



T-BIRD TALK



BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS • BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

September Edition

2022-2023

Counseling Staff

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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

- **September 5** – No School
- **September 8** -- Picture Day
- **September 16** – No School
- **September 16** - Homecoming, 7:00pm - 10:00pm
- **October 1**--FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application period opens for seniors. Visit fafsa.gov
- **October 12** -- Testing Day for 9-11 (NO school for seniors)
- **October 13** -- Early Dismissal
- **October 14** -- No School
- **October 21** – No School

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 in the Counseling Office no later than December 1, 2022. **PLEASE BE ADVISED:** a \$25 reprinting fee will be charged for any reprints because of incorrect information.

Golden Feather Award

Students grades 10-12 who earned a 3.25 GPA or higher last semester received their Golden Feather Award in Advisory on August 30th or 31st. Golden Feather is our Honor Roll Award. Students grades 9-12 with a 3.25 GPA or higher will be honored with a Golden Feather Award in January for this semester. Ask your child to show off their Golden Feather Award at home.

For Parents:

UNO Dual Enrollment - Virtual Parent Sessions

We are reaching out to let you know that the Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment will be hosting virtual Dual Enrollment parent sessions. These sessions will be over zoom and are scheduled for an hour. Presentation will take roughly 20-30 minutes with Q & A session.

The dates of each Parent Zoom Session:

[August 23rd- 6pm to 7pm](#)

[September 13th- 6pm to 7pm](#)

[September 20th-6pm to 7pm](#)

[September 27th- 6pm to 7pm](#)

Senior Parent Presentation

Thank you to all parents who attended the Senior Parent Presentation during the Curriculum Night on Thursday, August 18th. We have posted the presentation and information on the transcript release on the Bellevue West web page for those that were not able to attend the session or anyone who would like to review the important dates information for seniors.

To find the information, go to the Bellevue West webpage/ Academics tab/ select College and Career. If you have any questions, please contact the counseling office.

TESTING

ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 22	September 16	September 30
December 10	November 4	November 11

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

SAT Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 1	September 2	September 20
November 5	October 7	October 25
December 3	November 3	November 22

**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.

October 12th Testing Day

October 12th 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
- **Pre-ACT:** 9th & 10th graders--Free
- **PSAT:** 10th & 11th grade students interested in competing for National Merit Scholarships--students must pay and register in the office (see PSAT Test information below--\$20)

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

PSAT/NMSQT Exam

We will be offering the PSAT/NMSQT exam this fall at Bellevue West during the October testing day, Wednesday October 12, 2021. Students who elect to take the PSAT will do so in place of the Practice ACT or Pre-ACT test. Cost for the exam is \$20. To register for the test, please bring your payment to the main office. Deadline to sign up for the PSAT is the end of the day, Monday September 12th!!

What is the PSAT/NMSQT exam?

The PSAT/NMSQT exam assesses the academic skills that students have developed over the years, primarily through their coursework. These skills are considered essential for success in high school, college, and career. The PSAT is co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. You must take the PSAT in **11th grade** in order to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

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.
- **This year, 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.**

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AP Exam Information 2022-23

Dear AP Students and Families,

Welcome to the 22-23 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 2023.

How to Register for an AP Exam

- Create a College Board account or login to your account at 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 for testing in May
- Students will receive a bill in their student email account from MySchoolBucks.com for each AP class on their schedule. Students who indicate they do not want to take the exam will have their invoices removed.

Payment of Exam Fees

- The cost of each AP exam is \$80.00; Payments can be made online at MySchoolBucks.com or at school with a cash or a check made out to Bellevue West
- A \$40.00 deposit *per exam ordered* is due to Bellevue West by November 1, 2022
- Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch will pay a total of \$15.00 per exam, due by November 1
- Students who dual enroll in a class through UNO must indicate “YES” on College Board for each exam they plan to take AND pay the \$40.00 deposit. (Although AP exam fees are paid for through UNO dual enrollment, the deposit is required and will be refunded in June provided exams are completed.)
- ALL EXAM FEES FOR 22-23 LESS ANY DEPOSITS ARE DUE BY MARCH 1, 2023

Other Important Information

- Exam orders and deposits are due by November 1, 2022
- Deposits for AP exams are NON-REFUNDABLE, except for UNO Dual Enrollment students who complete exams in May
- Exams ordered between November 1, 2022 and March 1, 2023 will be charged a \$40.00 late order fee PER EXAM
- No exams can be ordered after March 1, 2023

More information is available on the Bellevue West website under “Academics” then “Advanced Placement,” or at ap.collegeboard.org. Please contact susan.polk@bpsne.net with any questions.

Dual Enrollment Information - Registration - Deadlines

Bellevue West has many opportunities for students to earn dual enrollment credit through UNO & Metro Community College. Please click on this link to the Bellevue West website for the most updated lists and information. [Bellevue West Dual Enrollment](#)

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

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.

COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING

Free College Planning Event from ACT

From college financials and test prep to recommendation letters and essays, *My Journey* will deliver everything they need to know for college planning success. Don't miss out! [Be the first to know when official My Journey event registration opens](#). Saturday, September 24 from 10:00am - 12:30pm.

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.

Career Exploration Day - Sponsored by National Guard Armory

Wednesday, Oct 26, 2022 from 9:00am to 12:00pm, for a registration form and information please click the following link. <https://www.kearneycoc.org/career-exploration-day>

Southeast Community College

Careers in Construction Day

The construction industry has a variety of in demand, high impact, and technology driven careers. SCC's Careers in Construction Day will give students hands-on opportunities to explore several construction related career fields. Students will learn from industry leaders and SCC instructors and will work alongside current SCC students. **Event Details:** Tuesday, September 20th, 9 am-2 pm, Milford Campus.

<https://www.southeast.edu/careers-in-construction/>

UNK's Health Sciences Virtual Career Day

October 13th 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](#)

EducationQuest 2021-22 FAFSA Demo is now Live!

Financial Aid help demo - This six-part video series will walk families through the entire FAFSA application, and provides helpful hints along the way. <https://eqf.org/FAFSAdemo> This [Fall 2022 Flyer](#) provides dates, times, and registration links.

WEBINARS

September – Financial Aid Webinar Dates

- 7 | Financial Aid Program – Webinar – 6:30 p.m.
- 13 | Financial Aid Program – Webinar – 6:30 p.m.
- 14 | Financial Aid Program – Webinar – 6:30 p.m.
- 16 | Financial Aid Program – Webinar – 1 p.m.
- 19 | Financial Aid Program – Webinar – 6:30 p.m.
- 20 | Spanish Financial Aid Program –
Facebook Group – 6:30 p.m.
- 21 | How the Financial Aid Process Works –
Livestream on – 7 p.m.

22 | Financial Aid Program – Webinar – 6:30 p.m.

26 | Financial Aid Program – Webinar – 6:30 p.m.

For more information <https://educationquestfoundation.clickmeeting.com/>

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

VOLUNTEER

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

<https://shareomaha.org/>

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 in December before participating. For more information on this volunteer opportunity, training dates and application, please see Ms. Moore in the counseling office. [Program Details](#)

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. [Midland Info Flyer](#)

FAMILY RESOURCE

Wellness Counselor available at Bellevue West - Angela Erickson, LIMHP

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 CRCC, an independent third party agency, to help your student with counseling support. CRCC's Student Wellness Counselor at Bellevue West is Angela Erickson, a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner. Her confidential counseling services can help your student put the pieces together to cope with life's stressors. Please contact your student's school counselor for more information or to make a referral.

Angela is a licensed independent mental health practitioner (LIMHP) in the state of Nebraska. She earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of Utah in 2012, focusing on neurobiology and development across the lifespan. In 2016 Angela completed her master of arts in clinical counseling from Northwestern University specializing in working with children and adolescents, and trauma informed care.

Since beginning her counseling career in 2015, Angela has gained experience working with a wide range of patients in the private practice setting. While Angela has a broad and unique experience base as a counselor for all ages, children to geriatrics, she has a strong interest in working with and advocating for the adolescent population as they transition through the many emotional and physiological changes that take place during this time of their lives.

Angela offers supportive, encouraging, and strength based treatment options with a holistic, integrative approach to client-centered therapy, using traditional psychodynamic and family systems work, cognitive behavioral techniques, dialectical behavior techniques, and motivational interviewing. Angela has diversified experience working with domestic violence, grief, trauma related disorders, complex personality disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia, and is trained in clinical hypnosis.

In her free time, Angela spends as much time as possible with her husband, children, and two Corgi's. Angela also loves to spend time creating with the use of different mediums...specifically her miter saw, drill, and nail gun.

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: mhsaconference.org

Homecoming Game: Thursday, September 15th vs. Kearney - 6:00pm Kickoff - Homecoming Courts announcements at halftime of the football game

Homecoming Dance: Friday, September 16th at Bellevue West - 7:00-10:00pm - \$10 entry fee at the door that evening

2022-23 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 14th. - Please contact coaches prior to tryouts for 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

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.