

buffalo high school  
tatanka 2023

flourish

Tatanka 2023

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# how we flourish

Students of all demographics and interests walk the halls of Buffalo High School. We make up an unquestionably unique and diverse community that experiences the same things every year: Mischke's advice at class meetings during the first week of school, Guida shouting "Bl, Be Bison!" at every football game, navigating the high school parking lot, dressing up in yellow, red, blue, black for Class Color Day, and painting the rock the first day of our senior year.

Although these group moments are universal, each student embarks on a personal journey of growth during their four years in the building. Tatanka 2023 is about embodying community and individual development; with this idea, Flourish was created.

Flourish is a way to celebrate all stages of life. It recognizes the small, seemingly insignificant changes that help us evolve into the people that we are. Growth is individual and unique to

each person; no one grows at the same rate as another. Whether a student is an early-bird or a late-bloomer, the process of improving is not linear and is forever changing.

Throughout the yearbook, important stories of resilience, progress, and success are highlighted.

Pictures help showcase unapologetically bold and proud snapshots of success.

The process of creating the best version of ourselves is just as important as the finished product. Flourish covers community and individual stories of determination by focusing on a variety of aspects of life adventures: successes and failures, accomplishments and disappointments, and milestones and setbacks. These moments create the story of how we grow; these moments create the story of how we flourish.



Photo by Reagan Stromberg

Photo by Matthew Scherber

Photo by Matthew Scherber



# student life

Student Life shows how each student in the school grows from their own experiences, whether it is cheering in the student section, jumping around on the dance floor, or their individual interests outside of school. We all have one thing in common, which is that we have all had our own stem of growth. Ryder Zvorak '23 shines a light on Student Life by showing the infectious excitement in the air at our school dances. School dances are a time for students to relax and live in the moment, something that helps them reach their fullest potential.

-Tatanka Student Life Editors

# activities

The Activities section shows how being involved within the school can cause not only individual growth, but causes change and helps whole programs grow. Each activity focuses on improvement in their own respective seasons. Leah Halderson '23 spoke at the Minnesota State Fair towards the end of her FFA season as a way to showcase her personal growth as an officer. Halderson has grown immensely in her time in FFA, moving on to Nationals and receiving a silver rating with her team's marketing plan.

-Tatanka Activities Editors

# athletics

The Athletics section showcases not only the moments where athletes are at their peak performance; setting records, making buzzer beaters, and scoring goals, but also the struggles and growth behind the scenes to reach these achievements. The countless hours of hard work put in can often be overlooked, but it is what leads to these flourishing moments. Linnea Preugschas '25 skates down the ice during one

of her games. Preugschas was a sophomore assistant captain on the hockey team. She stepped into her new leadership role with ease, and her determination and uplifting energy was an inspiration to her teammates. Preugschas shows dedication and natural love for the sport, even in tough games that rely on singular players to shine through.

-Tatanka Athletics Editors

# academics

Academics shows the gradual growing and learning the community goes through throughout our years together. Each class offers something different for students to explore. Through this, they find their purpose. Marcus Dewitte '23 plays his saxophone with joy at a band concert. Weeks of preparation led to this night, and in this moment, all of this growth and preparation is put on display. This powerful performance is a shining example of how the academics section showcases growth.

-Tatanka Academics Editors

# people

The goal is to show the students as they truly are - dynamic, evolving individuals who face and overcome challenges throughout the year. By doing so, a more accurate portrayal of the student body is made. The hope is that by highlighting the growth, change, and resilience of students, a more dynamic representation of what it means to flourish in our school is created. Alexis Plamann '23, Brianna Plamann '23 and Abigail Strong '23 showcase that by celebrating the Senior Sunrise. The celebration of Senior Sunrise serves as a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and is a reminder that the journey to success is not always easy, but with determination and perseverance, anything is possible.

-Tatanka People Editors

## celebrations

"On Christmas, we actually celebrate on the 24th. We all wait until midnight, and at midnight, we say 'Merry Christmas.' We hug each other and then we open our presents," Cinthia Caballero Rodriguez '23 said. *Photo by Olivia Park*

"We celebrate Dia de los Muertos by setting up flowers and photos of our ancestors. I like it because it's something different and unique to help us remember our ancestors," Rosemary Aguilar-Sevilla '25 said. *Photo by Olivia Park*

"There's so many amazing foods, but tortas are so good. It's a huge sandwich that has ham and cheese in it," Davsy Quiroz '23 said. *Photo by Olivia Park*



# how

## education

"The transition from STFX [St. Francis Xavier School] to BHS was pretty easy, but it was different because I went from a class of about 15 kids to hundreds. The kids at STFX are all close with each other. You had the same friends and you knew everybody. I like the bigger classes at BHS because there are a lot of different people," Ella Danielson '26 said. *Photo by Olivia Park*

"The first day [at BHS], I didn't know what I was doing and where I was going, so some of my friends from basketball helped me out and brought me to my classes. I joined basketball [at BCMS] in eighth grade, so that has helped me make as many friends as I can," Grady Grossman '26 said. *Photo by Olivia Park*



# we

## life events

Celebrating homecoming together, Atley Endreson '24 and Brady Skoog '24 eagerly anticipate the arrival of their baby girl. After finding out that they were expecting a child, there were a variety of emotions and reactions, ultimately a lot of growth came with this experience.

"We have become a lot closer, obviously with having a kid and knowing each other so much more from it," Endreson said.

Having a positive outlook on the situation has helped Endreson and Skoog accept this monumental moment in their lives.

"It's not ideal to have a kid right now, but it's still a blessing, no matter what," Endreson said. "We have a great support system and that has really helped. For some reason, it doesn't seem like it's going to be as hard as I thought it would be." *Photo courtesy of Atley Endreson*



# girl

"At first, I couldn't believe it, but once we started planning, it all came together and started making sense."

*Brady Skoog '24*



## identity

For Adam Gusel '23, it has been fulfilling to be a part of the LGBTQ+ community. His journey began in middle school, when he started questioning his identity.

"It took me from seventh grade until freshman year to finally solidify what I identified with," Gusel said. "There were a lot of small tweaks that took me a long time to figure out, but this is who I am as a person."

Something that sets Gusel apart from others in the community is how open he is about his identity.

"I've definitely had it easier than a lot of other people because I have a lot of confidence in myself. I'm not afraid to share with other people," Gusel said. "My philosophy is that if people have an issue with my identity, then they need to take time to question the source of their prejudice. The most important thing for everybody to know is that it doesn't matter who you are as long as you love yourself." *Photo courtesy of Adam Gusel & Photo by Olivia Park*

"I like how the LGBTQ+ community is accepting of anyone who feels a part of it. Even if you don't have a label, you'll always have a place."

*Ella Kragerud '25*

# towards the **finish** line

*Writers show immense growth as they work through first deadline*



**NEW INSIGHT** Grabbing her nametag, Andrea Harkess '24 enters the MHSPA convention for a day of classes. Harkess finds publications writing class to be more independent and student-led than her usual classes. "We have more of a supervisor rather than a teacher. I'm learning by experience." Harkess said. "I'm not sitting down and copying notes off a board or reading a book. I'm going out and making connections." *Photo by Matthew Scherber*

Located upstairs past the junior locker bay is the Black Box, home to the creation of the Tatanka Yearbook. Students in Publications Writing recorded the important stories and events of the school year.

Even the yearbook editors had been working the summer, the new school year brought a new batch of writers. Before any real work was done, the rookie writers had to learn the yearbook process.

"It was a new thing for me," Eliana Gerstner '23 said. "I didn't understand how to write stories or how to interview people for captions."

To begin building the yearbook, the class was split with different tasks. Editors are seniors that have taken a leadership position in yearbook to oversee writers and design the layout of the book.

"They've been part of the yearbook in past years, so editors are able to help me." Olivia Park '24 said. "They've guided me through apps like InDesign and Photoshop which I've never used before."

Once they learn the basics of a yearbook, writers were paired up with another writer to cover a senior section story for deadline one.

"I was a little overwhelmed because it was part of the first deadline," Eleanor Toussaint '23 said. "I liked having a partner to help keep me on track."

After completing their senior sections the students launched headfirst into creating their main deadline one stories. For the work night, the students stayed at school working from the beginning of 4th block until 9 PM.

"The work night was actually really fun. I liked it a lot." Nolan Mahannah '24 said. "Even though I was working the whole time, it was fun to stay here and hang out with people."

With time spent inside and outside class, friendships have formed. The class became a highlight in many of the students' days.

"I have to get through the first three blocks and then yearbook's there waiting for me and I get to have fun," Mahannah said.

*Story by Hattie Pool and Ruth Green*

# then and now

*Alaina Lee '23 views tennis legends as a source of inspiration*



Growing up, Alaina Lee '23 looked up to rising professional tennis players.

She saw herself and her sister reflected in Serena and Venus Williams.

"I liked Serena because even though she was the younger sister and started in Venus's shadow, she still made a name for herself."

With time, Lee grew and became one of the best girls varsity tennis players in program history.

For Lee, the greatest part of rounding off her career with 107 wins was the growth she has made throughout her journey.

"It's a reflection of the hard work that I've put into tennis since I was four years old," Lee said.

*Photo courtesy of Alaina Lee  
Photo by Cody Smith*





# people

seniors.....	146	freshmen.....	210
juniors.....	182	staff.....	224
sophomores.....	196		

Broc Mutterer '23 ignores the court as the opposing team's starting lineup is announced. Mutterer noticed the support grow over the past four years. "The student section, it's electric. It's hype feeding off each other's energy. You just have fun supporting your classmates," Mutterer said. "As a senior, you feel more involved because you've watched them play for four years now. You feel like you have been apart of the fan base for a long time." Photo by Matthew Scherber

# *we are* flourishing

Throughout the process of creating this yearbook, our staff explored what different types of growth looks like based on the stories and moments captured.

Like a dandelion pushing through cement, we fought through adversities and obstacles to find a place that we could thrive.

Although the 2023 school year is ending, our individual stories will continue to unfold outside of the pages of this book. As we age, experience new things, and mature into different people, flourish will withstand the test of time as a snapshot of who we are during this integral year of our lives.

May we continue to expand our roots, rise up in the face of adversity, sprout new leaves, and blossom into something truly beautiful. May we all continue to flourish.

*Photo by Nolan Mahannah*



"As I get older, I gain experiences that teach me about my world and my place within it. I have grown as a person, musician, and friend through the last four years. There is so much waiting for me after high school and I can't wait to see where this world takes me after I graduate."

- Dillon Popken '23

continuing to  
**flourish**

