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the HOOFPRINT

The student-run news organization from **Buffalo High School**



Sabrina Friesz ‘29 jumps to serve the ball

Photo by Braxton Teschendorf

A LETTER FROM EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Thank you for picking up a copy of our first print edition of 2026-2027! This might be our first physical print edition this year, but this is not the beginning of our work so far. Our staff has been putting in tremendous effort towards our publication since our very first meeting in the spring of 2026.

Our photographers are willing to be at every event, and our writers are eager to report on various stories popping up throughout our community and nation. Our social media team works overtime behind the scenes to put information out to the public smoothly and promptly. We have staff members who can curate a perfect graphic within minutes.

With the help of our staff, we are starting with a larger issue than normal right off the bat. We are so excited to present Buffalo High School with our staff's hard work.

We are very proud of the section editors who have designed these pages by themselves, taking on different challenges, using creativity, learning new skills, and spending countless hours planning their designs, stories, graphics, and photos. From little details like finding a perfect subhead for a story or the perfect placement of a picture on the page, our editorial staff has brought all their creativity and intention behind every bit of these twenty-four pages. A special thanks to our advisor, Ryan McCallum, who continues to believe in every single one of us and is nothing but encouraging.

We hope you enjoy our first print edition of the school year as much as we enjoyed making it. Happy reading!

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF



Rylee Tetrault & Evelyn Winger

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The mission of *The Hoofprint* is to be authoritative, aggressive, essential, caring, and creative as a leading source of news and information for the students and staff of Buffalo High School.

The Hoofprint is the student-run news organization from Buffalo High School in Buffalo, Minnesota. The newsmagazine is published each trimester.

Opinions contained within this issuereflect the viewpoint of the author only and do not represent the opinions of *The Hoofprint* staff or the staff and administration of Buffalo High School

The Hoofprint includes a variety of platforms, including students running daily games, a podcast, a print publication, a news website, and several social media accounts dedicated to telling original, independent stories.

No generative AI tools are used in the writing, photography, illustration, or editing of content in *The Hoofprint*.

Listen to the Herdcast!

The Herdcast is one of Hoofprint's newest additions. It began just two years ago, and has expanded greatly. This year, the Hercast has already published twice as many episodes than they had in total last year. They cover just about everything related to the school, bringing a balance of humor, opinion, and fact to every episode. You can listen to them on Spotify, and you can find the QR code at the bottom of the page, thank you!

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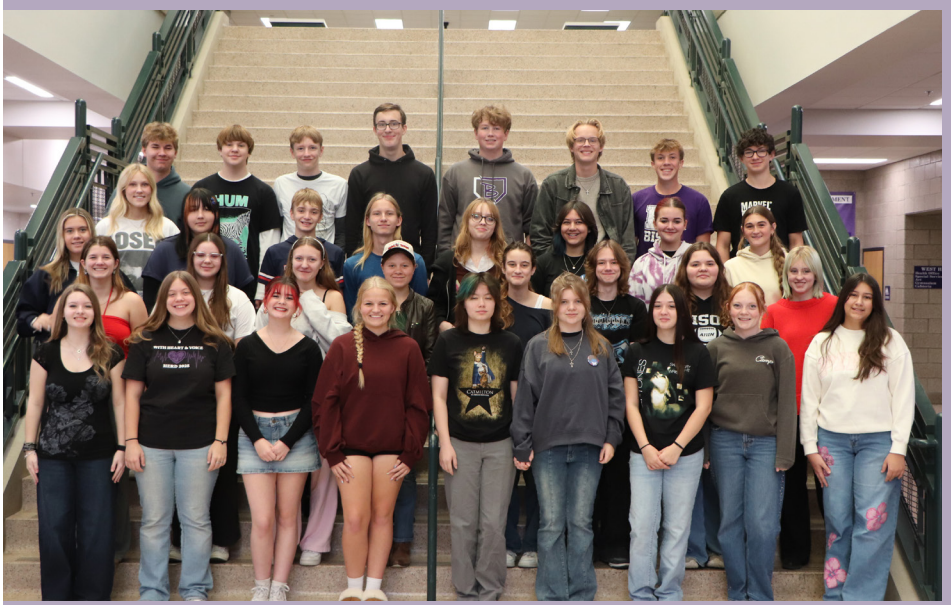
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Michael Schroeder IV

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DO NOT DISTURB

Students, teachers, and administrators weigh in on the new focus on the phone policy

Via Sanders
Herdcast Editor



Photo by Brynna Murray

At the beginning of the 2024 school year, the school implemented a new phone rule. This rule led to the "Bell to bell no cell" signs that students still see today, and some teachers adding phone caddies or storage units to their classrooms.

However, as the 2026-2027 school year rolled around, this phone policy has taken a turn–for better or for worse. Phone storage units are now required in every classroom, and students are mandated to place their phones in the caddies upon entry into the classroom. This has been a difficult change for many and has raised questions regarding the purpose behind these alterations.

"A primary reason was consistency for kids in terms of expectations for when you guys walk into the classroom," Principal Mark Mischke said.

Some students find these new rigid rules to be challenging; however, this change isn't so dramatic for some.

"Honestly, I have never been one to be super distracted by having my phone–in school at least–but at the middle school you had to keep your phone in your lockers all day so this change to the phone policy isn't very 'new' to me," Logan Zelinski '30 said.

Many of the incoming freshmen are used to the strict phone policy at BCMS. But the upperclassmen who have gotten used to phone usage during the school day may be questioning why these updates are necessary.

"We want to maximize the ability for you to have connections with the experience in the classroom, and I really believe that phones out of the way help," Mischke said.

Some students agree with this.

"Even though many oppose this new change, it has impacted our school in a good way," Trinity Poepke '29 said. "I haven't seen many with their phones out and productivity and physical/verbal communication has increased."

Teachers have also taken attention to this shift in connections.

"I've noticed that students are much more social with both their peers and their teachers this year," Mathematics Teacher Joel Peterson said. "In the past, when they had time to work independently or in groups, a lot of students would sit quietly, doom scroll, or text friends. With phones put away, students are talking more, interacting with each other, and building some of those important social skills that seem to have been lost or impacted by social media.

Many teachers and students agree that it is easier to focus and interact with others with their phones up in the caddies, but there are some drawbacks from this initial increase in focus.

"Some days I am waiting for a big text or waiting on something important and it may cause me to be stressed out if I'm unable to check it," Mack McCluskey '28 said.

So, while some students are content with leaving their phones in the storage units, others face difficulty when waiting for significant messages.

Because of this, many students turn to their laptops to replace their phones. When looking around a classroom, there is typically at least one student with their laptop open, paying little attention to the current lesson being taught, and teachers are very aware of this loophole.

"Teachers are very aware of students just shifting from their phones to computers to access their social media and games, so I think the engagement works best with a combo of the phone policy and physical materials," Social Studies Teacher Dwight Monson said.

While tightening the policies on cellular devices may work momentarily, more action may be necessary to truly increase student engagement and minimize student distraction.

Students report that the new policy helps them stay focused and connected in class, but the urge to check their devices can become overwhelming at times and take away from their learning. These new rules are a part of a bigger, nationwide act against cell phone usage and its impact on human connection.



2026-27 phone ban

IMPACT

> "Some days I am waiting for a big text or waiting on something important and it may cause me to be stressed out if I'm unable to check it

> "It has impacted our school in a good way. I haven't seen many with their phones out and productivity and physical and verbal communication has increased

STAFF EDITORIAL

Not all CIS classes prepare students for the rigors of college. Students and staff need to lean into the challenges

Hoofprint Staff

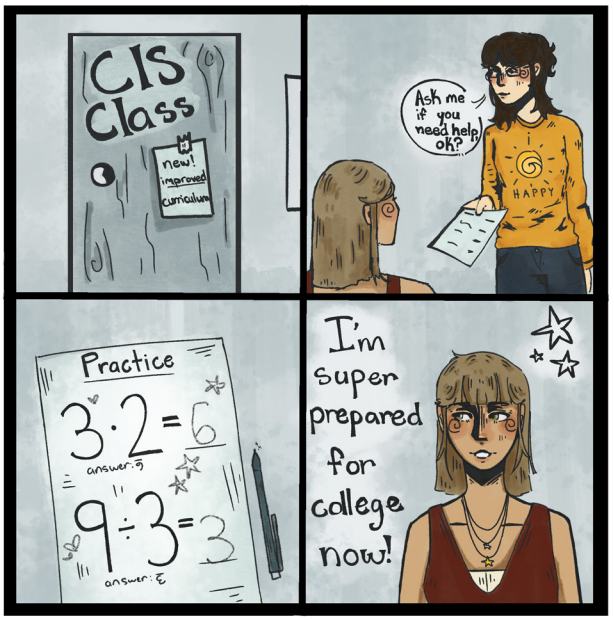
Students are encouraged to get ahead on planning for their future by taking part in some of the nearly 40 college-level courses offered by the school.

While these classes are a great money-saving measure, many students rush through these courses or expect to avoid challenges in them, leaving them with questions regarding what the future holds. Generals in college are meant to give students time to explore which subject areas really interest them and acclimate to college expectations. With increasing numbers of graduates having much of their general education requirements complete, they are forced to make the decision of what they will study before experiencing what college is like, often commpressing a college education into three years or jumping into demanding higher-level courses without study skills.

CIS classes offer a glimpse of college-level rigor, yet they vary greatly in oversight received from the partner universities they are offered through, leaving students questioning how similar their rigor is to courses they will take in college. Additionally, for courses to be offered, enough students need to choose to register for them, which means that some of the most rigorous and rewarding courses have seen declining enrollment, depriving students of the pride they would get from success and pressuring teachers to ease off rigor.

While some courses, such as CIS chemistry and those offered through the University of Minnesota, give the exact same tests as students at the college, others are structured by the high school teacher in ways that may seem too easy or to not align with how the class would be completed on campus. Even if classes are more rigorous, students in CIS classes receive more individualized and direct support by being in-class every day, while college classes are typically only attended two or three times a week, leaving students to complete most of the work outside of the classroom.

Students at Buffalo High School are lucky to have opportunities to take CIS classes; however, more transparency should be offered about similarities and differences between how the course is conducted at the university and at the high school level as students attempt to understand how they will perform and whether their current study habits will suffice in college.



Graphic by Juniper Lostetter

LIBRARY VS CAFETERIA

Where do seniors prefer to spend Senior Study?

Henry Winger
Staff Writer

Senior study is an important part of the day for many students, and with both the cafeteria and library as options, it brings an interesting debate among seniors. What place is better to spend your senior study in?

The library is strict on their rules such as no food and keeping the environment quiet, but what draws many students away from the environment is their stern bell-to-bell no cell policy.The library can also give students that period to spend time with friends, but instead of being able to rambunctiously mess around like they could in the cafeteria, they use it as a time to study together

However, some students feel the regulations in the library create a peaceful area to study without distractions.

Many students using the cafeteria don't have as much work to do as the students in the library, so they don't feel the need to be as productive. Instead many cafeteria students prefer to be in the cafeteria so they can hang out with friends.

CAFETERIA

"In the cafeteria, we're allowed to use our phones. I usually don't have much school work, so I can use my phone for the period."
Ty Dubois '27

"I feel like the library has a very quiet study focus environment.In the cafeteria, me and my friends can just kind of goof off."
Wyatt Eichhorn '27

LIBRARY

"Without my phone, I'm forced to do my school work, which helps me focus. I also love the librarian, Angie, and I enjoy sitting in the booths."
Evelyn Winger '27

"I like being with my friends and studying with them collaboratively. I like the atmosphere and the people and it's more comfortable."
Anna Scherber '27

WHO IS LEADING ACTIVITIES?

Athletics and activities experience a shift in the ages of participants

Tyler Spalinger and Wilder Warhol
Staff Writers

Imagine you're a freshman.

You had just recently joined a sport or activity. Right away, you plan to stick with it for your entire high school career. You might hope the friendships and bonds you make will carry you through the years. Or perhaps, you dream of success in your activity, or even want a position as a captain a few years down the road. In years past students at BHS would take pride in their participation for four consecutive years. It seems that attitude was left in the past.

Currently, more upperclassmen have been choosing to forgo their activities and athletics in their senior year. Athletic programs such as Cross Country, Girls Hockey, and Boys Swim and Dive have much smaller senior representation than they have had in past years. There's a multitude of explanations for the sudden drop in participation from seniors. Some might say it's because of burnout, drama or infighting, the added responsibility they would experience, or because they wanted to try new things. Whatever the reason is, there's a noticeable drop in participation.

"I still like running, but I feel like I'm not ready for another season," Makar Kotyk '27 said.

Kotyk joined Cross Country in his Junior year. However, he chose not to return in his Senior season. He had anxiety over whether he was going to be able to make it through the entire season.

For Alex Kirschner '27, quitting felt like the right decision. Despite having great seasons as underclassmen, she lost a love for the team in her upperclassmen seasons.

"So, my freshman year, everything was honestly a lot of fun, and we had a very good culture. The seniors were nice, the coaches were nice, like there were no problems."

In Kirschner's Junior season, the community and leadership drastically changed. Drama started, coaches left, and changes to the varsity team happened. This all paved the road for Kirschner's decision to quit hockey in her junior year.

In a strange twist of fate however, the loss of so many seniors brought a new demographic to activities everywhere:

> *"If I started running again, it would suck if I didn't enjoy it. I don't want to end up quitting midway through. I felt like I couldn't make it all the way through the whole season, so I didn't want to return."*

"There were more freshmen than upperclassmen," Aiden Topp '30 said.

This year had a rapid influx of freshmen joining activities and athletics.

Theater is one of the activities that has greatly benefited from freshmen participation.

This begs the question of what will

Continued on Page 7



Illustration by Raegan Ladda

Continued from Page 6

Bison activities look like in the future? Can Buffalo High School maintain and keep all of these freshmen?

"If we didn't have so many freshmen this year," said soccer player Finn Ryden '30, "We wouldn't have been able to make three teams, and instead could only make two teams."

This intake of freshmen shows the opposite of the senior slump we are currently seeing. Freshmen find these new opportunities to start fresh in a school they are not yet familiar with, and so they start to join more sports or activities. Five of the eight boys on the cross country team this year were freshmen, and a good percentage of football and boys soccer players during the fall were freshmen as well"

"I joined cross country because I like to challenge myself and improve from last year," said Logan Zelinski '30.

This didn't just scratch the surface at sports though, with Hoofprint and the Fall Musical gaining many new freshmen this year.

"Theater brings me some of the most joy out of any activities I've ever done in my life," said Henry Winger '30, "I was really excited to try out Grease because it has a great soundtrack, and I love all the people in theatre."

All of the seniors that are currently quitting however once started joining activities like the freshmen are this year, so will the High School be able to maintain all these freshmen? Will they stay?

"The people in theatre with me are all great people" Winger said, "I very much enjoyed being in it, and there's a couple more shows that I want to do."

As of the current ideas coming from freshmen, this rise in activities will only stay. The kids this year joining sports and activities plan on staying for the long run.

However life happens, people end up being busy. Older kids eventually need to get jobs, and their classes get harder and grades matter more for their future, so often people need to quit activities to finish high school strong. That's the reason there is the word extra in extracurricular, it is hard to balance grades, a job and an activity.

With more and more freshmen joining sports and activities, it can make one wonder if the freshmen will stay in sports for the rest of their high school career, or if they will quit like the seniors and juniors eventually did.

24 freshmen joined Hoofprint

21 freshmen joined theatre

Five out of the eight boys cross country runners are freshmen

67 freshmen are in band this year



Photo by Owen Waskey

Seniors Harlow Tierney, Desirae Smith, Sophia Eisenzimmer, and Claire Martin perform for Concert Orchestra. Concert ensembles depend on students taking music classes for four years.



Photo by Evelyn Diethelm

Marching Band spans five years of experience and the Sweat Camp in June is the first official high school experience for many members of the Class of 2030.



Photo by Brynna Murray

Freshmen Tyler Spalinger, Eli Miller, Arlo Worden, and Logan Zelinski await the starting gun. Freshmen made up the majority of the Boys Cross Country team this season.

FCA: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FAITH, SCHOOL, AND SPORTS

The student-leaders of Fellowship of Christian Athletes create a space for the community to come together

Poppy Warhol
Staff Writer

Fellowship of Christian Athletes' (FCA) is an organization that strives to give students a chance to grow in faith alongside people they recognize from school and build a closer relationship with their classmates outside of classes.

FCA is a student-led organization that hosts monthly huddles, giving students a place to connect their faith with school life and sports. With huddles that feature games, food, and messages about God, student leaders hope to help their peers grow in their faith and build an overall stronger community. The student leaders and participants have goals of reaching new students, sharing the gospel, and encouraging athletes to make faith a part of how they play and live.

"I'm excited for FCA this year, especially to take advantage of my final year as an FCA leader this year for Buffalo," Student Leader Rylee Tetrault '27 said, "and to reach out to as many people as I can, and just grow my own faith by reaching out and bringing in new people."

Through her leadership, Tetrault wants to create meaningful connections with others while encouraging more students to explore or strengthen their faith, hoping to build a stronger faith-based community.

"FCA has definitely brought more people to come to these events and just grow closer to God with their peers at school," Student Leader Senja Niemala '27 said. "When they come to the huddles, they can see that the people they're with in the school are also Christians."

Many student-athletes feel the meetings connect faith with how they play their sports.

FCA encourages student-athletes to remember the values the Bible teaches and how they can lead them through their sport performance.

FCA huddles combine faith with opportunities for students to relax and spend time together. Attendees play games, eat food, and listen to messages from speakers about God and the Gospel. These activities let members have fun with their peers while also setting aside time to focus on their faith.

As a student-led group, FCA relies on its Instagram page and students spreading the word about its events. Reaching new students allows the group to continue growing its community throughout the school.

"I'm excited for growth," Student Leader Andrew Thompson '27 said, "and just to have more and more kids come out here and learn about God."

"FCA helps me remember that God is the foundation of everything I do, especially in my sports."
Quinn Tetrault '30







Top: Matea Ellis '27, Rylee Tetrault '27, and Senja Niemela '27 give a devotion on Bison Field West at the start of Fields of Faith. *Middle:* Isaac Gustafson '27 (pictured on right) leads worship songs with community members. *Bottom:* Community members participate in Fields of Faith. *Photos by Caitlin Woidyla*

CORN DRIVE, PART OF A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

FFA Corn Drive brings community together to make a difference



Buffalo FFA members gather at the FFA Corn Drive to collect donations. *Photo courtesy of Gary Wirkus: FFA Advisor*

Tyler Spalinger
Staff Writer

FFA groups gathered from all across Wright County to collect cash, checks, or corn donations from businesses and families county-wide. Although it may seem like a regular extra curricular fundraiser, the Wright County Corn Drive will help those with special needs.

"All of our proceeds go to True Friends," Audrey Aronson '28 said. "It is a camp to help people with special needs be able to get access to the care they need while having fun at the camp."

The Corn Drive is one of the many traditions held by Buffalo FFA students. Every year, Buffalo FFA holds fund-raising like the Corn Drive and fund raising at Culver's. These events lead one to ask: why is Buffalo FFA so important?

"FFA is to prepare you for career and leadership opportunities in the future," Aronson said. "There is a misconception around it, that it's just for farmers and kids that are involved in livestock or animals, but it's not."

Understanding the purpose behind the county Corn Drive will help explain why FFA is crucial. Not only are they crucial within the Buffalo community, but also throughout the county and across the whole state.

True Friends Camp, which receives donations from Minnesotan FFA groups, is a nonprofit organization that provides experiences to help adults and children with special needs become more independent and confident. This programs include camps, retreats, and therapy for all that attend.

Over 15,000 individuals are helped annually at locations nationally and locally, including camps in Eden Prairie, Maple Lake, Annandale, and beyond.

With the notable cause of advocating for those with special needs, the impact of FFA and its mission beyond its membership and into the broader community is clear. FFA is meant to teach its members how to be leaders in all future career endeavors, and put that vision into practice with the Corn Drive in effect.

A CAREER OF UNIFICATION

BHS DAPE teacher Jen Heebink creates a culture of inclusion

Kelcie Bode and Bridgette Sturgeon
Spotlight Editors



For students in Unified PE, the meaning of the class goes far beyond physical education; it is about building connections and learning to better appreciate the unique skills of every individual so everyone can be included.

Behind this deeply impactful class is **Jen Heebink**. In her time, she has transformed not only the program but also Buffalo High School's culture as a whole.

"When I first started, [special education students] were all in their own little classrooms," Heebink said. "They weren't getting out to other classes and weren't getting to know other people. When I heard about unified at a conference, physical education was the place to be able to use that tool and resource to help kids engage with each other," Heebink said. "We had a club that was kind of that already: Bison Connections. When kids would walk out of Bison Connection events or unified events they would be so stoked to do it again. That was the framework that started unified."

Did you know?

Jen Heebink has been teaching at BHS for 17 years

Heebink would soon create a class that allowed special education students to work together with general education students in a class that met every student exactly where they were. The culture shift that Heebink began in physical education soon went on to spread to other departments, as more and more educators recognized its value.

"It has gone so well that other teachers have been able to do the same thing and I've seen the same culture shift in other departments as well," Heebink said. "Now instead of having our students sort of excluded we are able to get our kids to different departments and have them receive content [in] science, agriculture, music, and PE. Our general education teachers are teaching students that are different, but as a result are becoming way better teachers, and have that diverse learning."

Not only have unified classes helped teachers improve, they have also improved the lives of students as they have very meaningful outcomes Heebink hopes her students take away from her class.

"Everybody deserves to be noticed and connected with, and everyone belongs in a PE class," Heebink said. "When everyone has the support that they need to be successful, it's absolute magic. When kids come into my class, they don't have to perform, they just get to be themselves."

Even though Heebink's job can have challenges, this magic keeps her coming back every single day.

"I literally pull out of the parking lot no matter what I've gone through, or what kind of behaviors kids have had, or if it has been a rough day and I'm always so grateful for my job," Heebink said.

Heebink's unique ability to meet students exactly where they are and push for inclusion have touched the lives of countless students. Still, Heebink credits the culture of BHS as a whole for helping her achieve this.

"I am really proud of the students in our school and the staff in our school because they have embraced not only unified, but the culture shift of what unified is about," Heebink said.

> ***"What I do is bigger than me, it started as I have an idea, but it became this big thing that's about the kids; it's about seeing the goodness in people, and I think that's what fills me up."***

TRAVELING ABROAD

Lexi Becker explores life in Finland

Emma Lee
Staff Writer

Even though the rate of students traveling alone within the United States has been increasing, students traveling abroad alone is still fairly uncommon. Buffalo High School hosts multiple foreign exchange students each year, allowing students to explore different cultures. BHS also offers students the opportunity to travel abroad, but many are scared to even begin the process. For Lexi Becker '28, the independence of traveling abroad pulled her to take a month-long trip to Finland this past summer.

Q: What factors pushed you to go to Finland?

A: I wanted to go to another country and have a sense of independence, where I would be on my own and not rely on my parents so I could get a feel of not having my parents around to do stuff for me.

Q: How would you describe the first time meeting your host family?

A: They were very sweet. They overthought how I would be when I came. They carried my stuff because they're like, 'I don't know what she's used to; we want to make it feel like America here." she doesn't get seperation anxiety.'



Q: Would you ever become an exchange student again, and where?

A: I would go to Germany. That's where I initially wanted to go. Germany has a lot of strict regulations. They've got stuff you have to do that's extra, and I didn't have the time for that by the time I was registered.



Q: If you could pick a favorite memory from your trip, what would it be?



A: All the friends that I made, they are connections with people I never would have met if I didn't go to Finland. They're really sweet people that I bonded with super well, and I didn't think that I'd get that connection.



Q: What would you change about your trip?

A: How talkative I was. I wish that I talked to people more, got to know them better and got to know their culture better. I wish that I tried more Finnish desserts because they're really good.

Q: Why would or wouldn't you recommend being an exchange student?

A: I would recommend it because it exposes you to a culture that you wouldn't initially get. It gives you a sense of independence that you never got with family members. You have a new experience that you get to share with people, and people will be like, "Oh my God, you're so cool! You went out of the country by yourself."

Photos courtesy of Lexi Becker

STAFF SUPERLATIVES

According to BHS Students

Photo by Rosary Gilbertson



Have the Best Life Advice

Mr. McCallum

Photo by Kelcie Bode

Have the Best Decorations

Mrs. Sedbrook



Photo by Kelcie Bode

Be the Chillest Teacher

Mr. Monson



Who's most likely to...

Photo by Rosary Gilbertson

Always Have Caffeine

Mr. Kilgore



Photo by Kelcie Bode



Survive a Zombie Apocalypse

Mr. Morris

Photo by Kelcie Bode

Get Away With a Crime

Mrs. Rosh



SENIOR SUPERLATIVES

According to BHS Students

Photo by Bridgette Sturgeon



Become President

Braxton Teschendorf

Photo by Bridgette Sturgeon

Be Late

Jenner Gorton



Photo by Kelcie Bode



Come Back and Teach at BHS

Lily Kinches

Who's most likely to...

Photo by Kelcie Bode

Become an Influencer

Ben Friesz



Become a Comedian

Wilder Warhol



Photo by Bridgette Sturgeon



Become a Pro Athlete

Reiker Wignes

Photo by Braxton Teschendorf

LOOK GOOD, PLAY GOOD

Why Having Stylish Hair Sets the Mood for Games

Lillian Reil
Staff Writer

Have you ever heard of the idea, "look good, play good"? Bison girls cross country and soccer express that through their different game day hair styles. This little detail has built close connections for both teams. While some athletes are the ones getting their hair braided, others are known as the "team braider."

"I get my hair braided the same way before almost every game," **Courtney Kotish '27** said. "Alex Kirschner ['27] braided my hair before every game. I like to do bubble braids, fishtail braids, dragon braids, or just a regular braid. It depends on what the other girls are doing with their hair."

For team members, game day hair isn't just about being game ready–it's really about making connections and having fun.

This has, in turn, created an uplifting environment for the girl's soccer team.

> ***"Getting my hair braided by my teammates is something I look forward to on game day. I really enjoy getting to match with all of the girls on the team. I think it is a step in being fully game ready, but it is also about having fun with the girls, and it makes us closer too."***
>
> **Courtney Kotish '27**

"This impacts our relationship together in a very positive way because we will match our hair for games and sometimes makeTikToks with all of our hairstyles," Kotish said. "We have all matched for many games; we've done pigtails, bubble braids, and space buns."

Similar to the girls soccer team, the girls cross country team bonds over having their hair done for each meet.

"I've actually been running with the high school since seventh grade and we had a teammate that would do people's hair, but she graduated my eight grade year—so freshman year I took over," **Gabriella Broadhead '29** said. "Every bus ride one of my teammates will come sit in the aisle while I work on their hair. It's so cool and satisfying to try different styles on a lot of different hair types."

There are set steps Broadhead follows to manage everything.

"I actually do my hair the night before and usually it's tight enough where when I wake up I don't have to fix it, so when it's time to do everyone else's on the bus I don't have to worry about doing my own," Broadhead said.

For Broadhead, doing her teammates' hair goes much deeper than just being race ready.

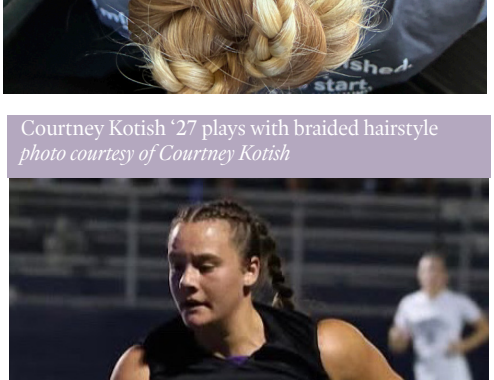
"Having good, cute hair going into a race is important, there's already so many things to think about, so having it up and out of your face is one less thing to worry about and it helps you feel more confident—which is definitely important before a race," Broadhead said.

Game day hair isn't just about looking good or being game ready. Building those close connections with your teammates, whether you are the one getting your hair done or the one doing the hair, helps the team perform the best they can at competitions through positive connections.

Madonna Buselmeier '31 gets her hair braided for a race
photo courtesy of Gabriella Broadhead



Courtney Kotish '27 plays with braided hairstyle
photo courtesy of Courtney Kotish



STATE BOUND

Cady Macheel qualified for State Cross Country Meet at sections and seniors run final race of high school



NEW SCHOOL RECORD:
18:51:2

Tyler Sparlinger
Staff Writer

For the third time in the school year, the Buffalo Cross Country team met at Gale Woods Farm in Minnetrista, this time to race the MSHSL Section 6AAA Championships.

The race took place on October 30, with 50 degree weather on a hilly, open field course on a farm. Originally the meet was scheduled for October 28, however a tornado watch caused the meet to be postponed, pushing it to the 30th, forcing meet restrictions as a wedding was going on at the same time.

The girls race was at 3:00 PM and the boys race was at 3:35 PM. Realizing the lack of boys the team had this year, the JV freshmen boys needed to get moved up to allow the Buffalo Boys a chance to place in the race. The move proved to be necessary as a boy pulled his hamstring around the 2 mile mark, causing the boys team to drop from 6 runners to 5.

Finishing in 6th place, Cady Macheel '28 not only got a personal best, but broke her school record that she set earlier this season, running a 5K in under 19 minutes for the second time this year. Because of her placement in the race, Macheel is now state bound, and will compete in the MSHSL Class AAA State Championships on November 7th in Ham Lake.

Along with Macheel's School Record, three other runners at the meet broke personal bests; Kayla Foglesong '28, Logan Zelinski '30 and Tyler Spalinger '30.

Results from after sections tells Buffalo that despite seasonal challenges and a lack of runners, the Herd will not stop running, no matter what challenges fall in the way.

photo courtesy of Jessie Lenton

Photo by Braxton Teschendorf



THE COST OF THE GAME

Varsity football faces record injury increase

Ireland Morris
Staff Writer

The athletes on the Bison Football team spend months preparing their minds and bodies for the eight nights of the year when they strap up and play under the stadium lights; few things are more heartbreaking and frustrating than watching those games unfold from the sidelines.

Football is a full-contact, high-impact collision sport, and with 70+ players, injuries are unfortunately bound to happen. For the 2026 season, however, the team had an increasing number of injured players at the Varsity level—notably higher than the team has seen in years. With such a drastic number of players sustaining injuries, coaches and players alike were forced to take a step back and reflect: is there a distinct factor that is resulting in this outcome?

"Just this year, out of all my years in sports, as an athlete and as a coach, this was definitely one of the more injury-plagued seasons that I have ever encountered," Head Coach Jackson Litterer said. "This season we've even made some decisions about what we wanted to do with our program for structure of practices, length of practices, and what we were doing in the weight room; we were really trying to be super cognizant of all of those factors. So it was very frustrating that we were trying to do all these things that have been proven to not only get the kids faster and stronger but healthier and just all around safer when playing football too, but injuries were still frequently occurring."

Fullback and Linebacker **Grant Merz '27** is one of the many who were injured during the season.

"Personally, I was lucky to only miss one game," Merz said. "The hardest part was knowing my days were already numbered and that I got one less opportunity to strap on the pads with my teammates. It has been crazy to see how many guys have missed out this year. The majority of these injuries, though, are just freak accidents."



Photo by Braxton Teschendorf

"I think every Varsity player was playing through some kind of discomfort or pain by the end that limited them. The physical demand of football just requires you to suck it up sometimes, and play on."

In any sport, it's practically effortless to see a season record or hear a medical diagnosis and succumb to the thoughts of failure, grief, and guilt. But for the football team, the unfortunate reality of so many injuries presented the unique opportunity to choose adversity and camaraderie.

"We have no control over the injuries that have occurred, but we do have control over the way that we respond," Offensive and Defensive Lineman **Matthew Babatz '27** said. "It exposed that we truly need each and every player on the team to succeed."

In a time of uncertainty that tested the relentlessness and toughness of the team as a whole, it was important to the players to remember that the struggles they faced connect to the lessons of life that extend far beyond the football field.

"I partially tore my Lisfranc ligament during the Homecoming game," Running Back and Safety **Tony Jordan '27** said. "I've never really worried about injuries; you figure out real early that they're a part of sports. In football, if you're worried about getting injured, that will cause you to play timidly, and you have a higher chance of getting injured. I try to go out and reach that state where I'm just in the moment and only thinking about the next play, and sometimes bad things happen, but you get through them, and it just helps prepare you to handle hard things in life."

> ***"It's been said, and it's so true: adversity reveals what you are made of—the quality of your organization, your team, your relationship, everything. You can't dwell too much on things that are outside your control, but I think you should be relentless about the things that are in your control. And that's pretty true in football. Pretty true in life."***

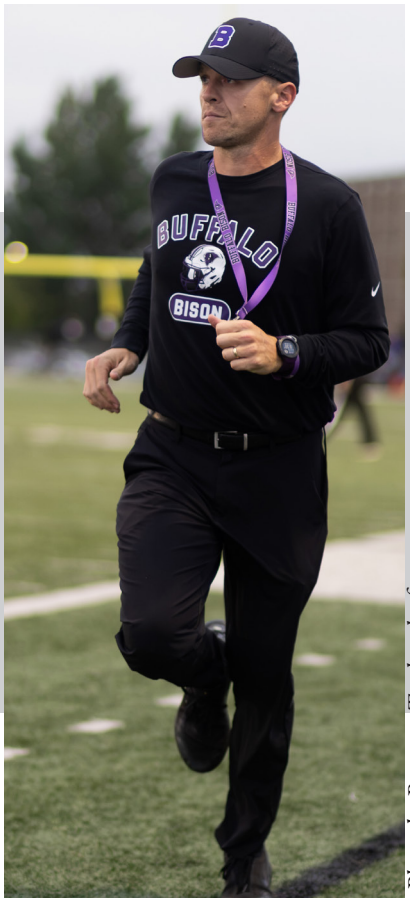


Photo by Braxton Teschendorf

Players, family and friends, community members, and coaches held their breath as beloved players got continuously carried off the field; position groups lost vital players, and coaches had to adapt to what the next guy up could execute for the team. However, the copious number of injuries aren't the only struggle—the mental side of it has forced players to be even more resilient.

There are a million truths and excuses that could be made about why the season didn't turn out the way that the team had hoped, but that's not to say that injuries were the sole determinant either. It's fair to say that the football injuries sustained this past season did not just have one root cause. After all, sometimes it's not the wins that bring a team together, but the test of adversity and love in loss that reveals what it truly means to be a team, even when not everyone can take the field.


Bison Football prepares fora snap.



Bison Football runs onto the field on BHS's first B1 Night.

photos by Milya Chewert



Illustration by Juniper Lostetter

CIS ENGLISH CLASSES MOVE TO HYBRID

Teachers hope the change would maintain enrollment but fear the impact on rigor

Payton Hutchcraft
Staff Writer

In an attempt to accommodate the growing student interest in flexible class schedules, the English Department proposed modifying all of their College in the Schools (CIS) classes for next school year to be hybrid.

If the proposal for new hybrid classes goes through, then CIS Critical Reading and Writing, CIS Intro to Literature, and CIS Intro to Public Speaking will become hybrid classes. In a hybrid format, students can work from home on some class days but they still meet most days in person.

"We're seeing a trend of seniors and juniors wanting to register for classes that are hybrid," English Department Chair and CIS Intro to Public Speaking Teacher Ryan McCallum said. "We have to try to balance making classes desirable to sign up for with keeping them rigorous, with important information, practices, and mindsets that make the classes useful."

The department hopes that offering more flexible courses will be additional encouragement for students to take CIS English courses. McCallum said that one incentive for taking these classes is the college credit and another is giving students more of the flexibility and authentic college experience they want.

CIS Critical Writing and Reading teacher Peter Sommers supports the change, but has concerns about time management during hybrid days.

"The danger is the kids will go away," Sommers said, "and they're not going to do the work outside."

Is hybrid the new normal?

In Sommers' class, students complete a variety of writing assignments that require significant time and collaboration. Sommers believes that "when it comes to writing, the only way you get better is by doing. And the only way to really do well is with people. And that's where I think it can still work in a hybrid model because I'm making them come in, and then by the time that we're together, they're going to be focusing on collaborative critical reading and writing, and discussion."

Along with giving students more flexibility the hybrid format could offer additional benefits, McCallum said that, "I, as a speech teacher, love the idea of having a day in the week where students can come to school still and get personalized help with their speeches."

Principal Mark Mischke has to decide what to prioritize for these classes and students.

"There definitely has been an intentional increase in our hybrid courses," Mischke said, "and it's kind of dual-purpose. One of the things we were trying to do with that is to recreate the college experience more accurately," Mischke explained that the school's interest in hybrid courses stems from the desire to give students greater independence while maintaining access to academic support.

Mishcke got advice from PSEO-enrolled students on how to handle this discussion.

"From what I'm hearing from students that are taking courses outside of the high school," Mischke said, "whether it be online PSEO classes or in-person, are struggling to connect to the professors or the support at the college."

BUILDING UP BUFFALO

Buffalo Youth City Council works to bring younger voices into major decisions

Emma Lee & Rylee Tetrault
Staff Writer & Editor-in-Chief

From raking leaves in city parks to sitting in on City Council meetings, the new Buffalo Youth City Council (BYCC) has worked to bring student voices into larger conversations.

"It's definitely an outlet for student and youth voices to have a say in city matters that concern them because historically we haven't had much of a say and our voices matter just as much as anyone else's in the community," Elly Kohls '28 said.

As a student-led group, BYCC has come together to bring in new ideas from the younger generation while also supporting the community of Buffalo through volunteer projects. The group is constantly planning future projects, especially with the holiday season on the horizon, including Feed My Starving Children, a community garden, Toys for Tots, and a highway cleanup. The new group is pushing to get the word out about their care for the community.

"Now, we're just trying to get the word out about what we're doing so it is easier for us to have a say and opinions about changes in the city, and so there's more value behind our words," NoraMae Finke '30 said.



Elmara Doupu '27, NoraMae Finke '30, and Allison Schann '29 volunteer to clean a park. *Photo by Elly Kohls*

With a drive for service, BYCC models the four core values of BHS by in their own community.

"We're just a big group of kids who want to see Buffalo at its full potential," Leena Ply '28 said.

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

BHS Music Department plans to bring ensembles to New York

Sydney Hoffman
News Editor

Every other year, the music department takes the concert ensembles on a trip.

This year's destination is New York, New York. Music Department Chair and Choir Director Zach Carlson-Giving said the experience "shows them [students] that music can take them anywhere, and that they can experience the best the world has to offer through music..."

The trip lets students travel with peers, learn about a new place, and build on their music education. Students will bus to New York on April 21st, 2027, and arrive back home on April 25th. An estimated 100 students will go on the trip. The starting cost of the trip is $2,025, but fundraisers, including Night Out for Music, are expected to lower the cost and make the trip more affordable and accessible. This year, for the first time since 2018, all three ensembles will be performing in New York. There, they will go through a competitive, educational process that includes performing approximately 35 minutes of music, being evaluated, and participating in a clinic afterward.



Photo by Brynna Murray

Photo by Elena Hroncich

Photo by Anna Usch



Illustration by Juniper Lostetter

RAISE A VOTE

Seniors face difficult decisions that come with adulthood



Eloise Kohls
Social Media Editor

For a long time, turning 18 has meant being introduced to a whole new aspect of life: not only is it the first year of adulthood, but it's a milestone that opens an entire assortment of unprecedented opportunities, experiences, and choices that weren't available before.

Tattoos, piercings, gambling, even–the sense of freedom that comes with your first day of independence is one that many think fondly of, and others eagerly look forward to.

But with today's political climate becoming increasingly complex and diluted, many seniors are finding that turning 18 doesn't just mean being one year older anymore. With midterms season taking over the last couple of months and rival political campaigns rolling in at their peak, some seniors are faced with a newound political power, and some found themselves hesitating on wielding it.

On Friday, October 30, a questionnaire was given out to over 100 seniors in advisories for the class of 2027 that surveyed students on their eligibility, willingness, and excitement to vote. Students were not asked about their political beliefs or party affiliation.

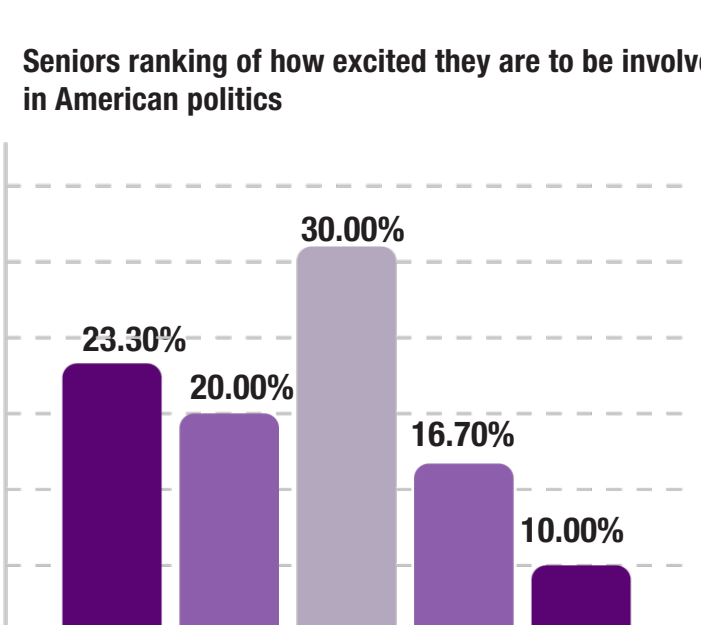
Out of the seniors surveyed, around 19 (~31.67%) were old enough to vote, with 14 of them (~73.7%) having a plan to vote in the November 3 midterms.

Alongside those questions, the survey also inquired about students' thoughts on their first-time involvement in politics, with a linear scale given from numbers 1-5: one being not excited, and five being the most eager to finally be able to vote.

Out of those results, the vast majority of seniors reported a 3 or lower, with the middle ground dominating the poll in a 30% majority.

These results, though only a small margin of this school's seniors, indicate a large trend in not only people planning to vote, but also a somewhat reluctant youth to begin involvement in politics.

Seniors ranking of how excited they are to be involved in American politics



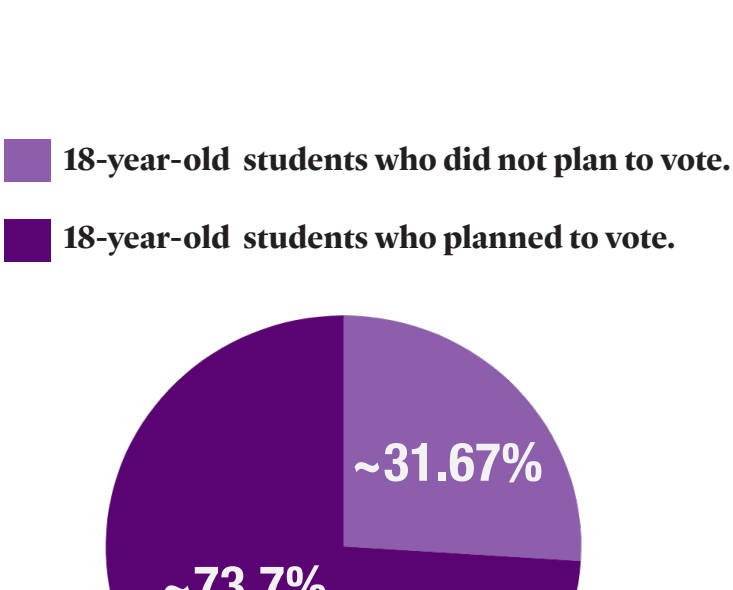




Photo courtesy of Maya Parsons

Ben Asleson asks Maya Parson to Homecoming



Photo courtesy of Mia Wies

Tyson Aspen asks Mia Weis to Homecoming

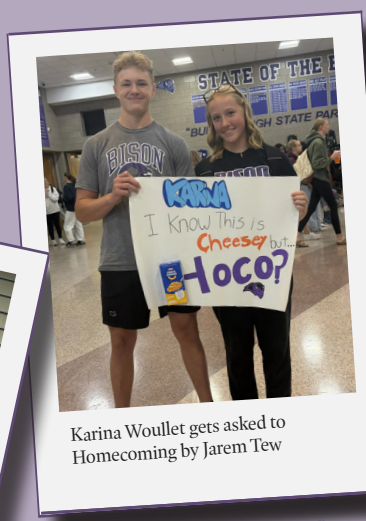


Photo courtesy of Karina Wuollet

Karina Woullet gets asked to Homecoming by Jarem Tew



Photo courtesy of Madilynn Klingman

Jenner Gorton asks Madilynn Klingman to Homecoming



Photo courtesy of Elly Khols

Elly Kohls and Megan Reeves plan to attend omecoming together

TO HOCO OR NOT TO HOCO

BHS students get creative with homecoming proposals

Alexis Burgess
Culture Editor

As homecoming came to an end, the cute and creative ways of asking the question: "Will you go to HOCO with me?" were seen around BHS.

Homecoming proposals are a fun, timeless trend that BHS has taken part of. With their popularity growing on social media, the ways of asking are becoming more elaborate.

Jarem Tew was one of many students at BHS to ask someone to HOCO. He presented his poster to Karina Wuollet at school and shared, "I was honestly pretty nervous to ask and wasn't sure she'd say yes," Tew said. "But I had a friend who thought it was a good idea and helped me brainstorm ideas for the poster."

Tyson Aspen '29 was another sophomore who decided to make a sign for his girlfriend, Mia Weis '29, and ask her to HOCO.

"I thought of making this sign because she cheers for me at football games," Aspen said.

Ben Asleson '29 drew inspiration for his HOCO-posal from Maya Parson '29s favorite movie.

"She said Spider-Man was her favorite movie," Asleson said.

While brainstorming and waiting to ask the question can be nerve-wracking for some, the act of receiving one of these homecoming proposals is also exciting as Madilynn Klingman '28 and Elly Kohls '28 share.

"Jenner asked me," Klingman said. "I was really shocked and I didn't even know that he was coming to do it. He also got me a fuggler which goes with the poster, it was a very cute poster."

"I was contemplating whether or not I should go to homecoming," Kohls said. "My friend Meg jokingly said they were going to make me a poster and I didn't think much of it. A few days later, they asked me with a poster! It was honestly such a funny and cool thing for them to do and I am so excited for homecoming."

BHS homecoming for the 2026 school year was held on Saturday, September 26 from 7-10pm at Buffalo High School.

GET WITH THE TRENDS

New trends rise at BHS

Henry Winger
Staff Writer

If you've spent any time at BHS in the past few years, you've probably noticed many emerging fashion trends among the students. Many new clothing items have been gaining popularity recently, such as baggy jeans, different types of shoes, and other items.

One of the most upcoming and rising trends over the past few years has been baggy jeans. Students all over the school have been wearing these, for numerous reasons.

"I think they are very cool," Bella Young '30 said. "They aren't tight to your legs like other jeans, and they are much more comfortable."

The jeans are a much more relaxed type of pants compared to the trends of the past such as skinny jeans or straight fit jeans, making them a preference for many students. Young believes they have been spiking in popularity due to many clothing trends from the 90s and early 2000s coming back.

Another trend that seems to have come up recently is footwear. You'll see many students wearing shoes like Uggs, Adidas Sambas, and Birkenstocks.

"I've been wearing Birkenstocks for many years because I think they're very comfortable," Ryan Gohl '29 said. "They are unique and they form to your foot unlike many other shoes."

One more item that has been trending a lot for students at BHS has been the Owala water bottle.

Many of the clothing items students have been wearing around Buffalo High School are favored because of their comfortability and popularity. Students value wearing relaxed and convenient clothes when picking out an outfit, and as a result, these clothing items become popular around BHS.



Photos by Alexis Burgess and Evelyn Winger

How Old is Too Old to Trick-or-Treat?

What else is there to do on Halloween as a high school student?

NoraMae Finke
Staff Writer

Trick-or-treating is a Halloween staple many remember from their childhood. Known as the one night a year to dress up in a silly or spooky outfit, many teenagers start to wonder when the age cutoff is to stop participating in these fun traditions.



Illustration by Gigi Buttler

Haden Bursch ’27 believes that 18 is the max age to go trick-or-treating. He also comments on how the amount and age of the people going with is a major factor in determining when to stop going trick-or-treating. That could mean friend groups or going around with younger family members.

“I might do trunk or treating,” said Bursch, “depending on if I do it with my niece and nephew.”

Ty Dubois ’27 doesn’t believe in a limit for trick-or-treating and enjoys volunteering as a scare actor for the local haunted walk, Sinister Hallows, at Zion Lutheran Church.

“[Halloween] is so fun just to dres up with friends,” Dubois said. “And then just go out [and] meet new people.”

The majority agree that Halloween is mostly a social event to get together with friends, whether that be walking around to get candy or going to a party. From seniors to freshmen, many BHS students have plans for a fun night.

“My halloween plans are to dress up as Luigi and go trick or treating with my friends,” Brynna Murray ’30 said. “We go every year.”

Like Murray, many BHS students have Halloween traditions that have been ongoing for many years. With the typical chaos of the night, it is nice to always have a constant to fall back on.

Ultimately, Halloween should be celebrated however you want it to be. There is a massive range of activities and it’s up to you to do what makes you feel happy.





To celebrate the spooky season, some students attended Sinister Hallows, an annual Halloween event hosted by Zion Lutheran Church. The event took place on the 23 and 24 of October in the woods behind the church. *Left:* Jennika Mehr ‘28, Addison Morical ‘28, and Jordan Vandersluis ‘28 *Right:* Averi Hausladen ‘27

Photos by Anna Utsch

BHS Theatre Presents GREASE







The BHS Theatre Depatment presented its Fall Musical, *Grease*, in the Performing Arts Center on November 13-14 and 20-21. *Top*: Members of the Burger Palace Boys perform. *Left*: Madeline Krinke '27, Sally Huerta '28, and Lily Kinches '27. *Right*: Kaylee Anderson '27 and Kyler Jaunich '27. *Photos by Wilder Warhol*

HOOFPRINT GAMES

The 5

Managed by Michael Schroeder IV

answer key: 1: D 2: B 3: B 4: B 5: A

1 **The region known as the Bay Area is around what bay?**

Ⓐ San Diego Bay
Ⓑ Chesapeake Bay
Ⓒ San Pablo Bay
Ⓓ San Francisco Bay
Ⓔ Monterey Bay

2 **An atomic bomb named Fat Man was dropped on which Japanese city?**

Ⓐ Kyoto
Ⓑ Nagasaki
Ⓒ Hiroshima
Ⓓ Osaka
Ⓔ Tokyo

3 **The top of Mt. Everest is in which layer of the atmosphere?**

Ⓐ thermosphere
Ⓑ troposphere
Ⓒ stratosphere
Ⓓ exosphere
Ⓔ mesosphere

4 **There are 5 people at a convention. How many handshakes will there be if everyone shakes hands with each of the others once?**

Ⓐ 5
Ⓑ 10
Ⓒ 15
Ⓓ 20
Ⓔ 25

5 **Westminster Abbey in London incorporates what style of architecture?**

Ⓐ Gothic
Ⓑ Renaissance
Ⓒ Baroque
Ⓓ Romanesque
Ⓔ Neoclassical

Daily rounds at the5.cc. Other Hoofprint games include the Herdle managed by Connor Smude at herdle.org and the Price Check at Hoofprint.net managed by Hoofprint Games