

# memo

To: Blue Ridge Board of Education  
Dr. Hillary Stanifer, Superintendent

From: Brian Easter, Blue Ridge High School Principal

Date: May 8, 2025

Re: BRHS Board Report

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## Upcoming Events:

### MAY

- 12 Baseball at Fisher, Softball at Fisher
- 13 Home Softball (4 p.m.), Spring Pops Concert (7 p.m.)
- 14 Girls track at IHSA Sectional meet in Maroa, Home baseball (4:30)
- 15 Bass Fishing Regional tournament at Lake Bloomington
- 16 Baseball at Midland, Softball at Hartsburg
- 18 Graduation (2:00) at BRHS
- 19 Baseball and Softball Regionals begin
- 20-22 Final Exams
- 22 Boys Track at IHSA Sectional meet at El Paso-Gridley
- 27 Spring sports awards night (6:00)

## FYI:

### By the numbers -

We have 155 students enrolled at Blue Ridge High School. Average Daily Attendance Rate for the month of April was 92.2%.

### Discipline data for the year (April 10-May 8):

- Detentions - 140 (18)
  - Lunch detentions accounted for 15 instances.
  - Before/After school detentions accounted for 3 instances.
- Saturday Schools - 1 (0)
- In-School Suspensions - 12 (3)
  - 3 students received ISS during this reporting period.
  - Suspensions totaled 3 days during this reporting period.

- Out of School Suspensions - 3 (0)
  - 0 students received OSS during this reporting period.
  - Suspensions totaled 0 full days during this reporting period.
- Electronics referrals - 82 (12)
  - 45 students have received a referral for electronics.
  - 18 students have reached at least level 2.
  - 8 students are on a contract.
  - There have been 10 contract violations to date.

### **What our staff says about working at Blue Ridge High School**

Last fall I asked every staff member (teachers, paras, secretaries and custodians) to schedule 15 minutes to meet with me. During that time, I asked them a handful of questions to help me get better insights into our staff. The first question I asked was, “What is your favorite thing about BRHS? And what else do we do well?” I enjoyed hearing those responses so much that I eventually shared them with everyone. I will share a few of these responses in my board report each month as we wrap up this school year. Here is the third/final installment:

- Curricular flexibility. Small staff - knowing each other.
- Support from staff, support from admin. Feels like everybody cares about our students. Great communication.
- Teachers are very interactive with students. School feels pretty tight knit, we work together well.
- The kids. The school does a good job of looking at the needs of kids and tries to meet them where they are. Lots of parent communication.
- Diversity of the kids... wide range of things they do. Teachers do a great job of building relationships with students.
- Feel protected. Teachers all feel welcoming. We do a good job of picking teachers.
- Appreciate feeling supported. Having been in other places, I know this is a great place to be! Teachers are given creative freedom. Good traditions.
- This year feels really nice, much more positive. The new staff is great.
- So many options for classes and activities for our kids. Overall we have a “can do” attitude in trying to solve problems.

***Here are some highlights from our daily announcements over the past month:***

- Blue Ridge took first place overall in Love for the Arts on April 25th with 9 ribbon winners at Eastern IL University. The ribbon winners were: Ivy Whitehouse, Rachel Light, Dylan Pritchett, Payton Heiser, Jasmine Brown, Renn Light, Jasmine Petmecky with 2 ribbons, and Kaleb Forrest won BEST IN SHOW his ceramic piece Card box Card box.
- Josh Berkler and Mya Laidley were recognized at the BACC Honors Night recently. Mya was awarded the Justin Gale Memorial Hustle and Hard Work Award and Josh was selected as the BACC EMT Student of the Year.
- Congratulations to the 2025 Prom King Joey Cole and Prom Queen Ellie Schlieper who were crowned at Promenade on May 3rd.
- Congratulations to the Blue Ridge FFA Chapter. Each year, the members and officer team complete the National Chapter Award application that identifies 15 different activities in 3 different areas that promote Growing Leaders, Strengthening Agriculture, and Building Communities. Chapters are scored on their application which in turn determines their rank and placing not only in the Section but in the state. This year Blue Ridge was named the Section 16 winner in Growing Leaders, Strengthening Agriculture, and Building Communities. Blue Ridge FFA was also named the Section 16 Premier Chapter and a finalist as a top 10% chapter, being one of 36 Illinois FFA Chapters to represent Illinois at Nationals this fall. State results will be announced at the IL State FFA Convention this June.

**Congratulations and Kudos:**

Our Athletes of the Month for April are:

**Girls Track** - Ariahna Miller-Brown- Ariahna always shows up and works hard and accepts any meet assignment or practice plan to better her skill set for the girls track team. Ariahna has really taken it to the next level this year as a sophomore and competes in the TJ, 100, 200 and 400. Ariahna is by far our team leader in points scored and is close to qualifying in state standards in a few events. I cannot wait to see how Ariahna ends the season and develops for two more seasons with track facilities to train on.

**Boys Track** - Wes Clark - Wes has quickly become a valuable member of our team. He is a member of our sprint relays, runs hurdles and has also done some distance running. As an athlete, he is always willing to do what is asked of him at practices and at meets. He does it all with a smile on his face.

**Baseball** - Nils Pfaff - This kid didn't even know what baseball was six months ago! He is now putting the ball in play and making plays in the field. He is an absolute animal!

**Softball** - Lillian Enger - Lilly always arrives at practice and at games with a positive attitude. She is a leader and a role model for all those around her. She also hits dingers and catches everything that is hit remotely close to her!