



BELLEVUEBIG

Description

Bellevue BIG is a project-based learning movement that is derived from Bellevue Community School District. The Lead Learners are teachers employed by Bellevue Schools, and students are all able to participate at no cost if their school schedule allows. Bellevue BIG is loosely based on the Iowa BIG model that is housed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Bellevue BIG was created through the effort of the BIG team, by the community, and for the community.

Bellevue BIG offers an educational option for students who prefer to participate in real-world scenarios. Students are provided with opportunities that encourage them to develop more than just the basic skills necessary for high-school. They choose or create projects based on their passions, and the Lead Learners configure the projects to meet the core high school standards.

The core design principles are:

1. Use passion to encourage an interest in learning while still obtaining core credits
2. Provide students an opportunity to solve real-world issues, and engage with the Bellevue community
3. Thoroughly connect students with their communities to provide a strong and unified community

Projects

Students will spend the first two weeks of the school year, brainstorming and developing their projects. We will start off by having a conversation about what makes a quality project, as well as, pitching and critiquing project ideas. Students will choose one project to be a part of, this does not mean they cannot participate with other projects, but primarily their focus is on that project. Projects will have a maximum of four students working on it, some might be less based on the needs of the project.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken every block, it is the expectations that students are present everyday and especially for their project meetings. We also understand that projects may ask students to be out in the community. These situations are perfectly fine, as long as the student communicates



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where they are and what they are doing. If a student is not at BIG during their required time and did not communicate with the staff, the staff will then communicate with the student through the Google Hangout and verify where the student is at. If this becomes an ongoing problem, restrictions will be put in place for the student and might lead to their removal from BIG.

NOTE: IF A STUDENT WILL BE ABSENT EXCUSED FROM BIG, THE PARENT NEEDS TO NOTIFY THE MAIN OFFICE. THE MAIN OFFICE WILL THEN NOTIFY US.

Tier System

The Tier System is designed to intervene with students who are struggling with the BIG expectations and to help get them on the right track. The following are examples of potential Tier situations.

	Explanation	Unexcused Absence	Meeting Project Deadlines
Tier 1	<i>Student has the freedom to do the things they feel are necessary to be successful</i>	1st Unexcused Absence	2 Project Tasks Not Met
Tier 2	<i>Student is required to be at BIG during their Blocks and working on things assigned by the teachers</i>	2nd Unexcused Absence	3rd Project Tasks Not Met
Tier 3	<i>Student will be removed from BIG and placed in Bellevue CSD American History or Government Course</i>	3rd Unexcused Absence will lead to removal from the program	4th Project Tasks Not Met will lead to removal from the program

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Bellevue BIG Grade

The Bellevue Big Grade is an elective credit that students receive from the project work that students do while at BIG. This will be a letter grade and information will be placed on JMC. Essentially, this is communication on how the student is doing when it comes to soft skills and work related skills. It will be broken into the following three categories....

- 20% Budget sheet
- 30%: Weekly Tasks
- 50%: Weekly Social Media Grade



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Bellevue BIG Student Expectations

“Don’t let schooling, interfere with your education”

As a student, you are agreeing to participate in an environment that is different from your previous school experiences. Bellevue BIG will provide you with many choices in how you spend your time, where you chose to work, and what you choose to work on. With great power comes great responsibility. We value giving you these choices about all else and there are few expectations that must be honored as part of your and our responsibilities:

1. Be Great

a. “Be the solution, not the problem”

- i. Always follow a negative or critical comment you make with a suggested solution.
- ii. If you have a conflict or disagreement with someone, it is your responsibility to engage that person(s) and work to convert the conflict into something valuable or powerful. We are here for guidance in these moments, but you are responsible for solutions.

2. Show Up

a. “Be Responsive”

- i. Attend all the team meetings, work sessions, and seminars. Missing any of these is like missing an entire week of school.
- ii. Use Google Spaces to communicate to your team any changes in schedule or absences ideally one day in advance, and justified clearly to your teacher.
- iii. Always ask for help. Communicate between meetings; especially if you have a question, an issue, want to change projects, or have a new project idea.
- iv. Spread out appointments (doctor, dentist, college visit, test retakes, etc.)between your BIG time and other responsibilities. Like other absences, at a 24 hour notice is expected and appreciated.
- v. Use Google Calendar to schedule with others at BIG, not doing so is disrespectful of their schedule and commitments. If it’s not on the calendar, it doesn’t exist.



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- vi. If you need to be dismissed from school for a BIG project, it must be communicated to a BIG teacher at least one day (24 hours) prior to the event.
3. Do Your Job
- a. “Be Responsible”
 - i. **Cell phones need to be used as a tool for production and not as a tool to consume and pass time, there is always something to be working on.**
 - ii. Act appropriately when you are at BIG, on-site with a partner, or otherwise representing BIG.
 - iii. You are accountable for the BIG courses you are taking and for ensuring that they are accurate and up-to-date. If you do not plan to return for the 2nd semester, you must notify staff no later than the week before Thanksgiving break. Staff needs time to ensure that you are prepared for entering your second semester class at Bellevue CSD.
 - iv. There are no “zeros” at BIG. Like life, the punishment for not doing your work and meeting your responsibilities is to do the work and meet your responsibilities.

Student:	Parent:
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