

Buffalo Hide Academy:

March 2020

Buffalo Hide Academy's Response to COVID-19:

Every staff member of BHA has worked tirelessly to provide a quality, timely, and relevant education to our students during this unprecedented time. Whether it be creating digital lessons and project-based assignments, or working before and after-school hours to contact students, or creating systems for students/parents to pick up necessary materials, each staff member has contributed to the continuing education of BHA students. Below is a rundown of a few of the things we have been working on.

Contacting Students:

Over the past two weeks, BHA staff members have been working diligently to contact our students by phone, email, social media, and home visits. Below is a breakdown of who we have been able to contact and how they will be engaging in BHA's distance learning options. Here are the numbers:

- ☐ 80 total students enrolled at BHA;
- ☐ 65 students have been contacted;
- ☐ 45 have internet to access Google Classrooms;
- ☐ 35 have a device and internet to access Google Classrooms;
- ☐ 5 Chromebooks have been handed out to students;
- ☐ 16 packets have been handed out to students who do not have internet access.

Reaching Out to Periodicals:

Due to the number of BHA students that lack access to the internet and/or a device, Jason Krane reached out to a handful of magazines and periodicals to ask for 50+ issues to be donated so that the teaching staff could create assignments across the curriculum using a common source. Below is letter that was sent:

Hey there!

I am a teacher and instructional coach at the Buffalo Hide Academy, which is an alternative high school located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Northwestern Montana. We serve a diverse and at-risk student population that, for one reason or another, has not been able to find success in the traditional high school. Our students, ranging from freshmen to 20-year olds, come to us having overcome numerous challenges, including expulsion, teen-pregnancy, battles with addiction, etc.

Our primary responsibility during this unprecedented time is to make sure our students have access to food, shelter, and mental health services that our counselors are able to provide remotely. At the same time, our teaching staff has been preparing digital lessons and assignments that are available to students that are able to access the internet and have devices to do so.

However, we are finding that the majority of our students lack access to either the internet, devices, or both, and we will need to have an alternative plan to provide them with a quality, timely, and relevant education.

With that, I am asking for a big favor: would your organization be willing to donate 50+ issues of your magazine to our school? If so, our goal would be to create assignments in the core subject areas using the articles and features from that week's issue. We would then deliver these assignments and magazine, along with food, clothing, and additional resources to our students on a weekly basis.

I am very grateful for you considering a partnership with our school. And if there is any additional information you would like from us, please let me know.

*Sincerely,
Jason Krane*

We are happy to report that both TIME and Newsweek magazines have agreed to donate the 50 magazines that we asked for, and they will do so for the remainder of the school year! The first boxes should be delivered the second week of April.

ELA Assignments:

Nick Rink has created a general assignment template that students can use for any book, magazine, or digital article in order to continue working on English credit. Here is the template and the books that have been handed out to students:

Daily Reading - English - 4th Quarter 2019/2020

Name _____

Date _____

Pages read _____

- ☐ **At least 5 vocab words from your reading:** (choose and define words you are unfamiliar with or words you especially like)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

(If more, complete on back)

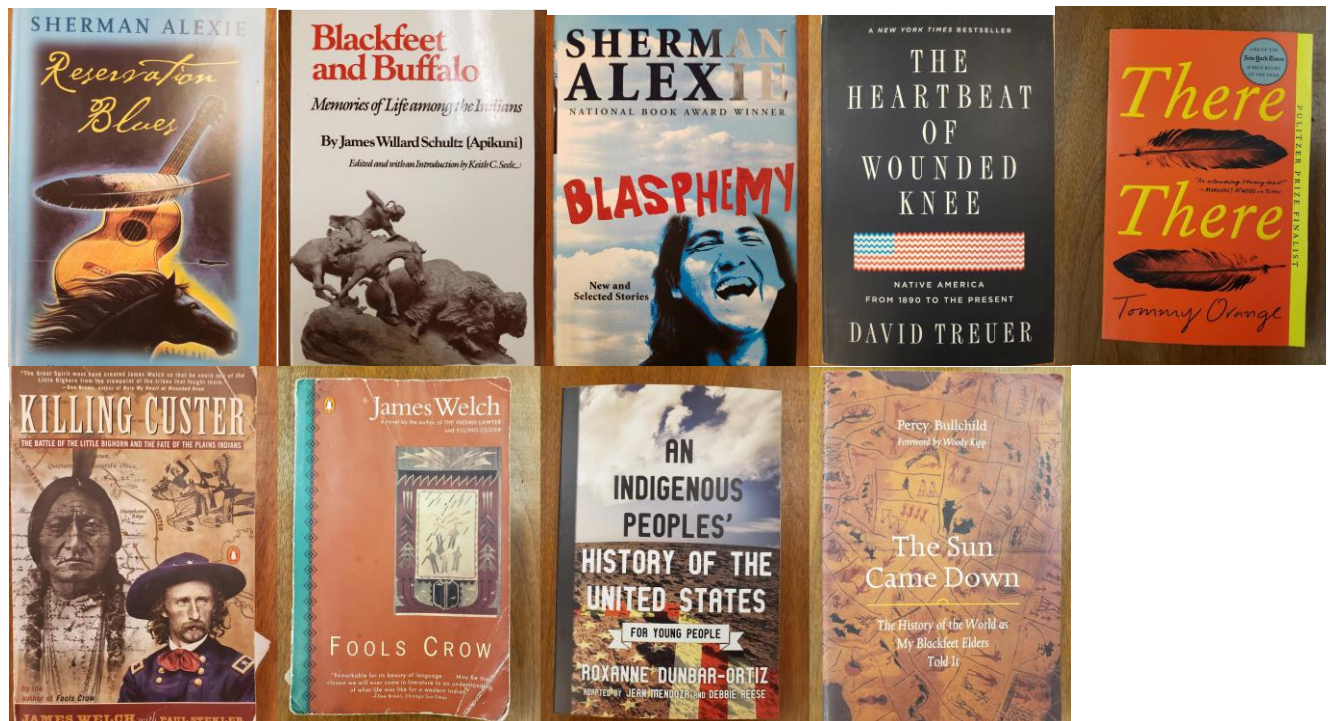
- ☐ **2 questions** (Ask and answer at least 2 questions you come up with about the reading. Pretend you are the teacher and you want your students to think deeply about the reading)

1.

2.

- ☐ **Summary** (write a brief summary of what you read in the pages indicated above)
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- ☐ **Response** (Fill the rest of the page with your thoughts and feelings around the pages you've read today)
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Credit Recovery

For BHA seniors that are able to graduate this year but still have classes that need to be recovered, Jason Krane has been creating weekly prompts and assignments available for pick up for those that do not have access to the internet. Below are the prompts from the first of distance learning:

*The following assignments will be worth 3 points each and will go towards any class you may need to recover. When writing, be sure to use proper punctuation, grammar, and spelling - **if it is done sloppily, I will send it back to you for revisions.** Also, if you have any ideas or suggestions for future prompts/assignments, please let me know and I'll work them into this.*

As always, be sure to write your name, along with the week # and assignment # so I know what I'm grading. Strange times call for us all to get creative, so have fun with this! I hope you are safe and well, and I look forward to getting these assignments back from you and reading what you have to write.

~ Jason Krane

Week #1: March 30 - April 3			
Assignment:	Questions and Prompt(s):	Length:	# of Points:
#1: Interview	<i>Interview someone in your house about what they were doing during the spring semester of their senior year of high school.</i>	<i>2-3 pages handwritten (or 1-2 pages typed)</i>	3
#2: Summary Writing	<i>Find any piece of text in your house (magazine, newspaper, book, etc) and write a who/what/when/where/why summary about it.</i>	<i>2-3 pages handwritten (or 1-2 pages typed)</i>	3
#3: Creative Writing	<i>Write a short story using the following prompt: A person (man, woman, or child) wakes up to discover that he/she can no longer hear, but can see things he/she has never seen before...</i>	<i>2-3 pages handwritten (or 1-2 pages typed)</i>	3
#4: Gaming	<i>Write a short piece about your favorite game or one that you have played recently. This could be a videogame, board game, sports game, etc.</i>	<i>2-3 pages handwritten (or 1-2 pages typed)</i>	3
#5: Comic Strip	<i>Illustrate and write an 8-cell comic about your past week. What did you do, how are you passing the time, etc. This should be non-fiction...</i>	<i>8+ sections - with pictures and text.</i>	3