



# Brookings School District

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

## **BROOKINGS HIGH SCHOOL**

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### **Brookings High School Administrative Report – May 2025**

#### **A Great Place to Learn**

Two BHS freshmen, Jenna Behrend and Bentlee Chandler, were instrumental in nominating South Dakota author Achut Deng for the 2024 Author of the Year award through the SD Council of Teachers of English. Their interest in Deng's book *Don't Look Back* began during a Lit Circle project in their reading class last year. The students submitted a nomination with their teacher's guidance, and Deng was ultimately selected for the honor. A surprise recognition event for Jenna and Bentlee took place at BHS.



## **A Great Place to Work**

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, the Brookings High School PTA organized a week of special events and treats for staff from May 5–9. Each day featured prize drawings that increased throughout the week, starting with one drawing on Monday and culminating in five on Friday. Highlights included a healthy snack table, morning donuts, a visit from Little Prairie Coffee Company, a nacho bar lunch, and afternoon sweet treats. The thoughtful and festive activities helped show gratitude to staff for their dedication and hard work.



## **A Great Place to Collaborate**

Brookings High School recently hosted a presentation on the dangers of distracted driving, featuring Tim Weidenbach, Director of Higher Power Sports. Tim shared the tragic story of his cousin, Andrea, who was killed by a distracted driver while riding her bicycle with her two daughters near their family farm. Andrea's story, which has been shared with over 200 groups and tens of thousands of people, resonated deeply with students. The event raised awareness

about the damaging consequences of distracted driving and the importance of safe driving

