

**School Board Meeting:**

**September 2019**

**Subject:**

2019 BHS Spring Activities Report

**Presenter:**

**Tom Bauman, BHS Activities Director**

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**Suggested School Board Action:** None

**Description:**

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

2019 Spring Season Summaries  
2019 Spring Season Participation Report  
BHS Activities News

**Staff Narratives:**

Adapted Softball: Head Coaches Ruth Clarke (15 Years)  
Assistant Coach Dale Gilmer (1), Assistant Coach Frannie Pearson (1)

Adapted Softball had a great season! Our season ended with a 4-8 record. This put us 3rd in the CI North Conference which is the best we have done in 10 years. This was the second year for our co-op of Buffalo-Monticello-St. Michael-Albertville Coyotes. We started the season with only 7 players, just enough to play. We slowly added players ending with 10, a full field. The team started with 5 Buffalo athletes and 2 athletes from St. Michael. Sadly, we had no athletes this season from Monticello. We are hoping the program grows so we can be more competitive in our CI North Division in the future! Even though we've been short on numbers this season we have had some really exciting games! Even with this handicap, the team really stepped up to the challenge. The first game against Mounds View we only lost by 2 (12-14). It was a great game and a great way to start the season! The team has really shown a lot of improvement. Brandon Powers, our second year pitcher, was not only an awesome pitcher but led the team in hits. Our one and only senior, Austin Peterson-Lomker led the team as captain from the shortstop position. Assistant captains were juniors Derek Vetsch and Kyle Kauffman. The kids have worked hard and their skills and knowledge of the game are improving. Ending up third in the conference gave us a home game against the CI South team from New Prague for the play-offs, coming up short again.

Boys/Girls Track and Field: Head Coach Scott Palmer (24 years)

The 2019 Bison track and field campaign started off with some individual success with Isaac Basten and Alexei Hensel posting victories in their events 1600 and 800 respectively at the prestigious Mankato Indoor showcase in March. Snowy conditions and lack of depth hurt the Bison through April and much of May. The end of April saw Isaac Basten win the Hamline elite meet in record breaking fashion running a blistering 9:10.19, breaking his own school record.

The Bison struggled because of lack of depth at the true team meet in Brainerd. Boys finished 10<sup>th</sup> and girls 6<sup>th</sup> at the meet. Once the Mississippi 8 conference meet rolled around, the Bison began to improve boys finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and the girls in 7<sup>th</sup> place, with the girls 4 -8 being separated by only a couple of points. The Bison saved their best performances when the weather warmed up at the Section 2AA meet. The Bison set three new school records and a section record sending fifteen individuals to the state meet. School records were set in the girls 4x100 and 4x200. Macario Palomares set a new school record in the wheel chair 800 and Isaac Basten set a section 2AA record in the 3200. The state meet produced two state champions for the Bison -Basten in the 3200 and Palomares in the wheel chair 800. Isaac Basten went on to compete at the New Balance Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the two mile earning him high school All American status.

#### Girls Lacrosse: Head Coach Pete Robson (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

The 2019 Buffalo Girls Lacrosse season was another fun, exciting and successful season for the team. After expecting as few as 25 players total for both Varsity and JV heading into the season, we were thrilled that off-season recruiting efforts by current players and parents resulted in a number of new players deciding to start playing lacrosse and we ended up with 2 complete teams. At the start of an already short spring season the weather was uncooperative, and a late winter snow the weekend of our first scrimmage threw a wrinkle into our early-season preparation. That turned into a season highlight however, with the team – including players, coaches, friends, and family – coming together on the Friday before our scrimmage working together through the next morning to clear the turf. This community effort made it possible for the team to play (we had visiting teams from Roseville, Hutchinson and Hermantown) round robin style giving both the varsity and JV teams on-field experience that was extremely valuable and helpful prior to our first regular season games.

The team didn't let the weather hinder their success, and they got off to a solid start winning their first 8 games until meeting up with a strong and well prepared Hutchinson team that handed us our only regular season loss of the year. The loss challenged the girls to work together and come back even stronger, and they finished the regular season with 3 more wins and a final regular season record of 11-1. The team came into section playoffs with a strong determination to win, hungry for a rematch against Maple Grove that beat BHS in the 2018 section finals.

BHS ended the regular season as conference champions, and was selected as the #2 seed in Section 8 playoffs earning a first round bye. After beating Osseo-Park Center by a solid margin in the quarter finals, the team kept rolling with a strong win over St. Michael in the semi-finals. We showed up for the section finals against the #1 seed Maple Grove team, and fought to the finish - going neck and neck the entire game - until finally losing 9-8. While we tightened the margin this year compared to 2018, it was a tough loss – especially for the graduating seniors – who had played together since 5<sup>th</sup> grade and had always dreamed of someday earning a spot in the state tourney.

The team benefitted from a great group of Captains – Erica O’Borsky, Meghan Landsberger and Grace Moran - who worked together and with the coaches to help make it a great season and positive experience for all the girls on the team. For 2020, the coaches decided to defer captain selection until the spring, with a hope it will allow other leaders on the team to step up and take on a more active leadership role in the off-season. With 11 seniors graduating from the program this year, there are big shoes to fill and we are excited to see the many younger players and emerging leaders take on a more visible role in leading the team in coming seasons.

This season a number of Buffalo players were recognized for their on-field accomplishments including 5 All-Conference Selections - Erica O’Borsky, Emma Carlson, Maddy Huebner, Grace Moran, Jayden Perry, 2 All-Conference Honorable Mentions - Hailey Strenge and Callie Stumpfl and 5 All-Section Selections (a newly introduced level of recognition this year and a requirement to be considered for the All-State Lacrosse Team) – Emma Carlson, Maddy Huebner, Erica O’Borsky, Hailey Strenge and Callie Stumpfl. The team also earned recognition for their academic accomplishments including 18 players who earned Academic All-Conference recognition. Collectively the team earned many other awards and recognition for their contributions and achievements off the field and we are very proud of such a talented and well-rounded group of young women.

In addition to our core coaching staff that works so well together, we were pleased to benefit from some additional coaching support this season. Rachel Busch, BHS teacher and assistant track coach, lent her time and expertise helping the team work on basic running and speed skills and offered a great additional perspective for the players. In addition, we were fortunate to tap the help of Ali Minelli-Fenstermacher – the former Prior Lake Girls Varsity Head Coach – who brought additional experience, perspective and expertise that helped us work on continuing to bring our game to the next level. The team’s overall 13-2 record matched our record from last year, but definitely shows progress and continued development and evolution as a lacrosse program. Here is the 2019 “**Top Ten List of What We Accomplished Together**” from our end-of-season banquet:

- #10. Welcomed lots of new players.
- #9. We got better – individually and as a team.
- #8. We got faster – and it made a difference in key games.
- #7. We came together as a community and got the turf cleared of snow for our scrimmage day.
- #6. We did great off the field - team GPA of 3.84 plus lots of other contributions including yearbook, band, choir, national honor society and more. What an impressive group of students.

- #5. We kept cleaning up our game and our reputation started to precede us :) no swearing, fewer yellows, more passing.
- #4. We outscored our opponents by 207 goals to 72 in regular season. In the post-season we outscored opponents 36 to 15, and overall 243 to 87. Nice job!
- #3. We had a winning season - we did pretty well on the field with a 13-2 overall record
- #2. Conference Champions, Section Runner-Up – and we came so close to beating MG!
- #1. We had fun!

Thank you to all the BHS staff that made this season possible! In particular Mr. Baumann, Mr. Mischke, Barb McIntosh, Vickie Davidson -all were extremely helpful and supportive of the team and coaches in making all the “moving parts” work.

I would be remiss in not acknowledging the upcoming Buffalo referendum and the concern we all share that girls lacrosse – along with other programs that have been identified for possible funding cuts – will be sacrificed and the many young women who benefit from our sport would be left without the opportunity to play the sport that so many of them love. We hope the school board will continue to seek ways to avoid what we believe would be a very unfortunate outcome, and please let us know how the team, and we as coaches can help support the process.

We appreciate the opportunity we’ve had to lead a great group of girls again this season, and on behalf of Coach Tony, Coach Ed and myself, thank you to all who have made it possible.

#### Boys Lacrosse: Head Coach Joey Hartfiel (5th Year)

The Buffalo Boys lacrosse season had challenges, but for every challenge, there were also successes. Based on wins and losses, it was a success. The schedule held challenges with Saint Michael, Delano and Maple Grove. The team showed improvement as the season progressed.

Egan Mills earned all-conference, all-section, and was named to the all-academic all-American team. Devin Huebner, Tyler Braccini, Ben Symanietz, Canon Mills, Jacob Braccini and Griffin Valli also earned honors and recognition from coaches within the conference and section.

The team was filled with youth, seeing significant contributions from young players like Canon Griffin, Ashton Pedersen and Owen Carlson, showing that the team will continue to see success into the future.

At the conclusion of the season, I have chosen to step down from the head coaching position, as I believe it is time for new leadership and direction that is more consistent with the vision of the program and its support. It has been an honor to be a part of the Buffalo Boys Varsity Lacrosse program and I thank you for the support that I have had during my time with the program.

Baseball: Head Coach Mike Beilke (16 years)

The Bison finished the year with a record of 16-9. We finished third in the Mississippi 8 Conference with a record of 9-4. One of the highlights of the season was an 8-game winning streak. Calvin James, Noah Christenson, Damien Biegert, and Ethan Hansen were selected to the All-Conference team and Kai Brisk, and Luke Brings received Honorable Mention Awards. The Bison received a #4 seed for the section tournament. We defeated the #5 seed Maple Grove in an exciting 12 inning game in the first round by a score of 5-4. In the second round, we defeated the #1 seed STMA 3-0. Michael Weber pitched a no hitter in that victory. We lost the semi-final round to the #7 seed Rogers by a score of 2-1 in extra innings. We then won a losers bracket game against Maple Grove to advance to the Section Championship against Rogers. We eventually lost the Section Championship and took second place in the section. Michael Weber, Cal James, Cole LaPlante, Noah Christenson and Damien Biegert were all named to the All Section Team. Cal James was selected to the Metro North All Star Team. Damien Biegert, Cal James, Kai Brisk, Luke Brings and Nathan Buscher will all be lost to graduation. Thank you to the seniors for your outstanding attitudes and leadership. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We have a wealth of young talent returning. We have 4 pitchers with varsity experience returning for next season. I really enjoyed coaching this group of young men. Go Bison!!!

Softball: Head Coach Brad Zrust (15th year)

Bison Softball had a great season this year. We started out slow in that our first five games we were one win and four losses. We then proceeded to win seven of our next eight games. Progress was slowly being made by our team.

The Coaches knew we had to have patience with this team as we had nine girls play a position that they have never played at the Varsity level. These ladies did an excellent job adapting to these spots as the season wore on. We made progress and grew as a team.

Our Team finished fourth in the Conference and lost in the Section Championship game. Even though we didn't make it to the State Tournament, it was a very rewarding season. What made it so rewarding was this group of young ladies that represent BHS. I've learned throughout the years of coaching that this is more important than wins and losses. Go Bison!

Boys Tennis: Head Coach Ben Watkins (8th Year)

The Boys Tennis team's last season in the Mississippi 8 was a special one, as we finished the conference season with a record of 8-1 and captured the conference title for the first time since 2013. After a misstep in our first conference match vs. Cambridge, the team rattled off eight straight conference wins, including convincing, but tough wins vs. Chisago Lakes (5-2), Monticello (6-1) and STMA (6-1). At one point during the season, the team had an incredible 11 match winning streak, the longest streak in the past 8 years! That resulted into an overall match record of 17-8 - the best team record in quite some time.

Beyond winning the conference championship, the team made it to the section semifinals for the first time in many years and gave Maple Grove a great match before being overpowered. Anything less than the section finals or the state tournament will be a letdown for next year.

Turner Marr (9th grade), ended the year with the most singles wins (17), while Brian Miller (12th grade) ended the season with a doubles record of 19-3; well enough for the most wins and the best overall winning percentage. Brian partnered with Levi Preugschas (10) for most of the year, and combined with Gavin Wyatt (9) and David Nunn (10) to give us an awesome punch at 2 and 3 doubles. Our #1 doubles team of Luke Dahl (11) and Andy Shaffer (9) were voted as the doubles team of the year in the Mississippi 8 conference and earned the #5 seed in the section tournament, behind only teams from Wayzata and Maple Grove.

Our singles lineup, mainly consisting of Turner Marr (9), Logan Miller (11), Moritz Simon (12), and Patrick Lubben (9) has continued to grow and was an incredible asset to our success this year. Marr finished the regular season with a record of 12-9, playing #1 singles, while Simon finished 11-4 (mostly at #3 singles), and Lubben continued to improve match after match, and finished 7-15, playing both #3 and #4 singles. Captain Hunter Fasching (12) and Taavi Larson (11) provided a boost for us, showing they can compete and win matches in singles or doubles.

Award winners for this year team consisted of Turner Marr as the team MVP, David Nunn was voted as the most improved player, and junior captain, Luke Dahl was voted as the Bison/Team Spirit Award recipient.

Luke Dahl, Turner Marr, Logan Miller, and Andy Shaffer all earned 1st team all-conference honors, while Brian Miller, David Nunn, Levi Preugschas and Gavin Wyatt earned their spot on the honorable mention team.

Once again, the team earned the All-State Gold award, with a team GPA higher than 3.75, with 8 members of the team earning the academic all-conference award.

It was an incredible year with a group of student-athletes that refused to give up and continued to improve throughout the season with hard work and great attitudes. I am incredibly proud to coach this group of young men - they inspire me with how well they treat their opponents and each other.

#### Boys Golf: Head Coach Paul Olson (3rd year)

The start of 2019 golf season mirrored the 2018 season with late spring snows, postponed, canceled and rescheduled events and a condensed season. The boy's golf team spent most of the first month of the season hitting balls into nets it had installed at the Buffalo Civic Arena. Lifting weights and conducting whiffle ball and putting contests helped keep the enthusiasm. A plethora of new rules was the subject of numerous film sessions. To their credit, team members maintained a positive attitude throughout. The Varsity/JV roster was set at 18 for the start of the season.

Wild Marsh Golf Course once again served as the home course for the 2019 Bison Boys Golf Team. After school tee times were shared with the Girls golf team on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Due to league play on Wednesdays, practice shifted to the Golfmasters driving range just outside of the City. The staff at Wild Marsh was very accommodating throughout the season allowing the team to work on a variety of skills at various locations on the course.

The Boys and Girls teams, along with course staff, worked together to establish the first annual Bison Golf Invitational at Wild Marsh on April 30th. The event featured a unique team scramble format. 15 teams were scheduled to play. Unfortunately the event was canceled due to rain and cold blustery conditions. All are looking forward to holding the event during the 2020 season. The Boys did host a Mississippi 8 West conference meet at Wild Marsh on May 16th.

During the 2019 season the Varsity Team and JV teams competed in seven Mississippi 8 Conference meets. The Varsity competed in seven invitational meets at various courses, and an 8AAA pre-section and sectional meet at Headwaters Golf Club near Park Rapids. The JV competed in one Invitational. The Varsity team never finished lower than 3rd in any event during the season, notching 1<sup>st</sup> place in two and 2<sup>nd</sup> in four.

Other team highlights of the season included finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference standings behind only State ranked St Michael. The Bison did take first place honors in two of the West Division meets. The team made a run at STMA by firing one of the lowest team scores in BHS history with a 294 at the Conference finals at Riverwood Golf Course. The team shot a very competitive two day total of 597 (297/300) at the Section meet in Park Rapids to take 2nd place honors behind State ranked Alexandria who advanced to the State tournament. The Bison were well represented at the State meet by Senior John Russett and Junior Walter Ylitalo who advanced as individuals from the Section meet.

#### Girls Golf: Head Coach Deb Warpula (3rd year)

The 2019 season started in stocking caps and ended at the conference finals in stocking caps! It was a challenging spring again weather wise, but as a team, we saw growth in relationships and in character.

We had 18 golfers on the team this year after graduating 3 last year. Moving into this year, we talked often to the team on only being able to control the things we have control over. With the history of the team winning, 13 M8 conference championship titles and making it to state four seasons in a row as a team, there was an expectation from the community and pressures that were hidden in well-meaning comments.

The focus, since I started coaching, has been, what will their legacy be....in the sport, conference, section, school and community. I saw great progress in this area, especially this season, as we were working on redefining what it means to have a successful golf program at Buffalo High School.

We did not win the conference title, but the girls were extremely happy for STMA, for their good play and overcoming the difficult weather conditions of the mid and final. We did not win Sections to advance to state as a team, but the girls all celebrated with Brainerd for their win and for Sofia Morin making it as an individual. Attitudes were incredible. Some of these girls only know championships and to be able to conduct themselves the way they did made Tim and I so proud of them.

The girls did however win Academic Gold for having a 3.94 team GPA!!! This is an achievement worth noting as they all did what they had to do, to make up the class work and “control the things they had control over”.

Sofia finished 31st in the AAA State Golf tournament and she had teammates follow her in the pouring rain. That is a picture of this team that shows the depth of commitment to encourage and support and relationships built.

We wrapped up the season feeling completely humbled as coaches to have the opportunity to hang out with 18 remarkable young ladies for hours a day and many more in a week, impacting them and in turn being impacted by them. We coach with purpose and are thankful to be given a chance to do so.

**Spring Musical:** Tracy Hagstrom Durant (27 years) and Nick Lostetter (2 years), Co - Directors

### ***A Year with Frog and Toad***

Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale, Music by Robert Reale,  
Based on the books by Arnold Lobel

Music Director: Zack Carlson  
Choreographer: Debb Bestland  
Tech Director: Rebekah Herdklotz  
Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland  
PAC Manager: David Kilgore  
Student Choreographer: Perrin Thompson  
Student Stage Manager: Alayna West  
Student Set Designer: Maddie Carlson  
Stage Management Consultant: Jamie West  
Costumes: Laurie Hoops, Jodi Klaphake (Volunteers)

**Musical Synopsis:** 100% family friendly!

A hit on Broadway, *A Year with Frog and Toad* came to life on the PAC stage. 100% child friendly, this jazzy, upbeat score of *A Year with Frog and Toad* bubbles with melody and wit, making it an inventive, exuberant and enchanting musical for the whole family. Based on Arnold Lobel's well-loved books, this whimsical show follows two great friends – the cheerful, popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad – through four fun-filled seasons. Waking from hibernation in the spring, Frog and Toad plant gardens, swim, rake leaves, go sledding and learn life lessons along the way. The two best friends celebrate and rejoice in the differences that



make them unique and special. Part vaudeville, part make believe... all charm, *A Year with Frog and Toad* tells the story of a friendship that endures throughout the seasons.

BHS Performances were April 26 at 7:30 PM, April 27 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM and April 28 at 2:00 PM. This year we featured 25 high school actors along with 75 students involved in various crews and the pit orchestra. Tickets were available in the high school office and at Gartner's Hallmark at a cost of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students; they were also available at the door. This year our tech director, former student Bekah Herdklotz, assisted by senior Maddie Carlson, designed a stunning set that really stretched our student technicians. It was an excellent example of students stepping up to the challenge. The tech crew also had two special needs students involved. A para was hired to accompany one student. The other student was accompanied by dad to every set building session. He is an experienced carpenter and served as an excellent mentor to our students.

Since this show was of obvious interest to elementary teachers and children and realizing that not all kids would be able to attend an evening performance, we moved our opening night to accommodate two matinee performances for BHM elementary students. Instead of opening on Thursday, April 25, the cast and crew took the entire day off of school to make sure each elementary student in the district got the chance to be exposed to this powerfully educational show. These matinees were completely free of charge and the school district covered all transportation. After the show, the kids were able to connect and interact with the goofy, cartoon-like characters who engaged them in fun handshakes, lots of high fives and hugs. They handed out frog and toad themed trinkets and stickers to make everyone feel special. Each elementary student also received an autographed picture of the cast along with a message of inclusion and kindness we hope they will "live" in their school and community. We were also able to include several of our high school special needs students in these matinee performances. It is often impossible for students who are medically fragile, spectrum disorders or other mental health impairments to attend a play or musical. Since the performances were during the school day, these students along with their teachers, nurses' aides and paraprofessionals were able to attend. It was truly inspirational for all involved. Over 1,300 BHM elementary students responded uproariously to the two free matinee performances.

It was an absolute joy to work with Zach Carlson, the new BHS choir director. He assumed the role of Music Director, preparing the students vocally as well as directing the pit orchestra. He did an excellent job and we look forward to having him around for MANY years. Ten students played in the pit orchestra with 75 plus students involved in the lighting/sound booth and costume/make-up crews. It was a HUGE undertaking for the BHS Theater Program because we were producing a musical based on VERY familiar books. Bringing "the page to the stage" presents additional challenges which our students conquered! Thanks to the generosity of several volunteers (both parents, past graduates and others) and other high school theater programs, we were able to rent and borrow necessary equipment, costumes and props so we could do the production.

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 Overall Production, Acting, Technical Team, Technical Crew and Light and Sound Board Operators. We will once again be performing at the Spotlight Showcase being held at the State Theatre, Minneapolis on June 10, 2019. We are very proud to represent the BHM school district in this endeavor.

The show was a huge hit. Crowd size was very large. The BHS students gave us both a powerful and very professional level production.

#### 2019 Summer Marching Band Season Summary: Director Scott Rabehl (12 years)

Membership was up significantly again this year. We had 153 marchers, the second largest the band has ever been. This included 29 Super Seniors and 59 first year marchers. The leaders and other veterans did a wonderful job of coaching up the rookies and we had another successful competitive season.

Most bands start rehearsing long before “The HERD” and put in 2 or 3 times as many hours before the school year is out in order to be ready for these early June parades. These heavy rehearsal schedules result in smaller bands. The philosophy of “The HERD” is to rehearse as little as possible during the school year, just once per week for 3 or 4 weeks, so that we conflict as little as possible with other spring activities. This allows a larger number of students to participate. However, it means that we cannot participate in any of the early season parades and we have to play “catch up” versus other bands that are competing by the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in June. This year’s band marched in 7 parades during the competitive portion of our season in June.

The band competed very well this year and finished the season ranked in the top 10 again. In early July, we travelled to Washington D.C. and Baltimore to perform at two Independence Day parades in the area and experience a variety of historical and cultural opportunities that are only available when you travel. Highlights of the trip include the successful performances and our participation in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. The season finale was in Hanover where the band performed for its hometown fans.

#### Competitive Recap

|             | Score  | Placement             | Specials  |
|-------------|--------|-----------------------|---|
| Buffalo     | 71.6   | Exhib.                | If we’d have been in competition “The HERD” would have been 3rd out of 8 bands. |
| Foley       | 76.4   | 4th out of 12         |   |
| Milaca      | 79.4   | 5th out of 17         |   |
| Sauk Rapids | 78.7   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 10 | Best Music and Best Marching  |
| Roseville   | 79.4   | 5 <sup>th</sup> of 12 |   |
| Lake City   | 81.8   | 2nd of 3              | Best Music  |
| Montrose    | Exhib. | Exhib.                |   |

Overall, I would say that we slipped a spot or two in the statewide rankings this year. With such a big band and so many rookies, it was difficult to “clean” our younger performers, both musically and visually. Music and marching continue to be exceptionally strong. Colorguard design and performance, as well as overall show design for the entire band continue to be a weakness for our program. I just don’t think I’m the guy to take the band to the very top of this activity. It’s like I’m a football coach that has the best running game between the tackles in the league every year, but can’t quite figure out how to transition into the modern pass-oriented game.