

Buffalo Hide Academy – School Board Report

9/2/26

Welcoming Students Back to BHA

Buffalo Hide Academy has had a great start to the 2026–27 school year, and our biggest priority during these first few weeks has simply been welcoming our students back and rebuilding the sense of community that makes BHA special. Our staff continues to emphasize relationships, safety, belonging, compassion, and high expectations while giving every student an opportunity to begin the year with a clean slate. It has been exciting to see returning students reconnect with staff and one another while welcoming new students into the BHA family. We are looking forward to another year of creating a school where students know they are valued, supported, and capable of being successful.

We are also excited to continue our strong partnership with Browning High School and to work together to support Browning students and families, ensuring that students have access to the opportunities, relationships, and resources they need to be successful.

BHA Attendance & Graduation Goals

Two of our primary goals this year are increasing student attendance and continuing to improve our graduation rate. Because many students come to BHA needing to overcome credit deficits, inconsistent attendance, or other barriers to graduation, we want to be increasingly intentional about identifying those barriers early and working alongside students and families to address them. Our small-school environment gives us an opportunity to closely monitor attendance, academic progress, and credit completion while providing individualized support when students begin to struggle. Ultimately, our goal is straightforward: get more students through the doors consistently, keep them connected to school, help them earn credits, and provide every possible opportunity for them to graduate.

Welcome to our new teacher, Dave Ritter!



We are very excited to welcome Dave Ritter to the Buffalo Hide Academy staff as our new Math and Art teacher. Dave has already been a tremendous addition to our school and brings a combination of creativity, flexibility, and enthusiasm that fits extremely well with the BHA

environment. Having someone who can support students academically through mathematics while also providing opportunities for artistic and creative expression is a particularly great fit for our students and the direction our school continues to move. We are thrilled to have Dave as part of the BHA family and look forward to seeing the relationships he builds and the opportunities he creates for our students.

Continuing the Noise Collective (HMS After School Club)



Our Heavy Music Symposium after-school program is evolving this year into something bigger that we're calling the Noise Collective. The program will give students regular after-school access to instruments, rehearsal and recording equipment, music production technology, and opportunities to form bands, write and record original music, create visual and media projects, and learn live sound and event production. Visiting professional musicians and artists will also work directly with students throughout the year through workshops, mentorship, collaborative projects, and performances. While heavy music remains at its heart, the Noise Collective is really about creativity, connection, belonging, and opportunity—giving students a place to make things, learn from one another, discover new skills, and find a community built around something they love.