



Brookings School District

Working Together...Educating with Excellence...Inspiring Learners for Life

BROOKINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Mike Jewett, Director of Activities

530 Elm Avenue • Brookings, SD 57006 • Phone 605-696-4100 • Fax 605-696-4128

To: Board of Education

From: Mike Jewett, Director of Activities

Re: Administrative Report - Activities

Date: 5/1/23

1. BOYS TENNIS - We spent the beginning of our season playing challenge matches to determine our varsity lineup. We have now played 4 duals and are preparing to enter the heart of our season. Late April and early May will be a busy time of competing - our student-athletes will be working hard to build a record at their respective flights to earn seeds at the conference and state tournaments. We will be hosting some exciting tournaments here in Brookings at Hillcrest Park, ending our regular season with an all-ESD quadrangular on May 6. The ESD conference tournament will take us to Mitchell this year followed by the state tournament in Sioux Falls at the brand new Tomar Park complex. Our Core Values Student of the Month is Ayden Asche, and we appreciate his commitment to representing our program with integrity, effort, accountability and community.



2. HOSA - State HOSA was held on Thursday, March 30 in Sioux Falls, and unfortunately the event was reduced to one day with the weather canceling the competition on Friday, March 31. Our group fared very well and earned the following places: Vanessa An - 1st in Nutrition, 4th in Pathophysiology, 5th in Medical Terminology; Halle Bunkers - 7th in Dental Terminology and 6th in Healthcare Career Photography; Camryn Lounsbury, James Park, Hamza Ali - 2nd in Health Education; Ren Retterath, Alisha Lam, Madison Kepner - 1st Emotional Well Being and 1st in Mental Health Awareness. Vanessa, Ren, Alisha, and Madison will be competing at the International Leadership Conference in Dallas, TX in June. Congratulations to all of our members!

3. SOFTBALL - Over the last month, the Bobcat softball team has been busy, and our student-athletes have been extremely flexible with the weather. The inaugural first game was played indoors at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa against the Watertown Arrows. We secured the first win in Bobcat Softball history by a score of 4-2! Our game against Aberdeen Central was not nearly as close, and we won 27-0. The third game in the last month was a huge comeback win over Sioux Falls Jefferson, 7-5. We have had games postponed again Brandon Valley, Sioux Falls Washington, Sioux Falls Roosevelt, Sioux Falls Lincoln and will make those up in the next couple of weeks. A student who has exemplified the Bobcat Core Values of integrity, effort, accountability, and community is Megan Wadsworth. She comes to practices and games each day with a positive attitude and effort. She is always willing to go the extra mile to help coaches and teammates. She is a leader on and off the field. Congrats Megan!



4. GIRLS GOLF - Due to weather conditions, the girls' golf team has only been able to practice outside a few times; however, we have had all of our meets with some success and improvements. The varsity won the first triangular in Sioux Falls with Delilah Fuls placing 2nd. Unfortunately, the following two meets we weren't able field a full team due to illness. Our last invitational was Tuesday in Pierre; they played very well despite the very cold weather conditions and down our #1 player. Miyah Foerster placed 15th out of 95 players with her personal best of 82 to lead the team. The JV also won their first dual against SF O'Gorman. We are looking forward to consistent practice outdoors and continuous improvement. Our Core Values Student of the Month is Jaden Devine. We appreciate Jaden's effort and accountability this season and congratulate her on earning this award and recognition!



5. Track & Field - The 2023 BHS Track and Field teams have been training for eight weeks; however, the weather has been making it difficult for our teams. We took matters into our own hands in early April when we removed several feet of snow (photos in email) from the finish line area. About 75 of our 120 team members volunteered for that service project. It was a good bonding experience. We have had three meets so far. We participated in the SDSU Ruth Marske indoor meet on March 27. Then, we traveled to Sioux Falls for the Jefferson Quad on April 11. Finally, we hosted the first ever twilight meet in Brookings history on April 18. It was a total team effort to complete the home meet before it got too dark. We are now entering the most competitive part of our season and travel to Yankton on April 27. Then, we host our last home meet of the year on May 2. Howard Wood Relays, ESD, and the State AA Meet wrap up our season. The teams have been working hard and showing improvement throughout the season. When the weather improves we expect to see some very good performances. For their consistent display of our core values, Jess Fourney and Jordan Mofle are our Core Values Students of the Month. Both Jess and Jordan are hard working, team first student-athletes who make our program better. In closing, we would like to commend the members of the 2023 BHS Track and Field teams. Despite the obstacles and difficulties this season, our kids have been so enjoyable to work with. They have kept a positive attitude throughout the season and seem to really find joy in the process. That makes our coaching staff feel very proud of our teams. Thanks for your support, and we hope to see you at our home meet on May 2 when we will recognize our Seniors at that meet.



Track athletes removing snow from track



Alaina Evans running in a relay

6. Model United Nations Conference - On Saturday, April 22nd, Brookings High School sent 18 students to a Model United Nations conference on the Augustana University campus in Sioux Falls. This was the first iteration of the conference which had participants replicate the committees of the United Nations and, for this conference, the US Senate as well. Our students represented different nations and states creating diplomatic resolutions on vast international topics such as the situation in Kurdistan and debt-trapping in developing nations, among others. We had a number of successes throughout the conference, with five students receiving awards: Economics & Finance Committee: Albert Shore - Outstanding Delegate (2nd); Igen Nyawanda - Best Delegate (3rd). Security Council: Shane Nupen - Honorable Delegate (1st); Mallory Wells - Outstanding Delegate (2nd); Liam Wiltse - Best Delegate (3rd). As a group, we brought home the Best Large Delegation award as the best performing delegation with over 15 participants. This was a great opportunity for these learners to either begin or advance their experience with debate and international affairs, as well as getting the opportunity to tour an in-state college campus and learn about college admissions, life, and learning opportunities.



7. FFA - This past week, the Brookings FFA Chapter attended the SD State FFA Convention held on the campus of SDSU and Swiftel Center. One of the hallmarks of agricultural education and the FFA is the opportunity to showcase skills learned in classrooms and spotlighted through competitive events. It is a source of pride and students look forward to the state-level events each year to determine who will represent South Dakota at the national level in the coming fall. This year over 2,500 South Dakota FFA members competed in 15 Career Development Events (CDE) at the State

FFA Convention. FFA's Career Development Events are built around ag industry careers, expose members to many of the opportunities and needs in the agriculture sector, and enable them to develop and refine their abilities to critically evaluate, effectively communicate and ultimately, succeed in future careers.



Brookings FFA Chapter attending the 95th State FFA Convention

The Brookings FFA competed in 10 events with over 60 members in attendance at the State FFA Convention. Of the 10 events, the Brookings FFA had 5 teams place in the top three overall as well as 14 members ranked in the top ten individuals in the state for their respective CDE. Those events include: Ag Business (Gabe Stern - 4th, Clay Nelson - 5th), Dairy Cattle (Ava Couser - 5th), Natural Resources - 3rd (Joey Fitzpatrick - 7th), Meats Evaluation - 2nd (Connor May - 1st, Ella Feucht - 7th), Veterinary Science - 2nd (Jordyn Tibbs - 9th), Milk Quality & Products - 1st (Landin Tucker - 2nd, Samson Storhaug - 3rd, JJ Love - 4th, Paige Foster - 5th) and Livestock Evaluation - 1st (Raesa Zelinsky - 2nd, Cassie Fenske - 4th, Josie Nold - 6th). Both of the 1st place teams will advance to represent South Dakota at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN next fall. When asked what the FFA Career Development Events provide for students, Paige Foster, Brookings FFA VP responded, "Being involved in Career Development Events, students are able to learn more about an agricultural field with hands-on experience and knowledge, while competing against other students across the state. This shows the students many life skills in and out of their competition area."



| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Natural Resources Team (3rd) Shane Harming Blake Herrig Joey Fitzpatrick Andrew Dammen | Meats Evaluation Team (2nd) Preston Cordes Ella Feucht Connor May Carter Stadler | Veterinary Science Team (2nd) Ayden Asche Jordyn Tibbs Tess Pantzke Desirae Johnson |
|---|---|--|



State Winning Milk Quality & Products Team

Advisor Joshua Johnson, Landin Tucker, Jedediah Love, Paige Foster, Samson Storhaug, Advisor Michelle Dykstra



State Winning Livestock Evaluation Team

Advisor Joshua Johnson, Josie Nold, Raesa Zelinsky, Cassie Fenske, Kennedy Nemitz, Advisor Michelle Dykstra, Coach Klint Willert

In addition to the success of the team events, the Brookings FFA, for the first time in over a decade, competed for the National Chapter recognition award. The National Chapter Award is the highest honor an FFA chapter can receive and recognizes chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the FFA. Chapters recognized have developed an active Program of Activities and conducted meaningful events. For the overall state award, a chapter must complete at least 15 activities: one for each of the five quality standards in each of the three divisions - Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture, and meet the minimum requirements outlined in the National Quality FFA Chapter Standards. The Brookings FFA Chapter was awarded 3rd place in the Growing Leaders category, and ranked as one of the top 5 chapters in the state. Cassie Fenske, Brookings FFA Reporter, commented “Applying for this award had led the chapter to take action towards the betterment of the students and community. Encouraging members to participate in these activities drives them to serve people of all ages. In turn, this allows them to feel accomplished after lending a helping hand.”



National Chapter Award

Advisor Joshua Johnson, President Raesa Zelinsky, V.P. Paige Foster, Advisor Michelle Dykstra

The South Dakota FFA is committed to the individual student and supports members in their pursuit of higher education through a variety of scholarship programs. This year the Brookings FFA had two individuals receive scholarships. Raesa Zelinsky, Chapter President, received a \$1,000 scholarship as well as one of the Advisors of the Brookings FFA, Michelle Dykstra received a \$1,000 scholarship to aid in finishing a degree in Agricultural Education. Michelle Dykstra Raesa Zelinsky

To wrap up the 95th South Dakota State FFA Convention, six members of the South Dakota FFA were selected to serve as the 2023-2024 South Dakota State FFA officer team. Candidates vied for the six South Dakota leadership roles and went through extensive interviews. The individuals selected to the South Dakota State FFA officer team will travel across the state throughout the next year presenting speeches, facilitating workshops, hosting camps, holding conferences, and conducting business for the South Dakota FFA Association. They will also represent the state of South Dakota at the National FFA Convention. This year, Brookings FFA President, Raesa Zelinsky, was selected to serve on this team as the State FFA Secretary. When asked what she is looking forward to the most, Raesa stated, "I am truly honored to be selected as the 2023-2024 State FFA Secretary. This would not have been possible without my two advisors, Joshua Johnson and Michelle Dykstra; my family, Rob, Christy, Rigger, and Rhett Zelinsky, Klint Willert, and the numerous members that supported me to get to this point! I look forward to building connections and relationships with students all over SD and the country. Getting to serve this prestigious organization wouldn't be possible without generous sponsors & donors that believe in the future of agriculture."



Newly selected SD State FFA Officer Team
Raesa Zelinsky, State Secretary (3rd from left)

Overall, the Brookings FFA had a very successful year and will continue to strive for excellence with its members. The Brookings FFA consists of over 100 student members and has been advised by Mr. Joshua Johnson for the last ten years. With the continued growth of the program, the Brookings FFA was able to expand with the addition of a second advisor, Mrs. Michelle Dykstra. Michelle has been a great asset to the Brookings FFA and enjoys working with the students. Michelle commented, "My passion for agricultural education and FFA has given me the chance to work with students who are the future of this world. Everyday I am amazed by what these students are capable of achieving. It has been an honor to celebrate their successes with them along the way! Having the opportunity to advise the members of the Brookings FFA this past year has been a wonderful adventure that I am so grateful for. I am honored to be a part of this chapter and cannot wait to see what the future holds for this chapter and these amazing students!" The Brookings FFA Chapter would not be possible without first and foremost the agricultural education department at Brookings High School. To be a member in the National FFA Organization, students must enroll in at least one agricultural education course each school year. Mr. Joshua Johnson has been the agricultural education instructor and FFA Advisor for the past ten years at Brookings High School. Within that time, the agriculture department at BHS has seen tremendous growth and student engagement. This past school year, a little over 300 students enrolled in one of 15 agricultural education courses offered at BHS. Mr. Joshua Johnson stated, "I have always had a love for the agriculture industry and providing students with the best educational experiences is what I strive to accomplish. Being part of the successes of these students is truly an honor. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to do what I love and make a difference in the lives of the students who will one day be the next leaders in not only agriculture, but our community, country and world." Last, but certainly not least, the Brookings FFA would like to thank all of the school staff, businesses and community members that have sponsored and supported them throughout this year. Without their contributions, the Brookings FFA simply would not have the success it does.

8. Middle School Oral Interp - The Middle School Oral Interp season wrapped up this month. It was an extremely successful season - with 44 7th and 8th grade participants, which is a new MS Oral Interp record. Due to inclement weather, we were only able to travel to two of our scheduled meets this year (Mitchell and Florence) but had over 50 entries at each tournament. Our interpers showed a tremendous amount of growth over the last 2+ months. Some participants went from extreme performance anxiety at the start of the season to earning a Superior rating at the last competition. Others earned top rankings at both tournaments. We are so proud of all of our participants and can't wait to see them continue with speaking teams at BHS!



9. ORCHESTRA - Our Strings Attached group is very excited for their upcoming Flood of Jazz show this Saturday, April 29. They are also looking forward to playing for two other events for which they have been asked to play. They will be playing music for the Staff Recognition Ceremony as well as singing at Koffee Klatch. They are honored to be asked to perform for these events. Orchestra - We are also looking forward to upcoming performances. We will be honoring our graduating seniors on Tuesday, May 9th at 7pm at the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center. The Orchestra Boosters will be giving two \$500 Scholarships to two orchestra graduating seniors that evening. We thank the Orchestra Boosters for the dedication and efforts to support the Brookings Orchestra Program. The Symphonic Orchestra is preparing to play for graduation on May 28th and again on May 29th for the Memorial Day Program at Swiftel. It is an honor to be able to take part in the Memorial Day Program to honor those who have served our country.

10. MATHCOUNTS - After a successful State competition, two MMS Mathcounts competitors have been working hard to prepare for Nationals: William Jin and Shaurya Sehgal. The National Competition will be May 13-16 in Orlando, Florida. The two MMS students will join one student from Sioux Falls, another student from Pierre, and MMS coach Shannon Renkly to finish out the team representing South Dakota at Nationals.

11. SCIENCE FAIR - On March 28, 2023, the Eastern South Dakota Science and Engineering Fair was held at SDSU. This year Brookings entered two projects from Mickelson Middle School, eighth grader, Malya Chakravarty and 6th grader, Sanhita Tummala. Each of the girls won 1st place in their categories, Malya in Environmental Science and Sanhita in Behavioral Science. In addition to their 1st prize category awards. Malya won 1st place overall and Sanhita won 2nd place in the Jr. Division.

Sanhita Tummala: Pathways involved in Strengthening Long-term Memory in Adolescents

- American Psychological Association Award
- Ryon Gross Memorial Award
- Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Award
- US Air Force Award
- Jr Grand Prize
- 1st place-Behavioral and Social Sciences Category Award

Malya M Chakravarty: Gaps in Consumer Perception of Food Waste

- Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge Award
- Jr Grand Prize
- 1st Place - Earth/Planetary/Weather/Environmental Science Category Award- Jr. Division

In the Senior Division, Brookings had three projects. Freshman, Alex Kidangathazhe in Microbiology, the team of Sampada Nepal and Anika Hooda in Food Science and the team of Alex and Albert Shore in Environmental Science. Alex won a first place category award, Sampada and Anika won first place in their category and Alex and Albert won third place in their category.

Alex Shore and Albert Shore: Analyzing Cyanotoxin Concentrations within Urban and Rural Watersheds Using Liquid Chromatography

- SDSU Chemistry/Biochemistry Department Scholarship Honorable Mentions
- SDSU Jerome J Lohr College of Engineering Honorable Mentions
- SDSU Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering Scholarship Honorable Mentions
- SDSU Medical Lab Science Club Award
- Stockholm Junior Water Prize
- 3rd Place - Earth/Planetary/Weather/Environmental Science Category Award

Anika Hooda and Sampada Nepal: Assessing the Viability of Using Spent Coffee Grounds to Make Cellulose-Based Biodegradable Food Packaging Films

- National Geographic Award Honorable Mentions
- SDSU Chemistry/Biochemistry Department Scholarship Award
- SDSU Jerome J Lohr College of Engineering Award
- SDSU Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering Scholarship Award
- Senior Grand Prize Winners
- 1st place- Food Science Category

Alex Kidangathazhe: The Effect of Microgravity on the Gut Microbiome

- SDSU Army ROTC Award
- SDSU College of Education and Human Sciences Award
- SDSU Jerome J Lohr College of Engineering Honorable Mentions
- SDSU Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering Scholarship Honorable Mentions
- SDSU Medical Lab Science Club Award Honorable Mentions
- Society for In Vitro Biology Award
- Senior Grand Prize Winner
- 1st place- Microbiology/Cellular & Molecular Biology Category

Grand Prize awards in the Sr. Division earn an all-expenses paid trip to Dallas, TX to compete in the Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair. Brookings High School took two of the top three awards. Alex Kidangathazhe and Sampada Nepal and Anika Hooda's two projects were selected to compete on May 14-19.



12. SCIENCE OLYMPIAD - Our state Science Olympiad competition was Saturday, March 25th. 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. Their hard work paid off, and they were awarded 1st place for the 3rd year in a row. Sampada Nepal was selected as the April Science Olympiad CORE Values Student. Sampada has demonstrated these values in all three years that I have worked with her, and she continues to be a positive leader and role model for our team.



UPCOMING HOME EVENTS AT BROOKINGS HIGH SCHOOL – Click for detailed schedule information.

- 5/01/23 Fr/Soph Baseball vs. Madison, Bob Sheldon Field, 5pm
- 5/01/23 BHS Band Concert & Awards, SDSU OLPAC, 7pm
- 5/02/23 Track & Field Pentagonal Meet, BHS Track, 3:30pm
- 5/05/23 Boys Tennis vs. SFW, Hillcrest Tennis Courts, 4pm
- 5/05/23 Varsity Baseball vs. OG, Bob Sheldon Field, 5pm
- 5/04/23 MS Track Meet vs. Watertown, BHS Track, 4pm
- 5/04/23 JV Baseball vs. Huron, Bob Sheldon Field, 5pm
- 5/06/23 Boys Tennis vs. AC, Huron & Yankton, Hillcrest Tennis Courts, 10am
- 5/06/23 JV Baseball vs. SFJ, Bob Sheldon Field, 10am
- 5/06/23 Varsity Baseball vs. Yankton, Bob Sheldon Field, 2pm
- 5/07/23 Varsity Baseball vs. RCS, Bob Sheldon Field, 12pm
- 5/08/23 MS Girls Golf Invite, Edgebrook Golf Course, 2pm
- 5/09/23 BHS Senior Scholarship Event, BHS Commons, 2pm
- 5/09/23 Softball vs. OG, Southbrook Softball Complex, 4pm
- 5/09/23 Varsity Baseball vs. SFL, Bob Sheldon Field, 5pm
- 5/12/23 Boys Tennis vs. SFJ, Hillcrest Tennis Courts, 2pm
- 5/12/23 Varsity Baseball vs. Harrisburg, Bob Sheldon Field, 5pm
- 5/14/23 Varsity Baseball vs. Huron, Bob Sheldon Field, 12pm
- 5/15/23 Kaffee Klatch, BHS Auxiliary Gym, 5:30pm
- 5/15/23 Athletic Awards Ceremony, Bell Auditorium, 7pm
- 5/16/23 Field Events Meet, BHS Track, 4pm
- 5/16/23 BHS Choir “Pops” Concert, SDSU-OLPAC, 7:30pm
- 5/18/23 Girls Golf Invite, Brookings Country Club, 10am
- 5/19/23 Softball vs. Sturgis, Southbrook Softball Complex, 4pm
- 5/19/23 BHS Choir Awards, Bell Auditorium, 7pm
- 5/20/23 Softball vs. RCS, Southbrook Softball Complex, 4pm
- 5/23/23 Softball SoDak 16, TBD