

BHA Board Report

5/12/26

MSU-Bozeman Trip



In partnership with Dr/ Christine Stanton of the Department of Education, Buffalo Hide Academy students recently traveled to Montana State University in Bozeman for a meaningful engagement focused on connection, leadership, and student voice. The trip was designed to cultivate a sense of community among BHA students, other Native students from across the state, and MSU students and faculty.

A key component of the visit included BHA students presenting to teachers in training, offering valuable feedback grounded in their lived experiences as students. This opportunity empowered students to share their perspectives on what effective, culturally responsive teaching looks like, while helping future educators better understand and support Native youth.

The experience not only strengthened relationships and representation in higher education spaces, but also reinforced student confidence, leadership, and the importance of their voices in shaping the future of education. Special thanks to Monique Rivas and Nicholas Rink for chaperoning this trip and creating this unique opportunity for our crew!

3rd Quarter Pass/Fail Summary & Goals

During the 3rd quarter, Buffalo Hide Academy reported an overall pass rate of **57%**, with variation across grade levels:

- 9th Grade: 68.75%
- 10th Grade: 42.86%
- 11th Grade: 57%
- 12th Grade: 61%

These outcomes reflect both areas of strength and opportunities for growth. The 9th grade cohort (7 students) demonstrated the highest level of course completion, while the 10th grade cohort (15 students) represents a key area of focus moving forward.

In context, these data points highlight ongoing challenges related to attendance, engagement, and consistency, which continue to impact academic performance. At the same time, they reinforce the importance of Buffalo Hide Academy's relational, student-centered approach—prioritizing connection, trust-building, and re-engagement as foundations for academic success.

Moving forward, our goals include strengthening attendance supports, increasing targeted academic interventions (particularly for 10th grade students), and continuing to integrate culturally relevant, interest-driven programming that keeps students connected to school. By focusing on both wellness and academics, we aim to improve overall pass rates while supporting long-term student success and graduation outcomes.

3rd Quarter Attendance Summary & Focus

During the 3rd quarter, Buffalo Hide Academy reported an overall attendance rate of **68.52%**, with the following breakdown by grade level:

- 9th Grade: 69.21%
- 10th Grade: 63.68%
- 11th Grade: 65.32%
- 12th Grade: 71.65%

Attendance remained relatively consistent across grade levels, with seniors demonstrating the highest rate and 10th grade (similar to pass/fail rate) identified as an area for additional support.

These data reflect ongoing challenges with consistent student attendance, which continue to impact academic progress and engagement. At the same time, the relative stability across cohorts indicates a strong foundation to build upon through continued relationship-centered practices and supportive programming.

MAPS Media Project (Heavy Music Symposium Class)



Buffalo Hide Academy (and BHS!) students are collaborating with the MAPS Media Institute to produce a student-led documentary highlighting the Heavy Music Symposium (HMS) class. This project empowers students to take ownership of storytelling through media production, capturing their experiences, creative work, and the impact of HMS as a space for expression, connection, and wellness.

Through this partnership, students are gaining hands-on skills in filmmaking, interviewing, and digital storytelling while amplifying their voices and perspectives. The documentary will serve as both a reflection of student growth and a powerful example of how innovative, culturally relevant programming can support engagement, identity development, and positive mental health outcomes. The film is currently in its 2nd week of production, with plans to wrap up filming and editing during summer, 2026.