

It is Question and Answer time to start the new calendar year.

**How are the BHS theater improvements coming along?**

The project is going quite well. The new lighting, wall covering, ceiling tiles, and electrical improvements should be done by the end of January. This is about two weeks longer than we were anticipating. We came across two old abandoned sound systems in the ceiling, and we are removing them since they are no longer operational. I look forward to our spring productions in our newly renovated theater. The kids and staff are really excited for the improvements

**January is School Board Recognition Month. Do school board members get paid?**

No. They are elected officials that help to guide our school district. I rely on these board members to help me in so many different ways, and I really appreciate the way we work together to make USD 244 successful for students, staff, and the community

**Can you give us an update on some student/staff awards and successes from the past 30 days?**

Nathan Morgan, BHS senior, was selected to the KMEA 4A All State Band. Shannon O'Malley and Jaleigh Conkle were recognized by the Kansas Scholastic Art Awards for their art projects. Mr. Sam Parrilla was awarded a Horizon Award for being an outstanding first year teacher last year. Connor Jeffers received an invitation to play in the Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star football game. Branden Alford was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. BHS was recently awarded the Tech Excellence Award from Tech Excellence Magazine for staff development and training in association with our 1 to 1 laptop initiative. Our BHS scholar's bowl team recently won the league championship. Members of the winning team are: Caleb Haselhuhn, Cameron Schilling, Sam Samuelson, Branden Alford, and Josh Alford. I may be missing some awards. Please feel free to tune into our FaceBook page, twitter feed, or website for current updates. Our administrators, office staff, and tech staff do a wonderful job with our social media.

**Are we looking to add any staff for this upcoming year?**

Yes. We feel that adding business classes back to the BHS schedule is very important. This position will teach some accounting and personal finance classes as well as some math classes. With our strong FBLA (Future Business Leaders Association) club at BHS and a need to make sure kids don't get upside down with their own finances, this will be a nice addition back to the curriculum at BHS. This position is only possible due to increased funding from the state. It was a budget cut in the past years. Our board of education and administrative team continue to evaluate staffing needs for our students.

**What are some projects the district is looking to do in the near future?**

We will have summer concrete work throughout the district on pavement that needs replaced. Painting and floor covering projects will continue throughout the district. The board and administrative team is gaining some preliminary information on an additional restroom/concession facility to be shared for the BHS baseball and softball fields and the visitor side of the football and track stadium. It is my understanding that this has been a topic of discussion for many years.

If you ever have any questions, please contact me at 620-364-8478 Ext. 3040 or e-mail me at [cmarshall@usd244ks.org](mailto:cmarshall@usd244ks.org).

Happy New Year!

GO CATS!

#Bton244OnTheGrow