

School Board Workshop:

June 6, 2023

Subject:

BHS Winter 2022-23 Activities Report

Presenter:

Nick Guida, BHS Activities Director

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Report

DESCRIPTION: Season Summaries

Buffalo High School successfully completed its winter activities seasons for the 2022-23 school year. Coaches and Advisors have completed a short narrative of their season for you to review. Thank you for supporting activities at BHS!

Winter/Spring Play

Twelfth Night

Performances April 20-22 2023

Director: Debb Bestland

Tech Director: Greg Bestland

Twelfth Night is a comedy by William Shakespeare. The script we used came from Shakespeare Outloud, a company providing free scripts to students and classrooms. We originally planned to do this show in 2020. Three weeks before performance we were shut down due to COVID.

Bringing it back to life required re-thinking some aspects of the work. Our first group of performers were well seasoned actors and actresses, students who had been in the program for several years. That allowed us to have student directive and involvement on every level.

We choose a simpler set which allowed our smaller and less experienced tech students to feel successful and have all the time needed to build it. We had a smaller cast and many of them were inexperienced in BHS Theatre protocols and procedures. They were, with few exceptions, a young crew. We had only three seniors in the show and two of them were first time theatre performers. We had four freshmen in lead parts. Rehearsals were spent teaching terminology and theatre expectations. It was exciting to watch as they moved from a beginner understanding to experienced actors. We had

17 students in the show. Several shared events such as softball and track, but we were able to make it work so that they could experience live theatre. An additional 13 students worked on tech.

Kim Atkins and Jodi Klaphake were a great help in getting costumes upgraded from our own supplies. This meant we didn't have to rent anything. Some items were purchased, but most were straight from our closet with a little sewing and creative thinking. Kim Atkins also helped with the program and pictures for the students.

H.D. (Tracy Hagstrom Durant) worked with Andrea Krinke and other parents to help set up and supply Intermission for the three performances. We had between 150-200 in our audiences each night.

It was a pleasure working with these students. Walking backstage nightly during the performance, students were still rehearsing lines and developing character. It was impressive to see such commitment. Two seniors shared with the cast they wished they had started sooner. They truly enjoyed the show. Others talked about next year and what they could do to become better. That makes us excited for the future of theatre here at BHS.

Some issues that need looking into:

- The rigging broke and we had to find ways to get bars up off the floor.
- Music events nearly overwhelmed us. It was hard to work in enough rehearsal times with events and snow days etc.
- We were not able to pay for the royalty due to Canadian ownership of the script. This was embarrassing for us. We are still working this through.
- It was frustrating to work without a budget or knowledge of what remained.

These are ongoing issues for us in the BHS Theatre Community.
Thank you for the opportunity to work with the students.

Girls Gymnastics: 2022-2023 Season Recap

Head Coach Alicia Malewicki (3rd year as head coach in the program)

Assistant Coaches: Martha Driscoll-Nelson (39th year in the program)

Jon Holtz (19th in the program)

The 2022-2023 Gymnastics season was another successful year. The team consisted of 24 girls, 21 gymnasts and 3 managers. Katelynn Anderson, Mackenzie Wahl, Victoria Nelson, Audrey Strike, Femke Mammen, Kaylee Dehmer, Zoey Manthei, Josie Roskowiak, Teigen Werner, Lacie Blackowiak, Lydia Field, Kendel Gocken, Annalise Hanson, Lily Jenness, Izzy Kohler, Taylor Whitney, Kennedy Sarvie, Courtney Kotish,

Matea Ellis, Greta Scherer, Ellen Ward and our managers Kayla Miller, Mara Engstrom and Myia McDonald. Our program grew in size again this season. This group of young ladies improved throughout the season and earned their highest team scores at the last three regular season meets for both JV and Varsity teams.

This season's overall record was 6–3, not including our larger invite meets. Our Varsity team record within the Lakes Conference was 3--3. Our highest team score was achieved at our last regular season meet at home vs Minnetonka with a 137.90. Our JV team scored their highest at the JV Conference meet with a 126.1. Both of our JV and Varsity teams placed 2nd in the team standings at our Home Invite, out of 7 teams.

Our team set a new JV record for our Buffalo Gymnastics Record/honor roll book, which is an overall running record of our entire program. 5th Highest Team JV Beam score was scored at Edina with a 32.00 and Lily Jenness adding her name to our Record book with another High Score on JV Beam with an 8.7.

The team did receive a gold academic award for section 5AA with a Cumulative GPA of 3.845. We had multiple gymnasts receive the All-Section academic award: Ellen Ward, Courtney Kotish, Kennedy Sarvie, Kayla Miller, Lily Jenness, Kaylee Dehmer, Zoey Manthei, Femke Mammen and Audrey Strike. We had two gymnasts from our team advance to the state gymnastics meet - Kaylee Dehmer on floor and Audrey Strike on beam. Both of these ladies enjoyed the experience of the state meet as this was their first time qualifying for state at the high school level. Audrey Strike tied for 7th place on beam for class AA.

Individual Lake Conference and Coaches Association awards went to the following gymnasts: All Conference: Audrey Strike; All Conference Honorable mentions: Lydia Field, Victoria Nelson and Kaylee Dehmer; All Section Team member for 5AA: Lydia Field, Kaylee Dehmer, Audrey Strike, Victoria Nelson; All State Honorable Mentions were given to the following Gymnasts: Kaylee Dehmer on Uneven Bars, Balance Beam, Floor and All Around and Audrey Strike on Vault, Balance Beam, Floor and All Around.

We had five seniors this year: Captain Audrey Strike, Captain Victoria Nelson, Captain Katelynn Anderson, Mackenzie Wahl and Femke Mammen. These girls all brought a different style of leadership into our gym. Us coaches are sad to see them leave and excited for their next chapters in their lives.

We as coaches are looking forward to next season and watching our younger girls step into leadership roles, and watching the girls achieve all their goals next season. Go Bison!

Knowledge Bowl

Head Coach: [Brandon Aldrich](#)

Asst Coach: Ryan McCallum

The Knowledge Bowl season was another successful one with 3 JV teams and 4 Varsity Teams participating, making 34 students in total competing. Our season ended with last year's State Champs taking 2nd place in their division at the State Tournament. Both Varsity 1 and Varsity 2 (Varsity 1- Seniors Amelia Butler, Matthew Scherber, Avery Thompson, Milo Zimmerman and Ryder Zvorak; Varsity 2- Sophomores Kumail Akram, Dexter Huss, Daniel Jungwirth, Lucas Lawrence and Greta Winger) placed in the top 6 at sub regions, which brought both our top Varsity teams to regionals where Varsity 1 took 2nd and Varsity 2 took 4th. The top 2 teams for our region attend the state meet, so unfortunately Varsity 2 didn't make the cut this year, but they are still a highly competitive team. Throughout the invitational season, our teams saw quite a bit of success. Our JV B team of Freshman floated around 4th place for every meet, and our Varsity 3 Team took 1st place at the JV Finals which is for all teams that cannot compete at regionals. The Varsity 1 team of seniors is a hard one to lose this year. Their success throughout their years in the program will be missed, but we also have some very strong freshman, sophomores, and juniors this year who are ready to step it up next year.

Dance

Coaches: Laura Skelton and Jennifer Thaler - 2nd Year

This season was our largest team yet with 31 dancers. We tried something new this year only having one kick team, versus previous seasons where we had a JV and varsity kick team. This year we made our program practice times longer, with more repetitions of our required varsity skills, we introduced the weight room and dancer specific conditioning that we learned from The Vibe studio in which the team attended an intensive class together.

We were able to attend some new invitational meets and compete against teams we haven't been able to compete against before. A highlight from the season was our invitational in Foley. We stayed overnight in Saint Cloud the night before. The girls loved the bonding experience. We improved our scores at each meet, finishing with season highs in both dances at sections. The program had for the first time ever a higher score point finish in high kick compared to Jazz.

We are graduating 10 seniors this year and are looking forward to watching our team grow over the coming years! Overall the season was a great one.

All Conference dancers: Kimberly Fuchs and Marissa Pence

Honorable mentions: Amelia Pence and Maddie Lindberg

On behalf of the coaching staff we want to thank our incredible parents booster club board. They go above and beyond and we are so grateful for their support along with the administration, especially Nick, Barb and Vicki in the Athletic office - you all rock, our fans and community!

Boys Hockey

Head Coach: [Aaron Johnson](#)

Boys Hockey finished the year with a 13-11-2 record. We were led by 12 seniors who were great representatives of BHS and our hockey program. Our captains this year were seniors Ryan Roethke and Griffin Valli and our assistant captains were seniors Arthur Ylitalo and Jimmy Winter. The highlight of our season was a stretch in mid-January when we beat the #2 ranked Wayzata Trojans 1-0 and followed that up with a win over the #5 ranked Rogers Royals 4-3 in OT. The two wins helped us earn the #3 seed in section 8AA. We were upset at home by Elk River 3-1. We had 6 players who were honored by the Lake Conference. 1st team all-conference members were seniors Ryan Roethke and Griffin Valli and Junior Max Varner. All-Conference Honorable mention included seniors Lex Preugchas, Jimmy Winter and Jake Bergstrom.

Girls Hockey

Head Coach: Ryan Huddy

Record 6-19-1. Our girls program took another big jump in the right direction with our growth in participation. This season was the first time we have fielded a JV team in the past 3 seasons. With our current youth numbers, I believe that this will continue, which is great.

Our team was lead by Captains Raegan Wurm, Anna Kubu, Linnea Preugschas and Kaiya Johnson. The team grew a lot over the season and finished the regular season with 2 big Section wins. Raegan Wurm (Sr) committed to play D1 at University of Maine. We had all conference players Raegan Wurm, Anna Kubu and Honorable Mention of Grace Bergstrom, Avery Corbin and Linnea Preugschas.

Boys Basketball

Head Coach: Josh Ortmann

The boys basketball season had a tremendous amount of unknowns going into the year. As a coaching staff we did not know what to expect from a win/loss record, but we did know the type of players we have. We are very fortunate to be surrounded by

kids who bought in day one and accepted the challenging of coming to practice every day ready to work and improve.

As we navigated the year we finished with a 23-8 record. This is tied for the second most wins in program history. Nate Dahl finished the year as a top 10 Mr. Basketball Finalist and we were led by him and Grady Guida as All-Conference players.

As in years past, the community showed up like they always do. We were fortunate enough to play in front of sold out crowds where the gym was standing room only. The BHM community was as much a part of the success this winter as any of the players and coaches. It was a tremendous year where our kids had the opportunity to participate at the State Tournament down at Target Center and Concordia St. Paul. We are thankful for everyone's support and extremely thankful of our seniors Nate Dahl, Jacob Bakeberg, and Dani Rodenwald.

Team Awards went as follows:

All Conference: Nate Dahl and Grady Guida

All Conference Honorable Mention: Brody Wishart, Kai Penney, Nolan Mahannah, Ty Torgrimson

Team MVP: Nate Dahl

Mr. Defense: Brody Wishart

Mr. Practice: Jacob Bakeberg

Mr. Hustle: Ty Torgrimson

Most Inspirational: Nate Dahl

Most Improved: Ty Torgrimson

One Act

Head Coach: [Tracy Hagstrom Durant](#)

Bury the Dead

By: Irwin Shaw

20 students participated in the One-Act Play program during the 2022-2023 season. Play selection is key to success in the competitive One-Act play arena. This year, director Tracy Hagstrom Durant selected *Bury the Dead*, another moving and educational piece of challenging theater. This particular play stretched the students as theater producers and further prepared them to be educated, open-minded consumers of theater. *Bury the Dead* is a heartfelt look at loss. It is meant to represent lives lost

during any war. A rehearsal highlight was when a childhood friend of mine, Kevin Wilson, Army COL (Retired), and his wife, Jackie Wilson, came to multiple rehearsals and worked with the students specifically regarding the military. Retired Colonel Wilson and Jackie loaned us props, multiple pairs of Army boots, and his dress uniform (complete with all of his awards, etc)! They both made sure our attention to detail was right on! The students learned a great deal through personal connections, research, rehearsal and performance. Education is always taking place. Once again our theatre students worked diligently and produced another winning show. Education beyond the blackboard took place.

Time: The second year of the war that is to begin tomorrow night (a play meant to represent what was and still is happening during wartime).

Synopsis: Written in 1936, **Bury the Dead** is set in wartime and a military burial detail goes about its sad duties. The chaplains arrive to say prayers for the dead – but then a groan is heard from the newly dug graves, and then another. Slowly the dead soldiers rise up, pleading not to be buried, asking to be allowed to rejoin the living. Word of their insurrection spreads rapidly – to the soldiers in the field, the generals, and the news media, with alarming effect. In a series of touching scenes, the dead men talk with their loved ones about the days of living, now lost forever. But must the dead yield so easily? As the play ends, the corpses rise and move away, while a shaken general stands helpless to stop them.

2022-2023 Season Performance Record

Lakes Conference – The Lakes Conference does not have a One-Act Play Festival.

Sub-Section 5AA – 2nd place

Section 5AA Finals – 1st place

State One-Act Play Festival - Did not receive a Starred Performance

Mock Trial

Head Coach: Jason Swanson

Head Coach: Jason Swanson (13th season)

Asst. Coach: Heather Eld (7th season)

Asst. Coach: Lisa Nordmeyer (3rd season)

Atty. Coach: Karen Wolff (17th season)

Atty. Coach: Heather Olson (1st season)

This year marked the youngest varsity team that I have coached. We had one returning varsity member (Victoria Viteri - also a AAA winner this year) returning this season. She

was also the only four-year member of Mock Trial, as well this year. We graduated 11 seniors the previous year. In another first for the Varsity team, there were two members on the team who were brand new to Mock Trial this season.

This year also saw a lot of interest (35 team members), and for the first time in four seasons, we added a third team to the roster (typically two teams). This not only helps allow more students to experience Mock Trial, but it also allows us more strategy during our competition. We are able to compete with more teams, and bring back more ideas to better all teams. I would like to thank Lisa Nordmeyer, again this season, for helping us with this third team.

This year's case was a civil malpractice case. The plaintiff was a swimmer from the U of M who tore their ACL during competition. They then had surgery, and were given rehab protocol. Once the ACL/graft tore again, the plaintiff sued the doctor for malpractice. Plaintiff's argument was that the wrong care was given, and the type of graft used during surgery was not that of best practice. The defense's stance was that the plaintiff did not properly follow the rehabilitation process, and pushed the limits, causing the reinjury.

The competition this year was in a hybrid format. Half of our trial competitions during region play were in person, and the other half in an online format. This was due to a continued backlog of court cases, and little availability of courtroom space. For the third season BHS was placed in the Greater MN Super Region, comprising of 22 teams; BHS making up three (3) of those 22. Mock Trial is unique in that during competition, there is no difference between V and JV. All teams are competing together in the region. All teams performed well, all three finishing in the top nine (9) of 22 in region play. In the end, the Varsity team was the only BHS team to advance to the final round (must be in the top six for the final round), and defeated Ashby High School to advance to the State Competition.

The State Competition was made up the top 16 teams out of 160 competing teams this season. At state, it all comes down to the first draw for round one of the competition and then all teams are power ranked from there. Buffalo drew Wayzata; Buffalo performed very well, and split the ballots with the judges, and lost in total points by two points. It is important to note that Wayzata went on to finish second behind Nova Academy, who is now preparing for the national championship in Little Rock, Arkansas. With a loss in the first round, this placed BHS in the losing bracket. The team came up short to Benilde St. Margret HS, and then Prior Lake HS. BHS finished 15th out of 16.

The Region 3 Best Witness award was awarded to senior, and second year member, Reina Valli. Senior Victoria Viteri won the Best Attorney award.

All coaches were sure to remind the team to keep their heads held high. They were a very young team, who worked hard to get to where they ended up this season. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that await next season. Six of the eleven team members are graduating and moving on, so I am excited to enter next season with multiple team members who have now had a taste, as well as the experience, of the state competition.

I would especially like to thank our attorney coaches Karen Wolff and Heather Olson, who spent a lot of 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, and expertise as well as a great sense of leadership and humor that allows this group to grow to their full potential each year. We were delighted to have Heather Olson, a local private attorney in the community, join us this season. Both spend a lot of time and energy for the betterment of the program.

Girls Basketball

Head Coach: [Barb Metcalf](#)

3 All State Academic Senior Players; Team GOLD Scholar Award 3.76 GPA for Varsity Team; 1 All Conference Player: Brylie Guida, 3 Honorable Mention All Conference Players: Jordan Anderson (11 games), Sophs. Alyana Feekes and Haley Rohlin, stepped up (4 key varsity players injuries were season ending injuries). Defeated "like opponents" examples: Osseo, St. Cloud, Sartell; Overall in the Lake Conference - Our team rose to the occasion of having an injury laden season ---like no other girls' team could have in our situation. Our girls grades: 9-12 showed up every day in practices and games with top notch attitudes and efforts for each other. CLASS ACT this TEAM 🏆 We are in the process of going from good to great and I am honored to coach these young ladies. . .

Wrestling

Head Coach: Jeff Gradrud

The wrestling season ended with Senior Jonah Anderson and Freshman Aiden Herbst qualifying for the MSHSL State Tournament. Jonah Anderson finished his career one match from placing in the top 6!

The team finished 10-17 on the season. The team finished the season going 7-1 in duals. The turn around to the season can be attributed to holding wrestlers early in the season until they were prepared to wrestle varsity and filling weight classes with student-athletes that were competitive.

Junior Matthew Carlson surpassed both the 50- and 75- win marks this season while enroute to a 31-win season. We had 1 wrestler earn Lake Conference First Team Awards: Aiden Herbst. While we had 3 wrestlers earn Lake Conference Honorable Mention: Dylan Keeler, Matthew Carlson and Jonah Anderson.

Most importantly, the 22-23 Varsity Bison Wrestling Team posted a team GPA of 3.7+ earning a gold academic award from the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association.

Boys Swim and Dive

Head Coach: Dan Schirmers

The 2022-2023 Boys had a great season and it was a stepping stone for the younger boys to see what they can accomplish in the upcoming seasons. We finished 4th in the Lake Conference, the strongest conference in the state for swimming. We ended the season with a 6 and 3 dual meet record.

We went to the Section meet with a very strong team and knowing that we would be fighting for the section title. Our 200 Medley relay of freshman Mason Pilsher; 10th grader Rylan Close; senior Cooper Polzin; and 10th grader Noah Wittke set a new varsity record and taking 1st place, earning a trip to the State meet. Cooper then won the 200 IM and set the varsity record in the 100 Breast and the 400 Free Relay which took second and made it to State. Rylan Close also took third in the 100 Butterfly with a new varsity record that made the state cut and won the 100 Backstroke and was on the 400 Free Relay. Noah Wittke and Ty Kosek were the other members on the 400 Free Relay that went to state and set a new varsity record.

This year we got a diving coach again and had three divers come out. Grayson Mills had dove for us before so he was a great leader for the two new divers, Mason Everson and Lloyd Evans. The young boys are very talented and have a bright future.

This year was a rewarding year for Buffalo Boys Swim and Dive. With us being a Middle School, Senior High program the young boys keep the older boys reminded of what it is like to have the big time drops and keep them motivated and the older boys lead with dedication and show the young ones what they can become.

It is a pleasure working with these young men and watching them believe in what we are trying to do and doing what they want to do.

Go Bison

ATTACHMENT:

- 22-23 Winter Activities Participation Report