the first time in Mock Trial history, there were two large differences to the season. First, for obvious safety concerns, all the trial competitions this season were held virtually using Zoom. Secondly, because there were to be no in-person trials, this allowed the MN Bar to create what they called a Greater Minnesota Super Region. This allowed teams to compete against teams that geographically are far from one another. Super Regions have been in place for several years in the metropolitan area, since they have less distance between them. This means that this year, the two Buffalo Mock Trial teams now competed against 20 schools in their region instead of 9 or 10 as in previous years. New rules were established for the virtual format to operate smoothly. Students needed to relearn some of their performance techniques, as well as how to present material in a clear and convincing manner through a screen.

Not surprisingly, this year's case was a civil case that involved the COVID-19 Pandemic. A wedding couple sued for damages due to contract disputes over the force majeure clause written into the original contract created by the venue that was hired to hold the wedding reception, as well as out of town guests. The contract in dispute was signed roughly a year prior to the outbreak and widespread lockdowns. The original date of the event was scheduled for July 4th, 2020. Teams needed to prepare and argue whether the COVID-19 Pandemic fit the proper criteria of a force majeure (unforeseen acts of God), and if so, did the establishment take proper measures to make reasonable efforts to work with the wedding party to provide adequate accommodations based on the force majeure event? Both sides carried burden in the case, and it was interesting to see how students were able to develop their theories given the evidence provided within our case materials. Often there are challenges because we are bound by the evidence provided within the case materials. Any other outside facts, or developments that we learn about a topic are not allowed. This year proved to be an even bigger challenge, especially because the case was written during the summer months of 2020, and new information has come to light based on the pandemic since its publication.

A total of 22 team members made up two Buffalo teams (Varsity 1 and Varsity 2) this season, and each team was power ranked and divided into 11 members per team. Mock

Trial is unique in that all teams (up to 4 per school) are placed in the same arena, thus the labeling of Varsity 1 and Varsity 2. Four rounds of competition, like previous seasons, are guaranteed for all teams. The top six teams in each super region then face each other (power ranked) in a fifth round to determine the three top teams who would go on to the state competition in each super region. Buffalo Varsity 2 finished the regular season competition 3 and 1, losing to Sartell. Buffalo Varsity 2 placed seventh. Buffalo Varsity 1 finished round 4 of regional competition undefeated, and in first place. To do this, Buffalo V1 defeated: Ashby, Cloquet, Albany, and Glencoe. They faced 6th placed St. John's Prep Academy in Round 5 of competition. Buffalo defeated St. John's Prep, and advanced to the state competition. The other two teams in the super region to join Buffalo at state were Watertown-Mayer and Sartell High Schools. These three teams joined 13 others for the state competition.

The competition was very enjoyable, even though we were not together. In fact, a small ceremony was held at Buffalo High School days before the state competition. This was the first week of March, and it was the first time all season that the entire team was in the same physical space at the same time. The team spent a lot of time in our Google Meet rooms during and between competitions enjoying team bonding, strategizing, etc. Outcomes of each trial are not announced at the state competition, and thus it becomes a guessing game as to which teams won or lost. At the time of this debriefing, I am still unaware of exactly where Buffalo placed out of the 16 teams. I do know that Buffalo had a very surprising and upsetting loss to Sartell in round one (Round one is randomly selected, and then teams are power matched from there). Buffalo defeated Watertown-Mayer in round two of the competition, and Buffalo lost to Benilde-St. Margret in the last round of the guaranteed three rounds of state trials. Special recognition went to Maddie Christensen, who won best lawyer for our region at state (we represented Region 2), as well as Megan Nowezki who won best witness.

When it came to the final championship round, we had a watch party together on our screens. The championship round was live streamed on YouTube and was Eagle Ridge Academy against Apple Valley High School. Eagle Ridge won, and is (virtually) heading to the national competition in May. In a normal year, we would not be allowed to watch this championship trial live due to space constraints in the courtroom, so it was an added plus to the end of our season. I, along with my assistant coach, Lisa Nordmeyer, as well as our attorney coach, Karen Wolff, are all extremely proud of what the students were able to do this season given the hurdles put in front of them.

This organization says goodbye to its senior members this year: Maddie Christensen (4-year member), Rajah Wilson (4-year member) and Sterling Yates (1-year member). Their hard work and leadership will be truly missed this coming fall season.

I would specifically like to thank our attorney coach Karen Wolff, who spent extra time with the teams to help them through the challenges this season. Karen is an invaluable

member of this organization each year, and has been since the 2007 season. She volunteers her time, energy, expertise, as well as a great sense of leadership and humor that allows this group to grow to their full potential each year.

ONE-ACT PLAY: Co- Directors Tracy Hagstrom Durant (28 years at BHS, 37 total), Nick Lostetter (2 year at BHS, 4 total)

Under the Stars and Stripes: Stories of WWII
By: Based on an idea by Ron Peluso

20 students participated in the One-Act Play program during the 2020-2021 season. Play selection is key to success in the competitive One-Act play arena. This year, co-directors Tracy Hagstrom Durant and Nick Lostetter, selected another moving, interesting, local and educational piece of challenging theater, *Under the Stars and Stripes: Stories of WWII*. This particular play stretched the students as producers of theater and further prepared them to be educated, open minded consumers of theater. *Stories of WWII* is a heartfelt look into the life and times of various Americans during WWII. The play is based on an idea by Ron Peluso and incorporates the talents of several playwrights. The students learned a great deal through personal connections, research, rehearsal and performance. Education is always taking place. District 877 facilitates all this education through valuing the arts! Once again, our theatre students worked diligently and produced another winning show. Education beyond the blackboard took place.

About the Play –

"Last January my father was laid to rest in a small Pennsylvania cemetery outside of Pittsburgh. He had talked about "the war" every day of his life. He had seen 365 days of combat over four years and according to him, his life afterwards was "all gravy!" - his family, his work, the good times and the bad: one beautiful gift." (Ron Peluso, Artistic Director of the Great American History Theatre). Over 52 million people, soldiers and civilians from at least 25 countries, died in World War II. The Great American History Theatre compiled the work of several writers to tell some of the amazing and everyday stories of a few survivors. For every story told, there are a million more that will never be heard. The hope is that this play will encourage people to start asking the veterans in their lives to share their stories before it is too late.

2020-2021 Season Performance Record

Lakes Conference – The Lakes Conference does not have a One-Act Play Festival and due to COVID restrictions, no conference festival was held this year.

Sub-Section 5AA – 1st place - Due to COVID restrictions, performances had to be recorded and submitted to a website to be viewed by judges. We decided to stage the play traditionally thinking that it would be more appealing to the judges but most of the

shows that advanced to State were so-called "Zoom Shows" that were all done on the computer using sophisticated lighting and sound equipment. While we were ultimately unsuccessful in going to State this year, we were proud to give our students more of a traditional hands-on approach to theater rather than a technology-based approach. The students were so happy to share space (safely) with each other and to help bring this important show to life.

Section 5AA Finals – 4th place

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA: Lead Advisor Brenda Diekman (15th Year)

Business Professionals of America is an activity for any student in grades 9-12 wanting to advance their knowledge and skills in careers such as accounting, finance, business, management, medical office, legal office, office administration, computer applications, information technology and other related career fields.

Membership was made up of 10 students who participated in 16 of the over 70 possible events. This year, we were fortunate to still participate at all 3 levels. First was the Regional Competition held virtually during January in which six members received top awards in Prepared Speech, Extemporaneous Speech, Fundamental Desktop Publishing, Fundamental Accounting, ICD-10-CM Medical Diagnostic Coding, and Legal Office Procedures and therefore, moved on to the State competition.

Normally, state would mean three days in downtown Minneapolis competing, but with the year we've had, it was probably better we stayed virtual. While competing at State, two members advanced to the National Conference: Amelia Anderson in Extemporaneous Speech and Sterling Yates in Prepared Speech. They compete virtually in early May.

This year we have had a challenging year like everyone else learning how to work virtually, but it was a great learning experience for the students. Even though there are a lot of seniors in this group, we hope to do some good recruiting next year in hopes of getting back to when we can have students come to informational meetings and also start going back to in-person conferences starting with our Fall Conference next October.

KNOWLEDGE BOWL: Head coach- Emily Schoephoerster (2nd year at BHS)

2021 has been a huge success for Knowledge Bowl. Our 3 varsity teams excelled and the Varsity 1 and Varsity 2 teams placed in the top 3 teams for almost all meets. Varsity 3 placed in the top third or top half in most of the meets.

Even during this challenging season- running all meets and most practices online during distance learning- our teams excelled. Our teams built positive relationships, good teamwork skills, and excellent communication strategies. I had several coaches over the season comment specifically to me about our teams' positive attitudes and good sportsmanship.

We brought two teams to Sub-regionals (Varsity 1 and Varsity 2). At Sub-regionals, Varsity 1 placed 1st and Varsity 2 placed 2nd. Both teams we brought to Sub-regionals qualified for Regions. Varsity 1 placed 1st and Varsity 2 placed 3rd at Regionals. Both qualified for the Knowledge Bowl State Competition.

The State Knowledge Bowl Competition was held online this year on April 9th. Both Varsity 2 and Varsity 1 did extremely well and placed 6th and 9th, respectively. They were competing against 24 of the best teams in our state division.

Our teams are dedicated, fun and enthusiastic. We have a bright future in the Knowledge Bowl program. We look forward to a strong season next year and making it to State once again!

ADAPTED FLOOR HOCKEY: Head Coach Tim Horan (1st Year)

The Buffalo-Monticello-St. Michael Albertville Coyotes did not participate in the schedule this year.