



BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2025

Ms. Melissa Minahan, Counselor (A-F) 402-293-4056, melissa.minahan@bpsne.net
Ms. Susan Polk, Counselor (G-L) 402-293-4054, susan.polk@bpsne.net
Ms. Emily Fenster, Counselor (M-Ro) 402-293-4055, emily.fenster@bpsne.net
Ms. Bethany Kracl, Counselor (Ru-Z) 402-293-4057, bethany.kracl@bpsne.net
Ms. Donna Pearson, Secretary/Registrar 402-293-4047, donna.pearson@bpsne.net
Ms. Kathie Britten, Scholarship Coordinator 402-827-5990, kathie.britten@bpsne.net
Mr. Randall Schultz, Career Coordinator 402-293-4092, randall.schultz@bpsne.net

Mark
your
Calendar

Important Dates

Oct 4 - Homecoming, 7:00pm - 10:00pm

Oct 10 - No School

Oct 15 - In-person Parent/Teacher Conferences,
4-6pm

Oct 15 - Picture retake

Oct 17 - No School

Nov 11 - No School (Veteran's Day)

Nov 25-29 - No School (Thanksgiving Break)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM MR. ROHLFS:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On October 7 we will be distributing a First Count Form to every student. The First Count process is used to get a reimbursement from the federal government for the loss of local tax base due to Offutt Air Force Base. We are required to collect a form from every student in order to qualify for this reimbursement. Once we have completed the First Count process the district will receive our reimbursement which goes directly back to our students for technology upgrades, building improvements and curriculum materials. A form will be given to each student in their second block class. Forms will also be emailed to the home of every student. We need a form for every student. Please help make this process as smooth as possible by returning the forms as quickly as possible. Thank you in advance for your help in supporting Bellevue Public Schools!

Conference Information

In person conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 15th from 4-6 pm. Staff will be available in the Cafeteria. If you are unable to attend in-person conferences, you can access the [Bellevue West Directory](#) to contact teachers and set up a phone conference or request an email update.

Attendance Matters!

Showing up for school has a major impact on a student's academic and overall success. However, more and more students are becoming **chronically absent- missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason. This is an average of just 2 days per month.** At Bellevue West, we are working to reduce the number of students who are chronically absent to help students be more successful academically and build strong habits for the future.

Negative Impacts of Irregular Attendance (based on years of research):

- Lower grade point averages and test scores
- Greater risk of dropping out
- Poor behavior choices due to frustration or anxiety over missed work/difficulties
- Difficulty establishing and maintaining positive relationships with peers or adults
- More likely to experience negative outcomes later in life
- Increased likelihood of unemployment after high school

Chronic absenteeism also affects the school as a whole, as well as the community. Instruction for all students is less effective when schools have high rates of chronic absenteeism. If students do not build good habits of attendance, they don't contribute to the community effectively as adults.

Ways to Help as a Parent/Guardian:

- Make school attendance a priority- talk to your student about showing up to school every day
- Help your student maintain daily routines and stay as healthy as possible
- Try (the best you can) not to schedule appointments during the school day- check the school calendar for planned no-student days or breaks
- Contact the school if your student is missing school due to anxiety or social issues
- Check your student's attendance to make sure absences aren't adding up
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.





Senior Checklist

For Seniors and Parents: It is extremely important that you verify the spelling of your name in PowerSchool. For your diploma, the student's name needs to be EXACTLY how it is stated on the Birth Certificate (no initials for the middle name) it needs to be the FULL NAME, ABSOLUTELY NO NICKNAMES. The correct name is to be given to Donna Pearson/Counseling office by completing the link below no later than December 2, 2025. [Diploma Verification Form](#)

PLEASE BE ADVISED: a \$25 reprinting fee will be charged for any reprints because of incorrect information.

Senior photos are due by FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 3:00pm

- Photos can be digital or print and must be front facing and vertical.
- No watermarks on photos.
- Backgrounds must not be distracting.
- Props, pets, or other people cannot be in the photo.
- School appropriate attire must be worn.
- Photos can be full color or black and white.
- Purchasing senior photos is between students/parents/guardians and photographers. The school is not involved.

Graduation Cap and Gown Order

Cap and Gowns must be ordered by **October 21**, after this date there will be a late fee charged. Any orders can be placed at [Jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com)

FAFSA - MUST COMPLETE

FAFSA is now open for the Class of 2026. Please complete the 2026-27 FAFSA at studentaid.gov or if you wish to opt out click on the link below:

[Class of 2026 FAFSA Opt Out form.](#)

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

VFW Voice of Democracy scholarship is available to all 9-12 grades. No gpa or test scores required. Up to \$35,000 is available if you are willing to answer the question "How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?" in a 3-5 minute essay. Due October 31 to Mrs. Britten in the counseling office. [Click here](#) or go to <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships> for more information.

Seniors, have you applied for any scholarships yet? If not, you should be. Dont know where to start? Visit www.bellevuepublicschools.org>Under schools choose Bellevue West>Academics>Scholarships to see a scholarship list and websites you can visit to be matched up with eligible scholarships. Any questions, see Mrs. Britten in counseling.

Testing Information

ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
December 13	November 7	November 24
February 14	January 9	January 23
April 11	March 6	March 24
June 13	May 8	May 29

**Register online at www.act.org/bts

SAT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
November 8	October 24	October 28
Dec 6	November 21	November 25
March 14	February 27	March 3
May 2	April 17	April 21

**Register online at www.sat.org/register



Fee Waivers for Testing

Juniors and Seniors who are on Free/Reduced lunch qualify for a fee waiver for the ACT and SAT Tests. Students should see their counselor to get a fee waiver.

AP Exam Information 2025-26

- AP exams are strongly encouraged, but not required.
- Students order exams through their MyAP College Board account (myap.collegeboard.org).
- Each exam costs \$100.00 and must be paid for online at <http://aptsusa.com/bwhs>.
- Initial deposit of \$40 per exam is due by October 31 st , 2025. Final payment of remaining fees must be made by March 1st , 2026.
- Students who dual enroll an AP course through UNO will receive a refund of total exam fees paid once exams are completed in May.
- All other deposits are NON-REFUNDABLE.
- Exams can be ordered after November 1st for a \$40.00 late fee per exam.
- Final ordering and payment deadline is March 1, 2026.
- AP classroom provides resources for students throughout the year to review and prepare for the exam in May. Students access AP classroom through their CollegeBoard accounts.

Scan this QR code now to make your deposit.



Payment by check or credit card can be made online at <http://aptsusa.com/bwhs>

Exams ordered or paid for after October 31 will be charged a \$40 late fee per exam.

More information is available at ap.collegeboard.org or on the Bellevue West webpage under “Academics” or contact melissa.minahan@bpsne.net



School Information

Golden Feather Award

Students in grades 10-12 who earned a 3.25 GPA or higher last semester will receive their Golden Feather Award in Advisory during the month of October. Golden Feather is our Honor Roll Award. Students in grades 9-12 who earn a 3.25 GPA or higher this semester will be honored with a Golden Feather Award in January. Ask your child to show off their Golden Feather Award at home!



ASVAB TESTING

If you are a junior or senior interested in taking the ASVAB test on November 6 2025, please see Mr. Schultz in the College and Career Center to sign up. Cost of the test is free. You must be signed up by October 30th.

The ASVAB measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. It can be used as a tool for career exploration or if you are planning to join a military branch, be used to help determine military occupation placement. Students can take the ASVAB and use the Career Exploration Program WITHOUT being obligated to join the military or be contacted by a recruiter.

Academic Assistance for Students:

General Tutoring

3:10pm - 4:30pm

Mon - Fri

Bellevue West Library



Math & Science Center:

7:00am - 7:45am

Mon - Fri

Room 335

Travel Opportunity:

There is an International trip available for students (and families) to the Dominican Republic June 2026 with Explorica. For more information email Jennifer Sedlacek jennifer.sedlacek@bpsne.net To sign up to travel click here: explorica.com/Sedlacek-1411 *This is school-adjacent but not school-sponsored; families will be responsible for all expenses/fees through Explorica.*



PICTURE RETAKES

Picture order forms are still available in the counseling office for students who missed the first picture day. Forms can be turned in on October 15 at time of picture.

Online order link <https://AccessMyEvent.com/937HR5> will be available beginning October 8.

For students who want to retake their picture from Sept 4, no new order is needed unless ordering additional pictures. Bring pictures and insert from package plus \$5 cash or check (payable to Jeremy Johnson) on retake day.

College and Career Planning

Southeast Community College Virtual Program Showcase

Students can attend as many as they'd like and will learn about [SCC's Programs of Study](#).

[Register Now](#)

UNL Application Fee Waiver

First-year students from Nebraska can use the code "HUSKER" to apply for free through November 1. Students who apply for admission by Nov. 1 will be notified of their scholarship awards on Feb. 11.

Future Air Force ROTC Cadets!

Our Fall 2025 Shadow Day is almost here! If you're interested, or know someone that's a high school Junior or Senior that's interested, in seeing what's it like to be an Air Force ROTC Cadet at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, come out and join us from 1-5pm on Thursday, October 16, at the UNL campus to go through one of our courses, our leadership laboratory, and meet with our current 87 cadets to chat, ask questions, and get a better understanding of how you can carve your own path to becoming an Air Force officer!

Use the QR Code on the attachment or go to the website below to sign up and reserve your spot today.

Spots are limited and they fill up fast! [FLYER](#) - [QR code](#)

Sign up here: [Shadow Day Fall 2025](#) | [Air Force ROTC](#) | [Nebraska](#)

Please RSVP before end of day Sunday, October 12 so we can get an accurate headcount.

Metro Community College Secondary Partnership

The office of Secondary Partnerships at Metropolitan Community College supports early college experiences for high school students by providing the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. Students can take advantage of different programs such as Career Academy, College Now!, Kickstart Online, and Concurrent Enrollment. Click here for more information on the different programs. <https://www.mccneb.edu/secondarypartnerships>

Current Nebraska High School students, grades 9 - 12, are automatically eligible to take credit classes at no tuition cost through the Summer 2026 quarter. Students will be responsible for tools, textbooks, and any other associated course fees.

For more information contact Alyssa Wiese, our MCC Navigator, at awiese@mccneb.edu.



Metropolitan Community College
Adult Education provides non-credit English language classes for non-English speaking individuals living in the Bellevue area. The classes focus on basic English skills.
[MCC English 2nd Language](#)

Volunteer



CHI - Midlands Teen Volunteer Service

Are you looking for volunteer hours? Well, CHI Health Midlands Teen Volunteer Program currently has openings! To learn more about joining the fun, please visit www.chihealth.com/volunteer-services or email Terra Smith at terra.smith@commonspirit.org for more information.

[Midland Info Flyer](#)

UNMC Volunteer Opportunities

UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute Recreational Therapy is looking for student volunteers ages 13 to 25 with a Covid vaccine. Volunteers will gain hands on experience interacting with children and youth with development disabilities. Please visit this link for more information: [NE](#)

[Med Volunteer](#)



Salvation Army

November – Turkeyfest

On the day before Thanksgiving and on Thanksgiving day itself, volunteers are needed to help prepare food, deliver meals to homebound seniors and help manage traffic and pack meals into cars at the Kroc Center, where this event takes place. [Volunteer link](#)



Administration/Athletic Department



Athletics Department

Mr. Jon Mauro, Activities Director, 402-293-4046,
jon.mauro@bpsne.net

Ms. Nicole Jaros, Secretary, 402-293-4052,
Nicole.jaros@bpsne.net

Homecoming Game: Friday, October 3rd vs. South Sioux City - 7:00pm Kickoff - Homecoming Court announcements at halftime of the football game.

Homecoming Dance: Saturday, October 4th at Bellevue West - 7:00pm - 10:00pm - \$15 entry at the door that evening.

2025-26 Athletic Admission Prices:

Varsity Football: \$8 Adults, \$6 Students

All other Sporting Events: \$7 Adults, \$5 Students

All Bellevue West students with an Activity Card are admitted free into all regular season home games.

Winter Sports: Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Wrestling, Boys Wrestling, Girls Bowling, Boys Bowling, Girls and Boys Swimming - Officially begin on Monday, November 17th. - Please contact coaches prior to tryouts for information.

Administration Staff

Mr. Kevin Rohlfs, Principal, 402-293-4049, kevin.rohlfs@bpsne.net

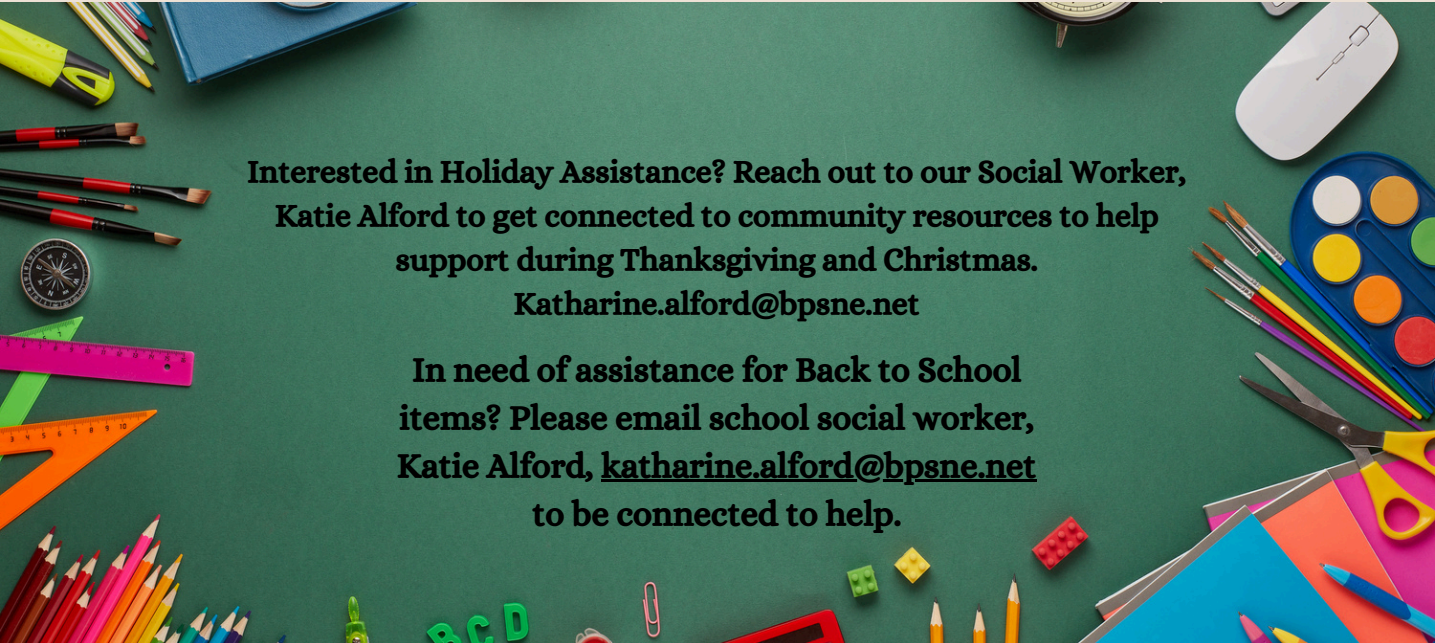
Dr. Larry Murry, 10th Grade Principal, 402-293-4044, larry.murry@bpsne.net

Mr. Bradley Stueve, 9th Grade Principal, 402-293-4086, bradley.stueve@bpsne.net

Ms. Dorthena Wallace, Principal Secretary, 402-293-4049, dorthena.wallace@bpsne.net



Family Resources



**Interested in Holiday Assistance? Reach out to our Social Worker,
Katie Alford to get connected to community resources to help
support during Thanksgiving and Christmas.
Katharine.alford@bpsne.net**

**In need of assistance for Back to School
items? Please email school social worker,
Katie Alford, katharine.alford@bpsne.net
to be connected to help.**

Is your student having social, emotional, and/or behavioral problems at home or school?
Does your student seem to be sad, angry, worried, or have difficulty following basic
rules? Bellevue Public Schools has partnered with Family Connections and CRCC,
independent third party agencies, to help your student with counseling support. Family
Connections & CRCC Providers are Licensed Mental Health Practitioners and are located
right in your student's school. Their confidential counseling services can help your
student put the pieces together to cope with life's stressors. There are immediate
openings and most insurances are accepted. Financial assistance is available as well.
Please contact your student's school counselor for more information or to make a
referral.

Find out more about these organizations on their websites:
<https://crccomaha.org/services/therapy/behavior-health-program.html>
<https://familyconnectionsiaowa.com/>