



T-BIRD TALK



BELLEVUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS • BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL

September Edition

2023-2024

Counseling Staff

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Mr. Randall Schultz, Career Coordinator 402-293-4092, randall.schultz@bpsne.net

IMPORTANT DATES

- **September 4** – No School
- **September 7** -- Picture Day
- **September 15** – No School
- **September 30** - Homecoming, 7:00pm - 10:00pm
- **October 11** -- Practice ACT Test for 11th/PreACT Test for 9th-10th (NO school for seniors)
- **October 13** -- No School
- **October 20** – 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/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.

Senior Parent Presentation

Thank you to all parents who attended the Senior Parent Presentation during the Curriculum Night on Thursday, August 17th. We have posted the presentation and information on the transcript release on the Bellevue West web page. To find the information, go to bellevuepublicschools.org/choose Bellevue West under schools/Academics/College and Career. If you have any questions, please contact the counseling office.

Golden Feather Award

Students in grades 10-12 who earned a 3.25 GPA or higher last semester will receive their Golden Feather Award in Advisory on September 13th. Golden Feather is our Honor Roll Award. Students grades 9-12 who earn a 3.25 GPA or higher this semester will be honored with a Golden Feather Award in January. Ask your child to show off their Golden Feather Award at home!

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

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

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 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 11, 2023. 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 Counseling office. Deadline to sign up for the PSAT is the end of the day, Wednesday, September 6th!!

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.

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.

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.
- 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 31st 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. Payment website will open September 1st.**
- 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.

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 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.

Contact susan.polk@bpsne.net with any questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#)

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 a 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](#)

Students: There will be a Dual Enrollment meeting during GPS on Monday, September 11th in the auditorium. Dual Enrollment application is due September 29, 2023.

Apply to College Days

We will be holding our annual Apply 2 College Days on September 26th, 27th and 28th. Seniors can sign up to come to the Career Center on those days to get help completing college applications. We will have admissions representatives from various colleges here on each day to help students with questions on their application. Seniors will receive information on how to sign up during their Senior Presentation in their English class.

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.

Metropolitan Community College is co-hosting Early Bird Scholarship Day for seniors on Tuesday, October 3rd. The sign up link is open. [Here](#) is the link for promotional materials for the event.

COLLEGE & 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.

Exploring Programs for Students Ages 14-20

Exploring provides exciting activities and one-on-one mentorship for youth looking to discover their future. Whether you're a local organization looking to strengthen the community or a young person wanting to uncover the possibilities of your future, Exploring is a great place to start. For more information and dates, visit the website at <https://mac-bsa.org/programs-activities/exploring/>

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/>

VOLUNTEER

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 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](#)

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

Homecoming Game: Friday, September 29th vs. Gretna - 7:00pm Kickoff - Homecoming Courts announcements at halftime of the football game

Homecoming Dance: Saturday, September 30th at Bellevue West - 7:00-10:00pm - \$10 entry fee at the door that evening

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.