

Buffalo Hide Academy: August 2021

The Start of a New School Year

A Surprise Visit:

The beginning of a school year is always filled with uncertainty, nerves, and excitement, and this year all of those feelings were intensified. That's why, with great surprise and gratitude, it was especially nice to come back to work with a homecooked meal made by a recent graduate of Buffalo Hide Academy – Mr. Preston BearMedicine (BHA Class of 2021). On the first day of PIR, Preston popped into the building to see how many staff were going to be around for lunch. Then, at noon, he came back with a pot of chicken alfredo, fresh bread (both of which he made himself), and the sharing of stories of his life and all that has been going on since we last saw him.

We share this to highlight the importance of building relationships and that once a student is enrolled at BHA, they will forever be family. Thank you, Preston!



First Week Activities:

The first week at BHA is dedicated to relationship building, group activities, and goal setting. Instead of jumping right into classes, we do full group instruction and team teaching. This year, among the several projects students were expected to complete, was one on creating at least one SMART goal (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time Bound) for this school year. Troy Atchison and Katie McDonald were the lead teachers and did a great job! They started the lesson off with an ice-breaker that was relevant to the topic (make a paper airplane that can fly further than anyone else's) and from there, broke down the SMART acronym and then students began their rough drafts of their posters. This was an excellent activity for students to think about what they hope to accomplish this year as well as specific steps they will need to complete in order to realize this goal. Well done to all the teachers and all the students!



Continued Success for a BHA Graduate:

Ms. Rosie Chavez (BHA Class of 2019) stopped by the Academy to say hello (cookies in tow!) and to share all that has been going on in her life in the past couple of years. She is currently employed as a backcountry trail crew leader with the Montana Conservation Corps, and has been leading work trips into the remote sections of the Bitterroot National Forest during this summer season.

With Rosie achieving this level of responsibility and duty it is of course no surprise to us. We couldn't be prouder of our 2019 grad. She has consistently imbued the world with goodness and all of the ideals we strive for here at BHA. She's one of our heros. Love ya, Rosie!



A Rez Dog's Point of View - By Wind Augare (Student of BHA):

A rez dog is a dog that roams around the rez and we're not too sure all the time if they're homeless or if they're just walking around minding their own business. There's this one rez dog I knew - didn't know his name - but my buddies and I just called him Coolio. He was probably one of the biggest dogs I have ever seen and he wasn't mean at all. I also think that rez dogs are different because they are tougher and stronger - and not spoiled - compared to other types of dogs.

