

Bellevue West HS

February 2024

Newsletter

Ms. Melissa Minahan, Counselor (A-E) 402-293-4056, melissa.minahan@bpsne.net
Ms. Susan Polk, Counselor (F-La) 402-293-4054, susan.polk@bpsne.net
Ms. Emily Fenster, Counselor (Le-Ro) 402-293-4055, emily.fenster@bpsne.net
Mr. Joseph Mlnarik, Counselor (Ru-Z) 402-293-4057, joseph.mlnarik@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

Important Dates

February 8 - 8th Grade/New Student Open House

February 16 - No School

February 19 - No School

March - 11 - 15 - No School (Spring Break)

March 22 - Early Dismissal

March 26 - **ACT** (11th graders only); No school for 9th, 10th, and 12th graders

March 29 - No School



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

Please follow the link attached for important information and dates for Seniors
<https://www.bellevuepublicschools.org/domain/1586>

Bellevue West has implemented a new pass system for students at school. PLEASE make sure to look over the following link for a quick overview of the new Pass system
[Pass System Information](#)

Testing Dates

ACT Test Dates

February 10

April 13

Registration Deadline

January 5

March 8

Late Registration Deadline

February 2

March 24

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

SAT Test Dates

March 9

May 4

Registration Deadline

February 23

April 19

Late Registration Deadline

February 27

April 23

****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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM MR. ROHLFS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

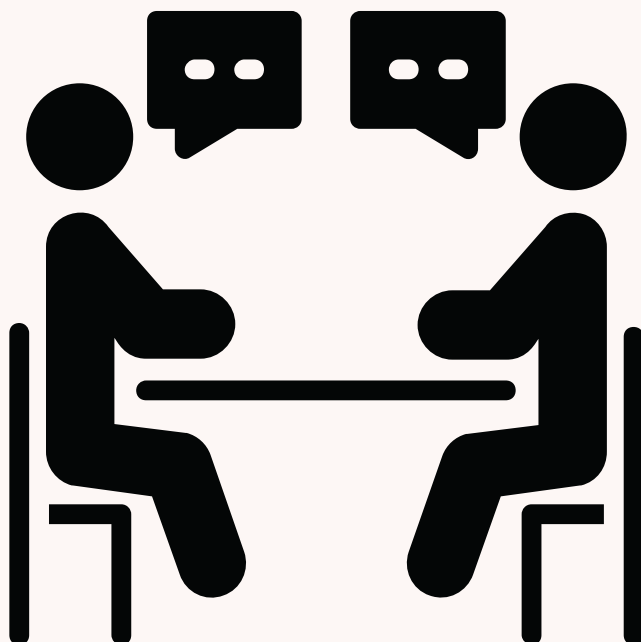
As we near the middle of the 3rd quarter of the 23-24 school year it is time to think about an opportunity to speak with the teachers that have been working with your sons/daughters. We want to offer a variety of options for you to check in with the teachers. Teachers are available via email, phone call and zoom. We are also offering in-person conferences by appointment on February 14 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. To better streamline the process for contacting teachers for parent-teacher-student conferences, we are implementing a conference landing page. From this page, parents and guardians will find contact information for all teachers instead of receiving several emails from staff members.

In order to schedule conferences, we are asking you to visit this website to contact the teacher with whom you'd like to conference. Clicking the name of the staff member will allow you to contact the teacher directly and set up the type of conference that you would prefer.

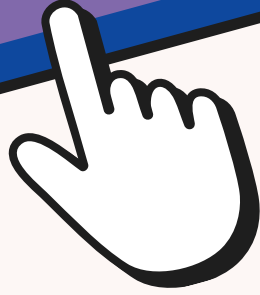
Staff are organized alphabetically by department. If you are unsure of your student's current teachers, please check PowerSchool. We look forward to seeing or hearing from you over the next two weeks. If you have any trouble connecting with a teacher, please reach out to me for additional support.

Sincerely,

Kevin Rohlf, Principal
Bellevue West High School



REGISTRATION



Registration for 2024/2025

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year took place during the month of January. Counselors will be meeting with students in February and March to review course requests and make adjustments as needed. In April, parents will be able to view a finalized list of course requests in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Registration materials and information are available on the Bellevue West website under Academics>Registration>Registration 2024-2025.



Metro Community College Career Academies

Metro offers academies designed for high school juniors and seniors (for the upcoming 2024-2025 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. There are a variety of programs available. Please visit this link for information and eligibility: [MCC Career Academy](#)

BPS Career Academy @ the Frank Kumor Career Center

Bellevue Public Schools will offer four 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, the Education Career Academy and new for the 24-25 school year will be the Aviation Academy. Students in these programs will earn Dual Enrollment credit through Metro Community College (dual enrollment pending for the Aviation program through another institution). 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. Follow link for more [Kumor Center](#)

College and Career Planning

AP Exam Information 2023-24

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes have the opportunity to earn college credit by taking the corresponding AP exam in May 2024. Each exam costs \$81.00. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch pay \$16.00 per exam. Although the deadline is passed, students can still order exams by paying a \$40.00 late fee per exam. See Ms. Polk in counseling if you wish to register. More information is available on the Bellevue West website under "Academics" then "Advanced Placement," or at ap.collegeboard.org.

Junior ACT Prep

Just a reminder that we have begun our prep for the State ACT that will take place on March 26th for all juniors! We are excited to continue our partnership with On To College ACT prep this school year!

Students will receive paper materials and work with their English, Math and Science teachers to complete State ACT Test prep using the On To College online programming. Remember that students can access the online program at home to further prepare. If your student is struggling with a specific subject area or concept on the ACT, the Additional Prep and Solution Video resources from OnToCollege can help. Students can access materials at www.ontocollege.com.

We are excited to offer this opportunity to Bellevue West Juniors to help students maximize their ACT score and potentially reduce college debt!

UNO Summer Scholars

Summer Scholars Program offers an unparalleled opportunity for college-bound students to earn an academic course (3-credits) during UNO's summer school session, experience college life through 5-weeks of engaging programming from May 28, 2024- June 28, 2024, and gain essential skills that facilitate their transition. Participants get a head start in their college journey as they build their support system and connect with UNO faculty, staff, and students. UNO Summer Scholar

College and Career Planning

Visit UNK

Is an event on select Fridays to experience our campus and visit our residence halls with a student-led tour in Spanish. Our dates for this Fall are November 3rd, and November 17th. Students and families can visit <https://go.unk.edu/visitasunk> to schedule a visit.



College of Saint Mary
Showcase Days – a fantastic opportunity for students to explore our campus, programs, and vibrant community. Please click the link for more information and important dates. [College of Saint Mary campus dates](#)

Exploring Programs for Students Ages 14–20

Exploring programs provide exciting activities and one-on-one mentorship for youth looking to discover their future. If you are unsure of your career path, Exploring is a great place to start. For more information and dates, visit the website at [Youth Programs/](#)

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 orthopedic surgery and engineering. Dates and details for each session can be found at <https://perryinitiative.org/calendar/>



Volunteer

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

Volunteers
needed

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](http://pace.galaxydigital.com) 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. [Midland Info Flyer](#)

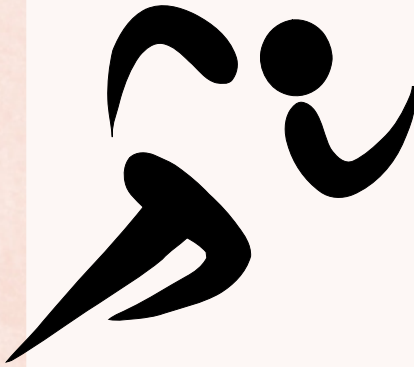
UNMC Volunteer Opportunities

UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute
Recreational Therapy - Student volunteers ages 13 to 25 with Covid vaccine, hands on experience interacting with children and youth development disabilities. Please see the link attached for more information [NE Med Volunteer](#)

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

Streaming Information can be found at:
fan.hudl.com/thunderbirds

Spring Sports (Baseball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Boys and Girls Track & Field, Girls Tennis, Boys Golf) begin Monday, February 26th. Please contact our spring coaches for more information.

Administration Staff

Mr. Kevin Rohlf, Principal, 402-293-4049, kevin.rohlf@bpsne.net

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

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

Ms. 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)

Family Resources

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/>

Bellevue Public Schools Preschool Screenings for 2024-2025 School Year

Please see the attached links for more information on dates and qualifications for our Preschool program
[Preschool Screening info](#)
[Preschool Screening Spanish](#)



FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Bellevue Public Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student's education records. However, Bellevue Public Schools may disclose, without consent, Directory Information, unless the parent, legal guardian or eligible student (18 years or older) elects to opt-out of the disclosure of Directory Information. Directory information is information from a student's education record that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The following information is designated by Bellevue Public Schools as Directory Information:

- Student's name
- Grade level
- School of enrollment
- Photographs, video, film or livestream of student for inclusion in any District/School publications, District/School websites and social media sites, and on school property or at any school sponsored event.
- Photographs, video, film or livestream of student when permitted by the District to be taken by news media on school property during the school day. Including release of school yearbook photo upon receipt of a public records request.
- Height and weight, if a member of an athletic team
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Degrees, honors, and awards received

Bellevue Public Schools is required by law to comply with requests by military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to high school students' directory information (grades 9-12 only). Schools will provide student's name, home address, and parent's/guardian's phone numbers. No personally identifiable information, including a student's name or photograph will be released without parent/legal guardian permission if doing so would identify that student as having a disability or being a member of a special education class, group or program.

Opt-Out Process:

Parents, legal guardians and eligible students (18 years or older) have the right to opt-out of the disclosure of Directory Information, subject to the requirements and limitations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), state law, and the policies and procedures contained in policy. To obtain an Opt-Out Form you must complete and submit the document at the school office which the student attends. The request form should be submitted within 15 days of the first day of the school year. Forms submitted after the date will be accepted, however, some information may have already been disseminated or submitted for printing and cannot be changed or reversed. The opt-out request is only effective for the school year in which they are submitted.