



T-BIRD TALK



BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS • BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

December Edition

2022-2023

Counseling Staff

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 Ms. Kathie Britten, Scholarship Coordinator 402-827-5990, kathie.britten@bpsne.net
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IMPORTANT DATES

- **December 1-2, and 5-6** - MAP testing 9th and 10th graders
- **December 19 - 21** - Finals
- **December 21** - Early Dismissal (End of semester)
- **December 22 - Jan 3** - Holiday Break (No School)
- **January 4** - No School
- **January 16** - No School (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

After Prom Party???

We do not have any parent volunteers to lead our after-prom committee. If we cannot get a committee organized before the holiday break, (December 21), we will not offer an after-prom party this year.

TESTING

ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
December 10	November 4	November 11
February 11	January 6	February 3

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

SAT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
December 3	November 3	November 22
March 11	February 10	February 28
May 6	April 7	April 25

**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.

Semester 1 Final Exams

Semester 1 Final Exams will be held on December 19, 20, & 21st. Students are expected to complete exams on assigned test dates. If alternate test dates are required, students must get approval from administrators by December 2nd. A request form is available in the Counseling Office. Alternative testing times may need to be scheduled outside of the regular school day. Below is a list of the periods scheduled to test on each date.

Monday, December 19 A Block	Tuesday, December 20 B Block	Wednesday, December 21 A Block
7:50-9:24 Period 1 (regular class)	7:50-9:24 Period 2 TEST	7:50-9:20 Period 1 TEST
9:30-11:00 Period 3 (regular class)	9:30-11:00 Period 4 TEST	9:30-11:00 Period 3 TEST
11:06-1:08 Period 5 (regular class) Lunch	11:06-1:08 Period 6 TEST Lunch	11:10-1:20 Period 5 TEST Lunch
1:14-2:44 Period 7 TEST	1:14-2:44 Period 8 TEST	1st Lunch 11:15-11:45 2nd Lunch 12:50-1:20
2:50-3:20 GPS	2:50-3:20 GPS	

On To College ACT Prep for Seniors

Seniors, just a reminder that you have access to the On To College ACT Test Prep by John Baylor through the end of the year. You can use the ACT Refresher Course or any of the other videos and materials to help prepare for the ACT. If you have questions about your access credentials to the online program, please email Mr. Schultz.

MAP Growth Assessment and Edmentum - What are these and how do they impact my child?

MAP Growth Assessment:

- is a test that is given to all 9th and 10th graders in BPS.
- is given to students three times a year, in August, December, and May.
- is a reading test and a math test that each student takes.
- is adaptive to each student's individual learning level. No two students take the same test.
- is aligned to the Nebraska state content standards for reading and math.
- provides immediate actionable data on our students.
- provides a score using a scale that allows teachers to measure student growth over time. This scale correlates with a percentile at the grade level to allow teachers to see how students are performing.

Edmentum: is our district's intervention to be implemented for students struggling with math and reading. It is an online software program that personalizes learning for each student according to the details of their most recent MAP Score.

- Detailed scores from the MAP test are loaded into Edmentum (typically within one month of the testing window).
- Edmentum software creates an individualized learning pathway, or "Exact Path", for every student. This identifies what concepts in reading or math the student is "ready to learn now" and will start students on lessons that are theoretically within the range of their current math or reading abilities.

- **West will use Edmentum with our 9th and 10th grade students identified as performing at or below the 20th percentile in regards to their MAP scores. These students will work on the personalized learning activities in Edmentum for twenty minutes, three times a week during study hall, resource or GPS.**

AP Exam Information 2022-23

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes have the opportunity to earn college credit by taking the corresponding AP exam in May 2023. Each exam costs \$80.00. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch pay \$15.00 per exam. Although the deadline has passed, students can still order exams by paying a \$40.00 late fee per exam. Please contact Susan Polk to register: susan.polk@bpsne.net

Tutoring Resources through Metro Community College

If you are taking ANY class at Metro Community College, you can use these tutoring services for any class (not just an MCC Class)! Click link for more information: [Metro Tutoring - Math & Writing](#)

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Scholarships for freshmen through seniors can be found on the Bellevue West website under Academics >Scholarships. Parents and students can also contact Kathie Britten, Scholarship Coordinator, with any questions relating to scholarships at 402-827-5990 or Kathie.britten@bpsne.net.

FAFSA now Open!

The **2023-24 FAFSA** application is now open! EducationQuest has lots of free resources to help seniors and their parents prepare for and complete the form.

- **FAFSA Tutorial Webinars** (October) walk students and parents through the FAFSA form.
- **FAFSA Tools** help families through the process. They include:
 - o **Financial Aid FAQs** answer common questions about financial aid.
 - o **Paying for College Video Series** provides a quick overview of the types of colleges, financial aid, the FAFSA process, and how colleges award aid.
- **The WhyFAFSA webpage** explains why students should complete the form.

You can also contact EducationQuest for more information on appointments to help complete your FAFSA. Contact them at 402-391-4033.

COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING

BPS Career Academy @ the Frank Kumor Career Center

Bellevue Public Schools currently offers three Career Academy programs within the district at the Frank Kumor Career Center. Current Sophomore and Junior students can apply for the **Certified Nursing Assistant Academy**, the **Automotive Maintenance Academy** or the **Education Career Academy**. Students in these programs will earn Dual Enrollment credit through Metro Community College. The BPS Career Academy programs are free. Transportation to and from the high school is provided.

If you are interested in one of the Career Academy programs, please see your School Counselor for more information.

UNMC High School Alliance

The University of Nebraska Medical Center offers a high school alliance where students have an opportunity to observe, shadow, and work alongside health care professionals and researchers at UNMC. Students take classes (2 classes each semester) on the UNMC campus from 1:00-3:00 p.m. each day. Students who are interested in pursuing a career in health care should consider applying. Class offerings may include Behavioral Health, Biology & Prevention of Cancer, Biomedical Research, Dimensions of Community Health,

Exploration of Human Anatomy, Human Genetics, The Study of Patient Care, Infectious Disease, Pathology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Medical Imaging, Art & Science of Decision Making.

Eligible students must be a junior or senior (for 2023-2024 school year) and at least 16 years of age by August of 2023, have completed and received a grade of "B" or above in Algebra I, Biology, a Physical Science course, and be concurrently enrolled in a third year of science. If students meet the requirements and are interested in applying, they should meet with their counselor or go to UNMC High School Alliance for an application. The UNMC application will open December 15th and closes on February 3rd, 2023.

Henry Doorly Zoo Academy

The Henry Doorly Zoo Academy provides an innovative high school learning environment where students can make discoveries about the natural world and apply them to their learning. The Zoo Academy concept combines career exploration, classroom experiences, and research opportunities in a non-traditional high school setting. Students can choose either an Animal Science course pathway or a Conservation Research course pathway. This program is a 1-2 year program.

Qualifications: Sophomores & Juniors apply for 2023-2024

*Must be on track for graduation and have excellent attendance

*Must have completed a biology course and completion of a chemistry course is preferred

*TB test and drug screening are required

*Zero tolerance discipline policy

Application Required: The application is online and is due December 2, 2022. Three teacher recommendations are required. Please contact your counselor to apply.

Metro Community College Career Academies

Metro offers academies designed for high school juniors and seniors (for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year) to earn both high school and college credit. Students who are accepted take classes at Bellevue West in the morning and classes at Metro Community College in the afternoon. Possible programs being offered for the 2023-2024 school year are as follows: *Administrative Technology *Advanced Manufacturing *Architecture *Auto Collision *Automotive Technology *Business Transfer *Diesel Technology *Civil Engineering *Emergency Medical Technician *Fire Science Technology *Google Support Professional *Criminal Justice *Horticulture, Land Systems, and Management *Culinary Arts Foundations *Web Development *Digital Cinema/Filmmaking, *Early Childhood Education *Heating & A/C *IT Technician *Theatre Technology *Construction Technology *Prototype Design *Electrical Technology *Pre-Apprenticeship Plumbing *Welding Technology *3-D Animation & Games.

Eligibility requirements: high school junior or senior (for 2023-2024); on-track for graduation; be 16 years of age (by 8/2023) and meet any criteria listed in program description; must provide own transportation to/from Metro classes and internship/apprenticeship sites. Current Nebraska High School students are automatically eligible to take credit classes at no tuition cost. Cost of books is covered by the District. Students should see their counselor if they are interested in applying or go to MCC Career Academies for more information. Deadline to apply will be in early March 2023.

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, Concurrent Enrollment and Gateway to College. 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. Students will be responsible for tools, textbooks, and any other associated course fees. Tuition for dual enrolled students will be paid for by federal funding, directed by the State and CCPE.

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](#)

Perry Virtual Experience

Free, 2.5-hour, interactive online experience for high school and college-aged students who gender-identify as female or nonbinary and are interested in pursuing careers in orthopaedic surgery and engineering. Details for each session can be found at <https://perryinitiative.org/pve/>

Boy Scouts Of America

Please check out the link attached! Lots of opportunities for activities and mentorships!

<https://mac-bsa.org/programs-activities/exploring/>

VOLUNTEER

UNMC Munroe-Meyer Recreational Therapy Program would like to invite you to volunteer! Our programs offer student volunteers, ages 13 to 25, hands-on experience with children and youth with developmental disabilities. All new volunteers are required to attend training before participating. For more information on this volunteer opportunity, training dates (available in December) and application, please see Ms. Moore in the counseling office.

Red Kettle - Salvation Army

Volunteers are needed during the holiday season to help count red kettle donations on shift times from 10am to 8pm. Everyone of any age is welcome to ring at the kettle! We do ask that youth under the age of 16 must have their parent's permission to ring and that under the age of 14 will have adult supervision while volunteering. Most locations welcome children ringing with adults. For more information & to sign up for a shift visit. <https://www.registertoring.com/>

SHARE Omaha has over a hundred volunteer opportunities for students. To find out more, go to

<https://shareomaha.org/>

The Open Door Mission has many volunteer opportunities. Go to opendoormission.org/volunteer to check out how you can become a volunteer and give back to your community.

The Omaha Food Bank for the Heartland is grateful for our extraordinary volunteers who donate their time to help our neighbors in need across Nebraska.

To find out how you or a group can help, Go to volunteerfoodbankheartland.org

Pottawattamie Arts, Culture, & Entertainment (PACE).

We are a non-profit arts and culture organization that runs the Hoff Family Arts & Culture Center. PACE is proud to host an awesome volunteer group named the PACE Ambassadors and PACE Junior Ambassadors. PACE Junior Ambassadors are a group of volunteer youths that are eager and ready to help support the arts. We are looking to bolster this program by bringing students in to help support arts and culture by ushering

shows, working in our art galleries, helping teach art classes, assisting in administrative tasks, building sets, helping in our day-to-day operations, running lights and sound in our theater, helping backstage on shows, help set up art shows, classes, programs, and *so much more*.

Students can either visit the [PACE Ambassador Volunteer Portal](#) at pace.galaxydigital.com or use our handy app - [CauseConnect!](#)

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 to for more information.

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

Athletic Schedules can be found at: mhssaconference.org

Spring Sports (Baseball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Boys and Girls Track & Field, Girls Tennis, Boys Golf) begin Monday, February 27th. Please contact our spring coaches for more 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

Ms. Mary Sasek, 9th Grade Principal, 402-293-4086, mary.sasek@bpsne.net

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

Parents can access updated grades, attendance, assignments, and the daily bulletin by logging into the PowerSchool Parent Portal. If you need assistance logging in, please contact Kathie Britten at kathie.britten@bpsne.net.

YEARBOOKS can be ordered online. Visit <https://yearbookforever.com/#>

Follow Bellevue West on Social Media

Twitter: @TbirdEMPIRE

Facebook: Search "Bellevue West"

Student Publications Department: thethunderbeat.org (includes streaming video, articles & pictures)

District Website: www.bellevuepublicschools.org (under school tab, click on Bellevue West—includes contact info for teachers)