



Brookings School District

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

BROOKINGS ACTIVITIES DEPT

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To: Board of Education
From: Jeff Dvorak, Director of Activities
Re: Administrative Report - Activities
Date: 4/7/2025

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

SPEECH, DEBATE & DRAMA

BHS had the honor of hosting the SDHSAA State Debate and IE tournament on March 7th and 8th. The tournament was a success for the Bobcats with a number of individuals taking home some hardware. Mallory Wells placed 2nd in Lincoln Douglas Debate; the Public Forum debate team of Nana Dwomoh and Finn Bartlett made it to quarter finals; the Public Forum team of Madelyn Berkenhoff and Amanda Martin placed second and Madelyn Berkenhoff was the champion in International Extemporaneous speaking. The team was just short of staging overall with a fourth-place finish. We finished our season by attending the State Congressional Debate and Big Questions Qualifier Tournament at Sioux Falls Roosevelt on March 14th. Riley Schwinler was the champion in Big Questions debate. Also qualifying to the national tournament are Congressional Debate qualifiers Kerrick Zhang and Quinton Zhu. Joining them in Des Moines Iowa in June are Mallory Wells, Amanda Martin, Madelyn Berkenhoff, Finn Bartlett, Nana Dwomoh, and Jessica Martin who have already stamped their tickets to nationals in their main events. The March 14th tournament also served as the FCA Awards Recognition Night where BHS seniors Amanda Martin and Madelyn Berkenhoff received the Donus D. Roberts Award for excellence in Public Forum debate. It was a great season for Bobcat Speech and Debate!

Congratulations go out to the members of the MMS Oral Interp team who competed in Lennox. We sent 30 competitors who performed humorous and serious pieces, oratories, poetry and duos. For 27 of these 30 students, this was their first-ever oral interp competition! MMS students were awarded 11 ratings of Excellent-plus and 14 Superiors. Four students received a top performance rating of Superior-plus: Cora Kleinjan, Maria Koromyslova, Keelan Machado, and Autumn Malmberg. Great job, everyone!



MUSIC

The Brookings High School Prelude, Concert, and Symphonic Orchestras delivered outstanding performances at the Festival of Orchestras, held at Sioux Falls Jefferson in late February. Each ensemble performed for two adjudicators and an audience of fellow high school orchestras. Following their performances, the adjudicators provided immediate on-stage feedback, offering valuable insights and praise. Our students represented Brookings High School with exceptional skill,

professionalism, and grace. Their dedication and hard work were evident, earning high praise from the adjudicators, who awarded all three orchestras Excellent ratings. In addition, our chaperones shared glowing feedback about the students' conduct and commitment throughout the event. A heartfelt thank-you goes to our chaperones for their support and to our trailer driver—this event would not have been possible without them. Thank you also to Nate Loehr for helping to coordinate our transportation needs of 160 musicians with three busses plus an additional trailer and suburban for all of our equipment.

On March 10, twenty-nine Brookings High School musicians traveled to Augustana University in Sioux Falls to participate in the String Solo and Ensemble competition. Students performed as soloists, in duets, or in trios before an adjudicator. Over the course of the day, our musicians presented 24 performances, earning an impressive 15 Superior ratings and 9 Excellent ratings. It was an incredibly successful day, highlighting the dedication and talent of our students.

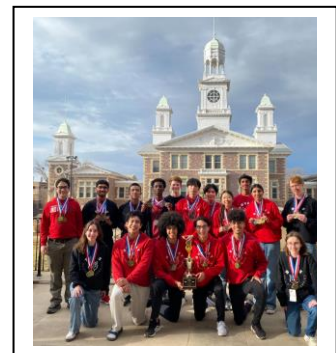
The Brookings High School orchestras—Prelude, Concert, and Symphonic—presented our "Evening Serenade" Spring Concert on March 20 to an appreciative audience. Each ensemble performed three selections, including two pieces from the Festival of Orchestras and one additional work. The evening featured a diverse program, from the elegance of Mozart and Vivaldi to the vibrant and energetic "Moroccan Nights" as the closing piece. The concert was a wonderful showcase of our students' musical growth and artistry.

Our BHS winter drumline consists of 27 students from percussion and winds, and March was a very busy month for us! We traveled to two Minnesota Percussion Association (MPA) competitions, one in Brandon and the other in Burnsville, MN, taking first place in our division in Brandon and sixth place in Burnsville. We also traveled to Buffalo, MN to compete in Winter Guard International (WGI) Regionals, taking sixth place in our division. Outside of traveling to these many competitions, we hosted our annual Bobcat Beat percussion and guard showcase in Jostad Gym and loved performing for our home crowd! It's been a great season! It's so rewarding to see our improvement from start to finish as the season progresses and to compete against so many talented groups. To conclude our season, we will perform at the SD sendoff show at Jefferson High School in Sioux Falls before competing in MPA finals at Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD & FAIR

On Saturday, March 22nd, Brookings High School and Mickelson Middle School students competed in the South Dakota State Science Olympiad Competition. The competition took place on the USD campus in Vermillion, SD. The students competed in a variety of events requiring knowledge of content areas, critical thinking skills, mechanical skills, engineering skills, and teamwork. BHS earned 2nd place and MMS earned 3rd place.

Brookings School District had a fantastic day at the Eastern SD Science and Engineering Fair held at SDSU on Tuesday, March 25th. Eight students from MMS and 3 students from BHS competed with over 300 students from eastern SD and NW Iowa. Students participating: Anika Hooda, Navneeth Rao, Kerrick Zhang from BHS. Sanhita Tummala, Virinchi Janaswamy, Iyie Nyawanda, Sulmy Aguilera Vallecillo, Layne Buterbaugh, Malcolm McCormick, Ryker Ver Helst and Adrian Butzin.



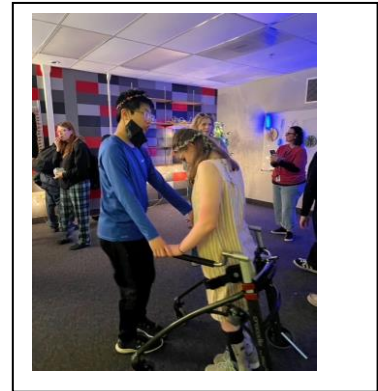
FCCLA

FCCLA members have been busy preparing for the 2025 State Leadership Conference taking place in Sioux Falls on April 27-29th. We will have 64 members in attendance at the state conference with a lot of effort and fun projects to show for it. To aid the cost associated with competing, members have worked concession stands and bussed tables at Pizza Ranch. Beyond the preparations, members

have also been participating in community service efforts. These efforts include reading books to Hillcrest elementary students, raising money for the Sanford Child Life Program, and bussing tables at the annual Taste of Brookings event.

STUDENT COUNCIL

At the end of February, we hosted our winter Semi-Formal dance (350-400 students attended). Then on March 14, we worked with our peer-to-peer class to host our Sensory-Friendly dance. This dance was designed to provide a more inclusive and comfortable environment for students who may benefit from a calmer, sensory-friendly atmosphere. The peer-to-peer class made the soundtrack and picked the theme—Enchanted Forest Under the Stars. The room was decorated with accent lights, lanterns, and a forest photo backdrop area. During Bobcat Time, student council students set up the decorations/dance room, while peer-to-peer students got ready for the dance—dressing up, curling their hair, etc. It was a wonderful experience! On March 17-21, Our Student Council hosted Homecoming for the Arts Week; we highlighted all of the fine arts activities happening that week—choir concert, orchestra concert, Bobcat Beat event. We had dress-up days, raffle drawings for students who attended the concerts, showcased fine arts programs through pictures on the hallway TV screens, and made special announcements with trivia questions about our fine arts programs; trivia winners earned prizes. We also hosted a Coin Wars competition throughout the week to earn money for Children's Miracle Network.



A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

BACKERS RED & BLACK EVENT

On the last Saturday in March, the Bobcat Backers hosted the 2026 Red & Black Fundraising Event at the Old Sanctuary. It was awesome to see so many of our coaches in attendance working the different games and talking sports with our supporters in the community. Also, it was a great opportunity for our Monogram Club to give back to our Boosters by serving the meal. Backers Presidents, Karissa & Doug Kopecky have been so good to work with this past year, and the success of this culminating event was a testament to the quality of people they are. By the time the night was over, there were over 125 people in attendance and the Backers raised around \$10,000 that they generously will use to support our athletes in 2025-26.

EXTRA DUTY POSITIONS

At this point we have four varsity head coach openings, eight high school assistant openings and three middle school vacancies. Most of these positions do have several applicants and we are very close to locking in around half of these extra-duty jobs. The concern here, and at just about all schools in our area, is that we don't have as many teaching openings as we would like to help draw more applicants.

A GREAT PLACE TO COLLABORATE

SPRING SPORTS MEETING

For our track, golf, softball, tennis, sporting clays and taekwondo athletes & parents, we had a spring sports meeting in mid-March. It was impressive to see the number of parents, athletes and coaches who attended. For the first 20-30 minutes, I spoke to the entire group about transportation, insurance, our core values, paperwork needed, etc. then each sport's head coach leads a break out session where they discussed schedules, team rules, fundraisers, etc.

SCHOOL - COMMUNITY EVENTS

Willie Mac BB - Nearly 80 teams descended on Brookings at the end of March to participate in the local Willie Mac basketball tournament. The Brookings Basketball Association partners with the Boys & Girls Club to host this event, and they use our BHS and MMS gyms for the games that go on for two full days.

Youth Region Wrestling - Early in March the Brookings Youth Wrestling Association hosted the local youth region tournament in BHS Jostad and Aux gyms. With over 500 wrestlers competing and thousands of spectators in attendance, it was a loud, chaotic, wonderful event. Coach Hanson did a commendable job of organizing this tournament and even more impressive is his ability to get his HS wrestlers to work the event after their wrestling season is over.

A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EXCELLENCE

OLPAC & PACIOLAN

In the month of March, Brookings School District musicians from grades 2 through 12 either played or sang in nine concerts. Six of those were housed at the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center. Our relationship with Anna and Christina at the OLPAC is one I feel very fortunate to have. Their flexibility, support and willingness to share that beautiful facility is such a bonus for our music programs.

One issue we have faced in the last two years is reaching capacity for a few of our concerts. We do not have a real-time, accurate method of counting tickets and spectators since we use our own ticketing system which does not assign seats. So, Christina Castillo has worked with SDSU and Paciolan Ticketing and they have agreed to allow us to use the ticket people and system next year. I plan to meet with them this June to lock in details.

MONOGRAM

After several meetings, we are moving closer to deciding some murals, wraps, signage and other graphics for our athletic areas in and around BHS. The group has decided to focus on the B1 and C6 entrances, the 400 & 500 hallways by the gyms, Jostad Gym, the swimming pool windows, the track press box and the fences at our softball and soccer locations. It will be exciting to work with Outlaw Graphics to get some color, graphics and long-needed energy to these areas.