

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:** September 10, 2018  
**Subject:** 2018 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:

2018 Spring Season Summaries  
2018 Spring Season Participation Report  
BHS Activities News

**Staff Narratives**

**Adapted Softball:** Head Coaches Ruth Clarke (14 years) and Dave Kaufmann (11 years)

It was another fun season for the Adapted Softball team! It was also another first for our adapted programs as we stepped into the league as the Buffalo-Monticello-St. Michael-Albertville Coyotes. Though our program expanded, we had smaller numbers this year. Most games, we had just enough to fill the roster and others we fell short some players due to sickness and injury. We are hoping the program grows so we can be competitive in our CI North Division in the future! Even though we have been short on numbers this season, we have had some really exciting games. We ended the season with a record of 2-8. The team has really shown a lot of improvement this year. Brandon Powers stepped in as pitcher and has done an awesome job. Park Gilmer led the team in home runs. We also had a game where everyone got on base. The kids have worked hard and their skills and knowledge of the game are improving. We had three seniors as captains this year; Cieara Menk, Park Gilmer and Amber Bloom. We ended up 6th in the North Conference and will play South Washington.

**Boys/Girls Track and Field:** Head Coach Scott Palmer (23 years)

The 2018 Bison struggled out of the gate due to winter weather conditions that lasted well into April and an inexperienced crew especially on the boy's side. In May, the season reached its halfway point, the weather started to warm and the Bison fortunes began to change and strong performances were turned in from both the boys and girls teams. At the Mississippi 8 conference meet, the young boys' team finished in fifth place and the girls finished in third. The Bison finished the year setting 4 new school

records, Isaac Basten in the 3200, Amanda Montplaisir in the 1600, Marcaro Palmares in the wheelchair shot put, and the girl's 4x400 meter relay team consisting of Amanda Montplaisir, Alexis O'Malley, Lauren Feddema and Emma Latcham-Reiter. A total of twelve boys and girls were sent to the state meet. The boys 4x800 meter relay team of Travis Scotting, Braden Benson, Alexei Hensel and Isaac Basten out sprinted the team from Wayzata to finish the season as the State Champion in that event and earn a trip to the New Balance Outdoor Track and Field Nationals.

**Girls Lacrosse:** Head Coach Pete Robson (1st Year)

The 2018 Girls Lacrosse season was a fun, exciting and successful season after a bumpy start due to weather and snow that wouldn't quit. The girls had to adjust to new coaches and expectations, learn new skills and plays and all in a matter of days – but they rallied – particularly after we finally got outside after practicing in the gym for the first few weeks.

The team got off to a strong start on the field and continued on an undefeated 11-0 run until our final regular season game. Playing against a motivated Orono team, the BHS girls fought back from a 7-4 deficit, tied the game with only minutes left but ended up losing in double overtime. After taking the tough loss in stride, the team bounced back and headed into section playoffs with a strong, winning mindset.

We ended the regular season as conference co-champions with Hutchinson, earning a #2 seed in Section 8 and a first round bye. After beating St. Michael in our second round game and then Monticello in the section semi-finals, the season ended with a hard fought section final where we simply got outplayed by a solid Maple Grove team. The girls are determined to do even better next year and look forward to a Maple Grove rematch.

It was a great group of girls and our captains - Bailey Braccini, Claire Stevens and Danika Tweten - were true leaders, always setting a positive tone and willing to help including starting practice and conditioning most days, which both helped the coaches and built team morale. The incoming captains selected by the team for 2019 are Erica O'Borsky, Meaghan Landsberger and Grace Moran and they are a great selection and will do a nice job for the team. There are also a number of younger players and emerging leaders that will be fun to watch grow and develop in the coming seasons.

Several players were recognized for their on-field accomplishments including junior Emma Carlson who was named to the Minnesota All-State team. All Conference selections were Emma Carlson, Maddy Huebner, Erica O'Borsky, Callie Stumpf and Danika Tweten. There were even more academic recognitions and accomplishments earned by players this year and too many to be able to list them all.

Overall, the team's 13-2 record was a great accomplishment, but there were many more exciting and rewarding accomplishments the team realized together. Here is a

summary from our end-of-season banquet called "Top Ten List of What We Accomplished" (from #10 to #1):

**# 10:** Learned how to adapt (new team, new coaches, new expectations) and become a team

**# 9:** Learned tolerance and the value of embracing differences that give the team personality

**# 8:** Learned how to communicate better (without swearing!)

**# 7:** Enjoyed the many benefits of cleaner play

**# 6:** Improved lax fundamentals

**# 5:** Amazing and impressive academic achievement

**# 4:** Amazing and impressive music, arts, ag, and many other achievements and talents

**# 3:** Played pretty well, won some games:

- Overall record 13-2
- Regular season goals for: 180, goals against: 48 (section games 32 and 29)
- Regular season goaltending 71.3% save percentage (section games 62.1%)

**# 2:** Conference co-champs, #2 section seed, #11 Lax Power rating – best ever for BHS Glax!

**# 1:** We had a blast!

Thank you for the opportunity to lead a great group of girls and for the warm welcome to Tony, Ed and I from the BHS community.

**Boys Lacrosse:** Head Coach Joey Hartfiel (4th Year)

This season was filled with diverse competition and youth.

The season as a whole, in terms of record, was a success. Many of the scores were lopsided, some in our favor and some not. With discussion of conferences changing, we are hopeful that the competitive nature of lacrosse, will be witnessed via games against teams who will challenge us. We played very close games against Delano and Rocori, and we learned from both games. We lost to St. Michael-Albertville by a large margin, and with such a margin, it becomes difficult to highlight any learning, as we attempted to work through adversity and attempted to get younger players additional experience.

As a result, the team matured and showed great character throughout the course of the season. We worked as a team through frustration. We worked as a team through wins and losses to regain our focus.

The seniors at this time worked hard to model work ethic and determination. These seniors may not have been the star players, or the most talented, but they worked hard, all of the time. They molded the identity of this team, and showed that talent isn't as important as digging in, working hard and grinding to make the team better.

We were able to have three coaches this year which was great! We were able to focus more on positions and break down practices into a more meaningful format. We intend to have three coaches again next season, in hopes that the consistency will bring additional benefits and successes.

We were fortunate this year to have the play of more than one player rewarded by the conference, section and state.

Egan Mills was all conference, all section, and also made Academic All State - Egan truly embodies leadership and character of a student athlete. Egan was also in the top 10 in the State for scoring.

Devin Huebner was also All Conference for his success on face offs - Devin finished in the top 5 in the State as our faceoff specialist.

Tyler Braccini was nominated for Player of the week in the State, was close behind Egan statistically, but showed grit and great improvement as he tried to close the gap.

Gunnar VanLith stepped into big shoes this season, as he started as Varsity goalie as a freshman. Gunnar kept us in many games and showed a great deal of character and leadership at a position that is integral to the team's success. As a result, Gunnar will be joining Egan as Captain for next year's roster.

Off the field, this team is respectful, compassionate and supportive. I received numerous compliments regarding many of the young men on this team from community members, school officials and other teams. Every member of this team not only stands for the National Anthem, they sing it, loudly and proudly.

We are a team, we are a family, and we are Bison.

**Baseball:** Head Coach Mike Beilke (15 years)

The Bison finished the year with a record of 12-11. We finished tied for fourth in the Mississippi 8 Conference with a record of 7-6. Calvin James, Noah Christenson, Kai Brisk, and Ethan Soeffker were selected to the All-Conference team and Ethan Hansen, Damien Biegert, and Jack Munsterteiger received Honorable Mention Awards. The Bison received a 5 seed for the section tournament. We defeated the #4 seed Rogers

in the first round by a score of 6-0 and lost the second round game to the #1 seed STMA by a score of 4-0. We lost the third round to the #7 seed Brainerd by a score of 11-9. Eathan Soeffker, Tyler Brown, Elias Uecker, Walker Haight, and Bailey Erickson will all be lost to graduation. Thank you to the seniors for your outstanding attitudes and leadership. Eathan Soeffker was selected to the Metro North All Stars. We are very excited about the players we have returning for next season. We have a wealth of young talent returning. We have 8 position players returning that started for us this year. I really enjoyed coaching this group of young men. Go Bison!!!

**Softball:** Head Coach Brad Zrust (14th year)

What an eventful year overall for our team. We kind of had two seasons this year. First off we had an inside season that never seemed to end. We spent way to many days in the activities center waiting to get outside. Just when it looked like we were going to get out, the Halloween blizzard from years ago hit us. Through all of this, the girls kept a positive attitude knowing eventually we were going to make it outside. We finally did make it out earlier than a lot of other teams in Minnesota. The reason for this is the job these girls did in shoveling off our fields. Three different times, they went out with tarps, shovels and wheelbarrows to get our fields ready. The amount of snow they took off was unreal. But each time they did it, they knew they were getting closer to playing a game. A lot of credit goes out to these girls for the work ethic that they displayed. I'm still proud of them! When we finally started the outside season, it held a lot of excitement for us. We started out fast with wins and were able to maintain it throughout the season. We set several school records this year with our bats. A couple I'm going to list are some Home Run records. As a team we hit 42 HRs in 21 games. Also we hit 7 HRs in one game this year. Both pretty impressive feats. We didn't reach all of our goals this year. One we didn't reach was winning a state title. We finished in fourth place this year. On a normal year, we would have been more than satisfied with that finish. Don't take me wrong in saying that. You see this group of girls had been to state the previous three years. So the starry eyedness of reaching state was gone. The #1 goal for these girls was winning it all. So there was some disappointment that they had. But as I told them later on, when you walk through the halls of BHS later on in life (maybe with kids along) you will see that fourth place trophy and feel very proud of what you accomplished. I let them know that you will also not so much remember where you finished, but looking at that team trophy you will remember the memories of a wonderful season and wondering what your teammates are doing now. I have to say a little bit about an athlete I coached this year. Emily Hansen was a player that we may never see the likes of again. Emily pretty much swept every major award that softball had to offer in the state of Minnesota. Besides being a great athlete, she was a leader off the field also. A great role model for any kid at BHS.

In closing it was an honor coaching such a great group of kids at BHS. It is always exciting in how they grow into young adults on and off the field.

### **Boys Tennis:** Head Coach Ben Watkins (7th Year)

The 2018 boy's tennis team found itself in familiar territory this year. Once again, the team played STMA late in the year for a chance to win the conference championship. The match ended with Buffalo being narrowly edged 3-4.

The team ended the season with a 7-2 conference record to finish tied for 2nd place. Highlighting the conference season were convincing wins against solid opponents Chisago Lakes, Cambridge-Isanti and rival Monticello.

Our team strength shifted this year from doubles to singles with Turner Marr, Nick Immel, Logan Miller and Gavin Wyatt playing most of our singles matches and having great success. Only Nick graduates from that talented group.

We had five players earn first team All-Conference for the first time in a number of years. Captains Nick Immel and Noah Steinmetz were joined on the first team by 10th grader, Logan Miller and 8th graders Turner Marr and Andy Shaffer. Luke Dahl and Gavin Wyatt earned Honorable Mention honors.

Academically, this team found great success, like many of the tennis teams that Buffalo has fielded in the past. The team earned Academic Team Gold honors, with a team average GPA of 3.75. We also had the highest team GPA in the Mississippi 8!

Nick Immel, Jack Oistad and Nathan Allen all earned Academic All-State honors.

The strength of the team was really in the camaraderie and the culture. Nick and Noah were fantastic leaders for us and did an awesome job of guiding our young team, (three 8th graders in our top 10 players). The team utilized our weekend tournaments, including our overnight trip to Eau Claire to really bond and grow together. This team was a blast to be around and brought me so much joy as their Coach. I was always proud of their character.

### **Boys Golf:** Head Coach Paul Olson (2nd year)

The 2018 golf season will most likely be remembered for the late spring snows, postponed, canceled and rescheduled events and shortened season. The boy's golf team spent 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. To their credit, team members maintained their positive attitudes and dedication throughout.

The team was finally able to get outside the week of April 23. Wild Marsh Golf Course once again served as the home course for the 2018 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 was limited primarily to the

putting greens and several of the bunkers nearest the club house. Buffalo hosted a Boys Mississippi 8 conference meet at Wild Marsh on May 17.

On several occasions, the team also traveled to the golf range at Albion Ridges Golf Course and to Buffalo Heights Golf Course where the team shared practice time with the BCMS golf team. The shared practices served as an opportunity for the BHS team to mentor BCMS players and expose them to high school level golf in hopes that they will continue with the sport upon reaching High School.

During the 2018 season, the Varsity Team competed in seven Mississippi 8 Conference meets, three invitational meets at various courses and an 8AAA pre-section and sectional meet at Rich Springs golf course near Cold Spring. Four invitational tournaments were canceled due to weather or scheduling conflicts. The Varsity team took first place honors in all three invitational tournaments it did play in including Annandale, New Ulm and Grand National at Hinckley. Team highlights of the season included finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference standings behind only State ranked St Michael, missing the school record for team scoring by only two strokes with a 299 at Hinckley and a team score of 299 at Wild Marsh, and finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the Sectional meet.

The Junior Varsity team under the direction of JV/Assistant Coach Charley Keifenheim, competed in seven Mississippi 8 Conference meets and one invitational. The team improved markedly over the course of the season and earned a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the final overall Conference standings. Several players earned Varsity playing time while others showed potential for next season.

Team members also garnered awards and recognition both on and off the course. In the classroom, the Varsity earned a Silver Award for their collective GPA and were only several hundredths short of a Gold Award. Sophomore Joe Carothers and Junior Nate Persson earned All-Conference Academic honors.

On the course, the individual highlights of the season included sophomore Walter Ylitalo earning All-Conference honors and sophomore Joe Carothers, juniors River Goodmanson, Tom Russett and Nate Persson earning All-Conference Honorable Mention.

**Girls Golf:** Head Coach Deb Warpula (3rd year)  
Assistant Coach: Tim Murray

Last season we had 9 girls on the team, graduated 2 leaving us with 7 for this season. This February we held two informational meetings and saw the interest in this team grow! We were excited but realistic. Conversations were had, and the conclusion was we would have an active roster of 16, with 4 reserves. By season end, all 20 had the opportunity to compete in at least 1 match. A personal goal each one of them had before the outside season began.

All of the preseason work of scheduling was buried in feet of snow and scrambling occurred. We did cancel out of a couple invites due to the new schedule. These girls worked so hard at balancing golf into their school day and family time. The challenge was one that was felt by us all. We had open lines of communication between parents/athletes and teachers when needed. The line-ups changed regularly to accommodate classroom time.

Without the incredible help of Barb McIntosh and Vickie Davidson, along with Mr. Bauman, I am not sure we would have had the successful season we did. I told the ladies in the office, that we coaches get all the praise and thanks, but without them none of us would have the seasons we do. I am so thankful to be a part of such a solid team of administrators and support staff.

This season was one of perseverance. We all pressed on in humble confidence.

Our season ended at Bunker Hills, with the 4th straight team appearance at State. Hanna Morin was named top 8 Ms Golf MN finalist, and we all learned that we are stronger than we thought with the challenges that we were able to overcome.

I would like to publicly thank, Mr. Bauman, Mr. Mischke, Barb, Vickie and the entire school board for this opportunity to coach the young ladies of our school district and the unwavering support I am shown each and every step of the way.

**SPRING PLAY:** Director Debb Bestland (6 Years)

Assistant Director: Nicholas Lostetter      Technical Director: Greg Bestland

We had 45 students audition for the show which had 15 parts. We cast 17 students so we could have a backup in case any student needed to back out. We started rehearsals the last week of February and the performance was April 19-21. We were forced to cancel our tech day due to a snowstorm, but the cast and crew rose to the occasion and made it great!

Costumes: App. \$650 (final is not yet in)

Set: \$758.

Scripts: \$0    Gutenberg press free

Royalty: \$0    Public Domain Script

Attendance: Thursday: 120

Friday: 350

Saturday: 100 (weather related: first nice day of the spring).

Paying tickets: \$450.

This show was challenging for the students. It was a comedy, but the script was lengthy. We had a rough start with one of the directors out a week with the flu and the other director working with a 5th block class. In spite of the rocky start, the students

rose to the occasion. We had a round with the flu illness among students and in the end, for one performance we had to sub in one of those extras we chose to cast.

The cast was new and eager to learn. Our leads, seniors Tara Gravelle and Mason Schmidt, had never had the lead experience and Emily Kern was coming back to the stage after taking a year off. Many in the show were excited to try their hand at a play for the first time.

The technical crew was significantly smaller due to the smaller scale set for this production. We used a rotating set which pivoted. Several parents helped by donating furniture for the show and in the end the number of techies to change the set was almost equal to the actors.

We costumed the play from Maple Lake Costume Shoppe.

Mrs. Laurie Hoops helped us with the costumes.

Mr. Mike Trossen helped with the set.

Mr and Mrs. Herda and Mrs. Stonecipher helped with the Lobby and pictures.

Mrs. Beal helped with flowers.

Things to consider:

\*Greg and Crew worked hard to get the upstairs and back rooms cleaned and put away. But we need to deal with the storage issue and the new backroom storage in particular. Many ideas are floating around, but there is an uncertainty regarding who makes the final choices for the space. This needs to be resolved so we can create a safe working environment for all who use the space.

\*We need to obtain the emergency sheets immediately. We didn't receive them until 1 week before the show. It is understood that the students need to pay the fee, but holding the emergency information until they pay is unsafe! Need to find a way to make this system work better.

\*There are now four directors who have participated in the last 4 years. Tracy Hagstrom, Debb Bestland, Amy Sparks and Nicholas Lostetter. The students have grown and matured under each of them as they each bring their own unique approach. It is recommended that we continue to give the students this type of diversity in the directorship of the various plays.

### **2018 Summer Marching Band Season Summary:** Director Scott Rabehl (11 years)

Membership was up significantly this year. We had 132 marchers, a high number for a "non-trip" year. This included 18 Super Seniors and 54 first year marchers. The leaders and other veterans did a wonderful job of coaching up the rookies and we had a surprisingly successful competitive season.

With the school year going two weekends into June, our band camp ("Sweat Camp") did not occur until June 11-15 with our first parade occurring on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Other bands were performing in parades already before we had even started learning our show. Most of these 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. This year's band marched in only 6 parades in June, compared to 8 or 9 in a typical year.

The band competed very well this year and finished the season ranked 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> in the state, depending on how I spin the numbers.

The season finale was in Hanover where the band performed for its' hometown fans.

### Competitive Recap

	<u>Score</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Specials</u>
<u>Buffalo</u>	<u>74.</u>	<u>Exhib.</u>	<u>If we'd have been in competition "The HERD" would have been 2nd out of 9 bands. Best Music, Best Marching, Best Winds, Best Drumline</u>
<u>Foley</u>	<u>79.3</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> out of 13</u>	<u>Best Marching</u>
<u>Milaca</u>	<u>78.3</u>	<u>4<sup>th</sup> out of 15</u>	
<u>Sauk Rapids</u>	<u>82.4</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> of 10</u>	<u>Best Music, Best Marching, Best Drumline</u>
<u>Lake City</u>	<u>84.4</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> of 6</u>	<u>Best Music, Best Marching, Best Winds, Best Drumline, Best Drum Majors</u>
<u>Roseville</u>	<u>81.6</u>	<u>5<sup>th</sup> of 12</u>	
<u>Hanover</u>	<u>Exhib.</u>	<u>Exhib.</u>	