

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**February 11, 2019**

**Subject:**

2018 BHS Fall Activities Report

**Presenter:**

**Tom Bauman,  
BHS Activities Director**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:** Informational

**DESCRIPTION:**

Buffalo High School has completed its fall activities season for the 2018-2019 school year. Coaches and Advisors have shared a short narrative summary of their seasons for your review. This report also includes a detailed statistical summary of participation numbers including coaching ratios.

An Activities Department update will be provided at the board workshop on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

**FALL ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES:**

**FOOTBALL:**

Head Coach Todd Bouman (5th year)

One word to describe the 2018 Bison Football season would be EXCITEMENT! We finished the regular season with a 6-2 record, (the most successful season in 10 years). We started with a big win against Brainerd, 38-28, in our season opener. If not for a slow start in St Francis in week two, we would have started at 2-0, but also believe this was a real look into the type of kids we had this season. Down 21-0 in the first four minutes of the game we eventually fought back to take the lead in the fourth quarter before a late 2-point conversion ended in a 29-28 loss. ELK RIVER... I am not sure I can put into words the sheer craziness this game entailed. If you were not there to experience it, you missed a historical one. The highest scoring game in state history by almost 40 points. Records broken on both sides in a game that ended in defeat 80-70 and will not be forgotten for years to come. Jack Munsterteiger tied the state record with 19 receptions while also hauling in 290 yards receiving. Aidan Bouman broke single game state record for completions in a game with 40 and tied two more records with 555 yards passing and 8 TD's with no interceptions.

After two consecutive tough losses, our Varsity team rattled off five straight victories to end the season getting wins over Andover, Monticello, Cambridge, Chisago Lakes and Rogers. Another tough road playoff loss in Class 6A vs Prior Lake, 52-42, proved to many that we have built our program into a contender on many levels.

Our postseason awards were reminiscent of the season we had: All-District Team - Logan Grossinger, Riley Habisch, Jack Munsterteiger, Treyton Welch, Aidan Bouman, Joe McNamara, Jacob Muhich and Dustin Sarvie; Honorable Mention All-District - Damien Biegert, Tony Dahl, Ian Oburu, Jacob Metz, Stevie Johnson, Hunter Poncius and Zach Phillips; District MVP - Aidan Bouman; District Co-MVP WR - Jack Munsterteiger and Treyton Welch; Star Tribune First Team All Metro - Aidan Bouman and Treyton Welch; Kare 11 All Metro - Aidan Bouman and Treyton Welch. Treyton Welch was also named one of the 11 finalists for Mr. Football and represented Buffalo in the All Star Football Game at US Bank Stadium on December 15th. In a season that won't soon be forgotten, there were numerous records broken. • 435 points scored (9 games) broke old school record of 340 (11 games) • avg 49 pts a game • Scored over 60 twice, 70 and 80 once. Treyton Welch - Season 71 receptions, 1302 yards, 16 TD's, Career 165 receptions, 2824 yards, 36 TD's. \*\*All of Treyton's season totals are school records and all of his career totals put him in second place in state history. Aidan Bouman - Season 239-369, 3,474 yards, 41 TD's, 124.4 QBR. Career 423-744, 6,383 yards, 67 TD's. \*\*All of Aidan's season and career totals are school records. He needs 2,150 yards to become state's all-time leading passer. Riley Habisch - Season 175 rushes, 1303 yards, 18 TD's, 162.9 ypg. \*\*All of Riley's season totals are school records.

In a season that will be remembered for the high-flying Friday nights and the excitement, I will remember all of the kids that have helped get our program to where it is today. A culture that has been established through hard work and dedication to each other. In a game which I consider to be the ultimate team sport, no records would be broken, no games would be won and no friendships would be formed if they didn't put their teammates well-being before their own. Once again proving that the betterment of the team and working towards one common goal outweighs their personal gain. I couldn't be more proud of the seniors who have given everything to our program. I can remember them as sophomores giving every ounce of blood, sweat and tears in a playoff loss to Blaine to now, today, being great leaders and mentors in our program and school. That is what coaching is all about, watching kids grow!

In closing, another huge thank you for allowing me the opportunity to coach in such an amazing school district and community. There is nothing better than seeing many of our administration and school board members at our games on Friday nights cheering on our Bison. Football is a game of many levels and moving parts. For everyone that has helped throughout this season in anyway, a HUGE thank you! Thanks again and look forward to another great season in 2019. GO BISON!

## **VOLLEYBALL:**

Head Coach Jennifer Peterson (3rd year)

The Buffalo Girls Volleyball program had another great turnout for tryouts this season (over 80 girls)! We had the most 9<sup>th</sup> graders tryout this season than we have ever had.

This was our first year we had to cut 9<sup>th</sup> grade players, which was a very difficult process, but ultimately, both 9<sup>th</sup> grade teams were the most competitive teams we have had in a while. We had new coaches join our staff again this year at our lower levels. Student teacher Jen Puncochar led the B Squad level through a successful season, incorporating a lot of competition and conditioning into their daily practice regimen. Our 9A team was coached by parent Jenny Knutson. Our 9B team was coached by a senior student, Emilee Feldman. Myself and the 9B players were very happy to have Emilee as their coach, for both her volleyball expertise and teaching of life lessons. Both 9<sup>th</sup> grade coaches had very positive seasons. The 9A team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the conference tournament this year. Megan Scherer had 13 players at the JV level this year. This included two foreign exchange students, Ella Bergstrom Agren and Maria Bakker. The JV team was very young, but highly competitive and athletic. Our Assistant Coach, Becky Karna also returned this season.

The Varsity team finished off the season with a record of 11-17, ultimately losing to Wayzata in Section quarterfinals. An important milestone was the team placing the highest it has ever finished in the STMA Classic this season, (16<sup>th</sup> out of 32). Nicole Odeen was honored with an All-Conference award as well as All Tournament team at the STMA Classic. Kennedy Sohler and Demi Mills were awarded All-Conference Honorable Mention. The team also won All Conference Academic Team with a GPA of 3.72. This was the strongest year regarding teamwork and trust. Every player said during their end of season interview that this was the most fun they have had playing volleyball at BHS!

Next season, we look forward to several returning starters and are excited to bring on the competitiveness of the Lakes Conference. This was also our first year running a booster club which was very helpful for program development, event organization and alleviating some major stress from the coaching staff. We will continue to look to refill our lower level coaches as Jen and Emilee will not be returning next season.

## **BOYS CROSS COUNTRY:**

Head Coach Dave Knutson (5<sup>th</sup> year)

This was a very successful season for the Boys Cross Country team. The boys 3-peated as Mississippi 8 Conference champions. Issac Basten 3-peated as a medalist. The boys repeated as Section 2AA Champions. Issac Basten repeated as the Section champion. The boys won 5 of the 10 meets that they entered. The boys JV squad perfect scored (15 pts), 3 meets this year. The boys team finished 7<sup>th</sup> at the State Meet. This was the best finish at the State meet in program history. Issac Basten earned All-State honors with his 12<sup>th</sup> place finish. Earning All-Conference honors were Issac Basten, Nick Oak, Brett Hanson, Ryan Russek, Alexei Hensel and Frank Emerick. This was a very experienced team. Five of the seven Section athletes were seniors. This boys team showed what hard work and determination can accomplish.

**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:**

Head Coach Jill Hanson (32 years)

Our season began with only one freshman to join our team which is disappointing but what we don't have in numbers, we have in quality girls on this team. As we developed individual and team goals, it is quite clear that they understood the importance of hard work, dedication and loyalty. Every girl improved her time as the season progressed and most had to reevaluate their running goals. As a team, they learned how to compete, embrace "pain" and have fun. We were disappointed in our performance at the Conference Meet, hoping to take 3rd but finished 5<sup>th</sup>. However, we bounced back at the section meet to take 10th in a very competitive section. We were led by two senior girls, Emily Kern and Lily Hanson, who helped make a very memorable season. Emily was the spark plug that fired up this team and Lily was there as the rock. They did a great job in leading the Bison. It is such an honor and privilege to work with these young ladies and also the young men on the CC team. I thank the kids, Coach Knutsen, Mr. Bauman and everyone else who has made it possible for me to be part of such a great team. Thank You.

**GIRLS TENNIS:**Head Coach Scott Larson (3<sup>rd</sup> year)

The Buffalo Girls Tennis Team had 37 athletes participating on the high school Varsity and Junior Varsity teams for the 2018 fall season. Senior captains Emma Carlson, Perrin Thompson and Cassie McNitt led our varsity to an 8-1 conference record and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Mississippi 8. For the season, the team was 19-8, runner-up in the Bison Invitational, runner-up in the St Cloud Doubles Invitational and advanced to the Section 5AA semi-finals before losing to #1 seed Armstrong 4-3. During section individual play, our #2 singles player Vanessa Blanchet (Jr.), advanced to the quarterfinals and our #1 singles player Anna Lee (Fr.), advanced to the semi-finals.

Our student athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.92 and were awarded Gold Level recognition by the conference for their academic achievements. We had three All-State Academic award recipients; Anna Ebnet (4.0), Perrin Thompson (3.96) and Cassie McNitt (3.96). On the court, nine of our players earned conference recognition. We had six players earn All-Conference distinction and three players earn All-Conference Honorable Mention distinction. For the second year in a row, our athlete participation numbers grew. We are fortunate to have a very strong Booster Club that continues to support our program through fundraiser organization and volunteering their time to help with our tournament as well as provide food for our away matches. Our parent support continues to amaze me. We had several away matches where our parents, families and fans outnumbered the home team. Our home match attendance is at a level where we don't have appropriate seating for all of our spectators. I am appreciative of the support of our athletic director, administration and staff. It does not

go unnoticed when our players see their teachers, principals, athletic director and even Superintendent Thielman on the courts, cheering them on.

As we continue to build a tradition of quality tennis programming for our school, the following items should be addressed: Middle School tennis court resurfacing, seating/viewing at the high school, a new tennis shed at the high school (the current shed is in very poor shape) and continuing efforts to grow middle school tennis numbers.

## **GIRLS SWIM & DIVE:**

Head Coach Rachel Busch (3<sup>rd</sup> year)

We kicked off the season at Fitness Evolution due to some unexpected delays in having the pool ready for the season. It was another opportunity for us to practice flexibility, which the team is very good at.

In the second week of the 2018 season, we had our week-long Purple vs. White competition. The week included an overnight trip to the Schendel Family Cabin in Aitkin, MN, where the Captains led us in developing team goals. We all discussed the importance of living drug and alcohol free lives and we strengthened our family-like community through lake and land activities.

The beginning of the season also brought discussions on our four pillars: be accountable, be dedicated, be grateful and be respectful. The 2018 captains, Julia Kolles, Kwynn Kalamaha, Tianna Kosek and Kaitlyn Schendel, did a great job leading our team of 34 throughout the season, showing true class and dedication. The team made five goals for the season: (1) be prepared, (2) Conference Champs, (3) Team GPA of 3.75, (4) Make it to True Team State and (5) have good sportsmanship. They did a fantastic job at working towards these goals and nearly accomplished all of them. The only goal they missed was the team GPA where they earned a 3.74.

For our coaching staff, we had five returning coaches and two new. Coach Busch completed her eighth season overall; Shannon Barclay (Dive Coach) completed her fifth; Stefan Walker (Volunteer Swim Assistant) completed his third; Laura Lundeen (Part-Time Swim Assistant) completed her third; and Kelsey Ortmann (Part-Time Strength) completed her second. The new faces were Kelli Nadeau (Part-Time Swim Assistant) and Kelsea Smith (Part-Time Swim Assistant). The team was very fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring coaching staff.

The season wrapped up with an 8-1 dual meet record, earning the Conference Championship! We finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at True Team Sections, matching our placing from 2017. However, this year we scored enough points to be chosen as a wild card team for the True Team State Meet, where we finished 9<sup>th</sup> of 12 teams. The team swam well at the JV Conference Meet, with many podium finishes. Most girls swam/dove season-

best times/scores at the Section Meet, where we finished 2<sup>nd</sup> as a team. For the third year in a row, there was at least one girl in finals for each event at Sections; we had 87% of swimmers racing in finals. Eight girls were named to the All-Conference list: Kolby Schendel, Brianna Shroyer, Kassy Shroyer, Tianna Kosek, Julia Kolles, Sydney Polzin, Kaitlyn Schendel and Julia Gleason. All-Conference Honorable Mention was awarded to Elle Kaiser.

Participating in the State Meet were six girls: Kolby Schendel (9<sup>th</sup>), Brianna Shroyer (8<sup>th</sup>), Kassy Shroyer (10<sup>th</sup>), Tianna Kosek (12<sup>th</sup>), Julia Kolles (12<sup>th</sup>), and Kaitlyn Schendel (12<sup>th</sup>). Alternates were Sydney Polzin, Elle Kaiser and Julia Gleason. State team manager was Kwynn Kalamaha. The 200 Medley Relay (13<sup>th</sup>) was composed of Kolby Schendel, Brianna Shroyer, Kassy Shroyer and Tianna Kosek. The 400 free relay (17<sup>th</sup>) was Tianna Kosek, Julia Kolles, Kaitlyn Schendel and Kolby Schendel. Individually, Tianna Kosek competed in the 50 free (6<sup>th</sup>) and 100 free (10<sup>th</sup>), Kassy Shroyer completed in the 100 butterfly (14<sup>th</sup>), and Brianna Shroyer competed in the 100 breaststroke (18<sup>th</sup>). The team finished 19<sup>th</sup> overall with 31 points; the highest placing in team history.

As a team, the girls earned the Conference Academic Gold Award and Section 8AA Silver Academic, missing gold by 0.01 points. Coach Busch was named Section 8AA Head Coach of the year.

We had many successes on the scoreboard this season, but most importantly, I am extremely proud of these girls for who they are and how they positively represent themselves, their team, and the entire BHM community. This team is truly a family and it is fun and rewarding to be on the girls' swim and dive journey with them. The entire team was a joy to work with and we are looking forward to the 2019 season. The captains for 2019 are Zoe Carik, Sydney Polzin, Kennedy Stromberg and Julia Gleason.

## **BOYS SOCCER:**

Head Coach Joe Pokorney (3rd year)

Assistant Varsity coach: Tanner Fisher (1st year in position, 2nd year coaching at BHS)

JV coach: Jordan Danielson (1st year)

JV2 coach: Paul Olson (2nd year)

Boys soccer had another positive year in 2018. 53 student athletes tried out for three teams (Varsity, JV and JV2), and all 53 athletes were placed on a roster: 18 on Varsity, 19 on JV and 16 on JV2. Our varsity team was led by senior captains Conor Smrz and Brian Miller, along with junior captain Parker Vajda. After graduating 11 seniors last year, the varsity team finished tied for 2nd place in the Mississippi 8 conference with a conference record of 6-2-1 and an overall record of 7-5-4. One of our goals at the outset of the season was to be playing our best soccer as we entered the section tournament. In many ways, we achieved this goal, playing well against a very talented

Maple Grove team in the first round of playoffs. We lost the game 3-1, but I was very proud of the effort, mindset and class that our kids showed throughout the season.

All-Conference honors went to senior Brian Miller, senior Conor Smrz, junior Parker Vajda and junior Luke Quiring. All-Conference Honorable Mention awards went to senior Ryan Nelson, junior Logan Vajda and sophomore Wyatt Hiers. The varsity team also earned an Academic All-Conference Silver Award for a team GPA between 3.30-3.49.

Our JV and JV2 teams had competitive games all year and both finished with winning records. More importantly, however, players showed excellent growth and class over the course of the season. Our coaches were eager to learn and did a great job with these groups. I received multiple reports from officials after our lower level games commending our JV and JV2 players and coaches on the way they conducted themselves during the match. The positive culture that coaches Danielson and Olson helped foster at our lower levels was excellent this year. Coach Fisher was also great in his work with our varsity team and all of our goalkeepers this year.

Finally, we are excited about joining the Lake Conference for the 2019 season. From a competitive standpoint, we will need to work harder than ever to find success in the Win/Loss column. From a mindset and character standpoint, we will need to continue to develop our players' desire to see challenges as opportunities for growth. Hopefully, all of this will translate into more growth for our players and a varsity team that is well-prepared to compete in the section playoffs next year.

## **GIRLS SOCCER:**

Head Coach Sarah Rodenwald (3<sup>rd</sup> year)

The 2018 Bison Girls soccer season proved to be more successful on the field of any in recent history. The regular season ended with a 9-7 overall record, punctuated by big wins over Chaska and St Francis, and tough losses to Hopkins (1-2) and Chisago Lakes (1-2).

The team was led by senior captain goalkeeper Carly LaPlant and senior captain Shelby Halderson, who was not able to contribute on the field due to a summer knee injury. With the absence of playing time, Shelby led our team in tremendous ways and I believe was significant to our overall success. Last year, in this same narrative, I spoke of the upswing of the program... and that continues to be true. On the field, we started eight underclassmen. Sophomore Lexi Boyd had a team high 25 points, scoring 9 goals and having 7 assists. Lexi contributed to half of the goals scored by our varsity team. Her twin sister Lauren anchored our defense, also led by junior Kaylin Strike and freshman Lauren Feddema. We completed the season by travelling to Brainerd, where we suffered a tough 0-1 loss to the Warriors in the quarterfinal round of the Section 8AA playoffs.

I believe that off the field is where our program made the most strides. Our theme this year was mindset and our pregame readings were all about mental training, visualization and response to adversity. Our team had a great sense of unity and we were bolstered on the field by the camaraderie we enjoyed off the field. We spent a night packing meals at Feed My Starving Children. The players spent many nights after games at Perkins as a whole team and also went to numerous high school activities together. Academically, our girls improved on an already impressive academic resume by posting a cumulative GPA of 3.79.

This offseason, we are looking to improve even more as players go into their club seasons and we focus on the weight room - getting faster and stronger. We are excited about the level of our returning players. There was only one senior starter this year, so we are excited to return a number of players that got valuable time on the varsity field this year. We are looking forward to beginning play in the Lake Conference as they consistently field some of the top 10 teams in the state. It will be a great experience for us to see how we stack up to them- and we feel it will give us a tremendous ability to compete in the section 8 playoffs at the end of the year.

The coaching staff included Carrie (Walz) Schmitt in her 9th season, Josh Soukup in his 3rd season and Andy Frechette in his 2nd season. We are looking forward to having our entire staff back next year for the 2019 campaign.

Thank you to the school board for your support of Bison Soccer!

## **FALL PLAY:**

Co-Directors Debb Bestland and Amy Sparks

The 2018 Fall production, The Birds, written by Aristophanes and adapted by Walter Kerr was Co-directed by Debb Bestland and Amy Sparks.  
Set and lighting: Greg Bestland

Parents: Mike Trossen, Mrs. Aitkins, Mr. And Mrs. Herda, Mr. and Mrs. Stonecipher, Mrs. Whitaker.

When searching for a play, Amy found this one in an anthology from her college days. We both laughed out loud as we read the crazy plot about humans seeking a utopia in bird land. We knew it would be timely given the upcoming elections. We felt the laughter would be a great way to relieve pre and post election stress!

Some Highlights of the show as it unfolded:

- We had over 60 students audition for 21 roles
- The show was cast ensemble and parts were assigned later in the rehearsal process.



- This is the third time Amy and Debb have co-directed a show. Both felt it was a success and students were able to watch the collaborative process in directing.
- 60% of the cast were new to BHS Theatre.
- We had over 30 students committed to tech work throughout the show
- This was our first experience working with IEP required ESPs and things went smoothly.
- We were able to create all the costumes from goodwill purchases, keeping the costs to the school way down.
- We had three solid performances with 250-300 each night.
- People left thanking the staff for a great evening of laughs and fun. We felt it was a great show to allow us to laugh at all the politics that surrounded us this fall.

We struggled with our set at the beginning since the rigging and electrical crews were delayed in their work. They needed space and that prevented us from starting on time. Many tech days had to be changed due to work being done. There was one misunderstanding regarding plywood which we were told we could keep, but apparently the person giving the information didn't have that authority. Otherwise, we were able to use wood from the fall project which might otherwise have been wasted. Students were not able to get on the set until one week before our performance. They pulled through in a great way and each night was better than the previous one. Strike on Sunday went well and we are anxiously awaiting storage for the new space from a parent who wanted to help.

We can happily report there were no injuries during the show!

**ADAPTED SOCCER:** Head Coach Ruth Clarke (1<sup>st</sup> year of program, 17 years)

"THE" COYOTES OF (BHM, MONTICELLO, STMA)

This was the inaugural season for the Adapted Soccer team. Monticello provided three players, STMA sent over two players and there were eight athletes from Buffalo. With new skills to be learned by the athletes, we had a daunting task facing experienced teams. With a handful of practices before the season started, we went into our first game against Columbia Heights-St Anthony Village Strikers not knowing what to expect. With sheer determination, we outscored them 7-3. A great start for the program! The regular season ended with 3 wins against 7 losses, including a playoff win against the Wayzata/Minnetonka Lakers and then a season ending loss to Park Center, who was undefeated.

The athletes from Buffalo were seniors Omar Emery and Austin Peterson-Lomker; junior Kyle Kauffman; sophomores Brandon Powers, Lexi Georges and Nathaniel Westphal and freshmen; Jordan Ragone and Justas Emery. STMA athletes were senior Mia Camp and junior Mackenzie Davis. The Monticello athletes were junior Justin Garaghty, sophomore

Meghan Garaghty and freshman Brenden Garaghty. Monticello also supplied an assistant coach, Brooke Ziwicki, who was a great help with the team. Team student managers were Rylee Simmang and Laura Ylitalo. Team captains were Austin, Omar, and Mia.

It was a great first season! The team really improved as the season progressed. We are looking forward to many more great seasons.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Participation Report