



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: 5/5/2025

A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN

SPEECH, DEBATE & DRAMA

In early April our thespians took to the stage with our production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. With a total number of cast and crew well over 30, it was another outstanding Spring Play. Once again, it is so impressive to see the variety and quality of work our directors, crew and actors put out time and time again. We also had over 500 attend our shows over the 3 performances.

MUSIC

String Attached Shines at Flood of Jazz! String Attached performed at the *Flood of Jazz* on Friday, April 25, to a crowd of over 400 enthusiastic guests. The entire evening was spectacular, and String Attached played with an outstanding jazz feel throughout the night, not what you would typically expect from the strings. They were featured in the finale set with the classic jazz chart "Stardust," made famous by Nat King Cole, and also performed alongside Jazz 1 and Smooth Spectrum on five additional jazz charts. The vocals were arranged by Mike Ropp, and the string arrangements were composed by our own, Kathy Winghart. A phenomenal event like this is only possible thanks to the dedication of an amazing committee and team who work tirelessly to bring it all together.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD & FAIR

Our BHS Students Competed at National Science Bowl Tournament several weeks back. These five Brookings students (Joseph Michna, Waylon Lowe, Shaurya Sehgal, Kerrick Zhang, and Grant Tellekson) won the South Dakota Regional Science Bowl in February, earning an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete at the National Tournament sponsored by the Department of Energy. The trip to Washington D.C. began with the Udvar-Hazy National Air and Space Museum just outside of D.C. Friday, students attended Department of Energy presentations. Later, all the teams competed in a Design Team Challenge—a lab experiment. Brookings placed 5th in their eight-team division for the lab experiment challenge. On Saturday, all the high school teams were bussed to the National Mall in D.C. to tour various museums and the United States Capitol. The National Tournament took place on Sunday and the Brookings team placed fifth in their bracket.

FCCLA

Our Brookings FCCLA members from the HS & MS competed at the State Leadership Conference in Sioux Falls on April 27-29th. It was a very successful few days with numerous accolades:

8 Chapter Awards

1 Bronze

15 Silvers

16 Golds

3 Top Superior Golds

17 National Qualifiers

2 members selected to serve on the 2025-2026 SD National Outreach Team!

1 Brookings FCCLA Alum selected to serve on the National Leadership Training Team!

It is super exciting to see our students receive recognition for the amazing projects they are doing in our schools and communities!

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK

ELIGIBILITY

As we come to the end of the first year of our more rigorous academic eligibility, I am encouraged by how things have gone. At the end of each nine weeks, we check grades of Learners in activities. If anyone has a failing grade, they become ineligible for one week. If they get their grade up in that week, they once again are able to compete. If they do not, they become ineligible for the remainder of that quarter. On average, we have had about 15 Learners per quarter on the initial ineligible list, and then only about 5 who have remained ineligible after re-checks. The Directors and Coaches have done a great job of paying attention to in-progress grades and helping keep their participants going in the right direction. Next year, we will continue this eligibility process with minor adjustments in timing and handling incompletes.

MENTAL PERFORMANCE

After hearing from our coaches, I meet with Bryan Romsa and Nikki Kannegieter (SDSU) to start to put together some ideas for professional development for our coaches next year. Our focus will be on Culture, Dealing with Adversity, and Communication & Leadership. It will be exciting to dive into these areas next year and see how we can help take our athletes and coaches to another level.

A GREAT PLACE TO COLLABORATE

PROM

On Saturday, April 26 our 2025 Prom "Young & Beautiful" took place. We went to the Dakota Bank Center for our Grand March and dance and then were back at the HS for the "Bobcats at the Beach" Post Prom event. There were 430 Learners looking young & beautiful at the prom and nearly 400 who attended the post prom festivities. Thanks to an anonymous and generous community member, the cost for student attendees (normally around \$25) was free this year. That community member also rallied two other major donors (Best Choice Realty & The Brookings Police Department Foundation) who gave \$2,500 each to help cover this cost.

HALL OF FAME

In mid-April the HOF committee met to discuss and vote on our BHS Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. This process, led by past AD, Steve Berseth, includes researching past athletes, nominating several athletes in 2-3 categories, a discussion of nominees and finally, a vote. The HOF recipients are then notified and then recognized at our first home football game next fall. The committee includes about a dozen members who include myself, as the current AD, and the rest are current HOF members.

A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF EXCELLENCE

AD CONVENTION

Early in April the Athletic Directors across the state met in Chamberlain to discuss numerous activity proposals. After straw votes and discussions, we return home to gather any bits of information needed from our coaches/directors. Then, since we attended the conference, we are allowed to cast a vote for each proposal. Those vote tallies are then sent to the SDHSAA Board who will determine the course of action for each proposal.

Some of the more significant proposals and discussions included a proposal to do away with the SoDak 16 for basketball in our class (AA). That proposal was soundly rejected but the majority of all AA AD's. There were also proposals to make riding time pay for football officials mandatory and increase the FB officials pay from \$125 to \$150. Wrestling had eleven different proposals covering everything from adding a dual team tournament for the girls, to moving the number of weight classes for girls from 12 to 14, to changing the order of events for the state wrestling tournament. One big change in fine arts came in One Act Play. Rather than just allowing all 20 Class AA plays to advance to State, we now will have to finish in the top three at a Region event. The AD's did not favor this proposal, but the SDHSAA board feels it needs to solve the issue of too long of days when trying to host 20 plays in AA plus those in class A and B.