

# SPEAK UP AND TAKE ACTION

Current events lead to activism and acknowledgement

**A**fter the video of George Floyd's death in police custody in Minneapolis surfaced on the internet, social media blew up, and people voiced their views on what they believed happened. Students at Buffalo High School expressed their opinions, got involved, and took action.

Commuting from Buffalo to Minneapolis, **Kaia Caffee '24** took action to support Black Lives Matter in her neighborhood by spreading awareness.

"My mom and I go to a shop in Minneapolis to get Black Lives Matter signs. We deliver them for free and we get reimbursed for \$15 which is how much they cost," Caffee said. "There's very few people of color here in Buffalo and I feel like it's important to make sure that everyone feels comfortable and welcomed."

Along with the Black Lives Matter movement, there were some who supported All Lives Matter. **Douglas Bartlett '22** used Instagram as a way to express his

beliefs on supporting Blue Lives Matter and All Lives Matter.

"I support Blue Lives Matter and All Lives Matter. 'All Lives' means everyone, not just one group of people," Bartlett said. "Without the police, we wouldn't be safe. Everyone needs to be respected. After all, we are all humans and make mistakes."

Although students with various backgrounds had opinions about George Floyd's death and the events that resulted from it, **Brianna Bluiett '22** knew what it was like to be black during a time when the country was divided on whose life matters. In the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose school district, 90.4% of the students were white.

"I think that I am able to relate to it a lot more, especially living in a predominantly white town," Bluiett said. "I've been in situations where people have made comments that just didn't need to be said because of my skin color. It's very easy for me to support it because I know what it feels like."

-Katherine Manninen

**Standing Tall** Posing for his senior pictures, Carson Freitag '21 expresses his views. Freitag believed the forces help the society. "The police do a lot for people and the community," Freitag said. "People are looking at the bad few and judging them as a whole group. I feel they deserve the support." Photo courtesy of Carson Freitag



**Dedicated Commute** Holding a Black Lives Matter sign, Kaia Caffee '24 always tries her best to make everyone in the community feel welcomed. Caffee assisted her mom with bringing signs from Minneapolis back to Buffalo. "I am very active in the community," Caffee said. "I like being supportive and reaching out to as many people as I can." Photo by Katherine Manninen



**Showing Support** Brianna Bluiett '22 places her Biden and Mantra signs in her yard. Bluiett gained interest in politics this summer. "Other people may never experience racism," Bluiett said. "Helping support is important for people of color that experience it daily." Photo by Katelyn Willmert



**Be Better** Margaret Leipholtz '23 held the "N" at a protest for Black Lives Matter in Maple Grove, Minnesota. Leipholtz expressed her opinion by speaking out publicly. "We need change. We need to do better. We have to do better," Leipholtz said. "I support Black Lives Matter. I don't support the other two [Blue Lives Matter and All Lives Matter]." Photo courtesy of Margaret Leipholtz



**JOSHUA KRAMBER '21**  
"I prepared myself [to vote] by looking at as many sources as I could, then comparing a bunch of different media outlets on what the candidates were saying."  
Photo by Katelyn Willmert