

Bellevue West HS

November 2023 Newsletter



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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

November 10 – No School (Veteran's Day)
November 13 – Winter Sports Begin
November 20 – 24 – No School (Thanksgiving Break)
December 20-22 – FINALS
December 22 – Early Dismissal – End of Quarter
December 25 – Jan 5 – No School (Holiday Break)
January 8 – No School
January 9 – School Resumes



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIOR PARENTS:

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

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 1, 2023. [Diploma Verification Form](#)
PLEASE BE ADVISED: a \$25 reprinting fee will be charged for any reprints because of incorrect information.



Testing Dates

ACT Test Dates

December 9

February 10

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

Registration Deadline

November 3

January 5

Late Registration Deadline

December 1

February 2

SAT Test Dates

November 4

December 2

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

Registration Deadline

October 5

November 2

Late Registration Deadline

October 24

November 21

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.

On To College ACT Prep for Seniors

Seniors, just a reminder that you still have access to the On To College ACT Test Prep by John Baylor. 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.

ASVAB

If you are a junior or senior interested in taking the ASVAB test on **November 8, 2023**, 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.



December Finals Schedule

Semester 1 Final Exams

Semester 1 Final Exams will be held on December 20, 21, & 22nd. Students are expected to complete exams on assigned test dates. If alternate test dates are required, students must get approval from administrators by December 5th. 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.

Wednesday, Dec 20th

B Block

7:50-9:23	Period 2	
9:28-10:57	Period 4	
11:02-1:11	Period 6	
Lunch		
1st Lunch	11:02-11:40	
2nd Lunch	12:33-1:11	
1:16-2:45	Period 8	TEST
2:50-3:20	GPS	



Thursday, Dec 21st

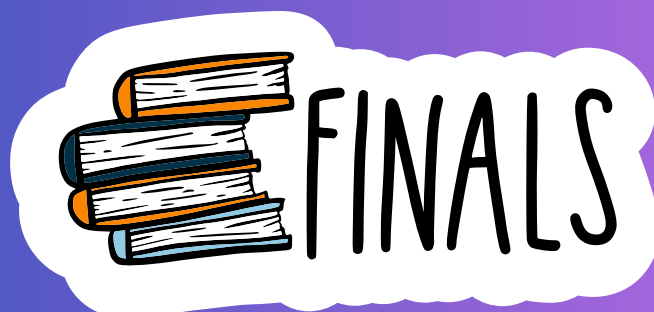
A Block

7:50-9:23	Period 1	TEST
9:28-10:57	Period 3	TEST
11:02-1:11	Period 5	TEST
Lunch		
1st Lunch	11:02-11:40	
2nd Lunch	12:33-1:11	
1:16-2:45	Period 7	TEST
2:50-3:20	GPS	

Friday, Dec 22nd

B Block

7:50-9:20	Period 2	TEST
9:30-11:00	Period 4	TEST
11:10-1:20	Period 6	TEST
Lunch		
1st Lunch	11:00-11:45	
2nd Lunch	12:50-1:20	



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.

College and Career Planning



Metropolitan Community College is hosting an Open House at the Applied Technology Center, and all prospective students are welcome!

Join us and explore the ATC specific trades programs Utility Line, Fire Science, CDL, Diesel Tech. Community & Workforce Education representatives will also be present to provide information on career education and fun course opportunities for all ages.

- If you have questions or need help completing an enrollment application to get started at MCC, please plan to join us,
- If you are interested in exploring the featured programs, want to learn more about MCC, or check out the Applied Technology campus just to see what it is all about to join us!

See time, date, and further details within the following link and [RSVP to attend](#) . Please contact getstarted@mccneb.edu with any questions!

College and Career Planning



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 or Conservation Research course pathway. This program is a 1-2 year program.

Application Required:

The Zoo Academy application is open to all current Juniors and Sophomores for the 2024-2025 school year.

The application is online. It opens November 1st and is due by November 26th, 2023. Three recommendations are required and must be submitted by the application deadline.

For more information and to complete the application go to:

<https://www.omahazoo.com/zooacademy>.

UNMC High School Alliance

The University of Nebraska Medical Center offers the UNMC High School Alliance program 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. Class offerings may include Behavioral Health, Biology and 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, and the Art and Science of Decision Making.

Application required:

The UNMC application for the 2024-2025 school year opens November 17th and closes on January 19, 2024. Eligible students must be a current junior or sophomore, at least 16 years of age by August of 2024; have completed and received a grade of "B" or above in Algebra I, Biology, a Physical Science course; be concurrently enrolled in a third year of science; and be on track for graduation.

If students meet the requirements and are interested in applying, they should go to www.unmc.edu/alliance to complete the application.

College and Career Planning



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](#)

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](#)

Visit UNK

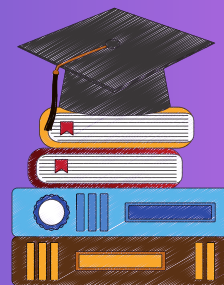
Is an event on select Fridays to experience our campus and visit our residence halls with a student-led tour in Spanish. Our dates for this Fall are November 3rd, and November 17th. Students and families can visit <https://go.unk.edu/visitasunk> to schedule a visit.

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

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

Volunteers needed

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](https://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](#)



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, an independent third party agency, to help your student with counseling support. Family Connections 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 this organization on their website: <https://familyconnectionsia.com/>

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: mhsaaconference.org

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

2023-24 Athletic Admission Prices:

Varsity Football : \$7 Adults, \$5 Students

All other Sporting Events: \$6 Adults, \$4 Students

All 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 13th. – 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

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)

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.