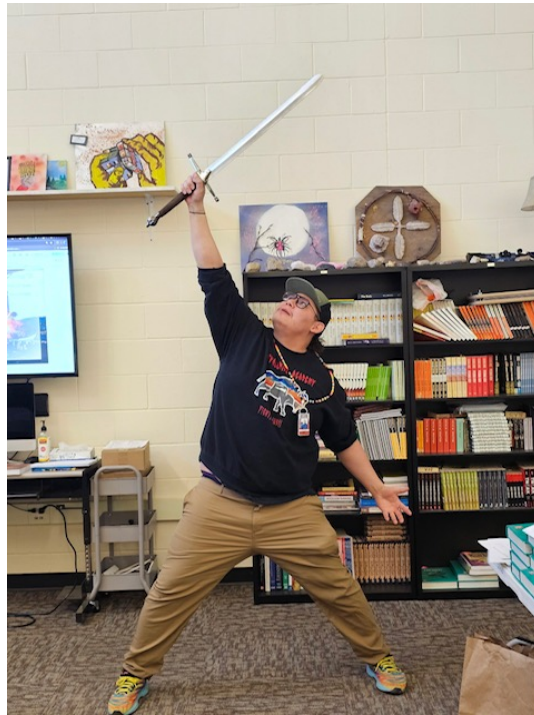


Buffalo Hide Academy Board Report – 1/14/25



Jake ArrowTop summoning Heart Butte power.

English Language Arts Curriculum at BHA

Demonstrating a large interest in land use during 2nd quarter, Jake sought to teach his ELA students about supreme court cases and treaty clauses that pertain to Blackfeet land use. This goal is in service to a larger annual hunting project at BHA. Last spring, in partnership with the Tribe and Fish and Game, we took our first official annual hunting trip to Yellowstone with several Game Wardens. Five BHA students and 2 staff spent three days hunting on traditional Blackfeet hunting grounds. Every single student harvested an Elk (see attached pic!)

Jakes land use curriculum, coupled with this trip cements the notions of exercising treaty rights while seeing sovereignty in action. His courses offer students both a contemporary and historical look at Blackfeet land use and related issues.



BHA students on a Yellowstone hunting trip – March 2024.

Jake's lesson cycle starts with Indigenous world views of land use and outlines the Blackfeet's traditional and historical relationship with the land. As the course evolves throughout the quarter, so too do his lessons, integrating the changes traditional worldviews have experienced. From those discussions Jake's lesson cycle dovetails to Indian policy, treaty rights, and contemporary political issues within the Blackfeet Reservation.

A few of the Indigenous novel studies Jake uses to reinforce his curriculum that helps bring these real-world issues into focus are *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimiline, and *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good.



Klauk's Health and Biology World

As part of the final project to wrap up Biology studies, Academy students participated in preparing a nutritional meal with the help of BHA master chef Brenda Byrd, who was kind enough to share her frybread recipe as well as her amazing bison chili ingredients to their efforts. This chili includes meat from the Buffalo harvest (see pics below), which also gives Mr. Klauk's classes a chance to study the anatomy and biology of the buffalo. This is a huge part of the Biology and Health

curriculum at BHA, which allows his classes to connect nutrition, personal health, and traditional harvesting practices.

BHA Buffalo Harvest – December 2024



The Buffalo Harvest the Tribal Bison Program facilitates with us each year is always a highlight. The Tribe has been generous enough the last few years to provide the unique opportunity for our school to harvest a buffalo from their herd.

The Crazy Dogs also participated in this workshop and conducted a harvest ceremony prior to working with the animal, giving our students and intimate glimpse into the ritualistic and ceremonial celebration and prayer offering of harvesting a buffalo. Larry Ground led the way. The Crazy Dogs worked closely with our students, building relationships and demonstrating butchering techniques while offering insights and knowledge about the importance of Buffalo both nutritionally and culturally. They happily worked with our students to butcher and share in the bounty.

And once we returned to school after the harvest, our students spent two days cutting dry meat. Yum!