



**BELLEAIRE**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*"Proudly Serving the Bellevue/Offutt Community"*

[www.bellevuepublicschools.org](http://www.bellevuepublicschools.org)

November 6, 2015

Dear Belleaire Elementary School Parent/Guardian(s):

Bellevue Public Schools is dedicated to providing all students with a sound education that prepares them to succeed in school and in life. We set high learning expectations for every child. In fact, last year BPS reading and mathematics achievement increased at every grade level. However, the state and federal government judge schools based on the results of State NeSA tests for many student subgroups. Examples of student subgroups include English language learners and special education students.

As a part of a federal law known as the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, public schools, through NeSA test scores, are judged against multiple goals established by NCLB. Last year, Belleaire Elementary was required to meet reading and math goals in multiple subgroups in order to be judged as meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). If one of these subgroup goals is not met, the school is labeled as not meeting AYP. In 2014-2015, Belleaire Elementary did not meet AYP. This is due to NCLB goals being at 100% for all subgroups. Overall, Belleaire Elementary met all but one of the AYP criteria. Unfortunately, for the last five years this same student subgroup did not meet the goals in the areas of reading and mathematics. As a result, Belleaire Elementary School has been labeled as a *School in Need of Improvement*, Year 4. This places the building in restructuring planning status.

Names of the Title I schools that did and did not meet the AYP standards for 2014-2015 were released by the Nebraska Department of Education in the State of the Schools Report. You can compare and contrast the proficiencies of all Nebraska schools, including all schools in Bellevue Public Schools, at the following website: <http://www.education.ne.gov/documents/SOSR.html>. The link to follow is "2014-2015 Report".

As a Needs Improvement School for four years, Belleaire Elementary is entering a period know as "Restructuring." Therefore, by law, Belleaire Elementary is required to develop a restructuring plan to be implemented next school year if it does not meet AYP this year. The law also requires that parents have opportunities to comment about the plan. As a Belleaire Elementary parent, you will be receiving information about upcoming meetings to comment about the school's restructuring plan.

Because of our current status, we have identified the following key strategies for improvement:

- Professional Development at Belleaire Elementary will focus on: self-regulation and social/emotional management, the implementation of the new reading curriculum, improving guided reading inclusionary practices, the implementation of the Daily 5 and Cafe' at all grade levels, the implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI) at grades K-6 in the area of reading and math, the implementation of the new math curriculum, and on the use of research based engagement and classroom management strategies.

In addition, the Belleaire teaching staff is supported through classroom visits known as “coaching” where expert staff visit classrooms and provide teachers with feedback about their strategic teaching skills, the social/emotional well-being of their students, and various self-regulation strategies.

- Belleaire will strengthen core academics for all students in reading by reviewing and implementing Guided Reading as the expected instructional methodology to teach all components of reading comprehension. Staff at Belleaire will work to deepen their understanding of how students best learn math concepts and work to increase their instructional skills to ensure that learning.
- Progress will be monitored through the evaluation of student achievement on the following: MAP, NeSA, AYP status, and District Essential Objectives. Data and instructional practices will be monitored and evaluated during teacher collaboration on a weekly basis. Instructional strategies will be developed and implemented to meet the individual needs of the students.

### **How can parents get involved?**

Here are some suggestions to help you work with your school and District to support improvements:

- Support and reinforce your child’s good study habits. Review their homework and test results. Contact your child’s teacher when you have questions.
- Visit your child’s school and volunteer.
- Participate in parent/student/teacher conferences.
- Encourage your child to put forth his/her best effort each day.

Learn more about the new NCLB requirements. Become aware of strategies to improve student academic achievement. Additional information and resources are available from our State Department of Education and the US Department of Education ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)) websites.

### **What are parent’s options?**

Belleaire Elementary School is an excellent school and will continue to provide excellent educational opportunities for your students. However, because Belleaire receives Federal Title I funds and has been listed as “Needs Improvement”, parents also have the option of participating in the Public School Choice Program. Under this program, you are eligible to transfer your child to another school in Bellevue Public Schools that has not been designated as Needs Improvement. Additional information about these schools can be found at the District or State websites listed earlier in this letter. Those elementary schools include:

Bertha Barber      Central      Twin Ridge

Bellevue Public Schools is required to provide transportation for students to transfer to another school during the time that Belleaire is on the *Needs Improvement* list. Persons interested in participating in the Public School Choice Program must make the decision to transfer, between November 16, 2015 thru December 1, 2015 and January 4, 2016 thru January 14, 2016. Transfers will occur immediately. Please contact Michelle Shankland at (402)293-4020 for more information or to participate in the Public School Choice Program.

## **Supplemental Educational Services**

### **(Only available to students who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch)**

As a result of Belleaire Elementary's school improvement status we are able to provide tutoring services to children who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. These tutoring services will be provided before school, after school, and/or during the summer. The services will be in addition to the instruction that students receive during the school day. The goal is to help students increase academic achievement in reading, language arts, and/or mathematics.

In the weeks to come, if your child qualifies for free or reduced lunch, you will be given the opportunity to choose a tutoring program from the list of Nebraska's approved Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Providers, who have agreed to provide services that are consistent with the instructional program of the district/state. They have agreed to provide you and your child's teachers information on the progress of your child.

For more information on Belleaire and all of our schools in Bellevue, visit the District website at [www.bellevuepublicschools.org](http://www.bellevuepublicschools.org).

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education. If you have questions, please call me at (402) 293-4510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Nikke Schubauer".

Nikole Schubauer  
Principal