



Brookings School District

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

BROOKINGS ACTIVITIES DEPT

Jeff Dvorak, Director of Activities • Tammy Bullington, Activities Administrative Assistant
530 Elm Avenue • Brookings, SD 57006 • Phone 605-696-4112 • Fax 605-696-4128

To: Board of Education

From: Jeff Dvorak, Director of Activities

Re: Administrative Report - Activities

Date: 4/2/2024

ACTIVITY UPDATES

Jazz Band...competed at the Augustana Festival a few weeks ago and placed 2nd in our division. We have the Optimists Jazz Fest here in Brookings at the OLPAC on April 11 and then take part in the Flood of Jazz - also at the OLPAC - on April 26

Visual Arts...finished up our competition season with an impressive State Runner-Up in the twelve-category State Visual Arts Competition held mid-March in Sioux Falls. We also competed well in the newly formed Art Wars competition, where Learners are given a prompt and a few hours to complete a project. Then, they are judged against others who choose the same category and receive individual placings. Our Bobcat artists came away with one champion and several top three finishers.

Concerts...were in abundance and once again our musicians delighted large crowds at the OLPAC to a set of wonderful concerts in mid-March. Our elementaries, Camelot, MMS and BHS were all in fine form as there were eight different concerts in March. We have some outstanding directors and musicians in our District!

Track...kicked off the season at two SDSU's indoor meets. We will (weather permitting) head to Huron at the end of the week for our first outdoor contest. It is good to see large numbers of Bobcats out and competing. Coming up we host 3 home high school track meets, including the ESD Conference Meet in May, and 2 middle school meets.

Golf...has not yet been able to hit the links due to the weather, but we have been meeting to learn rules, discuss situations on the course, and plan out the season. Our first outing will be April 9 and Coach Sebern looks to have several strong golfers.

Tennis...has been slowed a bit by the weather as well, but they have started practice and head to Brandon for a meet on April 5.

Softball...is undefeated! After two postponements due to weather, we battled the cold, the wind and the Rough Riders to a 6-5 victory. On April 9 we will play Watertown and then finally host our home opener on April 11. We are fortunate to have a good crew from the City of Brookings who work with us very well to prep fields, fix schedule conflicts and allow access.

Club Sports...are off and running as well. Looking at the baseball schedule, there are literally 40 games coming in the month of April so the Boys of Summer will be busy. TaeKwonDo has a tournament coming up mid-April at the MS, and Sporting Clays have started practice shooting and will head into competition in the next few weeks.

Spring Play...is in the home stretch. Performances of *Alice in Wonderland* will be April 11, 12 and 13. From the looks of rehearsals, we should be in for another great show.

FCCLA... coordinated a Career Fair series a few weeks back that featured careers related to each of our CTSOs. FFA, HOSA, and FCCLA each were involved with over 30 presenters total. In March, FCCLA members went to 3rd Grade classrooms at Hillcrest to make St. Paddy's Day cards. They later donated and delivered the cards to local Nursing Homes. Additionally, many members are prepping their projects for State FCCLA on April 21-23rd. A couple projects are outlined below.

- Accommodations are not Negotiations: 1. Encouraging students to self-advocate when accommodations are needed or not being met. 2. Assisting teachers with processes to make accommodation tracking easier and more efficient. 3. Speaking out about why accommodations are so important for students who need them.
- Clothing & Essentials Drive: An opportunity to collect clothing and hygiene products to give back to our students and community members who are in need.

Science Olympiad...headed to the state competition on Saturday, March 23rd 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 4th year in a row.

FFA...has been competing in the spring Career Development Events. Students have been working hard to earn their spots and qualify for the State FFA Convention, held on the Campus of SDSU in two weeks (April 18-20). Thus far, 6 teams (27 students) have punched their ticket to compete at the State FFA Convention. The last of the qualifying events is on Monday, April 8 in Lennox. Along with those events, we will have 5 senior members receive their State FFA Degree and 3 students are named finalists in their respective Proficiency Award Area, which is an award based upon their Supervised Agricultural Experience project, which every student in their Ag class completes. Overall, the Brookings FFA is gearing up for a State and hope to bring teams back to Nationals again this year!

OTHER UPDATES/ISSUES/INFO

SDHSSA Athletic Directors Convention

Postponed a few days due to the weather, the AD convention took place the last week of March in Sioux Falls. A few of the more notable decisions and discussions included a change in the SDHSAA's N-I-L policy, an update to the potential plan to add baseball as a school & SDHSAA sanctioned sport, a change to the Gymnastics schedule for qualifying meets, an update to Comp Cheer scoring, and a weight class adjustment as well as adding region meets in girls wrestling.

Facilities Use for "outside" groups

I am continuing to receive quite a few requests to use our facilities (mostly gyms) by outside groups who all contend that they have had a relationship with the school that has resulted in a waving of the rental fees. I feel the need to have a sit-down with our facility committee to clarify our use and rent parameters.

2024-25 Overnight Trips & Travel

As part of my 12-week goal, I have completed a process and form for groups to request approval for overnight trips and travel. The form is due a month to a year prior to the travel (depending on the type of travel) and will provide documentation of all pertinent information needed (dates, hotel, cost, chaperones, etc.) in order for the appropriate administrator to approve or not.

Lettering in Fine Arts

I am looking into a process to allow all of our school sponsored Fine Arts activities to earn letters. As I understand it, band and choir may be able to letter now but nothing is in place for drama, speech, art, etc. Advisors informed me that this was presented to the previous AD and Principal and was received positively, but they both left the District and this lettering policy/process was lost in transition.

Summer Sports Camps

In the next few weeks, coaches and I will be locking in dates, locations, costs, etc for our summer sports camps. The next step would be to put those onto our website and open up for our athletes to sign up. Our plan to offer Bobcat Acceleration this summer through Avera and Brookings Health Systems is happening. The registration is currently open, kids are signing up and our facilities are being constructed. I am excited to see where this ends up.

2024 Prom

Our HS Counselors Amanda Neville-Coble and Linda Johnson are heading up Prom this year and planning is underway. Our BHS Prom Committee and Advisors have been working hard on getting all the details ironed out. This year's theme is *Disco at Sundown*. Prom will be held at the Dacotah Bank Center on Saturday, April 27th, 2024, with the doors opening at 5:15 and the Grand March set to begin at 6:30. Students will have the opportunity to see the hypnotist at 8:00 and the dance will follow from 9:00-12:00. Details regarding Prom were shared with BHS Junior and Senior students during a Prom meeting and parents and guardians received an email with this information as well.