

BUFFALO

High School
BUFFALO, MINNESOTA

2022

Tatanka

Volume
106

element *Tatanka*
2022

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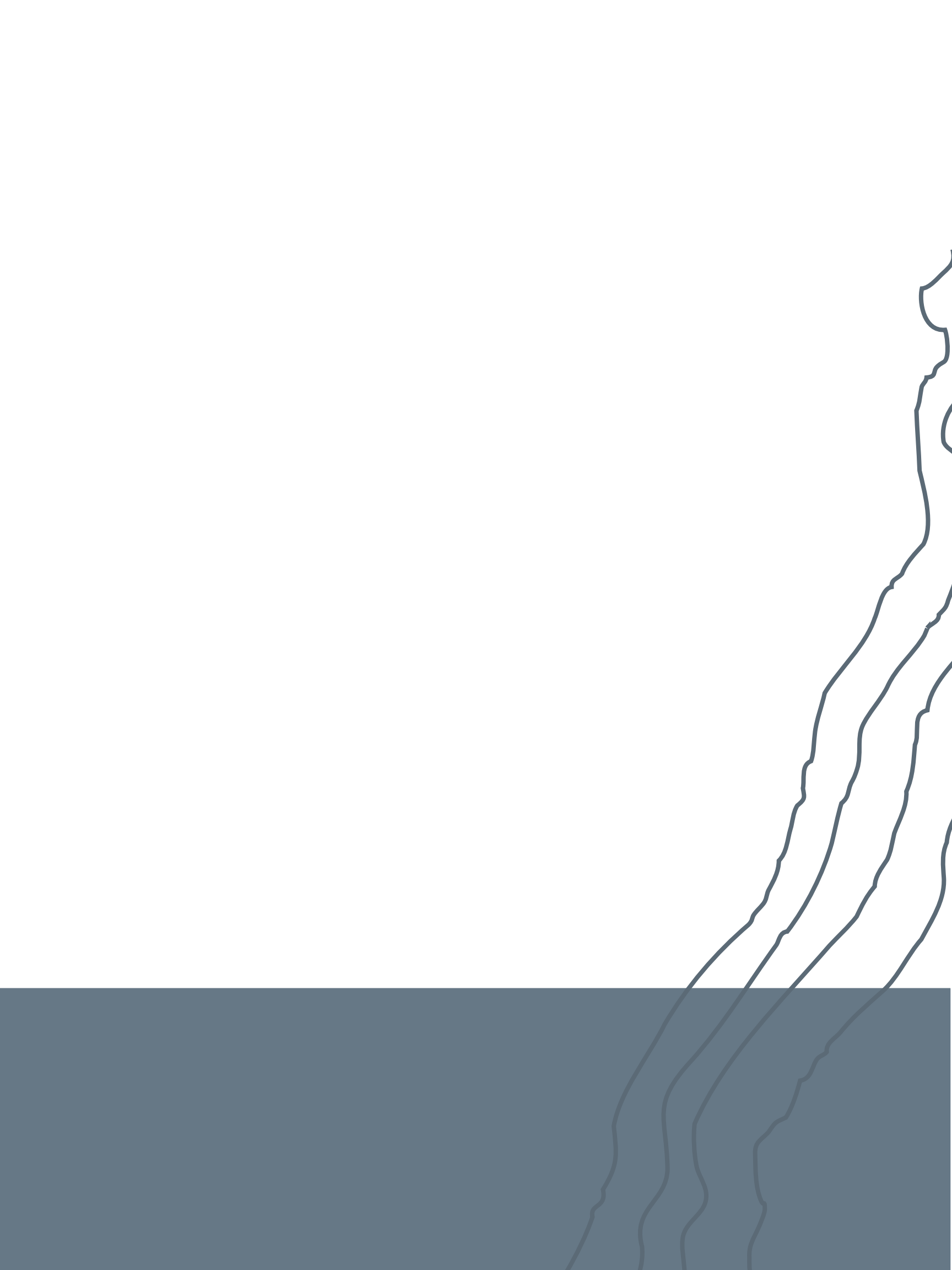
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FINDING YOUR
element
Tatanka
2022





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**BUFFALO
HIGH SCHOOL**
1,938 students - 177 staff

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element *Tatanka*
2022

your element

Over the past couple of years, we had extra time to focus on ourselves, our passions, the people around us which created our identities. There are so many questions you can ask a person to try to understand their true identity. First question to ask is how do you fit in the environment around you?

ELLA KRAGERUD '25

“Seeing all the welcome signs on teachers’ doors makes me feel more comfortable and I know it makes others as well.”

TAYLOR COLE '23 “I love the smell of the FACS classroom. My favorite is when we bake pastries. The sweet smell is comforting as it brings back memories of baking with my family members.”

JERRICK GORTON '24 “When I chew Juicy Fruit gum I am able to focus. I struggle in school and I can notice a difference in my learning when I am chewing it.”

ENGLISH TEACHER RYAN HAGERTY “When I am walking by other teachers instructing and hearing students collaborate, it brings me back to my high school days.”

PAUL BROWN '22 “On the way to school or when I am in my car I can feel my steering wheel in my hands. It reminds me of my weekend highlights of racing and the early morning school rides with my brother.”

You might resonate with these student experiences, or you might have a completely different story. Finding **YOUR** element is about asking questions to learn more.



HOMECOMING HYPE Grayson Swenson '22 enjoys his time with friends at his senior homecoming. Swenson missed out on many events like homecoming because of the pandemic, so he was excited to experience it this year with all his friends. “The atmosphere was like a concert; the energy everyone gave off was awesome,” Swenson said. “My friends and I always sing in the car but dancing with them was a fun experience. My favorite part was just being with friends and making good memories.”
Photo by Matthew Scherber

CREATING IDENTITY

students discover their inner element & embrace who they are

Payton Aspen

Payton Aspen '24

Payton Aspen '24 stands tall as they show their pride. Aspen has worked to make themselves feel more comfortable in their body.

"I always knew that I wasn't a female, I just didn't know how to express myself," Aspen said. "I was thinking more about it, and how to make myself more comfortable in my body. It just clicked in my head. That was the turning point."

Expressing their personality has been a challenge. The support from their friends has made it easier for Aspen to express who they truly are.

"I've definitely had ups and downs but it's been better than I expected," Aspen said. "I've had a lot of people help me and helped me learn who I am."

Aspen's journey has been easier because of the people they surround themselves with.

"I originally came out as non-binary, but now I've really gotten to know myself," Aspen said. "I've had people that have supported me I've thought it through."

Now that Aspen has a better understanding of who they are, they can move forward to find more of their self-identity. *Photo by Kaylie Carik*



Ivan Emery

Ivan Emery '22

Ivan Emery '22 finds a sense of comfortability in school. Emery has survived judgement by many students due to being disabled. However, he focuses on moving forward and his future.

"Obviously some people make tasteless jokes that weird me out," Emery said. "I usually just don't give it any attention and move on. It's simply just not worth my time."

Emery is chasing goals and figuring out where his path is going.

"I would love to do something in photography," Emery said. "It's always been a passion of mine."

The future looks bright for Emery and his pursuit of his dreams.

Photo by Cason Holthaus

"I'm just like every other kid, ready for the future. Reaching my goals and striving ahead."

Antaeshia Keyser

Antaeshia Keyser '22

Antaeshia Keyser '22 has encountered struggles finding a balance between her worlds. Keyser is an African-American student who has struggled with addiction her whole life.

Keyser believes in turning a new page and changing for the better.

"Addiction has always been in my life since I was very, very young. I am an addict myself. Being an addict and living with addicts has always strained my mental health," Keyser said. "I'm currently sober and I'm trying to do better and be better for all of my friends and family that count on me."

Focusing on perseverance, Keyser has identified her struggles and learned ways of conquering obstacles.

Another piece of Keyser's daily life is dealing with bias that comes from being an African-American citizen, whether it's stereotypes or racism.

"I definitely think something that makes me stand out is I am African-American," Keyser said. "[...] I was able to find myself and what I needed. It's beautiful."

Keyser stands tall over these assumptions and lets everyone know who she truly is: A woman of pride, charisma, compassion, and courage. *Photo by Cason Holthaus*



Casper Hilden

Casper Hilden '23

Casper Hilden '23 smiles as they embrace the fluidity of their individuality.

"I wish I knew that it was okay to not be 100% sure of yourself. Before high school, I was generally anxious, I didn't know who I was, and I felt that was wrong," Hilden said. "Now who I am is forever changing."

Hilden doesn't let other people's judgement affect them. They stay true to who they are in that moment.

"There have been plenty of people who have been mean for no reason," Hilden said. "I let it roll off my back [...] I feel like I'm upfront about who I am than other people."

Hilden doesn't let others affect how they see themselves. It's more important to try to embrace their inner changing self and focus on their. *Photo by Kaylie Carik*

"[My name] was unique and I like the old movie Casper the Friendly Ghost, I took inspiration from that."

inner element

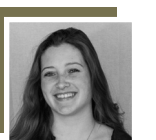
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STUDENT LIFE

MY ELEMENT IS WITH...

Madelyn Page '23

"The people I'm most comfortable around. They have made it easy for me to be myself." *Photo by Kaylie Carik*





NEVER BACK DOWN During a game against Andover, Carter Jackson '22 waits for the next play to start. Jackson finds energy to be the key to having a good season. "The juice is the energy," Jackson said. "You have to have energy. Having energy and having fun makes you play better and it makes the game more fun to be apart of." *Photo by Mathew Scherber*



CORE VALUES While playing Coon Rapids, Matthew Barter '22 runs off the field. He knows staying confident is important. Barter has inquired this from his multiple years on the team in which he has learned important values. "We have five core values, including the juice," Barter said. "The juice is our energy, or our swag. We got the juice." *Photo by Matthew Scherber*



TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS On homecoming night Will Pool '22 runs his route. With the stands packed, the boys have to remember to focus and play their game. "The juice is kind of like a swagger," Pool said. "It's about being confident and trusting that you know what you're going to do." *Photo by Mathew Scherber*

OUR element *the juice*
a core value in hls football that means something to everyone

ok



CLAUDIA STAUT Claudia
Staut '22
Sam Mahannah Sam
Mahannah
'22

“[Samuel Mahannah '22] didn't know how to use a camera, but wanted to learn this year,” Staut said. “Once he got the hang of it, he was excited to bring a camera home and take a ton of pictures.” *Photo by Matthew Scherber*

found



Photos by Matthew Scherber & Claudia Staut



element