

# **Buffalo Hide Academy Board Report**

## **8/12/25**

### **BHA Summer School**

Summer school was a tremendous success, thanks to the dedication and collaborative efforts of our staff. Mr. Klauk meticulously designed targeted curriculum in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Science, ensuring that the content was engaging, standards-based, and tailored to meet student needs. Bobby Miller and Leo BullChild played key roles as well, facilitating coursework in Physical Education and Social Studies with energy and commitment. Ross DeRoche contributed meaningfully by organizing and leading a dynamic and culturally enriching BAWAP experience that kept students motivated and connected.

Throughout the program, most students were able to recover multiple 0.5 credits in core academic areas, making significant progress toward graduation requirements. In addition to classroom learning, students participated in several ecology-focused field trips to Glacier National Park, where they explored natural ecosystems and deepened their understanding of environmental science through hands-on experiences.

### **FITM Student Interns**

The Fire in the Mountains Festival was a powerful and unforgettable success, not only as a world-class music event in the Blackfeet Nation but as a transformative educational experience for our Buffalo Hide and Browning High School students. Our students from the BPS Heavy Music Symposium class were positioned at the heart of the festival from start to finish, serving as interns embedded across all departments—production, artist relations, stage management, media, and hospitality. Their hands-on participation gave them rare behind-the-scenes access to the inner workings of a major music festival.

In an inspiring moment of recognition, several of our students were even invited onto the main stage during the performances of Inter Arma and Pan-Amerikan Native Front—musical acts that symbolized their belonging in the heavy music community and acknowledged their passion, insight, and commitment. The entire experience created a space where our students were not only welcomed but

uplifted. They were seen, heard, and celebrated—not just by our school or community, but by artists, organizers, and fans from across the world. This was more than a festival; it was a platform for empowerment and visibility for our school community.

### **SBE Week/Teacher Prep**

Jake, Nick, Greg, and I are having a productive and energizing week as we dive into (SBE) planning for the upcoming year. Our time has been filled with meaningful collaboration, including strategic meetings with Browning High School (BHS) to discuss updated operational goals, new structures, and improved workflows aimed at strengthening the overall impact of our program. One of the most exciting developments this year at BHA is to include students from additional grade levels—welcoming incoming freshmen and sophomores for the first time. This growth not only broadens our reach but also brings fresh perspectives and energy to the work. We're looking forward to a strong, innovative year ahead!

Also, while we are sad to see Troy Atchison retire after last year, we are very excited to announce that the one and only Pat Hagan has officially joined the BHA teacher ranks. Welcome to Buffalo Hide, Pat! Happy to have you on board.

### **BHA/BHS Collaboration**

This year marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in BPS—one defined by deeper collaboration and shared purpose between Buffalo Hide Academy and Browning High School. Together, we are aligning our efforts in innovative and meaningful ways to better serve the academic, cultural, and social needs of our students and the broader community. As part of this expanded partnership, several Buffalo Hide teachers will be traveling to BHS throughout the year to deliver specialized instruction in key subject areas, bringing unique teaching styles and culturally responsive approaches directly into the high school setting.

Additionally, we're proud to continue our groundbreaking joint offering of the **Heavy Music Symposium**, a course that blends music, identity, and emotional wellness—providing students with a powerful space for expression, critical thinking, and connection. This is more than just a logistical collaboration—it's a shared commitment to student empowerment and community transformation.