

# **Buffalo Hide Academy**

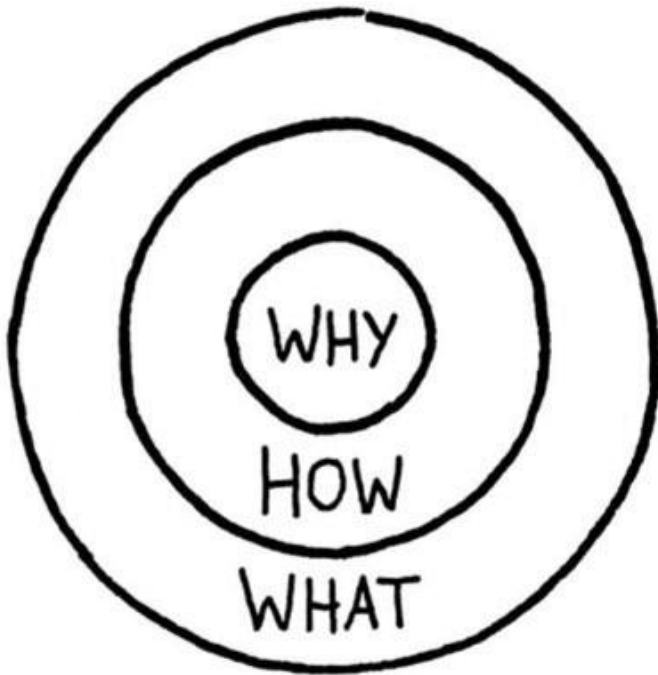
## **August 2019**

**Buffalo Hide Academy is beginning the year with 95 students enrolled. The majority of these students are Juniors, Seniors and 5<sup>th</sup> year students. We had approximately 55 students returning from last year with the rest of our students being referred by either BHS or through Nikki Hannon. We have a handful of students who have been out of school for a few years and we are excited to serve them.**

### **First Week Back: Full Group Projects**

On Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, the Buffalo Hide Academy staff welcomed back all returning students. It was great to see the familiar faces and dive into a couple days of orientation for these returning students. This first week consisted of some introduction activities. The students broke into two groups. One group focused on 'Identity' and the other group was 'Goal' driven.

Troy, Katie, & Jason paired up with an activity targeted toward making goals. This allowed the kids to reflect on last year and use those past experiences to drive the direction of the goals that they may have in mind for the new school year. The students learned about the 'Golden Circle' and what it means to really make goals that the students can make meaning to, while focusing in on the 'why & what' of goal making. Another focus of the activity was turning goals into S.M.A.R.T. goals and how S.M.A.R.T. goals can have a more meaningful effect on the outcome of the process. The project was that the students would make a poster that would depict their goal for the school year in the form of a SMART goal with the Golden Circle in mind.



**Why = The Purpose**

*What is your cause? What do you believe?*

Apple: We believe in challenging the status quo and doing this differently

**How = The Process**

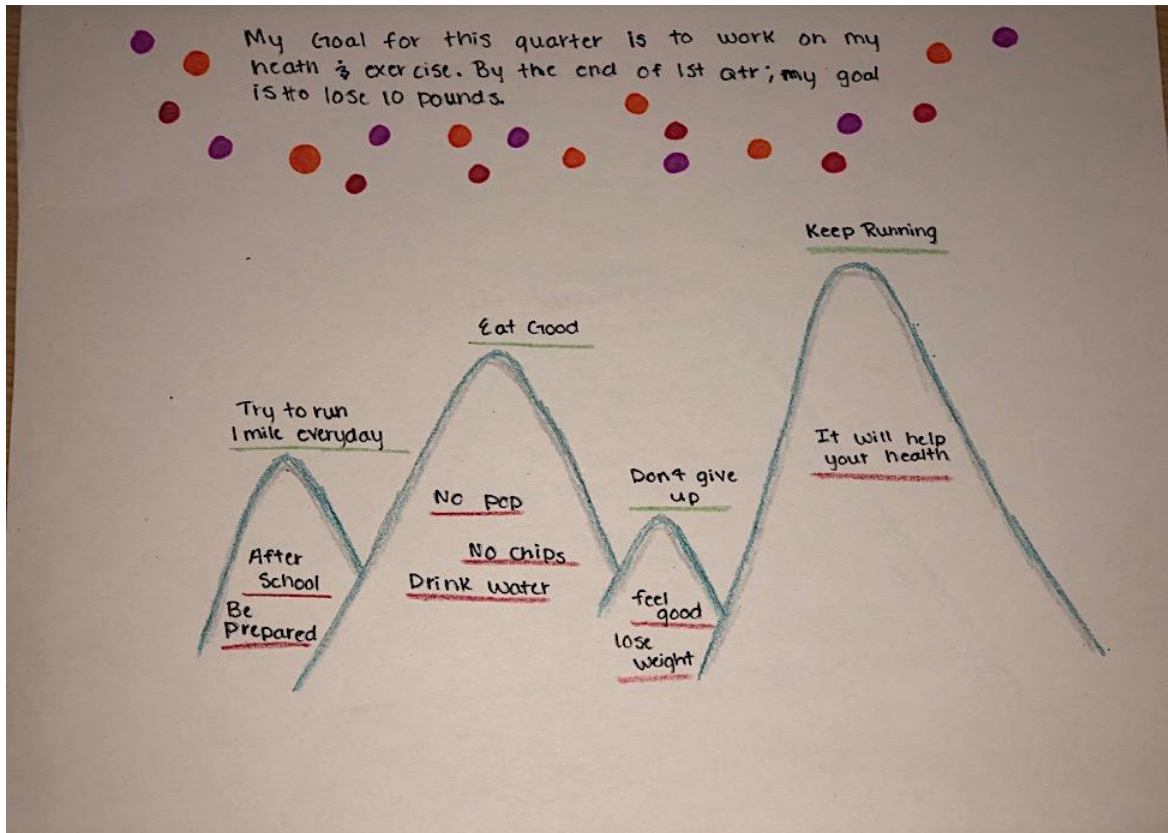
*Specific actions taken to realize the Why.*

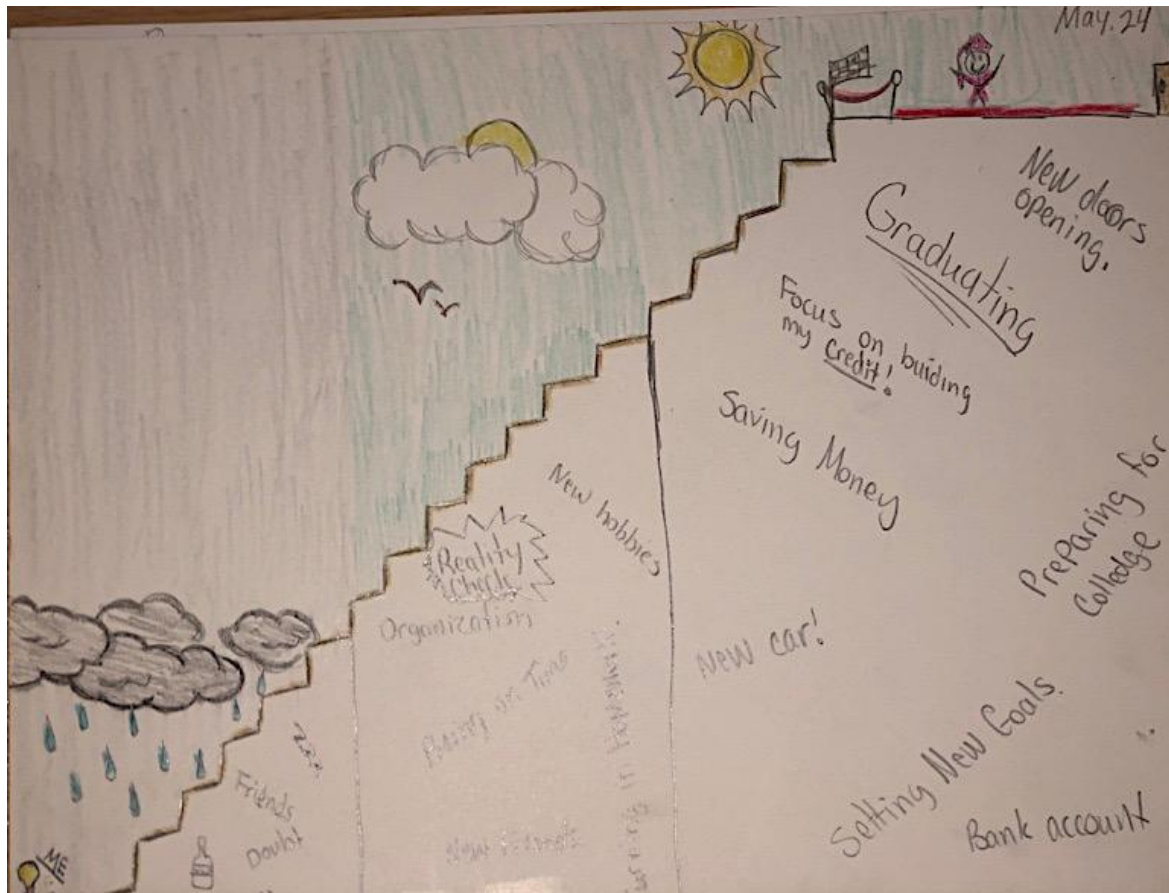
Apple: Our products are beautifully designed and easy to use

**What = The Result**

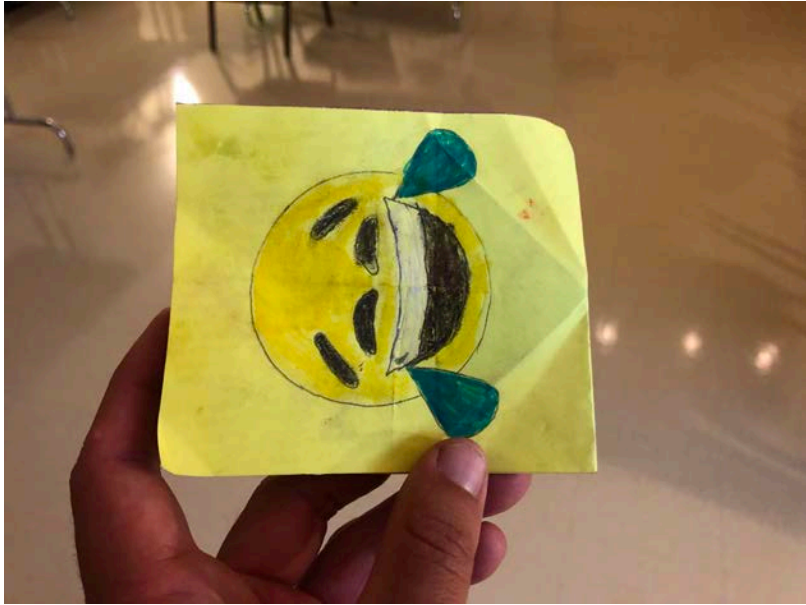
*What do you do? The result of Why. Proof.*

Apple: We make computers





Greg Klauk and Nicholas Rink collaborated on an introductory class for the first week of school in which students were guided in a hands on activity using foldables to draw out and illustrate their identities, specifically, representing their outside persona on the outside of the foldable and their inner self on the inside of the foldable using mixed media. The goal was to guide students in better understanding their strengths and weaknesses and to help reveal to them the assets they bring with them to our school. The idea was to create and strengthen a strong sense of self and self-confidence to build upon throughout the school year.



The conclusion of our classroom activities was a field day held on Lower Two Medicine Lake just outside of Glacier National Park. Students and staff participated in introductory team building exercises, brief explorations to introduce students to the different aspects of the local natural landscape, and health and wellness activities on the beach and in the lake.



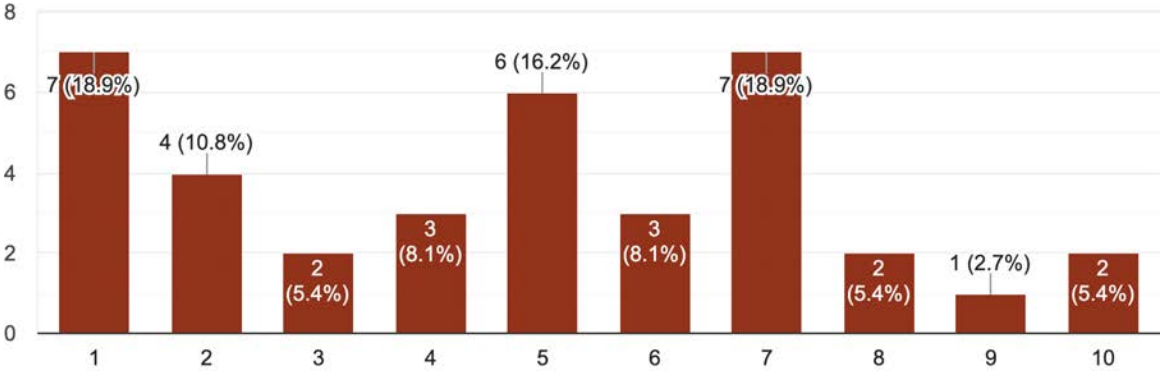


**Welcome Back Survey**

There are about 58 returning students to Buffalo Hide Academy this school year. In order to get an idea of how their summer was, what, if any, obstacles they overcame (or are still facing), and personal goals they have for the upcoming year, we asked them to take a short survey on their first day. Among the 15 questions asked were the following:

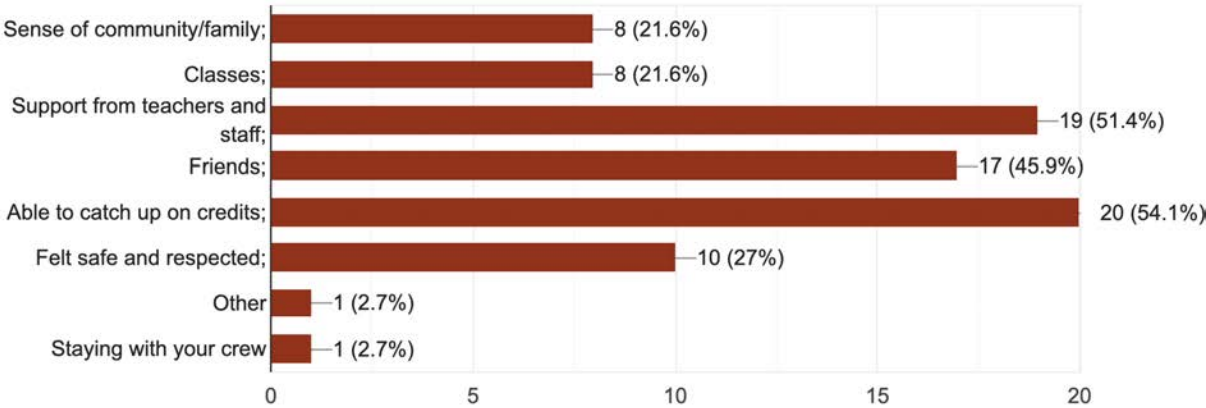
### On a scale of 1-10, how stressful was your summer?

37 responses



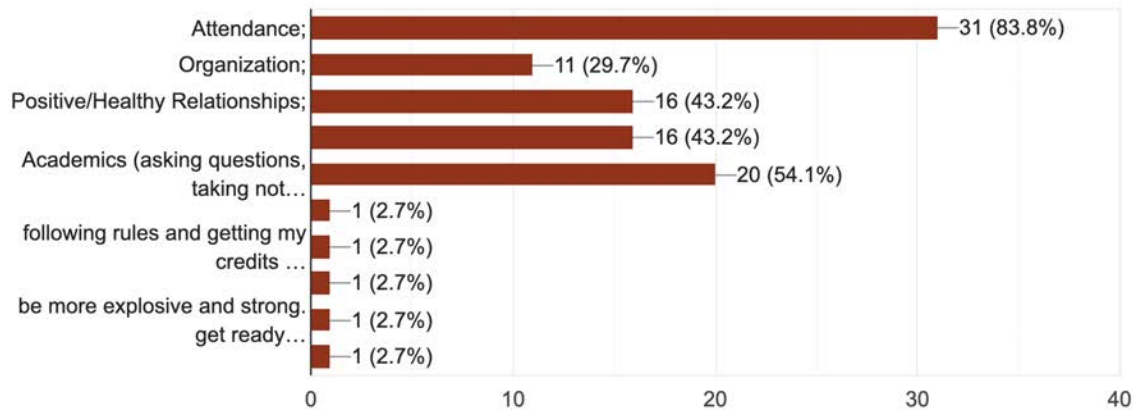
### What was the best thing about this school last year?

37 responses



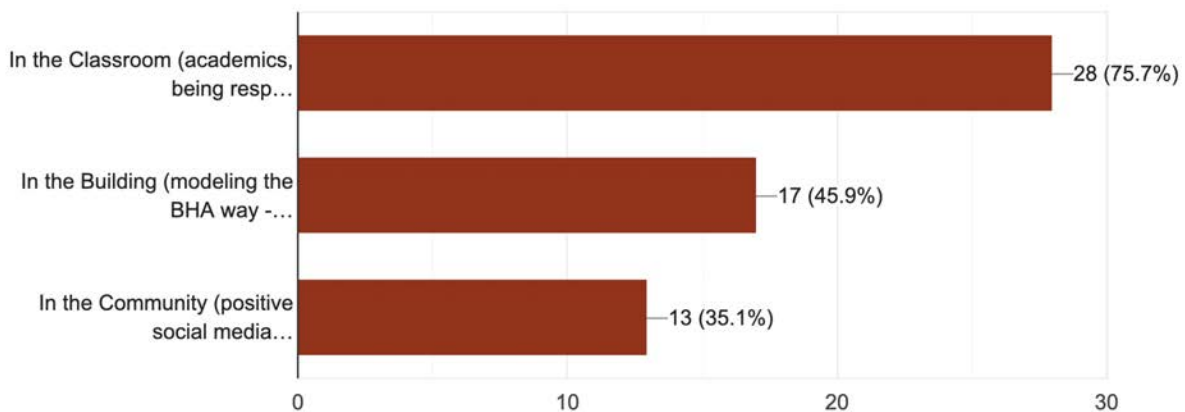
## Looking back, what are some areas you would like to improve upon this school year?

37 responses



## As a returning student, expectations are higher. In what area(s) can you be a leader to incoming students?

37 responses



Some really good data can be gleaned from the charts/tables above. However, the most enlightening and important information we received was from the responses to the question “What challenge(s) did you face this summer? How did you work through it? Is it something you are still dealing with?” Here are some of our students’ responses:

- I faced the challenge of being a mother to a fussy baby. I didn’t overcome it and just came to terms that he has my attitude.
- I faced a major surgery that was a challenge because I lost all my feeling from the waist down and I had to build back strength in my legs to be able to walk again.
- Treatment, and it was whack.



- My father's death and yes, it is kinda something I'm still dealing with.
- I had no challenges and went through summer with good vibes.
- One of my main challenges I faced was with my depression. I dealt with it by always remembering I matter to more people than I think.

These responses allow us to continue to build on the relationships established last year and to let us know where each student is as he/she walks through the door.