

THE HOOFPRIINT

Buffalo High School Buffalo, MN

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Buffalo High School,

Everything belongs to a place on the map. The lives we live and the journey we make, can be tracked on the endless atlas of our world. The stories we tell each other everyday also have a place on the map. We, the staff of Hoofprint, place the stories we tell this issue, Across the Grid.

When you saw the front cover of this issue, you probably noticed that it was a map of Buffalo. However, if you paid close enough attention, you would have noticed the corral pins in seemingly random places on our map. Each of these pins gives the location of one of our stories we feature. We did this in order to make the stories more applicable to your life, as it may cross paths with your daily journeys. A story can just be a story, but once it is linked to a physical location, it gains a realistic characteristic that is hard to replicate. When a story has a place, it has a purpose. When a story has a purpose, it shows us how the world is all interconnected.

The world doesn't end at the city limits. At times we are guilty of only paying attention to the events

that happen in Buffalo. However, there is an infinite number of connections we, as a student body, have to other places. In our own school, we have kids that come from two other towns in the district, Montrose and Hanover, who provide numerous contributions to our community's school. That is why the Hoofprint included their respected map on the back cover, with pins of their own. In addition, our location on the grid has connections to places on the other side of the world. We address stories from people who had journeys starting far from here, and in one way or another, have their path going through our school. What we want you to take away from this issue is that every story is a pin on the map, and we all encounter pins when travelling through life.

"To put a city in a book, to put the world on one sheet of paper -- maps are the most condensed humanized spaces of all...They make the landscape fit indoors, make us masters of sights we can't see and spaces we can't cover." - Robert Harbison

Ella Shuherk

James Oistad



"I watched my father start his own business. I've always liked the thought."

- Krissy Paul -



NEW BUSINESSES ON THE

BLOCK New additions to downtown bring a more complete image of Buffalo

Jordan Eby & Meagan Henry
Staff Writers

This year Buffalo has welcomed many new businesses. From an ice cream shop to a winery, downtown Buffalo is in for a change.

One of these new businesses is the ice cream shop What's The Scoop. It is located downtown near J's Family Restaurant. There is always a spark when it comes to deciding to open a business, "We have been thinking about the ice cream parlor business for three or four years and just have been looking for the right opportunity and location," Brad Elsenpeter said "I always have thought it would be fun to have an ice cream parlor and serve the Buffalo area."

Before opening there weren't too many struggles. "Really we didn't have to many struggles," said Elsenpeter. "The one hurdle we had to jump was the plumbing permit process. With this we never realized it would take so long for the plan approval, once all approved we moved forward and got everything taken care of one hundred percent."

Since being open the shop has experienced lots of business. Despite the good business there were a few very minor problems once it opened. "Not knowing the amount of customers we were going to attract and the amount of ice cream to have on hand," he said. "With forty flavors it gets hard to foresee the future and what we need. Overall the shop has had tremendous success, We really see all different ages from newborn to ninety plus, everyone enjoys ice cream."

A closeby business is Evelyn's Wine Bar. It is open from Wednesday to Saturday with small plate food options along with an abundant selection of drinks. The online reviews located on the website only say good things including good service and the friendly environment. The idea for the new business came when Krissy Paul, the owner, was walking with her friends and were unable to think of a place to get wine in Buffalo. Paul had said that, "I watched my father start his own business. I've always liked the thought." The Wine Bar was named after her grandmother, Evelyn, who passed away soon after her 104th birthday. The business was named after Evelyn to remind the owner of the impact her grandmother left on her.

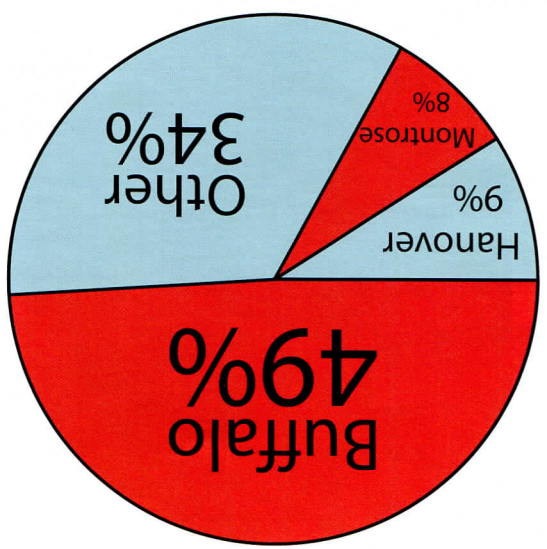
Statistically, 80% of new businesses close down within the first 18 months. The owner had said, "money is an issue", when asked about the struggles of starting her business. The business has gotten a steady business, but Paul has said that they are still trying to get a feel of when the heavier flows are. Taking this into consideration can only help the business in the long run.

Another reason for new businesses failing is that the customers do not feel welcome in the environment or the people are not friendly. A local to the business, Sheryl Lehman, had said, "They will accommodate you to whatever needs or wants that you have," referring to the people within the business. Many customers comment on the beverages and food having a fun selection and the quality being great.

Buffalo has always had pieces missing from the puzzle of the community. This year's newest businesses have become part of this giant puzzle. There are still pieces missing and that leaves one question; what's next?



WHERE WE CALL HOME



Four BHS students share experiences in their respective hometowns

Jack Leipholtz
 Buffalo High School is home to 1,899 students. District 877 is one of the largest areas in Minnesota, covering 157 square miles. The size of the district makes BHS a melting pot of many different towns. The district also has an open enrollment policy, meaning students who live beyond the district borders can attend the schools.

BHS Freshman, Sophia Willson lives in the city of Buffalo. Since the school is in Buffalo, it makes it easy to get to school and to get around the town, "I like downtown. I like how close it is and all the stuff you can do there. [On weekends I like to] hang out with friends, and go to the skatepark at Sturges."

Willson said. Buffalo is the largest town in the district. A majority of BHS students live here. Being the county seat, Buffalo is a hub of activity for Wright County. Placed right at the intersection of state highways 55 and 25, many people drive through Buffalo daily. Hanover, Minnesota is about one quarter of the size of Buffalo. BHS Senior, and Hanover resident, Ethan More said there isn't much to the small town.

"There's not a lot there, [Hanover] is mainly just a gas station and the River Inn," said More. The gas station More refers to is the Original Tom Thumb, which has been there since 1979. The River Inn was built in 1894, but was originally Strunk's Saloon and Pool Parlor. The town has a lot of historical value, especially the Historic Bridge. The bridge was constructed in 1885 and was the third bridge to be built in the state of Minnesota.

Montrose is the smallest town in the BHM district as well as home to 3,102 people. Junior Anna Schroetke lives in the town, attended Montrose elementary, and does not feel too strongly about it. Despite a poor reputation, Montrose is home to 21 percent of BHS students. "Montrose kids are labeled as bad or from the 'ghetto,'" Schroetke said, "but it's probably [as safe as] as Buffalo."

Based on popular opinion at BHS, the town was labeled as "ghetto" because it is perceived as less safe and having a higher crime rate. The three towns are well known throughout the school, but another town not as widely known is Delano. Sophomore Jordan Hutchcraft lives in Delano. For Hutchcraft, it is more difficult to make plans with friends, and it takes more effort because of the longer drive, but Delano has some benefits that Hutchcraft enjoys. "It's definitely a closer community, and there are a lot of events in the park. Since it is a close community, lots of people know what's going on," Hutchcraft said.

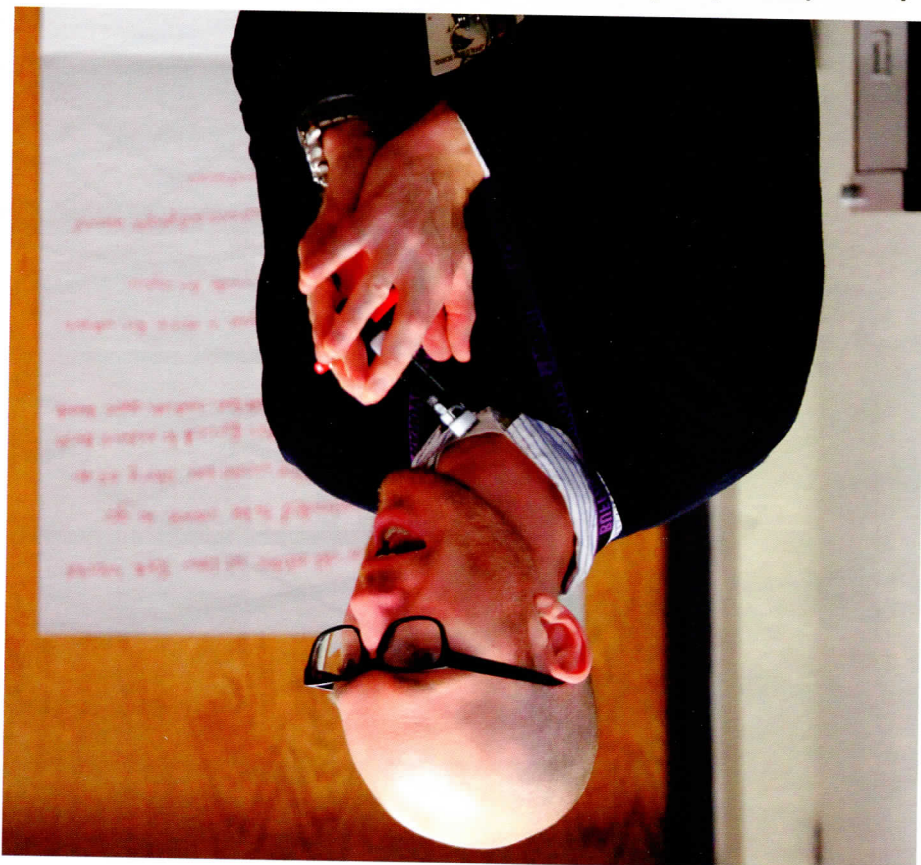
Within the 157 square miles of District 877, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose consists of different experiences and activities, but everyone within district limits, and even outside, all come together at Buffalo High School.



TEACHING MEETS TRAVELING

An insight to Mr. Parsons

Mckinzie McDowell
Staff Writer



Across states and countries, through families or work, every person in Buffalo, Minnesota has ended up here. Mr. Parsons taught all around the globe, in small towns and big cities, before moving to the Land of Ten Thousand Lakes.

Beginning his teaching career in Kentucky and teaching in small towns and large cities, Parsons' experience is unique. It takes someone who loves to learn, and is willing to take risks and leave their comfort zone behind for the possibility of having something great.

"I never lived in a rural area before and living in a rural area I always thought it was not going to be fun. It was amazing and I met great people," Parsons said. "Then I lived in Louisville, and got to work with inner city kids. There were so many great people."

He continued his teaching career in "The Land Down Under," where he grew up.

"I taught at a very traditional school. It was a public school, but it was set up like a grammar school," Parsons said. "There were a lot of essays. I taught literature; it was very dense coursework."

Changing your way of life is not for the faint of heart.

Parsons, being a 'learner at heart', made the switch easier. "There's been some bumps in the road. Our cultures are similar but they're not the same and so when going through a big transition, you're going to hit some missteps," Parsons said. "I'm a learner at heart and so coming over, I looked at the whole thing as a learning experience and I was fascinated by all aspects of it."

After working in Australia for a year, Parsons moved and started teaching in Buffalo, Minnesota.

"Dealing with students here, there are certainly still issues. They have problems, but the culture here is so positive. I focus on serving the kids instead of trying to manage students and do less teaching," Parsons said. "I see some well-rounded students and that's a compliment to not only parents in the community but to the educators that pushed them along the way."

After moving around and working in many different areas, Mr. Parsons has ended up in Buffalo, Minnesota. Working in as many different situations as Parsons has, it influences many aspects of you.

- Builds Greek Urns as part of his students' course work
- Creates a fun and carefree relationship with his students
- Eager and excited to come to work each day
- Encourages people to travel and try new things

FAST FACTS:

FROM TROPICS TO SNOWSTORMS

Differences in Nigerian and American culture

Clare Vander Kooi & Elle Kaiser
Staff Writers

"I remember I wanted to go out to the well, but they wouldn't let me go because a lot of people die because they fall in, especially little people," said Oluwadamilola Omole '20.

Born in Nigeria, Dami Omole '20 came to the United States with his family as a young child. Growing up in Nigeria, he was very accustomed to different rules and ideas.

Respect in the United States is very different from respect in Nigeria. In the United States, it is important to respect everyone, but we tend to give more respect to the people who have authority or who agree with us. In Nigeria, there is no personal decision on who you respect, it is the age and title that are the deciding factor. Those factors make the elderly highly respected; the older the wiser. Respect is at the core of how they interact with others.

"If a parent or someone older is talking to you, you can't look at them you have to keep looking down especially if you are in trouble," Omole said. "Your siblings hold a lot of power over you. If your siblings are older than you, they are better than you and they tell you exactly what to do. You have to do it. You don't have a choice."

In Nigeria, being witness to someone being hit by a car is a daily occurrence. The roads are jam-packed filled with buses, cars, bikes, and people.

"There are no traffic rules and while you are driving there are people on bikes trying to sell you stuff. Everyone is packed. It is like really bad traffic and you can't take another route and escape. We tried to buy stuff from one guy, but we had to keep moving and then we couldn't find him. A lot of people get hit especially

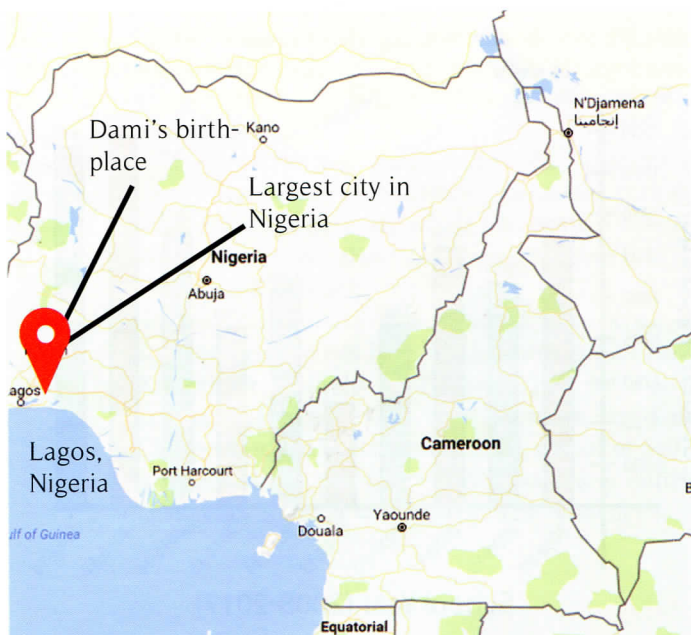
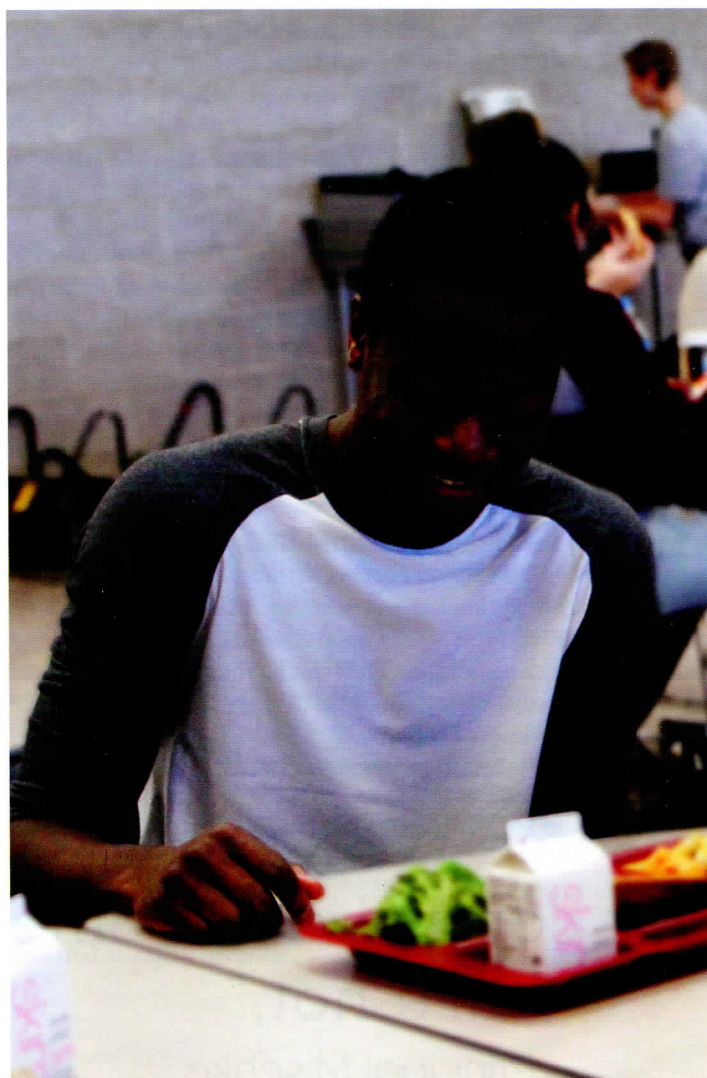
in poorer areas because the traffic is crazy."

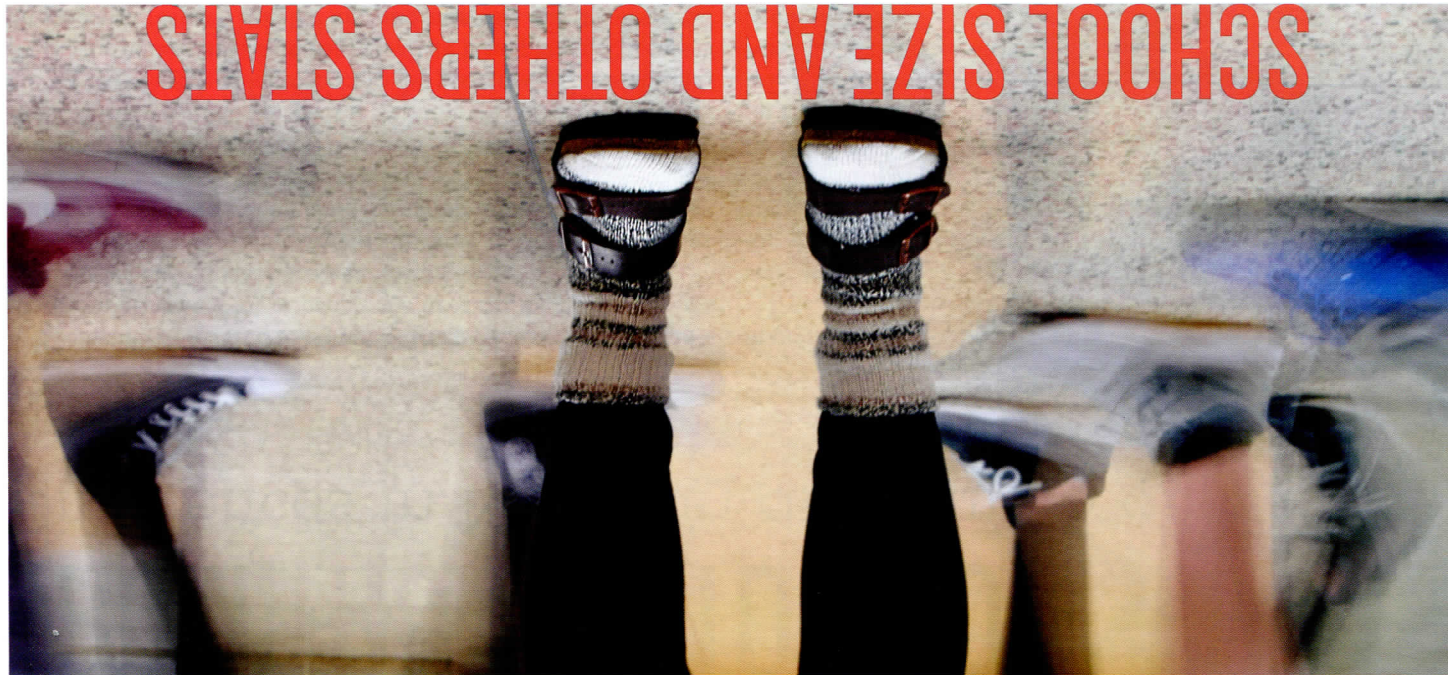
Due to different stereotypes, most people see Nigeria as a desert, with mud and straw huts for homes. That is not the case for the majority of the population. There is a large range of what people call home, from slums to high end homes.

"A lot of people don't realize that there are a lot of houses there, like they live in houses, not huts. A lot of them are apartments too."

Life in Nigeria is different than what we are used to in many ways. It is a way of life that is original to their culture and new to ours.

"It's not as easy there as it is here," said Omole.





SCHOOL SIZE AND OTHERS STATS

The upsides and downsides of having a large school

Buffalo High School is one of the largest schools in Minnesota with 1890 students in grades nine through twelve, compared to the average Minnesota high school of about 500 students.

From the start of his career, Principal Mark Mischke has seen the many things that contribute to the fluctuation of school population.

"Some pieces are in our control and some are not, birth rates in our district, move ins, and housing developments tend to have a direct correlation with school size," said Mischke.

Many advantages and disadvantages come with a large school. Having a large school increases the amount of choices in activities, sports, and classes that students have.

"With the amount of kids that we have in our building, it creates a capacity that we can try a variety of different things," said Mischke.

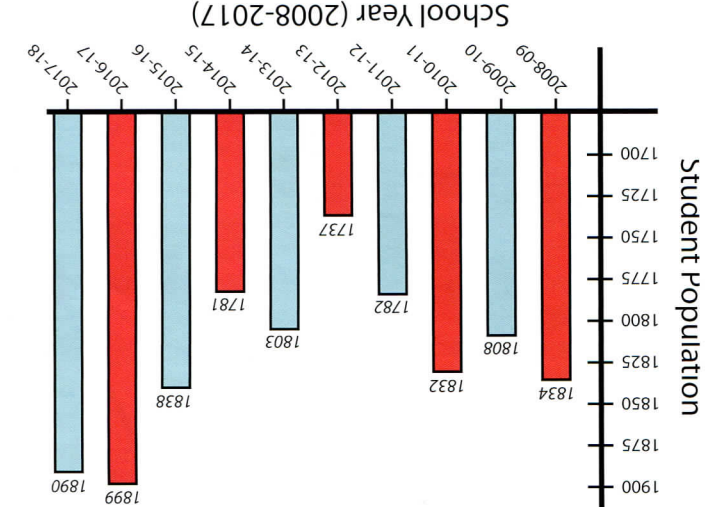
With these advantages come disadvantages. Not all students' needs may be met in a larger school setting.

"There's so many kids in the building that you worry about kids falling through the cracks," said Mischke. "You worry about someone getting missed, somebody not having someone they can connect to. I always worry about that. If we had 300 kids here I could personally know everyone of them."

The BHS staff takes their students' needs into consideration

"Some pieces are in our control and some are not,"

Principal Mischke



"One thing we did specifically this year is that we introduced a bison time that we've had now for a while, but we've tried to be a little more intentional so that all of our 9th graders have an experience with a teacher and a smaller group of kids," said Mischke.

Despite all the disadvantages of a large school, Buffalo triumphs. Buffalo sets a great example for other larger schools, because they really care about the students and make sure their needs are met. Buffalo sets a great example of what a larger than normal school should do to ensure the student's needs are met.

Changes are constantly being made to our school to make it a better environment for students to learn and make lasting connections.

"We require them to be able to be effective with building relationships with kids," said Mischke.

constant. To help prevent students from getting left behind, the staff needs to have a certain skill set.



HOME GROWN

From the beginnings and the ends

Lily Hershley High school can be a daunting
Voices Editor and anxiety filled experience for
any kid, but students who walk
in the same footsteps of their own family members
often have a different experience than those who are
the first student of their generation.

Senior Caroline Zumbusch's roots in Buffalo can be traced back a long ways. Both her parents as well as both sets of her grandparents, have attended Buffalo High school. Having a mother who was homecoming queen and a father who was a well known trouble maker has made attending the same school quite interesting for Zumbusch.

"On the first day of Mr. Squadroni's class I came in late and as I walked in he said, "Caroline Zumbusch, Tamara Zumbusch's daughter" and when I said yes he said, "I loved her! Your dad on the other hand was a troublemaker,"" Said Zumbusch. "It's funny because that's the typical reaction I get from teachers about my parents."

Along with having generations of Zumbusch's before her, Caroline also has 46 first cousins who share her homegrown surname. She enjoys having a large close knit family but it can sometimes be overwhelming.

"Every now and again I get the urge to go somewhere where no one knows my name, yet I still think I will live here my whole life. There is a part of being homegrown that I don't want to leave behind," explained Zumbusch

Attending Buffalo is a separate experience for students who do not have origins here. Junior Kolbe Kramer first moved to Buffalo when he was in seventh grade, but at the time his name was Kolbe Charpentier. He transferred from a school of 500 to a school of 500 per grade which became a difficult change for Kramer, who was the first student

of his name.

"Right off the bat coming from Annandale I did not enjoy creating connections and developing my own name, but for me it eventually became exciting to be the first Charpentier because I could pave the way for my family," said Kramer.

Kramers parents went through a divorce when he was young. His mother, a previous Charpentier, married his stepfather, a Kramer. Kolbe has recently changed his last name to Kramer which has opened a new door for him.

"My step dad's name is Chris Kramer and he used to go to Buffalo, so when I first moved to Buffalo and I hadn't yet changed my name, nobody knew me because there are no Charpentiers that live around this area. Once I changed my name to Kramer I saw an immediate transformation. A lot of people ask me if i'm related to my step dad now, so it is really cool that I have been able to experience both sides, and now I have roots and feel connected," described Kramer.

Being homegrown at Buffalo High school continues to be a distinctive experience from being a student who is the first carrier of their surname. Although they display their differences, both ways of attending this school have advantages that each student can discover and decide in their own time here.

"You don't really think about it too much, but names actually carry a lot of weight, and if your name is unrecognizable, like my name used to be, it can be hard to feel accepted," said Kramer. "Not having a homegrown name gives you the opportunity to build your own reputation, but being homegrown allows you to expand upon what people already know about your family name. Each side has its own advantages and that is really thrilling."

DECISION OF A LIFETIME

Sophomores Braccini and Habisch commit to Division-One programs

Mark Golden
Sports Editor



JAKE BRACCINI (10)

Sophomore Jake Braccini recently made a commitment to the University of Minnesota to play hockey for the Golden Gophers. Jake grew up playing hockey at home with his siblings in the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association.

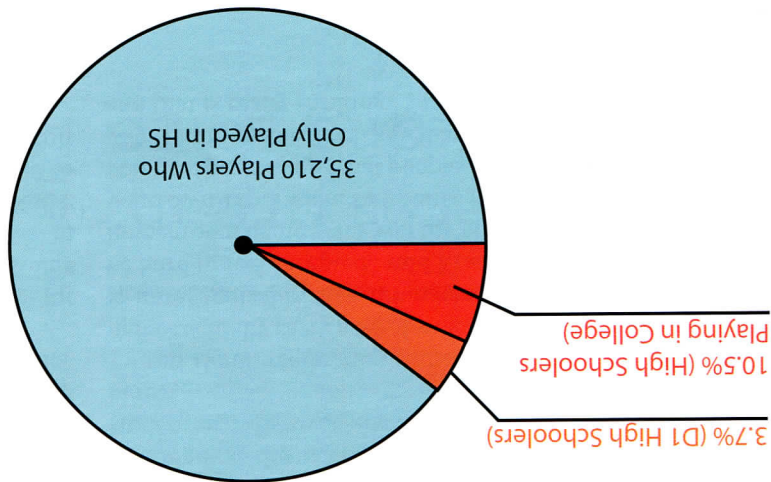
"I grew up watching Minnesota sports, and I never thought I'd be good enough to play college hockey here in Minnesota. To be able to be a part of this experience is incredible." The Golden Gophers play in Division-I, the highest level of collegiate competition.

JADA HABISCH (10)



because of Jada's two older brothers who are also acclaimed hockey players. When asked if her she was competitive with her brothers about hockey Jada said yes, "They always pushed me to do my best, I always wanted to be just as good as them."

Jada Habisch is a Sophomore at Buffalo High School and this summer she made a life changing decision. She committed to The University of Connecticut. Jada also played in the Buffalo Youth Hockey Association, and the competition at home was likely also intense



WHAT'S A COMMITMENT?

In the cases of Jake and Jada, they have both committed verbally because as Sophomores they are unable to sign The National Letter of Intent until they become seniors. A verbal commitment can be backed out of. The National Letter of Intent is what really ties the knot on your college commitment, it provides the person attending the college financial aid from the college in exchange for joining the athletics department.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME



Tennis star uses her passion to distract her from what she left behind

Mason Schmidt
Sports Editor

“Right when I first saw her I could tell that she was going to be a good teammate and a great person,” exclaimed Junior Perrin Thompson. Her comments pertaining to foreign exchange student and tennis star, Senior Simona Potočková. Ever since she first arrived in America back in August, she gradually became the focus of many conversations throughout both the school and the community. Transitioning from Slovakia to Minnesota was a daunting task and adapting to the new lifestyle was an immense challenge. While the change was a complicated experiment of trial and error, she was able to find a piece of her home here in America. “[The transition] was really hard but when I joined the tennis team it really helped me a lot because I had people that I could talk to [from tennis]. They were very nice and they showed me around,” stated Potočková. She developed a sense of confidence and a feeling of inclusion in her newfound residency as a result of her new team. Tennis has always been a familiar obsession for Simona, “I have been playing tennis since I was seven.” Through the ten years of her honing her craft, she has been able to become a dominant player

on the court. Her talents were promptly recognized by her fellow teammates and Head Coach, Scott Larsen. “She made everyone better by working as hard as she did at practice,” Larsen added. Her unconquerable talent let her obtain: Mississippi 8 player of the year, a State Tournament participant, the team’s Most Valuable Player, and having an undefeated conference record. Simona expressed the difference of playing tennis in Slovakia versus playing here in Buffalo, “It was more about ranking and scores back home. Here, I didn’t need to win. I was happy when my teammates were happy and smiling.” She loves tennis but she played for the blinding enjoyment she gained from playing and being with her teammates. Tennis was her slice of home that comforted her and distracted her from what she missed back home, “[Tennis] was really the only thing I knew before coming here. On court I felt like I was home.”

“It was more about ranking and scores back home. Here, I didn’t need to win. I was happy when my teammates were happy and smiling.”

- Simona Potočková -

THE FRESH NEW LEAD

Kinzie McDowell
Stoff Wither

James and the Giant Peach focuses on young talent, Freshman Owen Klaphake, for lead in Fall Musical

Fresh change came to the stage of BHS. In last year's production of Pippin, the spotlight was filled with senior talent- this year you might find the lead a bit on the younger side. Freshman Owen Klaphake is an actor, and a talented one at that.

It is hard for anybody coming into a group that's typically older than them to find their place. Klaphake describes what it was like to try to fit in with the upperclassmen.

"It's amazing, all of the people here are so much fun, they all have very distinctive personalities. They've taught me how to bring out my character, a lot of it's been with character development," Klaphake said.

Eric Braun, a senior in the musical, notes how easy it was to work with Owen because of the similar personalities between the two.

"I did my auditions the same day that Owen did, and so I auditioned in his group. I really liked him, right from the start. He kind of had this kooky energy about him, and that's me as well I have the same kind of energy," Eric Braun said. "It was cool kind of seeing somebody I could see myself in, we have this thing in the theater department where we kind of take on a newcomer as 'our' freshmen. So Owen would be technically my freshman, so it's kind of a fun way to connect with Owen."

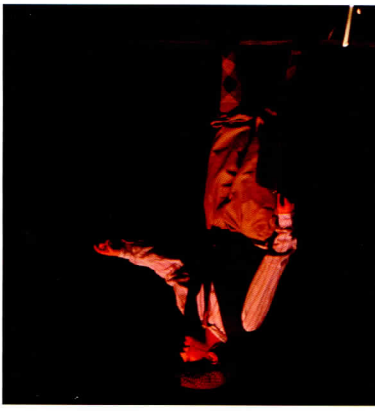
Mrs. Hagsstrum-Durant is the theater director here at Buffalo High School. When

casting this role, she was looking for the voice of a young boy.

"One of the key things was that it had to be an unchanged, male voice. So that means he has to be a boy soprano and most ninth grade boys have already got voices that are changing and so we were assuming we were gonna have to go, we had in fact contacted the middle school music teachers and asked them if they had any kids they could send our direction," Mrs. Hagsstrum-Durant said. "Then this young man comes in, he's a ninth grader, he has a fabulous voice, and he is truly still a soprano. So I was like is his voice going to change in this month and a half and Mr. Walsh said no, he was sure it was gonna stay a boy soprano. He also had to be pretty confident because it's a good size role."

Through hours of rehearsal, the young lead managed to prove he deserves the role because of reasons beyond his unchanged voice. He has shown he has the dedication, and the talent to show that age is just a number when it comes to musical theater, through connections and practice even the youngest talent has the chance to shine through.

Even the youngest talent has the chance to shine through.



"I feel blessed to be able to get this role, especially as a freshmen."

- Owen Klaphake, '21-

PEOPLE OF

BHS

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618
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EMILY BURRELL > STUDENT SERVICES



"In 2010, I moved to the Caribbean to St. Croix. I lived at an eco resort and volunteered for "Save the Sea Turtles". I also worked for an organic farm there. I met a lot of new people, everyday was a different experience. I didn't know anyone when I initially moved there, I met people through my daily life. I lived basically on the water at the resort, so you could say it was basically "the beach life". I met a few local artists there and that's how they made their living. I think of this place as a "hidden gem". The array of people down there is insane. A lot of the guys I met down there lived in their boats, and they started the organization, "Save the Sea Turtles". I spent 5 years of my life after college traveling, and those were some of the most memorable experiences I've ever had. Life is so short, do what you want."

