

**Buffalo Hide Academy**  
**February 2018**

**Counseling Intern: Chris Lewis**

We would like to introduce Counseling intern Chris Lewis; Chris comes to us from the Good Medicine program.

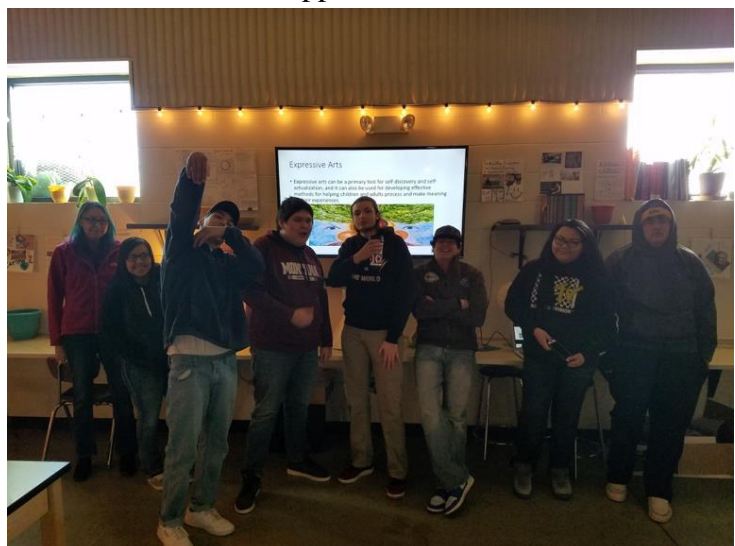
Hello everyone,

My name is Chris Lewis and I'm a school counseling intern at the Buffalo Hide Academy. I've had the honor and pleasure of working in the Browning Public Schools for four years. Over the past two years, I have been working with Good Medicine Program providing support services to students and teaching mental health awareness classes both in the community and in the schools.

At the Buffalo Hide Academy, I currently provide individual and group counseling, implement and facilitate restorative practice circles, provide academic advising, and teach an advisory class focused on social and emotional learning which is a trauma informed resource. The goal of the advisory class is to enhance self-awareness through a variety of instructional mediums that utilizes student strengths. Topics covered in the class include:

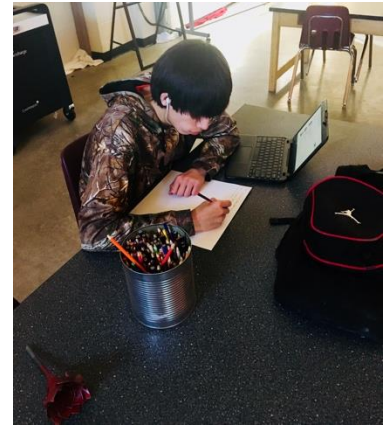
- suicide awareness and prevention;
- mental health psychoeducation;
- coping skills;
- self-image;
- resiliency;
- I will also be incorporating the Montana Career Information System to assist students in achieving educational and career goals.

I absolutely love working at the Buffalo Hide Academy! The staff here has created a safe, predictable, empathic, non-judgmental, and welcoming school environment. Each staff member prides themselves on these core beliefs when it comes to building healthy relationships with the students. Each day I come to work, I can feel the warmth of the supportive environment that is at the very foundation of this school. To be honest, it's hard to explain the joy and inspiration I feel every time I set foot in the Buffalo Hide Academy. I guess I found my dream job! When I'm not in my office or walking the hallowed halls of this academic institution, you can find me running around mountains that dominate the skyline of this amazing community. I hope to be here for a very long time.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Government: Teacher - Jason Krane

Students in Government have had plenty of material this quarter to keep them interested and engaged in learning how our federal, state, and local governments operate. Nothing has driven dialogue, discussion, and – in some cases – debate, more than the school shooting which took place in Florida on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Watching and reading about their peers from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School trying to effect change, both at the state and federal levels, has instilled a sense of empowerment in our students at the Buffalo Hide Academy. Students here have seen that having a deep understanding of how our government works, coupled with a unified voice on social media platforms, is a powerful combination that can make a real difference. We have spent class time learning about the rights we, as US citizens, are granted via the Constitution, how those rights are practiced in our society, and the limit and ways in which those rights can be restricted. Obviously there is not a consensus among students regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and possible restrictions and regulations, but we have created a space where students are allowed to drill down into the subject matter, examine their pre-existing beliefs, and share their opinions openly and honestly with others, without fear of criticism.



Nathanial Bear Medicine, Shance BirdRattler, and Jayceann Hope working on their 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Posters.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Classes: Teacher – Greg Klauk

As we move towards the midway point of our 3rd Quarter classes here at the Buffalo Hide Academy, students have made great strides and progress in the blocks we the the opportunity to work with each other. This quarter my classes include the two morning blocks with “The Art of Creative Writing in English Literature” and “Health & PE.” The afternoon blocks include the “Science of Astronomy & Physics” as well as “Digital Storytelling in Video Development.”

We begin A block with “Creative Writing in English Literature” where students are exploring a variety of creative and expressive writing formats. After completing the short story “*Everything That I Need to Know I Learned In Front of the WarBonnet*”, by local author Gyasi Ross. With this the students wrote on the theme of Love and its various forms and incarnation in our lives and world experiences. Now we are transitioning into studying various forms of poetry in the traditional sense, as well as studying the poetic elements of music in our contemporary times. Students will compose a variety of their own personal introspective musings after studying poetry styles and cultures from the Japanese Haiku and Tanka, to the Irish Limericks, English and Italian Sonnets to the free verse stylings of Joy Harjo, William Butler Yeats, Octavio Paz and several other world poets of varying cultures and times. We will then spend the last few weeks studying the art of writing and storytelling through Graphic Novels. This will all wrap up with our class project of a BHA Publication that include the selected best or students’ best written pieces from this class and the school year.



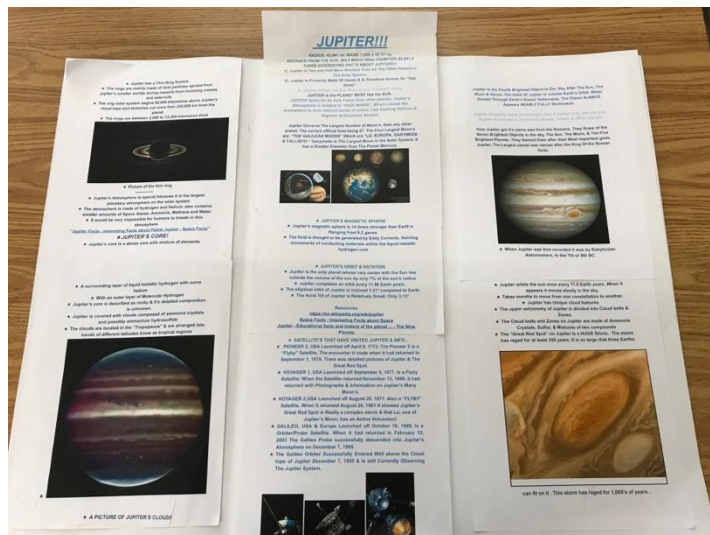
Calvin Racine counting out syllables for a haiku.

In “Health and PE” we focus on the themes of Nutrition and Fitness and how these affect our physical, mental, emotional and social well being with the Pikuni Blackfeet concept of *Issksskoommiitskoysto’m* - “*Thinking clearly, healthy about my body & self*”. With these themes students learn how to better understand and become mindful of the diet and physical activities they incorporate into their daily lives and how various nutritional sources can affect their bodies and their ability to be physically active. We focus on how to utilize these nutritional sources as fuels to be physically active, and to develop and maintain a more informed understanding of our dietary choices and how they can help us lead a healthier, prolonged, and socially enjoyable lifestyle and life in general.

C Block brings us into the wonderful and intriguing world of Astronomy, which includes some Physics concepts associated with this branch of science. Incorporating science’s contemporary studies and understandings of the workings of our, planet, moon, solar system and the universe as a whole with the traditional stories of Kookkoomiikiisom (moon), ksaa”koom (earth),



naatoosii (sun) and Kaakaatoosiikss (stars) and other teachings of the Pikuini Blackfeet associated with these celestial bodies and the universe. Students, through a series of misconception probes, inquiry projects, and various lessons and lectures will expand their knowledge, understanding but most of all, hopefully their appreciation and wonder for the magnificence of our planet and vast universe. The students will soon be completing their planet projects that include a scale model of the planet they chose to research and present a mini lesson on to the class and perhaps some the BES classrooms we partner with throughout the school year.



### Planet project on Jupiter.

Weather permitting, we will attempt to spend an evening star gazing with our telescope and telling star stories.

Our day ends with “Digital Storytelling in Video Development.” In this class students study the skills and knowledge associated with creating and developing the art of expressing themselves through medium of photography and video. A variety of early projects help students hone and practice their skills in capturing imagery of the world through the lens of a camera, which they will use to plan, through storyboarding, projects of their choosing to present to the class and



### Photographs by Tyler Fish.

close of the third quarter.



other students as part of Academy Awards at the

Certified = **86.60 %**

Classified = **81.42 %**

9th = 92.50 %

10th = 72.12%

11th = 65.81%

12th = 62.54%

**Total = 65.35 %**

Total Students Dropped/February = **11**  
**(7 female) (4 male)**

Court Referral = **1**

Daily Home Visits = 44

Telephone contacts to Parent/Guardian = **73**

Referral for the month of February = **2**