



# T-BIRD TALK



BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS • BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

October Edition

2023-2024

## Counseling Staff

Ms. Melissa Minahan, Counselor (A-E) 402-293-4056, [melissa.minahan@bpsne.net](mailto:melissa.minahan@bpsne.net)  
Ms. Susan Polk, Counselor (F-La) 402-293-4054, [susan.polk@bpsne.net](mailto:susan.polk@bpsne.net)  
Ms. Emily Fenster, Counselor (Le-Ro) 402-293-4055, [emily.fenster@bpsne.net](mailto:emily.fenster@bpsne.net)  
Mr. Joseph Mlnarik, Counselor (Ru-Z) 402-293-4057, [joseph.mlnarik@bpsne.net](mailto:joseph.mlnarik@bpsne.net)  
Ms. Donna Pearson, Secretary/Registrar 402-293-4047, [donna.pearson@bpsne.net](mailto:donna.pearson@bpsne.net)  
Ms. Kathie Britten, Scholarship Coordinator 402-827-5990, [kathie.britten@bpsne.net](mailto:kathie.britten@bpsne.net)  
Mr. Randall Schultz, Career Coordinator 402-293-4092, [randall.schultz@bpsne.net](mailto:randall.schultz@bpsne.net)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 11** -- Practice ACT Test for 11th/PreACT Test for 9th-10th (NO school for seniors)
- **October 13** -- No School
- **October 18** – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4pm - 6pm
- **October 20** – No School
- **November 10** – No School (Veteran's Day)
- **November 20 - 24** – No School (Thanksgiving Break)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM MR. ROHLFS:

### PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT CONFERENCES

West will be holding conferences October 9-19 with in-person conferences on October 18 between 5:00 and 7:00. In-person conferences will be scheduled appointments. You will receive an email on October 10 explaining the process for signing up for an in-person conference. If you prefer, you can request a phone call, a zoom meeting or an email update regarding the progress your son/daughter is making. Please reach out if you have any concerns or questions.

### FIRST COUNT REMINDER:

On Wednesday, October 4, each student was given a first count form to bring home and be signed by a parent. Our first count is conducted annually and is used to determine our impact aid. We receive impact aid because Offutt Air Force Base and military housing is not taxed like private property. In order to offset the loss of property tax funding, the Federal Government funds the district based on the percentage of students that have parents that are in the military or who work on base.

These funds are incredibly important and to qualify we need a first count form back from every student. Your son or daughter should have a form in their backpack and you should also receive a form via email. Please support Bellevue West and Bellevue Public Schools by filling out your first count form and turning it in. Thank you.

**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 1, 2023. [Diploma Verification Form](#)

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

## TESTING

ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 28	September 22	October 20
December 9	November 3	December 1
February 10	January 5	February 2

\*\*Register online at [www.act.org/bts](http://www.act.org/bts)

SAT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 7	September 7	September 26
November 4	October 5	October 24
December 2	November 2	November 21

\*\*Register online at [www.sat.org/register](http://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.

### October 11th Testing Day

October 11th will be a Testing Day at Bellevue West HS. Below is a list of the tests and grade levels testing:

- **Practice ACT:** 11th grade students NOT signed up to take the PSAT Test --Free
- **Pre-ACT:** 9th & 10th graders--Free
- **PSAT:** 10th & 11th grade students who previously registered for this test.

**Note:** It is recommended that seniors use this day to apply for college & scholarships or visit a college campus.

### 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.

## AP Exam Information 2023-24

Dear AP Students and Families,

Welcome to the 23-24 school year and another opportunity to earn college credit or advancement through Advanced Placement classes. Taking the AP exam is an important culmination to an Advanced Placement class. Bellevue West High School encourages and expects that all students currently enrolled in an AP class will register for and take the corresponding AP exam in May of 2024.

### **How to Register for an AP Exam**

- Create a College Board account or login to your account at [myap.collegeboard.org](https://myap.collegeboard.org).
- Be sure to make a note of your username and password for accessing AP Classroom throughout the year.
- Connect to each of your AP classes using the specific join code from your teacher/class section.
- Set your exam decision indicator to “YES” for each exam you would like to order.
- Any account left set to “Undecided” or “No” by October 31<sup>st</sup> will not have an exam ordered, including students who dual enroll through UNO.

### **Payment of Fees for AP Exams**

- The cost of each AP exam is \$81.00; Payments will only be made online this year through a check or credit card. *NO PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT SCHOOL.*
- A \$40.00 deposit *per exam ordered* is due by October 31, 2023.
- The cost of each AP exam for students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch is \$16.00.
- Students who dual enroll an AP course through UNO will have the cost of the exam for that course paid for by UNO.
- **PLEASE NOTE: All students who plan to test in May MUST make a \$40 deposit online for each exam ordered.**
- Deposits are NON-REFUNDABLE, except for students who qualify for a fee reduction and complete the exam in May. Refunds will be issued in June once testing is complete.
- ALL EXAM FEES FOR 23-24 LESS ANY DEPOSITS ARE DUE BY MARCH 1, 2024. Deposits can be made at <http://aptsusa.com/bwhs>



### **Other Important Information**

- Exam orders and deposits are due by October 31, 2023.
- Deposits for AP exams are NON-REFUNDABLE, except for UNO Dual Enrollment students and students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch.
- Exams ordered between November 1, 2023 and March 1, 2024 will be charged a \$40.00 late order fee PER EXAM.
- *No exams can be ordered after March 1, 2024.*

More information is available on the Bellevue West website under “Academics” then “Advanced Placement,” or at [ap.collegeboard.org](https://ap.collegeboard.org). Contact [susan.polk@bpsne.net](mailto:susan.polk@bpsne.net) with any questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Bellevue Public Schools College Fair**

We will be hosting a College Fair on Tuesday, October 17th at the Lied Center from 8:30-10:30am. All juniors will be participating in the College Fair. Any seniors or sophomores interested in attending the fair should see Mr. Schultz in the Career Center or email him at [randall.schultz@bpsne.net](mailto:randall.schultz@bpsne.net) about signing up for the event. All students will be transported to and from the Lied Center.

We will have over 50 different colleges and trade schools at the event. This is a great opportunity for students to talk with admissions representatives from several colleges.

### **SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT**

**VFW Voice of Democracy**: Open to all 9-12 grades. Prepare a 3-5 min essay (recorded on a cd or flashdrive) on the topic "What are the greatest attributes of our Democracy?" Up to \$35,000 available. This is a great opportunity and one that not many apply for. Due October 31, 2023. See Mrs. Britten for more information.

Additional 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](mailto:Kathie.britten@bpsne.net).

### **COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING**

#### **UNK Pre-Law Day**

The University of Nebraska-Kearney is hosting their annual **UNK Pre-Law Day** on October 23rd. The event runs from 9am-2pm. Participants will have the opportunity to meet the UNK Pre-Law adviser; hear from current Pre-Law students and local attorneys; observe in-class demonstrations; learn about scholarship opportunities for Pre-Law students; enjoy lunch on campus with students and faculty; and explore UNK.

To register for this event, students should click on this link: [Register for UNK Pre-Law Day!](#)

If you or your students have any questions, please feel free to contact Charles Rowling at [rowlingcm@unk.edu](mailto:rowlingcm@unk.edu) or (308)865-8171.

#### **Visita 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 September 8th, September 22nd, October 6th, November 3rd, and November 17th. Students and families can visit <https://go.unk.edu/visitasunk> to schedule a visit.

#### **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.

#### **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/>

Here are the current upcoming Exploring programs:

### **Leo A Daly Program: Thursday Oct. 5**

LEO A DALY is an internationally recognized architecture, planning, engineering, and interior design firm. You will work side-by-side with architectural and engineering professionals on real projects. Join the professionals at LEO A DALY to learn about architecture, engineering, planning and interior design. During our meetings we will provide career information as well as conduct building tours.

To register and learn more, follow this link: <https://scoutingevent.com/326-LAD2023>

### **Trauma Thursday CHI Health Immanuel Program: Thursday Oct. 19**

The CHI Health Immanuel Hospital invites you to come and learn the intricacies of several health care career fields and will provide you with a better understanding of each specialty. The purpose of this program is to give high school students the best information about careers in health care through tours, guest speakers, discussions, and various hands-on learning experiences.

To register and learn more, follow this link: <https://scoutingevent.com/326-CHITrauma2023>

### **Career Exploration Day - Sponsored by National Guard Armory**

Wednesday, Oct 18, 2023 from 9:00am to 12:00pm, for a registration form and information please click the following link. <https://www. Kearneycoc.org/career-exploration-day>

### **UNK's Health Sciences Virtual Career Day**

October 3rd at 9:00 am (CST) for high school seniors, juniors and sophomores who are interested in a health care profession. Students may join this free event individually or in a classroom setting. There will be time for students to chat and ask questions. [Career Day Registration](#)

### **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/>

### **Real Talk for Black Students**

Event being held **October 3** and **10** to help Black students and their families navigate the college selection process. Please check out their flyer at [Real Talk flyer](#)

## **VOLUNTEER**

### **Gifford Farms**

Gifford Farm is seeking motivated and enthusiastic high school student volunteers to assist at our upcoming events. These events include our Fall Festival on September 23rd, as well as our Trick or Treat with the Animals on October 21st. [Gifford Farms](#)

**SHARE Omaha** has over a hundred volunteer opportunities for students. To find out more, go to <https://shareomaha.org/>

### **Boy Scouts Of America**

Please check out the link attached! Lots of opportunities for activities and mentorships!  
<https://mac-bsa.org/programs-activities/exploring/>

**The Open Door Mission** has many volunteer opportunities. Go to [opendoormission.org/volunteer](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://www.chihealth.com/volunteer-services) or email Terra Smith at [terra.smith@commonspirit.org](mailto: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://familyconnectionsowa.com/>

### **Athletics Department**

Mr. Jon Mauro, Activities Director, 402-293-4046, [jon.mauro@bpsne.net](mailto:jon.mauro@bpsne.net)

Ms. Nicole Jaros, Secretary, 402-293-4052, [Nicole.jaros@bpsne.net](mailto:Nicole.jaros@bpsne.net)



Athletic Schedules can be found at: [mhssaconference.org](http://mhssaconference.org)

Streaming Information can be found at: [fan.hudl.com/thunderbirds](http://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](mailto:kevin.rohlfs@bpsne.net)

Dr. Larry Murry, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal, 402-293-4044, [larry.murry@bpsne.net](mailto:larry.murry@bpsne.net)

Ms. Mary Sasek, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal, 402-293-4086, [mary.sasek@bpsne.net](mailto:mary.sasek@bpsne.net)

Mrs. Dorthena Wallace, Principal Secretary, 402-293-4049, [dorthena.wallace@bpsne.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://thethunderbeat.org) (includes streaming video, articles & pictures)

District Website: [www.bellevuepublicschools.org](http://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.