

School Board Meeting:

February 14, 2022

Subject:

2021 BHS Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

Nick Guida, BHS Activities Director

Suggested School Board Action:

Report

Description:

Will provide activity updates on the following at the Board Workshop:

2021 Fall Season Summaries
2021 Fall Season Participation Report
BHS Activities News

FALL SEASON SUMMARIES

Fall Musical

Co-Directors: Tracy Hagstrom Durant (29 years), Nick Lostetter (5 years)
Music Director: Zack Carlson
Choreographer: Debb Bestland
Tech Director: Greg Bestland
Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland
PAC Manager: David Kilgore
Student Stage Manager: Caitlyn Seidel
Stage Management Consultant: Jamie West
Costumes: Costume Shoppe (Maple Lake), Laurie Hoops, Jodi Klaphake (Volunteers)

Into The Woods by: Stephen Sonheim and James Lapine

Musical Synopsis:

The story follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the two set off on a journey to break the curse. Everyone's wish is granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

Performances were November 18th, 19th, 20th @ 7:30 PM and November 21st @ 2:00 PM. This year we featured 30+ high school actors along with 30+ students involved in

various crews and the pit orchestra. Tickets were available in the high school office at a cost of \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00; they were also available at the door. This year our tech director, Greg Bestland, designed a set that could be used for multiple songs and situations on stage. Multiple students were able to grow their theatrical technical skills in lighting, sound and set construction with Greg's steady guidance.

Zack Carson faced a daunting task this year as any musician will tell you that "Sonhiem is hard!" Yet Zack rose to the challenge and got the actors and musicians to perform at a high level.

This year, Hagstrom-Durant and Lostetter decided to again enter the BHS production in the Spotlight Musical Theater Education Program/Contest through the Hennepin Theater Trust (Mpls.). The Spotlight program provides many benefits to BHS. We received "pre-adjudication" and technical adjudication (focused only on our student technicians) during our dress rehearsals. Our performances were judged by three professional actors/directors/technicians. We received Outstanding (highest honor) Achievement in Musical Theatre, Outstanding Overall Production, Ensemble Performance, Vocal Performance, Student Orchestra and Technical Team. BHS Theatre made a great impression on the judges as indicated by the awards and honors received!

We are incredibly proud of our entire production staff and all of the kids, parents and volunteers that helped to make this one-of-a-kind show a reality and a success. We were also very thankful to be a part of a district that allowed us to have in-person performances so long as COVID safety measures were in place. There is nothing quite like live theater and I am happy that this group of kids and graduating seniors were able to have their moment on stage (or backstage) this fall.

Adapted Soccer

Head Coach - Frannie Pearson

Assistant Coaches - [Diedre Anderson](#), Tim Horan

Our adapted soccer season, while short on wins, was full of meaningful experiences for both players and coaches. We had a relatively young team with varied soccer experience. One thing our team did not lack was tenacity. We had 2 or 3 subs most games which meant many players didn't see the bench and needed to dig deep to finish strong.

Our coaches are most proud of many of the players' ability to remain positive and cheer on their teammates even when the game didn't end the way we hoped. No team cheered louder than when the Coyotes scored a goal!

Jordan Ragone played his final soccer season for the Coyotes while Lisa Bull and Aubrey Sands were two of our rookie players. Lisa was a leader on the scoreboard and fought hard every minute she played.

Our final record of 0-8 doesn't give the full picture of the 2021 adapted soccer season. Not one of our players remembers how many games we didn't win but they do remember how it felt to score a goal or cheer on their teammates and the memories they created with their team. Go Coyotes!

Boys Cross Country

Head Coach Dave Knutsen - 8th year as Head Coach, 15th in the program
Assistant Coach - Alicia Berkness

The 2021 season was a season of change for Cross Country in MN. Cross Country went from 2 classes to 3 classes. Buffalo had been in Section 2AA for a long time and the boys had traditionally done very well (7 trips to the State meet as a team in the last 10 years). We were now moving to Section 8AAA. 2AA had averaged 18 teams at the Section meet. 8AAA would now have 8.

The 2021 team had high expectations coming into the season. Led by Seniors Jared Gregoire, James Dorado and Jadon Boots, the CC boys looked to continue their string of Section titles and State meet appearances. The boys were ranked #5 in the state in a preseason coaches' poll. This is the highest preseason ranking the boys' program has ever received. As a program, we have never been too caught up in rankings, but it was nice for the seniors to be acknowledged for the work they had put in up to that point in their High School careers.

The boys started out strong. The Varsity boys won the St. Paul Central meet, while at the same time the JV boys won the Northwoods Invitational (JV meet). As a team we knew we were 4 deep for our boys, but in Cross Country you score 5 and run 7. We needed some young guys to step up. Luke Huss (Jr.) and Wesley Wistrom (Fr.) started to show signs early in the season that they were ready for that next step. In early September, we had a Section preview meet. All of the Section 8AAA teams met at Fox Hollow golf course and ran to see where they stacked up at that point of the season. The boys ran well and won the meet. While this did not guarantee a Section title, it let us know we would be in the mix.

As the season progressed, we had some ups and downs. COVID and regular flu limited us at a few of our meets. But through all the struggles, the boys kept working and improving. As most of you are probably aware, the CC teams are in the Lake Conference. This is regarded as the toughest conference in the state for Cross Country. All but one boys team in this Conference are ranked in the top 10 in the state of Minnesota. The boys team raced very well and placed 3rd in the Lake conference

behind #1 Wayzata and #2 Minnetonka. Both Jared Gregoire and James Dorado ran under 16:00 for their 5k. This was the first time in program history that we had two boys sub 16 at the same time. Jared, James and Jadon made the All Conference Team.

The success we had at the Conference meet gave the boys confidence going into the Section 8AAA meet. The meet took place on a cool, very wet day. We run in everything so weather doesn't usually affect us very much. The confidence was not misplaced. The boys placed 2,3,4, 17, 19 and won their Section meet for the 5th straight year.

The following week the boys participated in the MSHSL state meet. Jadon Boots placed in the top 25 at this meet and made the All State team. Though the rest of the team did not run poorly, we did not run as well as expected. The boys team placed 9th overall.

This was a very Senior heavy team. Most of these boys have been with the program since 7th grade. They have led through example for all of these years. They have all worked hard and turned themselves into very good athletes who have represented themselves, our program, the school and the Buffalo community very well. Many of you have probably seen them running at all times of the day in all kinds of weather. This work ethic was shown to them when they were the underclassmen looking up to the Seniors. Through their hard work, they have shown the younger athletes what it takes to succeed and have helped to pass on the traditions that have made this a quality program.

Girls Cross Country

Head Coach Andrea Carlson - 3rd year as Head Coach

Assistant Coach - Alicia Berkness

It was nice being able to get back to a more normal schedule this season compared to last year with all the COVID restrictions and limited meets. Once again, our team was small. We started the year with 13 girls and ended with 11. We lost 2 girls throughout the season to injury (Abby Urick dislocated her knee cap and Avery Vrieze had a hip issue). Payton Tweten, Emily Strommen and Maia Hoepner were our senior captains. Our Varsity team consisted of 6 girls; our 3 captains, along with Brooklyn Hart, Annabelle Anderson and Sophia Ryhorchuk. Our Junior Varsity runners were Avery Vrieze, Kaline Merges, Makenzie Couch, Kadence Baloun, Anna Wuollet and Stefanie Hofmann. Although we finished last in all our meets, the girls ran with the determination to improve their times with each and every race. At our Home Invite, all the JV girls ran a personal best for the season. Anna Wuollet ran a personal best every time she raced! Emily, Maia, Brooklyn and Sophia all took turns finishing as our top runner throughout the CC season. Emily ran her career best time of 22:47 at Conferences held at Gale Woods. Brooklyn Hart ran her season best time of 21:37 at Sections. She battled back this year from a shin splint injury that led to a hip injury preventing her from competing at a few meets this year.

Although we have a small team, the girls all enjoyed working hard together and showed up ready to work hard at practices and be competitive when racing. They loved bonding and forming friendships that will last beyond just the CC season. We look forward to next year and hope to recruit a few more girls to run next year.

Girls Soccer

Head Coach - Josh Soukup

Assistant Coach - Carrie Schimdt, Faith Billa, Sam Haryn, Emily Barthel

Our program mantra is: "Compete"

We focus on:

- Go Bison: We play to represent a larger community of athletics, academics and community.
- Legacy: The most important thing about you is what you leave when you go.
- Competing: Everyone works hard, you win by competing.
- Next play: No matter what happens good or bad, the next play, game, practice, etc., is the most important.

Record was 4-12 (1-7 in Lake Conf; 3-5 in non-conf) including sections.

Won our first Section game in 11 years (with a win against STMA; first win vs STMA in at least a decade); lost to Rogers (the #1 seed in Section quarter finals 0-1; had multiple opportunities to win that game).

We were incredibly young and are returning 15 plus players who saw at least a few minutes of varsity experience. We have a very strong 8th grade group coming in and had a huge freshmen class (27 players making up over half our program).

The section week was the highlight of the season; the girls competed at an incredibly high level and it all came together at the right time.

Individual highlights were:

- First team All Lake Conference: Claire Erickson (10th grade; also nominated for All-State as the 3rd best defender in the Conference...voted by coaches) and Macey Bonk (12th grade).
- Honorable Mention: Peyton Anderson (10th grade); Kylie Smith (12th grade) Brooke Gunderson (12th grade)
- Miss Bison Soccer was awarded to Lauren Fedema who even though she lost her Senior season to injury still found a way to have an incredible impact on the program.
- Game Ball was awarded to Megan Otto (12th grade) for her ability to play all positions at a high level even if it wasn't what she preferred.

Boys Soccer

Head Coach - Joe Pokorney - 11th year coaching at BHS and 6th year as head coach

Assistant Coach - Josh Tierney, Jordan Danielson, Tanner Fisher

Boys Soccer had a challenging, fun and encouraging 2022 season. We had 60 student athletes come out for our three teams this year, up from 46 last season. After opening the season with a 4-3 win over eventual Mississippi 8 Conference Champion Monticello, our varsity group battled through significant injuries, illness and a challenging Lake Conference schedule, finishing 4-12 overall in the regular season. All wins came in non-conference matches. After lopsided losses to STMA in the regular season, we played the Knights to a tightly contested 1-0 result in the Section 8AAA playoffs. The match was decided in the final minutes and truly could have gone either way. One of our primary goals every year is to play our best soccer at the end of the season. We accomplished that goal this year.

Thanks to all of Bison Boys Soccer players, parents, supporters staff and officials for helping to deliver another fun year.

- Lake Conference All-Conference honors went to Carver Tierney (Sr.) and Philip Fleischer Borreson (Sr.).
- All-Conference Honorable Mention awards went to Landon Bourgoine (So.), Tyler Schrepfer (Jr.), Maxwell Zook (Jr.) and Camden Reineck (Sr.).
- Tyler Revolinski (Jr.) earned the Minnesota Soccer Coaches Association Academic Excellence Award for carrying a 4.0 cumulative GPA.

Girls Tennis

Head Coach - Alex Revenig 2nd year Head Coach

Assistant Coach - Joel Peterson, Amy Vanbeusekom and Volunteer Tom Kuzma

This was an awesome fall season for Buffalo girls tennis! With an overall record of 17-10 and a Lake Conference record of 2-4. Our team highlights would be beating conference rival St. Michael/Albertville 7-0, taking down the #2 seed (as the #7 seed) in the second round of section play, and Anna Lee having her 100th career win early in the season. We had amazing team spirit and drive making this a competitive and fun year!

Volleyball

Head Coach – Jennifer Peterson, 10th year in program, 6th as Head Coach

Assistant Coach - Becky Karna (V assistant), Jenn Penney (JV), Aivary Bouman (10), Lauri Zumach (9A), Taylor Tody (9B)

This year at the freshman level, Lauri Zumach continued coaching our 9A team and Taylor Tody continued as the 9B coach. Their teams were among the top three 9th grade teams in our conference. Aviary Bouman joined the staff, coaching our 10th grade level. They made great strides in their skills and played the best they had all year right at the end of the season! Jenn Penney shifted roles as our JV head coach. Their team was a great blend of sophomores and juniors that were highly motivated, with a high skill level, and great players to coach. The JV team dominated the conference and had some great tournament wins.

Becky Karna rejoined us as the varsity assistant. Our recurring themes for the season were resilience and recovery. There were only 2 weeks of the season that the varsity roster was fully active. Throughout the season we had players adjust to different roles and positions as players recovered from various injuries. We had some very dynamic players this year, which made it relatively easy to adjust game plans to fit the personnel and team needs each week. Playing in the Lake Conference again, and being a part of the new AAAA state class, we knew there would be difficult matches. This year, the entire team had fully understood that we needed to play aggressive and not back down from the top teams in the state. This mentality and leadership, particularly displayed by our senior captains (Kolleen Ebert, Kaya Garrett, Macie Guida and Lindsay Hartman) trickled down to all levels of the volleyball program.

Although our overall record was just 9-20, it does not quite reflect the hard work and dedication the team put in every day during practice and matches. We saw much improvement in the head-to-head competition compared to years past in the Lake Conference. Many games were only lost by single digits and we performed/forced more 4 set matches this season too. We saw a ton of individual player growth and development which was recognized at the Conference level.

- All conference player awards: Grace Therrien (10) and Kaia Caffee (10). Kaia Caffee made the Buffalo Volleyball Career Stat Leaderboard with a total of 57 blocks this season.
- All conference honorable mention awards: Macie Guida (12), Kaya Garrett (12), and Kolleen Ebert (12).
- Our team academic GPA was a 3.84, which earned a State Gold Award.

Our athletes also made big impacts on our community this season with the various events we held supporting our youth groups, families in need, and working toward a more inclusive community. We are extremely proud of our athletes' dedication this season. We are excited for next year for a hopefully "normal" season. With the mentality they developed this year, along with skill growth and off-season dedication, we should see the Bison Volleyball team earn some more wins next year.

Football

Head Coach – Craig Lachowitzer - 5th year coaching at BHS, 2nd as Head Coach
Assistant Coach - Mark Lemen, Brad Ingram, Chris Gmach, John Gunderson, Mike Curry, Austin Youngmark,

B-Squad Coaches were Nick Ward and Josh Ortmann

9th grade coaches were Troy Holland, DJ Shefland, LeRoy Erickson, and Dave Griffieth

The Bison football team finished the 2021 season with a 3-7 record, including a road playoff victory over #3 seeded Spring Lake Park. The Bison were led by the 25 seniors on their team who saw victories over Coon Rapids, Delano and Spring Lake Park. The Bison started the year with a loss to Monticello, 21-7. They followed that up with a 35-20 victory over Coon Rapids and a 29-0 victory at Delano in the first shutout victory since 2011. The Bison then hosted Elk River and ran into a hard time stopping the Elk River offense while seeing too many mistakes offensively in a 43-21 loss. The next week posed another major test for the Bison as they hosted #1 ranked Andover in week five. The Bison took an 18-7 lead into the fourth quarter. After a weather delay due to a pending lightning storm, the Bison seemed to lose momentum and were outscored 17-0 in the fourth quarter to fall 24-18.

The next three weeks saw major offensive issues for the Bison as they struggled with injuries and mental mistakes as they struggled to find the consistency needed to be successful. The Bison lost 28-7 to Bemidji, 31-0 to Rogers, and 42-13 to Brainerd. With a quick playoff turnaround, the Bison found themselves seeded 6th in the section, meaning they would travel to Spring Lake Park, the #3 seed. Spring Lake Park had been the perennial section champion over the previous half decade, and would prove to be a tough match up for the Bison. Defensively, the Bison had perhaps their best game of the season as they only gave up one touchdown and forced four turnovers including both touchdowns the Bison would score. Owen Herbst had a 97 yard fumble recovery returned for a touchdown (which is the record for the longest fumble return in Bison football history), and Carson Giddings returned an interception 85 yards for a score. After the hard fought victory, the Bison traveled to Park Center for the section semi-final. In another hard fought game, the Bison came out on the short end of the stick with a 28-20 loss. As the season ended, there were many things to be proud of for the Bison during the 2021 season. That included new records in Bison Football. Owen Herbst set the record for the longest fumble return in Bison Football history when he ran a fumble back 97 yards against Spring Lake Park. As a team, the Bison tied the record for most defensive touchdowns in a season with four, and came up one interception short of tying the record for most interceptions in Bison Football history with 16.

The Bison played the most difficult schedule in 5A football as four of their five Class 5A regular season opponents played in their section championship (Elk River, Andover, Rogers, Bemidji). In an extremely competitive district, the Bison fought hard in every game and never gave up, even during the stretch of tough losses at the end of the

regular season. Even with the losses, the Bison still found themselves raising around \$3000 that was donated to the victims of the Allina shooting. Many players were also instrumental in helping move equipment around the building as our school transitioned to DL and then back from DL to in-person. We had many student athletes taking an active role in helping their school. There was also a new mentorship program where 9th grade players could sign up to have an 11/12th grade mentor work with them and help them transition to the high school. And we are currently putting together a program where our varsity players go into elementary schools to read to elementary students. There are many things that our young men are doing that goes beyond the football field and truly are building better young men for the future.

The year ended with many accolades for the Bison. Some of the highest honors were as follows:

- Cole Madsen - Minnesota Vikings All-Star Game Selection
- Noah Karels - District Most Valuable Linebacker, All-State Academic Team
- Antonio Bluiett - District Most Valuable Defensive Back, Randy Shaver All Metro Team (Defensive Back), First Team All-State selection (Defensive Back)

Girls Swim & Dive

Head Coach - Kelsea Smith - 1st year Head Coach

Assistant Coaches - Shannon Barclay, Gina Pogue, Hayley Schendel

Team went from placing 4th at True Team to placing 1st at Sections and becoming the Section Champions for the first time ever! Every Team member improved through the season and all swimmers swam personal best times at Sections!

1 Relay and 3 Individual events qualified for State:

200 Medley Relay

14th (1:50.66): Kolby Schendel, Brianna Shroyer, Ellie Carik, Mya Smith

100 Free

8th (52.72): Kolby Schendel

100 Backstroke

13th (59.00): Kolby Schendel

100 Breaststroke

6th (1:04.80): Brianna Shroyer

New School Records:

200 Medley Relay School Record

Kolby Schendel, Brianna Shroyer,
Ellie Carik, Mya Smith 1:48.83

200 IM School Record
Brianna Shroyer 2:13.48

100 Freestyle School Record
Kolby Schendel 52.44

100 Backstroke School Record
Kolby Schendel 58.12

100 Breaststroke School Record
Brianna Shroyer 1:04.65

ATTACHMENTS:

- BHS Fall Activities Participation Report