

## Buffalo Hide Academy May Board Report 2023

### BHA “mini-mester”

After celebrating the majority of our students’ graduation, the last three weeks of school were transformed into BHA’s first “mini-mester.” Having such a small population of students during this time inspired us to get creative, so we assessed the credit needs of our few remaining underclassmen and designed the last three weeks of instruction to accommodate them working towards whichever areas they were credit deficient in. The instruction all centered around the earth and natural processes, with lots of time being spent outdoors on fieldtrips and doing work in our vegetable garden. We focused on Indigenous understanding of natural processes and Indigenous relationships with the natural world. Google Classroom was used to provide the framework and organize the assignments for students with a variety of work that would allow them to work towards the type of credit they needed – i.e. English, Social Studies, Science, PE, or elective.





## **BNAS SKATE PARK PAINTING PROPOSAL**

Mr. Rink worked with the BNAS dept. to write a proposal for a project in which BHA students and immersion students throughout the district would work together to paint Blackfoot language on the surface of the skatepark. Director of Parks and Recreation, Mr. Gale SkunkCap has been supportive of the idea of the project and we are currently waiting for an official approval.

### **BNAS SKATE PARK PAINTING PROPOSAL**

Robert Hall - BNAS Director  
Lea Whitford - BNAS District Instructional Coach  
Nick Rink - Instructor at WBHA

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**The Blackfeet Native American Studies dept. of Browning Public Schools would like to lead a project to have students paint Blackfoot language on the surface of the skate park in the spring of 2023.**

It is our belief that exposure to the language, especially the new writing system, to our youth in places where they enact their identities outside of school, such as the skate park, is one meaningful way we can attend to the historical trauma that has led to language loss and continued language suppression.

It is obvious upon visiting the skatepark that the concrete has been adopted by the local skate community as a canvas to express their identities and artistic sensibilities; We believe contributing to this living art piece with words, sayings, phrases, and sentences in Blackfoot that reflect the ethos of the skate park and the broader community of Blackfeet Country can have an impact on our youth in ways that help the revitalization of our language.

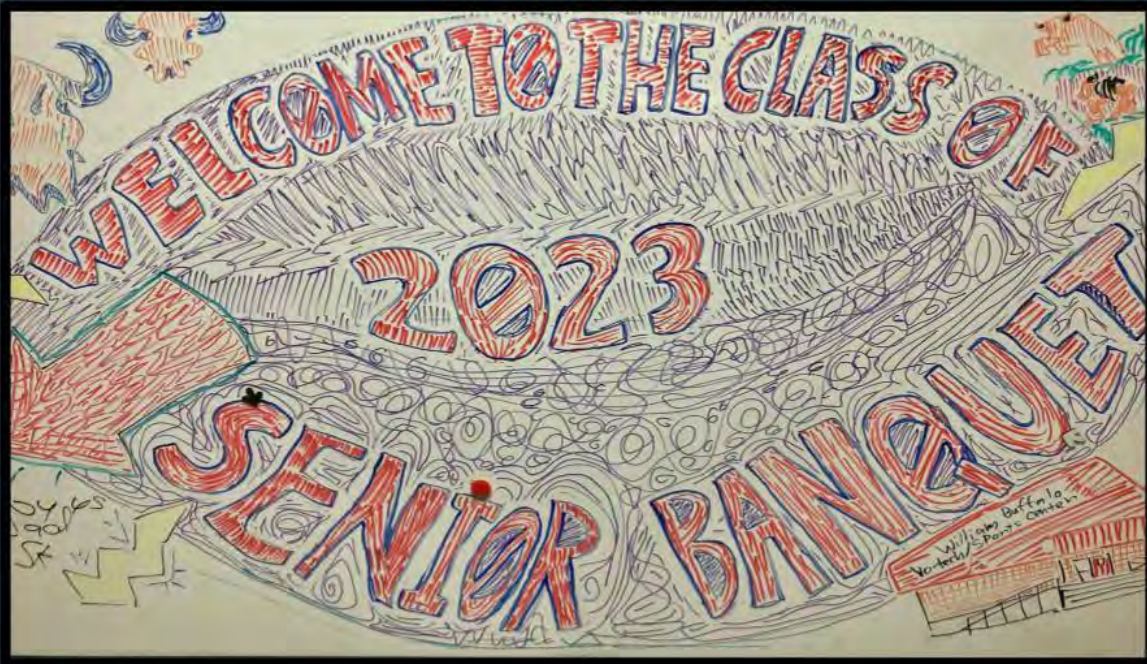
Our hope is we can inspire our current students to generate the content that we will ultimately paint on the concrete. We plan on guiding them towards positive context-appropriate language. All the content the students generate will then be considered by fluent Blackfoot elders for appropriateness as well as accurate translations.

Some Examples of english translations of potential language:

Help each other  
Help those who are younger than you  
Take care of your community  
Do dangerous things safely  
Stand up for what you believe in  
Try hard  
Jump high  
Be safe  
Have FUN  
Go fast

Animals: bear, dog, horse, cat, cow, pig, eagle, beaver, muskrat, buffalo, etc...  
Animals will also have silhouettes rather than translations.

## BHA Senior Night Slideshow 2023



### BHA Senior Recognition Night May 18, 2023

On Thursday, May 18th, BHA held our annual Senior Recognition Night for all graduates. In attendance were students, their families and friends. Brenda Bird, Lacey Salois, and Greg Klauk had prepared a delicious meal for all in attendance, which was served afterwards.

As a staff, we couldn't be more proud of the BHA Class of 2023. Collectively and individually, they persevered and have overcome so much. So, one last time, to all our graduates - you are forever BHA Family, we wish you nothing but the best, and good luck in all you do in life.

Much Love from the BHA Staff





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# Buffalo Hide Academy

## Class of 2023

### Hey Seniors...

*What are you most excited about now that you're graduating from high school?*



# Christian Augare



“I’m most excited about the freedom and being able to do what I want.”

# Wind Augare



“I’m just excited that I finally finished. It was a long journey.”

# Ashtin Azure



“I’m proud of myself for graduating.”

# Bud Bear



“The coolest part is that I finished all 12 years, and I don’t have to go to school anymore.”

## Alphonse Bird



“I’m ready to head out into the world to help take care of my family.”

## Mikell Bird



“I’m most excited that I did everything I said I was gonna do. I graduated.”



# Elisha BullCalf



“The fact that I’m graduating is most exciting. I’ll miss it here, but I’m glad to be done.”

# Daesean Bullshields



“I’m excited that I’m now finally free to do what I want.”

# Sam Carlson



“The coolest thing  
is that I can get  
ready for the future  
now.”

# Marissa DeRoche



“Plain and simple,  
I’m excited to be  
done.”

# Johnnylee Edwards



“The coolest thing is just being done.”

# Jude Gallineaux



“The coolest part about this is that I now have a diploma.”

# Kaydence Gallineaux



“I’m most excited that I’m done.”

# Kristopher Guardipee



“I’m glad I accomplished something so big in life.”

## Zane Hall



“It was a struggle to get this point, and I’m glad I’m done.”

## Wesley Heavy Runner



“I’m most excited that I’m now a free man.”

## Alex Hoyt



“The coolest thing is that I can now focus on my business dreams.”

## Gentry Labuff



“Improving on life.”

# Jushon Labuff



“YOLO!”

# Jay LaPierre



“I feel free, like I’m  
born anew.”

# John Laplant



“I’m most excited to get this done for my family. They taught me that education is important.”

# Olivia LaPlant



“I’m most excited about new opportunities after high school.”



# Sundance LaPlante



“The coolest thing is that I can enjoy the whole year now. I don’t have to go to school for 9 months a year anymore.”

# Kassidy Loring



“I’m very excited that I accomplished this life long goal for my family.”

## Owen Madman



“I’m most excited that I don’t have to go to school anymore. But I’ll miss you guys.”

## Dustin NoRunner



“I can finally start my own life.”

## Clint Olivas



“I’m glad to finally get high school over with.”

## Labron Redhead



“It’s exciting to think about my future now that I’m done with high school.”

## Jacob Reevis



“The coolest thing is that I’m now moving on.”

## Ciara Roundine



“The best part is graduating with my class. My people.”

# Heaven Tidzump



“The coolest part about graduating is that I’m finally done with school.”

# Marvin Trombley



“The best part about graduating is that I finally got it done.”

# Rose Underbear



“I’m most excited to see my family that don’t live in Browning.”

# Sophia Vielle



“I’m just happy to graduate and move forward.”

## Shandon Wagner



“To hell with circumstances. I create opportunities.”

## Shaylynn Wagner



“I’m just happy I’m done, and I’m excited about the future.”



**To the BHA Class of 2023...**

***Congratulations  
from your Buffalo Hide  
Family!***

*\* Graduates, come to the front for a group picture before heading out!*