



Brookings School District

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

BROOKINGS HIGH SCHOOL

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Brookings High School Administrative Report – December 2024

A Great Place to Learn

At Brookings High School, we are committed to fostering a positive and engaging school culture. This year, we have emphasized our Bobcat P.R.I.D.E. initiative, which reflects our core values of **Participation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence**. Through this, we aim to inspire a culture of involvement and character development, supporting our mission to both the academic and personal growth of our students.

As part of the initiative, we hold weekly drawings for students who receive P.R.I.D.E. tickets from staff members in recognition of demonstrating these values. Prizes include “rock-star parking” in one of our two designated spots, Bobcat P.R.I.D.E. T-shirts, gift cards to local businesses, and entries into a quarterly drawing.

Our first quarterly drawing for Quarter 1 was a success, with several exciting prize options such as a Smart TV, wireless headphones, a one-year Spotify subscription, or gift cards to local businesses. Congratulations to **Amari Bortnem**, who won the drawing and chose the wireless headphones! Way to go, Amari!



A Great Place to Work

One of Brookings High School's key priorities this school year has been exploring potential scheduling options to better support our students, staff, and families in the future. In mid-September, the BHS administration invited staff members to apply to join a dedicated scheduling committee. We were pleased to receive interest from a group of educators, including six teachers and two counselors, who are committed to collaborating on this important work.

The members of the BHS Scheduling Committee are as follows:

Administrators: Justin Stanley and Zach Thomas

Counselors: Linda Johnson and Amanda Neville

Teachers: Ricky Ganci, Phil Thrumer, Jarrod Huntimer, Aubrey Vanderbush, Joshua Johnson, and Denise Perry

Our committee's primary objectives are to create a schedule that:

- ensures consistency for students and teachers.
- maximizes efficiency in time allocation and contact hours.
- incorporates feedback from parents/guardians, students, and staff to reflect the needs of our school community.

We are excited about the work ahead and remain dedicated to developing a schedule that balances the diverse needs of BHS. This collaborative process will continue throughout the year, and we look forward to having a positive outcome.

A Great Place to Collaborate

In the fall of 2022, Brookings High School proudly introduced the Peer-to-Peer course, a course designed to empower general education students with leadership skills while fostering understanding and inclusion of learners with disabilities. This course encourages students to work together in an integrated, positive environment, promoting socialization, independence, and the development of meaningful, lasting friendships that extend throughout high school and beyond.

A key component of Peer-to-Peer is its focus on creating opportunities for all learners to connect, providing support, and broadening social networks. By encouraging collaboration and understanding, the course helps cultivate a school culture of respect and inclusivity.

Since its introduction, Peer-to-Peer has experienced growth in student interest and has made a noticeable positive impact on our educational environment. This year, we have expanded the program to include student assistance in a Physical Education class, which has evolved into an Adapted Physical Education class—a course we are excited to continue into Semester 2. Additionally, Peer-to-Peer participants are extending their support beyond BHS by working with learners at Hillcrest and Medary Elementary Schools, further enriching the experience for both mentors and mentees.

The Peer-to-Peer course exemplifies the values of Bobcat P.R.I.D.E., demonstrating the power of Participation, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence in action. We look forward to seeing this program continue to grow and positively shape our school community

