



Brookings School District

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

HILLCREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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April 2025 School Board Report



Hillcrest: A Great Place to Work!

Hillcrest is a great place to work because we celebrate and uplift the incredible staff who make our school such a special place. This year, we proudly recognized two outstanding team members—Mrs. Tanna McMahon as our Teacher of the Year and Ms. Tanna Nolz as our Education Support Professional of the Year. Their dedication, positivity, and commitment to students inspire everyone around them. At Hillcrest, we value and support one another, creating a workplace culture where staff feel appreciated and empowered to make a difference every day.

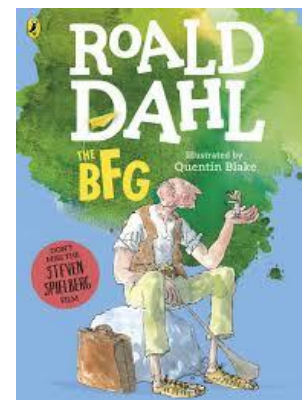
Mrs. Tanna McMahon is an exceptional teacher whose passion for music education, creativity, and dedication make

her an outstanding choice for Hillcrest Teacher of the Year. She consistently goes above and beyond to create engaging, inclusive, and meaningful learning experiences for students. Her classroom is well-organized and filled with differentiated instruction that meets the needs of every learner, making music both educational and fun. Tanna inspires a love of music through innovative lessons—like teaching songs tied to current events or leading the school-wide "Music Madness" bracket—and prepares students with confidence for concerts and performances. She balances high expectations with flexibility, and her commitment to student growth, collaboration, and lifelong learning is truly admirable. Tanna McMahon is a valued member of the Hillcrest community who helps students become their best selves through the power of music.

Tanna Nolz is a valued member of the Hillcrest team who brings positivity, flexibility, and dedication to her work every day. She supports many learners in a variety of ways, consistently showing patience, high expectations, and a focus on teaching important life skills. Tanna builds strong relationships with both students and staff, showing genuine care, offering encouragement, and celebrating student growth. She is collaborative, approachable, and always ready to problem-solve.

Hillcrest: A Great Place to Learn!

Hillcrest is a great place to learn because we believe in creating a strong, connected school community through shared experiences like *One School Reading One Book*. Right now, our entire school—students, staff, and families—is reading *The BFG* by Roald Dahl together. To make sure everyone can participate, we've recorded each



chapter for families who may not have time to read at home, and we've also purchased Spanish versions of the book to support our bilingual families. This meaningful initiative, done in partnership with the Hillcrest PTA, brings us all together through the joy of reading and reinforces our commitment to inclusive, engaging learning experiences.



Hillcrest: A Great Place to Collaborate!

Hillcrest is a great place to collaborate because our school and wider community work hand-in-hand to create meaningful opportunities for students. Our community organizations have stepped up to help support the cost of field trip transportation, making it possible for more students to explore learning beyond the classroom. Our teachers are also thinking outside the box, applying for grants and seeking creative

ways to fund these experiences. Thanks to their efforts, Hillcrest second grade teachers recently secured funding from the Brookings Arts Council, two anonymous donors, and the \$10 Club. We are truly grateful for the generosity and partnership of our community, which continues to make enriching, real-world learning experiences possible for all students.



Upcoming Events at Hillcrest:

April 10th: 1st Grade Music Concert in the Hillcrest Gym

April 23rd: South Dakota State Testing begins for 3rd Grade Students

April 26th: Hillfest makes a comeback!

May 7: Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day

May 22: 3rd Grade Graduation