

BHA Board Report 1/13/26

BHA and BHS Heavy Music Symposium Round 2 + After School Club



This spring semester marks our second offering of the collaborative Heavy Music Symposium class between Browning High School and Buffalo Hide Academy, following an incredibly successful first run last year that had a profound impact on students. Our kids are genuinely excited for its return, and this new 2026 version features four major creative projects with exceptional partners: a MAPS Media Institute documentary project, an immersive soundscape recording project led by legendary musician Steve Von Till, a collaborative 'zine project with professional photographer Michelle Dillon, and a journalism partnership with *High Country News* magazine.

Alongside these hands-on projects, we are also welcoming a new slate of guest artists and speakers who will enrich the class with their expertise, stories, and creative guidance. This expanded symposium continues to strengthen our students' confidence, expression, and connection to the broader creative world.

As an extension of this class, we propose establishing an after-school Heavy Music Club at BHA two evenings per week to provide BPS students with a safe, supportive space grounded in the arts. The program will cultivate a caring creative community where students can look forward to positive evening activities, collaborate with friends, and explore new forms of self-expression. By engaging with heavy music and related art forms, students will practice healthy coping strategies for stress and emotional distress. Additionally, through our partnership with the Fire in the Mountains Festival, the club will introduce students to viable creative and technical career pathways within the music and events industries.

Grief Support @ BHA



Grief and loss support at BHA is built on a compassionate, strengths-based framework that offers students multiple layers of care. Students have access to individual counseling throughout the week, as well as ongoing support from our partnership with the Tamarack Grief Resource Center, with Rick visiting weekly to provide groups, classroom presentations, and tailored guidance. BHA also offers the Honor Group, a culturally grounded, semester-long grief and loss support group open to all students. In addition, grief awareness and emotional wellness are reinforced through weekly mental health lessons integrated into Charlie's seminar class. Our proactive, supportive school climate—combined with strong partnerships with Tribal Health programs—ensures that students are consistently surrounded by trusted adults and accessible resources. To further reduce barriers to care, we maintain a Hush Pod, a private space designed for confidential telehealth appointments so students can connect safely with outside providers.

BHA Graduation Outlook

BHA currently has 63 seniors, with an estimated 40–50 students on track to graduate this year. Eight seniors have already completed all graduation requirements. Across the senior class, students collectively still need 403 classes to fulfill remaining credits, reflecting a significant amount of in person coursework, credit recovery, and independent study already underway.

- **Seniors Total (63)**
 - **On track to Graduate (Between 40 and 50)**
 - **Already Wrapped Up Grad Requirements (8)**
- **Total Classes Needed: 403 (That's a lot of credit recovery and Independent Study!)**

Courses Needed this spring at BHA:

Non-Core / Edgenuity Class Needs				
	PE/Health	Vo-Tech/ Computers	Fine Art	Total Edgenuity Classes Needed
Seniors <i>(Likely to graduate x35)</i>	32	38	13	83
Seniors <i>(Unlikely to graduate x21)</i>	42	49	23	114
Juniors <i>(x24 students)</i>	21	36	49	106

Original Classes Needed						
	ELA	Math	Science	SS	Elective Classes	Total Original Classes Needed
Seniors <i>(Likely to graduate x35)</i>	94	44	36	22	207	403
Seniors <i>(Unlikely to graduate x21)</i>	129	61	60	54	207	511
Juniors <i>(x24 students)</i>						