

BHS 2014 SPRING ACTIVITIES

Boys Tennis: Coach Ben Watkins (3 years)

The 2014 boys tennis team had another solid year to follow up last year's conference championship. The Bison finished third in the Mississippi 8 Conference with a conference record of 6-3. Our overall team record was 12-11. The year had several highlights, including avenging an early season loss to Monticello by knocking them out of sections with a 5-2 win. We hosted a tournament for the second straight year and brought in great competition. We also went to Eau Claire, WI, on an overnight trip where the team bonded incredibly, had a great time, and improved a ton in a tournament featuring the state champion teams from Minnesota and Wisconsin. Jake Jungwirth, Captain Andrew Christenson, Captain Jordan Danielson and Ryan Bunting all earned first-team all-conference honors. Cole Hansen, Sean Harnois, and Justin Theien were honorable mention all-conference. Jake Jungwirth won the most matches on the team and earned team MVP honors. Jordan Danielson won the Bison award as having the most dedication/team spirit, and Sean Harnois was the most improved player of the year.

Spring Musical: Directors Tracy Hagstrom Durant (22 years) and Debb Bestland (2 years)

The Matchmaker

A Farce in Four Acts by Thornton Wilder

Set Design and Tech Director: Debb Bestland

Technical Assistance: Greg Bestland

Student Director and Costumer: Erica Hoops (Senior)

Student Stage Manager: Grace Walker (Junior)

Play Synopsis: Thornton Wilder's stage play The Matchmaker premiered in 1955. 19th-century matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi is currently trying to arrange a marriage between Yonkers dry-goods merchant, Horace Vandergelder, and hat maker, Irene Molloy (although she secretly harbors a desire to march Horace to the altar herself). Meanwhile, Vandergelder's chief clerk, Cornelius, celebrating a recent promotion, decides to head to New York for a "good time". Though he's supposed to be minding the store, Cornelius abandons the shop, with fellow-clerk Barnaby in tow. Inevitably, Cornelius and Barnaby wind up escorting Irene Molloy and her co-worker, Minnie Fay, to a fancy restaurant, where Horace and Dolly are also dining. As the many plot twists wind their way through the proceedings, the play occasionally pauses to allow the character to speak directly to the audience, expressing their innermost desires and philosophies. The other characters-and the basic plot-will be instantly recognizable to fans of Hello Dolly, the 1964 musical comedy version of The Matchmaker.

BHS Performances: Performances were April 10, 11 and 12 at 7:30 PM. Tickets were available in the high school office and at Gartner's Hallmark at a cost of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children/seniors; they were also available at the door. This year we featured a cast of 24 high school students in our production, along with another 30+ students involved in various crews including set construction, set shift crew, costumes and lighting/sound booth. We also had a crew of students who created over forty-five 19th century period hats. They were absolutely beautiful! The show was a huge hit, both heartfelt and entertaining. Crowd size was good. Again, learning took place.

Girls Softball: Coach Brad Zrust (10 years)

It was a very exciting year for us in the new conference. We finished second in the conference to a very good Rogers team that ended up being ranked number 9 in the state. A couple of the highlights that I have is the way we came back in numerous games. I had a bunch of girls, the majority of them seniors, who never gave up. Three times this year we went into the 6th or 7th inning down one or three runs. Each time, they dug down deep and found a way to win. To give an example of this, we were playing St Michael and we sent a girl to the plate in the bottom of the 7th inning who hadn't played that game or the previous game because of a badly sprained ankle. She then proceeds to hit a walk off home run. The whole place erupted as she slowly made her way around the bases. Both umpires told me it reminded them of Kirk Gibson hitting a homerun in the World Series the way she limped around the bases. This will be a memory that will be with that girl and the rest of our team for the rest of their lives.

In the playoffs, we made a good showing as we went 2 and 2. We played hard and we competed which is all I can ask for. It is always a joy to coach a good group of girls that our communities keep giving the school and the softball program. Thanks!

Baseball: Coach Mike Beilke (11 years)

The Bison had an overall record of 8-12, conference record of 6-7, and was 0-1 in the section tournament. We lost 6 very close games this year, 3 in extra innings and 3 games where we had the lead going into the sixth inning. We finished in 5th place in the Mississippi 8 Conference. Mitch Annis, Andrew Iverson, and Nolan Triden received All Conference honors and Thomas Eckstein, Jon Senger, Jay Bollum, and Ramon Vega Jr. received All Conference Honorable Mention. The Bison will graduate 5 seniors. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We will have four starting position players and a wealth of young talent returning. GO BISON!!!

Boys Golf: Coach Charley Keifenheim (15 years)

What a tremendous and successful season for the Bison Boys golf team. Early June, our team played in the state tournament at Bunker Hills Golf Course in Coon Rapids, MN. The last time a Bison Boys golf team went to state was in 1978! What a ride it was this season and during those final few weeks!

We had a nice number of guys show up to play (about 20) but lost a few during the frustrating early part of the season when the weather was so poor. We had a lot of returning varsity experience with Hunter Bruhn, Gunnar Goodmanson, Jake Ramsey, Josh Fishman, Ben Zitur, and Dylan Kumlin. We also welcomed back a nice crew of young players like Tom Russett, Luc Persson, and Mateo Johnson. Our early season was highlighted by an invite win at The Territory Golf Club in St Cloud. A few weeks later, the guys really caught fire and won the M8 Conference title by breaking the previous school record and followed that with a Section 8AA win the next week. This is a great group of guys who really bonded together over golf and are enjoying the game and competition. On behalf of the team, thanks to District 877 for continuing to support this life-sport.

Girls Golf: Coach Riti Sanderson (24 years)

This past Spring was another awful year weather wise, but despite starting our season play in 20 degree wind chill temperatures, and finishing May in 90 degree heat, we had yet another very successful golf season. Fourteen girls participated this spring on the Varsity and Junior Varsity for Mississippi 8 Conference matches. Four of our scheduled invitational meets were either canceled or rain shortened. Fortunately we were able to compete in 2. The pre-section meet was held at Sauk Centre, and we also played at the St. Cloud Country Club. The JV also participated in 2 invitational meets at Monticello and at Rogers. A new format was introduced in the Mississippi 8 with 10 teams. 5 schools, including Buffalo, played in the West and 5 schools

played in the East. We were supposed to have two conference events bringing all 10 schools together at Bunker Hills and at the Links of Northfork in Elk River. Only the Links match took place due to weather. For the 10th year in a row, the Bison came away with a Conference Championship. Seniors Lexi Bollant and Lauren Shultz were captains of this year's team. This was Lexi's 6th year in the program and it was Lauren's 5th year. Five girls were named all conference including Lexi with a 71.7 score average. Madi Jewell finished with an 81 score average. Hanna Morin, Jordan Wurm, and Kirsten Olson also finished with 83, 86, and 89 score averages for all conference honors. Lauren's 91 score average landed her an Honorable Mention spot. Academic honors went to Bollant, Schultz, and Wurm. Bollant was rated as high as #2 in the state and was there for a good portion of the year. Lexi was the medalist at sections with impressive scores of 70/76, but as a team we finished behind #1 rated Alexandria. You might not be able to replace Bollant in 2015, but a solid group of golfers will return.

Adapted Softball: Coaches Ruth Clarke (10 years) and Dave Kaufmann (7 years)

This was a great building year. We graduated 5 players last year which left some big holes to fill. We gained 4 new players and 2 stepped into key positions and both did very well. Kail Dornbusch, a freshman rookie, took on our pitching position and led us to 3 wins. Newcomer junior James Madden did an outstanding job in the field and at the plate. We started our season off with a great game against one of the stronger teams in the league and only lost by 1 run. The Bison finished with a 3-8 record. The team really improved as the season progressed with much more competitive games than previous years. This year, our captains were junior Alec Willard and sophomore Jared Peterson-Lomker. Their aggressive play and positive leadership really helped to encourage the team and keep them focused. Our goal has always been to keep improving; not only in the number of wins but also in our skills and playing together as a team. With no seniors this year, we are very excited about everyone returning. We see great potential in our team. This year Jared Peterson-Lomker and James Madden received All-Conference Honorable Mention and Alec Willard received All-Conference.

Boys/Girls Track and Field: Scott Palmer (19 years)

The 2014 Track and Field campaign was marred with snow, rain and cold weather causing many cancellations of meets in April as well as in May. Despite the poor weather conditions, the Bison Track and Field athletes continued to make improvements. At the conference meet, many boys and girls had personal bests with strong finishes in many events. The Girls team finished ninth in a strong Mississippi 8 Conference. A young boy's team finished in fourth place, 2 points out of third place. The Section 2AA meet had a few close misses for the state meet with 4 third place finishes and the top 2 performances advancing to the state meet. The Bison were able to break through with ninth grader Jayson Gorton in the 800 wheel chair division. At the state meet, Jayson improved his time by 8 seconds to 2:41.85 to become the 2014 State Champion in the event. The Bison Boys and Girls team both achieved state gold status academically with a total of fifteen athletes who were honored with Academic All State status.

Boys Lacrosse: Larry Hunter (3 years)

The 2014 Buffalo Boys Lacrosse Team completed their 3rd season in the MSHSL and the program's first in the newly formed Greater West Metro Lacrosse Conference. The Bison finished in second place to conference title winner the Delano Tigers. Despite dropping 2 late conference games the final week of the season to Delano, the Bison finished with 2 wins against conference opponents Rogers, St. Cloud, Monticello, and Providence Academy finishing with a conference record of 8-2, 9-2 overall. The Bison had a good showing against section powerhouse Maple Grove, but fell short in the first round of playoffs last May. Buffalo had 4 all conference selections this past season including Casey Anderson, and 3 others. Hutchinson and STMA will join the conference for the 2015 season and the Bison will continue to schedule 3 to 4 non conference section

opponents if possible to fill out the schedule. Coach Hunter has exited the program and a new Head Coach will be hired this fall to lead the Bison into the 2015 campaign.

Girls Lacrosse: Andrea Lund (4th year)

The Bison Girls also competed for the first time in the newly formed Greater West Metro Lacrosse Conference. The schools included Buffalo, Monticello, STMA, Becker, St. Cloud, Orono, Delano, and Mound Westonka. Hutchinson joins the conference for 2015. The season started out indoors like so many spring sports. We had more indoor practices than outdoor. We came close in some of our games losing in overtime by a point but we ended with 0 wins and 12 losses which included schools not in our conference. We are still in our rebuilding years, but the girls are definitely improving and becoming more skilled. We had a new addition to our coaching staff this year. Nathan Sunderman came in and worked on the strength and conditioning part of our practices. Tessa MacDonald came back and it was great to have her on board. We all agree it will take some time, but we are getting closer to being a more confident and better developed team. We dealt with conflicts of players having dual activities and often were gone so we were missing Varsity players and goalies. We did our best and still managed to be positive and actually enjoy the games. Seniors Savanna Fonkert, Justine Stensby, Cassie Bunkers and Sydney Martichuski received Honorable Mention All Conference. Senior Tiah Marr received an All Conference award. We have a great bunch of girls with heart and good sportsmanship qualities. In our eyes we are all winners! Go Bison!

FFA: Advisor Ben Harvey (1st year)

The school board has heard me report, but please include this in the report for the record: In 2013-2014 we had 2 gold proficiencies (Amy Marquette's proficiency will be competing nationally), 2 state degrees, 6 chapter degrees, and 10 greenhand degrees. Multiple teams competed at state, and 2 individuals as well. We helped this summer with Breakfast at the Farm (June 21st at the Krause's Holstein farm) as well as the fairs, camps, and other events.

Instrumental Music: Director Scott Rabehl

Marching Band

The 2013 season of "The HERD", its 26th season, was remarkably successful. At 134 students, it was one of the largest in Minnesota. The band began the season at the Buffalo Days parade, represented their communities well throughout Minnesota and beyond, then finished the summer with an exciting performance at our hometown Montrose parade. It scored at the "Superior" level (80 points and above) frequently and competed well against other bands with several high finishes. We finished the competitive season with a wonderful trip to Colorado, featuring a performance at the Greeley, CO Independence Day Parade. The trip concluded with a standing concert at the foot of Mount Rushmore.

The 2014 season is off to a great start with 124 students rehearsing hard for upcoming events. This year the band will not be travelling outside the state, but will participate in many events throughout central Minnesota and conclude its season at the Hanover parade on August 2.

Vocal Music: Director Michael Walsh

For the thirteenth straight year, Buffalo had a Music Listening Team selected for the State finals in January.

International Club: Advisors Michele Strassburg and Nancy Eiyneck

International Club's goal is increased intercultural understanding and integration of exchange students at Buffalo High School. Throughout the year, we host various events to promote knowledge and understanding of people from around the world. This includes an outing to the Festival of Nations in St. Paul, the International Cheese Tasting Party, and exchange student presentations about their home countries and various topics. Participation is open to all students, is flexible and there is no activity fee. Throughout the year, we probably have around 200 kids participating in some way. This year we had around 150 kids participate at the cheese tasting event alone.

Junior Class Cabinet: Advisor Tracy Hulley

This year's Junior Class Cabinet was busy planning for Grand March and Prom from the first day of school! "An Era of Change" was the theme and the Grand March was held in the main gym while the Prom dance was held at the Medina Entertainment Center in Medina. Approximately 625 students attended! Next year's Prom will be held at the Carlson Towers Rotunda and Amphitheater in Minnetonka on May 2, 2015.

BPA (Business Professionals of America): Advisor Brenda Diekman

Business Professionals of America is an activity for any student but particularly helpful for students pursuing careers in business, management, office administration, information technology and other related career fields. This year we were proud to have Marah Moy, our Chapter President also be elected as the Regional President.

Membership was made up of 13 students who participated in our 4 events. The Fall Leadership Conference held in Minneapolis was attended by 5 members (image below). All members competed in 16 various competitions at the Regional Competition held at Wayzata, 5 participants advanced to State Competition in Minneapolis and 4 advanced to the National Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Fall Leadership Participants: From left to right: Shania Sinna, Aaron Hamann, Logan Thomas, Marah Moy, Emma Schneider, and Advisor Brenda Diekman



State Conference Participants and their awards: Pictured: (L-R) Logan Thomas, Aaron Hamann, Sarah Jacobson, Sam Hamann, Justin Tomann



National Conference Participants: Pictured: (L-R) Sarah Jacobson, Sam Hamann, Logan Thomas, Aaron Hamann, advisor Brenda Diekman

Nationals were a record breaking experience with 3 firsts for BHS students. Sarah Jacobson became the first student to reach the podium in BHS history at the awards session with a 3rd place in Graphic Design Promotion. Aaron Hamann was also called to stage to receive a medal for his top 9th place finish against 364 other students in Financial Math & Analysis. Aaron also became the first to receive MOUS Certification for his knowledge and skill in manipulating Microsoft Excel.



Sarah Jacobson receiving 3rd place plaque from Adobe representative.



National Conference Award winners: Pictured: (L-R) Aaron Hamann (9th), Sarah Jacobson (3rd)

In addition to competing, students learn many life lessons by participating in BPA. Everything from how to be a leader, work in a group, and networking, to learning how to pack for a 5-day trip in only carry-on luggage for the flight, navigating airport security and shuttles, and navigating public transportation and bus schedules.

These placements are very impressive and will be difficult to repeat next year with only a few returning members. Hopefully more students will join and achieve success and reach nationals which will be held at Disney Land in Anaheim, California.