

School Board Workshop:

May 9th, 2022

Subject:

BHS 2021-22 Winter Activities

Presenter:

Nick Guida, BHS Activities Director

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Report

DESCRIPTION: Season Summaries

Buffalo High School successfully completed its winter activities seasons for the 2021-22 school year. Coaches and Advisors have completed a short narrative of their season for you to review. Thank you for supporting activities at BHS!

ONE-ACT PLAY: Co-Directors Tracy Hagstrom Durant, Nick Lostetter

Alice In Wonderland

Adapted from Lewis Carroll's book by: Madge Miller

20 students participated in the One-Act Play program during the 2021-2022 season. Play selection is key to success in the competitive One-Act play arena. This year, co-directors Tracy Hagstrom Durant and Nick Lostetter, selected a comedy rather than a drama which is a genre change from previous years. Alice in Wonderland is Lewis Carroll's classic coming of age tale that has entertained readers for over a hundred years and has been wonderfully adapted for the stage by Madge Miller. Students participated in all aspects of the production from cutting the show down to under 35 minutes, to lighting, sound engineering and set building. Education is always taking place. District 877 facilitates all of this education through valuing the arts! Once again our theater students worked diligently and produced another winning show.

About The Play –

"In this endearing version of Lewis Carroll's memorable story, Alice is cautioned by the White Rabbit to take good care of the Queen's tarts, which are to be served shortly at the croquet match. While Alice's back is turned, the tarts are stolen. Alice, realizing that the White Rabbit will lose his head if the tarts are not discovered in time, goes in search of the thief. Her quest leads her through a maze of incredible and suspenseful adventures, climaxed by a trial scene in which the thief is discovered."

2021-2022 Season Performance Record

Lakes Conference – The Lakes Conference does not have a One-Act Play Festival

Sub-Section 5AA – 1st place

Section 5AA Finals – 4th place

Boys Basketball

Head Coach - Josh Ortmann - 10 years - 5 as Head Coach

Asst Coaches - Ross Mjelde, Jason Sorenson, Mike Curry, Aaron Hegle, Brady Bauman

The 2021-2022 boys basketball season was one our coaching staff will cherish for a lifetime. We had the opportunity to coach some of the most respected student athletes at Buffalo High School. As we approached the season, we chose to focus on doing everything in our power to teach these student athletes the definition of success. When we say success, we are talking about what it looks like, feels like and sounds like. This senior group took this challenge to heart.

They learned to instill daily habits that lead to meeting this definition of success. Our seniors continued to grow through leadership, accountability and positivity. These traits quickly trickled down into our younger athletes. Come January, we knew we were doing something right. If you were to come to BHS during passing time in between any class period, it would not be uncommon to see a senior basketball player walking down the hallway with a freshman player or see a junior basketball player, alongside a sophomore player. As a coach of these athletes, it was a proud moment when we saw our kids turn a new leaf and take that “next” step towards the right direction. We believe our basketball players have learned the daily habits of what it takes to be successful in the real world.

We finished our regular season with an overall record of 15-11. We competed in one of the toughest schedules we have ever played and did it to the best of our abilities. Come playoff time, the Bison earned the number one seed in our section. Although the season did not end the way we had hoped, the journey was like none other. We are extremely proud of the kids that represent our program.

The Bison were recognized with two All-Conference players in Antonio Bluiett (SR) and Nate Dahl (JR). Followed up by three All-Conference Honorable Mention players in Will Pool (SR), Carter Jackson (SR) and Zach Zrust (SR).

On behalf of our coaching staff we would like to thank the players for allowing us to coach them, the administration for all their support and the communities of Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose. We have the best fans in MN and are extremely lucky to get to put "Buffalo Bison" on the front of our uniforms and represent the best school district in the state of MN.

Knowledge Bowl:

Head Coach - Brandon Aldrich - 3rd year

Assistant Coach - Ryan McCallum

This year, Buffalo High School Knowledge Bowl was fortunate enough to have strong interest, so much so, that we had 35 players making 7 teams. There were 4 Varsity Teams (5 at the end when we moved our JV B Team up to Varsity) and 3 JV Teams (JV B moved to Varsity 5 in the last couple of invitational meets. Buffalo was well represented at the regular season invitationals. All teams found success in their own way. It got to the point where our JV B team (made up of all Rockstar Freshman) was moved to Varsity. The other JV teams at the meets were thankful to have a chance because Buffalo's JV B was dominating at the Invitational Meets- taking 1st place in the JV division each time they would compete; they trailed only a few points behind many of the high scoring Varsity teams in total points at the meets.

Buffalo's JV A team (All Sophomores) enjoyed some success at Zimmerman's Invitational Meet placing 2nd to Sartell's JV C Team's 1st. They were excited to place, and they were shocked to get 2nd- hoping to take 3rd or even 4th. They were a well oiled machine that day.

Buffalo's JV C Team (another All Freshman Team) found some late season success as well- taking 6th place at Zimmerman's Invitational and 4th place at North Branch's Invitational. They were also voted most improved at one of the meets because they started in a low room only to move quickly to place in the top 6.

All four Varsity Teams were quite successful- usually placing in the top 10 at the invitational Meets. Varsity 1 and 2 would place 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th consistently which is unique to Knowledge Bowl because that means they were constantly competing against each other in upper rooms.

Varsity 1 and Varsity 2 were the two teams that we took to regionals- Of the top 6 in our Tier, two would advance to the state meet. Varsity 2 scored 1st place in all regions

at the regional meet in North Branch and 1st in our Tier with 131 points. Varsity 1 scored 5th place overall and 2nd place in our Tier allowing us to take both regional competing teams to the State Meet at Cragun's in Brainerd.

Many of you have likely already seen that Varsity 2 took home the AA School 1st place State Title at Cragun's. This is the 1st state championship title/team that Buffalo has had since 2014. Varsity 1 put up a good fight at Cragun's as well placing 10th out of 24 teams. The seniors of Varsity 1 were happy to end their final season of Knowledge Bowl at the state tournament.

There are so many great things and fond memories from this season from both Coach McCallum and Coach Aldrich. We are both excited to see what the next year has in store after this successful season.

Mock Trial:

Head Coach - Jason Swanson - 12th year

Assistant Coach - Heather Eld

This season marked year two of virtual competition for Mock Trial. Both teams were happy to be able to practice in person, however. One benefit of the virtual format the past two seasons has been competing in a larger region with more teams. We have been able to see schools that are geographically farther away. This has given us more ideas, and increased the strategies we use for competition.

This year's case was a criminal fraud case where the defendant was accused of inappropriately benefiting from their-non profit puppy rescue organization. Criminal cases tend to be a favorite, and they are very difficult to argue because criminal cases must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Both the V1 and V2 teams performed well this season. We are especially proud of the V2 team finishing 7th of 20 in the region, as nearly all members were first year participants this season. The V1 team finished in the top three, and advanced to the state competition. There was a hope that the state competition would be held in person, however, this was also held virtually. Our attorney coach, Karen Wolff was able to arrange a tour of the newer courthouse just north of Buffalo and she was also able to arrange for the team to compete at the old courthouse facility in downtown Buffalo. Considering we were not able to travel to the state competition and have that experience, we were able to have a truly memorable experience by using the former

courtrooms. All were very pleased with their overall performances and Buffalo finished 10th of 16 teams.

Of the twelve V1 team members, we wish the best to the nine seniors who graduate this spring. Their mentorship and veteran experience will definitely be missed.

Girls Gymnastics:

Head Coach Alicia Malewicki - 2nd year as head coach in the program

Assistant Coaches - Martha Driscoll-Nelson - 38th year in the program

Jon Holtz - 18th year in the program

The 2021-2022 Gymnastics season was another successful year. The team consisted of 16 girls, 13 gymnasts and 3 managers. Katelynn Anderson, Gracie Lideen, Victoria Nelson, Audrey Strike, Kaylee Dehmer, Zoey Manthei, Josie Roskowiak, Lydia Field, Natalie Flynn, Annalise Hanson, Lily Jenness, Hannah Price, Kennedy Sarvie and our managers Abigail Bolin, Mara Engstrom and Corrine Farkiok. To say this group of girls was fanatics would be an understatement. We as a team of coaches would always be leaving the gym with a smile on our faces. My two assistant coaches both stated this was one of the most enjoyable seasons for them during their years of coaching. We were blessed to have the opportunity to work with this group of young ladies.

This season's overall record was 4-4. Our highest team score was achieved at the Moorhead meet with a 139.575 for our varsity and JV scored a 121.550.

Our team set some new records for our Buffalo Gymnastics Record/honor roll book, which is an overall running record of our entire program. 3rd Highest Team Beam score was scored at the Moorehead meet with a 36.50. Honor Roll: Audrey Strike with a 9.375 on Beam at Moorhead and Kaylee Dehmer with a 9.6 on Floor at Moorhead. The team did win the section 5AA Academic Award. This award is a high honor and is a true statement towards how hard our girls work in the classroom.

Individual Lake Conference and Coaches association awards went to the following gymnasts: All Conference: Audrey Strike All Conference Honorable mentions: Lydia Field, Lily Jenness and Kaylee Dehmer. All Section Team member for 5AA: Lydia Field, Kaylee Dehmer, Audrey Strike. All state Honorable Mentions were given to the following Gymnasts: Kaylee Dehmer on Uneven Bars, Balance Beam, Floor and All Around. Audrey Strike on Vault, Balance Beam, Floor and All Around.

We did not have any seniors this year and are looking forward to another fantastic season in 2022-23. As a coach, I can't wait for next season and invite you all to attend the gymnastics meets and show your support towards these amazing young athletes. Go Bison!

Boys Swim and Dive:

Head Coach Dan Schirmers - 8 Years

Asst Coaches - Chris Kosek, Angie Carik

The 2021-22 Season was a very successful one for the boys ending with a 3-6 record in dual meets, 3rd place finish at sectionals and a relay that participated in the state meet. We finished the conference season with a 2-4 record, earning our first wins in the strongest swimming conference in the state. We didn't have any divers this year and that put us in a hole with points at the start of every meet, however, the boys would rise to the challenge and fight to make up the 13 points we'd be down.

We only had 2 seniors this year, Jack Ireland and Braden Schiro, along with 10 juniors who supplied the leadership for a very young 7th-10th grade team. Freshman Rylan Close, Noah Wittke, and Juniors Cooper Polzin and Ty Kosek broke the 200 Medley Relay school record that has been around since 2013 by .73 of a second and missed going to state by .13 of a second. Wittke, Polzin, Trevor Barton and Close went to state in the 400 Free Relay!

The team once again did the Kick Cancer kick-a-thon raising money for the Randy Shaver Foundation in the name of Marie Butler, a mother of a previous swimmer who lost her battle with cancer, but is always an inspiration to this team.

I feel confident in talking for the other coaches that it is a privilege to work with this team and the future is very bright. The record board is going to be changing a lot in the upcoming years!

Wrestling (2021-2022):

Jeff Granrud, Head Coach (2nd year, 7th year with Bison wrestling)

Blake Trullinger, Assistant Coach (7th year)

Dan Scherber, Assistant Coach (2nd year with this staff, multiple prior)

The 2021-2022 season was highlighted by continued growth of our student athletes. As a coaching staff, we had high expectations of each individual coming into the season. We had higher expectations of the young men and women we worked with during the school year as far as academics, following strict guidelines, and growth as young men and women. All of our expectations on and off the mat were exceeded this season.

This season we were expecting to see large numbers come out and hoped to fill every weight class. We did see large numbers of new freshmen come out for wrestling. We had a great class of big freshmen. Unfortunately, we didn't have any small freshmen come out to help fill our lighter weight classes. We had one middle school student that wrestled full time with the varsity and one middle school student that wrestled a combination of junior high and varsity this season. Both young men found success and we saw growth, not only on the mat, but in the classroom as well.

The team, as well as individuals, earned awards during the course of the season. Academically, the team earned a Silver Academic Award from the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association (MWCA) by compiling a GPA just under 3.500. Unfortunately, the Lake Conference does not incorporate opportunities to recognize athletes for academic excellence. Athletically, the Bison wrestling team placed third in the Lake Conference. Seniors Owen Herbst, Macray Klohs, and Brennan Halderson were Lake Conference All Conference wrestlers, while junior Hunter Spike, sophomore Matthew Carlson, and eighth grader Aiden Herbst were named Honorable Mention wrestlers.

The team compiled a season record of 7-11 while giving up forfeits throughout the season. The wrestlers continued to foster a family atmosphere, allowing us to move wrestlers in and out of the lineup as well as to different weight classes throughout the season. We had three wrestlers qualify for the state tournament this season. Seniors Herbst and Macray Klohs and sophomore Matthew Carlson qualified for the state tournament. Macray Klohs had the highest podium finish with a 5th place finish. Owen Herbst was injured during semifinals and medically defaulted out of the tournament, placing 6th place. Matthew Carlson wrestled twice at state and took home valuable experience and belief in himself.

We incorporated some new ideas this season to help us continue to find ways to have our student-athletes grow and improve. This year we incorporated a "study table" to give wrestlers the opportunity to catch up on homework or work on finding success in the classroom during practices. At times, the managers were working with wrestlers as tutors. After the season was over, I had some young ladies that contacted me about potentially becoming Bison wrestlers. This year the MSHSL held the very first female

sanctioned state wrestling tournament. With the opportunity provided by the MSHSL, we will see growth in the program from young ladies at BHS.

Overall, this group of young men and women that I was able to work with was truly amazing. We had over 25 wrestlers on the roster with five managers that selflessly gave the best that they had during the season. Each wrestler brings their own great perspective and experiences to the team helping us to truly be FAMILY. We continue to strive to teach family, whether it is helping each other with homework, encouraging each other during struggles, or celebrating with each other when we overcome adversity. It was an honor to be able to lead Buffalo Wrestling this year and hope to continue to do so for years to come.

Boys Hockey:

Head Coach - Aaron Johnson - 9 at BHS/15th overall

Assistant Coaches - Thomas Johnson, Bruce Johnson, Jon Varner, Chris Pullar, Tristin Gust, Bill Manuel

We had a strong season this year. We finished with an overall record of 10-16. We won 3 Lake Conference games this year beating Hopkins and St. Michael twice. It was our first time winning more than one Lake Conference game. We did really well in Section 8AA play going 6-3. Included was the program's first ever win over Moorhead. We earned the #4 seed and home ice for playoffs, but were upset by St. Michael in the first round. We were led this year by senior Captains Turner Marr and Laken Gunia as well as Junior Ryan Roethke. We only graduate 4 seniors total including our two captains as well as Jayce Hansen and Brody Ward (Annandale). We are very excited about our team coming back next season.

Girls Hockey:

Head Coach - Ryan Huddy - 1st Year

Assistant Coaches - Sydney Driver, Courtney Johnston, Jon Varner

Record 5-19-2. Overall we were a very young team by age and experience. The growth we had this year was a major step in our program's development. Consistency and support with our youth program will be the key to continue to grow our program. We set up a mentorship program and our players not only helped coach but went to many youth games supporting our girls hockey. Our leadership this year did a fantastic job in

embracing our new culture and setting up the future classes to be successful. We did not have numbers for a JV team, however that will change next year.

Raegan Wurm was named All-Section Team and All-Conference team. Maddie Mootz, Anna Kubu and Nicole Swartzner were named All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Raegan Wurm moved up to 8th all-time in points for Bison Hockey and Maddie Mootz set the record for most saves in a season.

Girls Basketball:

Head Coach - Barb Metcalf - First Year at BHS/17 Years as a Head/10 as an Assistant
Assistant Coaches - Greg Amundson, Cole Johnson, Macy Wurm, Tom Feddema

5 All State Academic Senior Players; Team Scholar Award, 1 All Conference, 3 Honorable Mention All Conference, 9-18 W/L (2 key players injured most of the season.) Defeated "like opponents" handily EX.-Osseo and Armstrong; Overall in the Lake Conference - Competitive

Dance:

Head Coaches - Jennifer Thaler, Laura Donley - 1st year

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Winter Activities Participation Report