



**BELLEVUE COMETS**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Tom Meyer  
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**OFFICERS**

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**Comet Highlights - May 12, 2021**

**(Information from the School Board meeting on May 10, 2021)**

**"Face Coverings, Social Distancing, Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing"**

May 17	6-12 Band Concert - 6:30
May 18	6-12 Vocal Concert - 6:30
May 25	High School Awards Night - 6:30
May 28	"Beyond the Blue" Recognition Evening
May 29	Graduation - 4:00 PM (Saturday)
June 6-9	Tractorcade - WMT Radio Sponsor (more information to come)
July 25-August 1	Family Week - State Sanctioned - No student
activities in	
	school during this time period in any schools across the
	state for athletics.
August 9	Fall Sports Practices Start (XC, VB, & FB)
August 23	Tentative 1st Day of School

**Board Notes for the School Board Meeting on May 10, 2021**

**APPROVED - Consent Agenda**

**Approve Open Enrollment Requests**

- Eriksen Winkler - Kindergarten - Bellevue to Easton Valley - The K deadline is September 1 and this meets the criteria. From the understanding with the address for this student it appears they are much closer to the EV district than Bellevue.

**Approve Resignations**

- Barb Michels - Barb has been an associate in our district for over 40 years, and has consistently performed at a high level. This appeared to be a good time for her to "step away" as a FT employee, but may still be available to serve as a substitute in the future.

**Approve Recommendations to Hire**

- 1st Grade - Amanda Michels (information below, and resumes at end of notes)
- 3rd Grade - Sami Pitts (information below, and resumes at the end of notes)
  - 1st grade (Lisa Roth - Retiring) will be filled by Amanda Michels, who is a Bellevue resident. She comes highly recommended from the Dubuque CSD where she has worked for several years. The 3rd grade

position (Jessica Hingtgen transitioning to a Curriculum Specialist position within our district) will be filled by Sami Pitts who is currently teaching in the Andrew CSD, and is also a resident of Bellevue. She also comes highly recommended by her current and former employers. I believe we are fortunate to have two very strong people entering our district, and along with being privileged to have an outstanding pool of applicants overall (over 30 applicants).

- Assistant HS Softball Coach - Alyssa Klawitter - Alyssa comes highly recommended by the University of Dubuque and her experiences there. She will join the head coach, and one other assistant for approximately 30-35 girls who are out for high school softball (this also includes 8th grade students from the 2020-2021 school year).
- Assistant MS Baseball Coach - Jake Schaefer - Jake is currently serving as the High School Assistant Baseball Coach, and this position will still fit into practice and game schedules for both of his roles.

#### **Recognize any Visitors**

No one has contacted me at this time.

#### **Recognition of Board Members**

May is School Board Recognition Month, and Mr. Meyer recognized each board member with "IASB Certificates" for their work for students and the entire school district. Meyer shared the work they do is valuable for the students, staff, and all of the stakeholders in the school district and beyond.

#### **School Calendar Hearing**

#### **And**

#### **Approve the School Calendar**

**APPROVED** - This part of the agenda was for the public hearing for the public to voice concerns, ask questions, etc. about the 2020-2021 school calendar. The hearing is designed to allow anyone in the public to comment on the proposed calendar. Board members will comment after the hearing during the next agenda item. No comments from the public.

The following is the final draft of the proposed calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Some key points:

- School year starts for students on Monday, August 23; The final day would be on Wednesday, May 25. This allows for two student days to be made up that week, similar to this year's calendar.
- This calendar includes two-days off prior to a weekend in April, along with two days after a weekend for families (one of the final two days is professional learning for staff). This gives somewhat of a "spring break" around a holiday.
- There are 4-days of Professional Learning for teachers at the start of the school year. We had 5-days earlier this year for professional learning, but one of those days was an optional Teacher Quality Fund Day. This is

needed for many aspects of "covering" many things prior to the year starts from legal obligations, instructional and student learning goals, etc.

- 2-Hour Early Dismissals on P/T Conference Dates (not 3-hours as was previously done); No Professional Learning on these days. The consistent time is easier for parents as they plan daycare and for their memory of early-release times.
- Graduation would be May 28 (not interfering with the Iowa HS State Track Meet). We can discuss the time after our trial with the 4:00 time this year is completed.
- There are a total of five early-dismissals (not including parent-teacher conferences); the 2020-2021 school year had six early dismissals. This was reduced as a result of adding an additional full-day of professional learning for staff (which was recommended by many teachers in the DLT). The 2020-2021 school year had three full-days matching this description. This leads to 179 student days (not 180 as the previous year).
- Our early dismissal dates are coordinated with the same dates at Andrew and Maquoketa overall, yet they have more early dismissal dates than we do in a typical month. No-school dates are also coordinated overall, but there is one that is not coordinated with one of the schools at this time.

## 2021-2022 School Calendar – DRAFT 9C (3.23.21)

Summary of Calendar:  
 Days/Hrs. in classroom: 83/529.5  
 First Semester  
 Second Semester 96/616.0  
**Total 179/1145.5**

**Required Hours 1080**

### CALENDAR LEGEND

Start/End of Quarter/Semester  
 Teacher Professional Learning  
 Parent-Teacher Conferences  
 No School Days  
 Early Dismissal Days

### HOLIDAYS:

Labor Day (9/6)  
 Thanksgiving Day (11/23)  
 New Year's Day (1/1)  
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (1/17)  
 President's Day (2/21)  
 Memorial Day (5/30)

### Some Specifics for this Calendar Draft:

- It includes 4-days of Professional Learning for teachers at the start of the school year. We had 5-days earlier this year for professional learning, but one of those days was an optional Teacher Quality Fund Day.
- A Teacher Quality Day will be added to the beginning or end of the school year potentially, depending on the agreement of administration and the TQ Committee. Teachers receive extra compensation for this "optional" day of learning.
- 2-Hour Early Dismissals on P/T Conference Dates (not 3-hours as was previously done); No Professional Learning on these days.
- This calendar has five early-dismissals (not including parent-teacher conferences); the 2020-2021 school year had six early dismissals
- This calendar has four full-day Professional Learning days for staff (no school for students), minus those at the start/end of the school year; The 2020-2021 school year had three. This leads to 179 student days (not 180 as the previous year).

August 2021					Student Days/Hours	
M	T	W	Th	F		
16	17	18	19	20		
23	24	25	26	27	5	32.5
30	31				7	45.5
September 2021						
		1	2	3	10	65
6	7	8	9	10	14	91
13	14	15	16	17	19	121.5
20	21	22	23	24	24	154
27	28	29	30		28	180
October 2021						
				1	29	186.5
4	5	6	7	8	34	215
11	12	13	14	15	39	247.5
18	19	20	21	22	44	278
25	26	27	28	29	49	310.5
November 2021						
1	2	3	4	5	53	336.5
8	9	10	11	12	58	369
15	16	17	18	19	63	401.5
22	23	24	25	26	65	414.5
29	30				67	427.5
December 2021						
		1	2	3	70	447
6	7	8	9	10	75	479.5
13	14	15	16	17	80	510
20	21	22	23	24	83	529.5
27	28	29	30	31		
January 2022						
3	4	5	6	7	87	555.5
10	11	12	13	14	92	588
17	18	19	20	21	96	614
24	25	26	27	28	101	646.5
31					102	653
February 2022						
	1	2	3	4	106	679
7	8	9	10	11	111	709.5
14	15	16	17	18	116	742
21	22	23	24	25	120	768
28					121	774.5
March 2022						
	1	2	3	4	125	796.5
7	8	9	10	11	130	827
14	15	16	17	18	135	861.5
21	22	23	24	25	140	894
28	29	30	31		144	918
April 2022						
				1	145	924.5
4	5	6	7	8	150	957
11	12	13	14	15	153	976.5
18	19	20	21	22	156	996
25	26	27	28	29	161	1028.5
May 2022						
2	3	4	5	6	166	1061
9	10	11	12	13	171	1093.5
16	17	18	19	20	176	1128
23	24	25	26	27	179	1145.5
30	30					
June 2022						
		1	2	3		
6	7	8	9	10		

August 16 New Teacher Orientation  
 August 17-20 Teacher Professional Learning  
 August 23 First Day of School  
 September 6 Labor Day (No School)  
 September 15 2-Hour Early Dismissal for (Teacher Professional Learning)  
 October 6 & 7 Parent-Teacher Conferences (2-Hour Early Dismissal)  
 October 8 No School  
 October 20 2-Hour Early Dismissal for (Teacher Professional Learning)  
 October 22 End of 1st Quarter (44 days)  
 Nov. 1 No School for Students (Teacher Professional Learning)  
 Nov. 24-26 No School (Thanksgiving Break)  
 Dec. 15 2-Hour Early Dismissal for (Teacher Professional Learning)  
 Dec. 22 End of 2nd Qtr/1st Sem (38 days/82 days)  
 Dec. 23-Jan. 2 No School (Winter Break)  
 Jan. 3 No School for Students (Teacher Professional Learning)  
 Jan. 4 Start of 2nd Semester  
 Jan. 17 No School (Teacher Professional Learning)  
 Feb. 9 2-Hour Early Dismissal for (Teacher Professional Learning)  
 Feb. 21 No School (President's Day)  
 March 2 & 3 Parent-Teacher Conferences (2-Hour Early Dismissal)  
 March 4 No School  
 March 11 End of 3rd Quarter (47 days)  
 March 14 Start of 4th Quarter  
 March 30 Professional Learning (2-Hour Early Dismissal)  
 April 14-19 No School  
 April 19 Teacher Professional Learning  
 May 25 End of 4th Qtr/2nd Sem (51 days/98 days)  
 May 26 Teacher Professional Learning  
 May 28 Graduation  
 May 30 Memorial Day



## Comet Curriculum - School of the Wild

### School of the Wild

Meyer shared a video from the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald in regard to the learning activities of the students:

[https://www.telegraphherald.com/news/tri-state/video\\_7676bd70-5fd9-52c6-97f7-3a6083beabb4.html](https://www.telegraphherald.com/news/tri-state/video_7676bd70-5fd9-52c6-97f7-3a6083beabb4.html)

The 5th grade students participated in "School of the Wild" recently. Our students were in one of the 19 districts across the state (out of about 330 total) who participated in this program. It was overwhelmingly successful for our students and their learning. The article below is from the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald, along with a video at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6siYF9oPMw>

Additionally, an overview was in last week's "Weekly Comet".

#### ***Outdoor parks serve as classroom for local students***

BY ALLIE HINGA

*MILES, Iowa – A group of Bellevue Elementary School fifth-graders stood at the water's edge with nets in hand on Thursday at Green Island Wildlife Management Area.*

*The fifth-graders swept their nets through the water, looking for frogs, snails and other creatures that would help them get a sense of the water's quality.*

*"We've gotten a lot of frogs," student Vanessa Steines said.*

*The Bellevue fifth-graders are spending their whole week learning in the outdoors as part of School of the Wild, a University of Iowa program being offered locally this month with the help of staff from Jackson County Conservation and area schools. Fifth-graders from the Easton Valley and Andrew school districts participated in the program last week, and students from the Maquoketa Community School District will attend next week.*

*Through the program, students get to know the parks in their community and connect with the environment.*

*"They need to be reconnected with their world, and unless they're in it, we can't do that," said Jennifer Meyer, a naturalist for Jackson County Conservation.*

*On Thursday, one group of students scooped small animals out of the water and into buckets, then was tasked with identifying and classifying them based on their pollution tolerance.*

*"This water is really good," fifth-grader Jalyn Heim said, noting that she and her classmates also tested the water for its pH, nitrates, nitrites and dissolved oxygen.*

*This week, the fifth-graders are spending several hours a day at Bellevue State Park, Felderman Park in Bellevue and at Green Island, located southeast of Bellevue. Their days include activities such as canoeing, nature walks, learning to build fires and shelters and testing water quality.*

*While many of the activities are based in science, students also practice other school disciplines through journaling and learning about the history of Bellevue State Park, said Jessica Wagner, environmental education coordinator for Jackson County Conservation.*

*"We want them to see the parks in the community," Wagner said. "We really hope that they come back and share this with their families."*

*Bellevue Elementary School Principal Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder said the program exposes the students to a multitude of opportunities they wouldn't normally have in the classroom.*

*"It was learning that they'll remember the rest of their lives," she said.*

*Fifth-grader Kenzingten Scheckel said that this week she has had the chance to hike and test water quality. Some of the lessons she has learned so far include the kinds of flowers she can eat and how to use a compass.*

*"It's fun because it's in, like, a different setting," she said. "I feel like you have a little bit more fun when you learn outdoors."*

### **Class of 2021**

**APPROVED** - Mr. Recker and Meyer recommended the following students to be recognized for graduation and receive a diploma, pending completing all graduation requirements.

Additionally, the following five students were approved for early graduation: Emma Daniel, Kaitlyn Heiar, Austin Holdgrafer, Kylee Putman, and Jordan Wenzel. They are also on this list.

	<b>FirstName</b>	<b>MiddleName</b>	<b>LastName</b>	<b>Suffix</b>
1	Zoe	Grace	Aschenbrenner	
2	Torrie	Mary	Back	
3	Maggie	Alyse	Bailey	
4	Jacob	Alexander	Bakey	
5	Tamera	Joyce	Booker	
6	Brandon	James	Bowman	
7	Emily	Ann	Bowman	
8	Riley	Craig	Bruggenwirth	
9	Emma	Marie	Daniel	
10	Derek	John	Davies	
11	Sydnee	Julia	Davis	
12	Alissa	Marie	Dearth	
13	Allan	Nick	Deppe	
14	Kenna	Jae	Duesing	
15	Gracie	Jane	Dunn	
16	Samuel	James	Dunne	
17	Allison	Kay	Eggers	
18	Ashton	Michael	Felderman	
19	Brady	Allen	Griebel	
20	Austin	Ray	Hager	
21	Kaitlyn	Le Anne	Heiar	
22	Macy	Anne	Heim	
23	Sofia	James	Hinke	
24	Austin	Robert	Holdgrafer	
25	Jadyn	Marie	Hurley	
26	Maxwel	Harold	Jackson	
27	Kayden	Lee	Kilburg	
28	Rebecca	May	Kilburg	

29	Ryan	John	Kilburg	II
30	Ryder	Joseph	Kilburg	
31	Tyler	Joseph	Kilburg	
32	Tyrelle	Edward	Kloser	
33	Isabel	Ann	Krabbenhof	
34	Arrianna	Monique	Kula	
35	Alexia	Mae	Nemmers	
36	Shayla	Elizabeth	Oster	
37	Teresa	May	Paulsen	
38	Juliana	Eve	Penniston	
39	Rylie	Lyn	Pickett	
40	Kylee	Kay	Putman	
41	Makenna	Jaye	Putman	
42	Jena	Camille	Rowan	
43	Wyatt	Kyle	Scheckel	
44	Maddie	Rae	Schmidt	
45	Dustyn	Ryan	Talbot	
46	Josie	Ray	Theisen	
47	Mariah	Christine	Tott	
48	Adrianna	Kay	Trenkamp	
49	Nalani	Lee	Waller	
50	Audrey	Marie	Wedeking	
51	Jordan	Noelle	Wenzel	
52	Allison	Faye	Wright	

## Approve Contract Settlement

**APPROVED** - The Bellevue Education Association agreed to the following proposal from the District. Below is the agreement for the 2021-2022 school year (and extending the contract language for two years), and I recommend we approve for all teachers.



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### **Tentative Agreement**

The District proposes the following:

\$230	Increase on Base
\$100	Increase on Extracurricular Base
\$50	Increase on the TSS Base
\$70	Increase on Family Insurance Contribution (\$250/month)

An Extra \$500 from the TSS Funds for all teachers (one-year only)

Total Package = 2.60%

Additionally, the BEA agreed to

### **Tentative Agreements made on April 26th:**

**Article XV E. Duration**

The Bellevue Community School District is proposing to keep all articles in the current contract except for the following exceptions:

1. The parties agree Article XVI Base Wages and Salaries including Appendix A and Appendix B shall be open to negotiate base wages.
2. Each party (Bellevue Education Association and the Bellevue Community School District) may open one language item each year provided the items have gone through the Labor Management Committee (Article VI D) process.

This agreement would begin on July 1, 2021 and would be in effect through June 30, 2023 (two years)

BEA Chief Negotiator:

*Jacyn Lee* 4/26/21

Superintendent:

*Tom Meyer* 4.26.21

This is a good agreement for both sides at this time I believe. A reminder is that the district only received approximately \$42,000 in "new money" this year.

Obviously this is a cost beyond that. Salary increase was only 0.86%, with insurance and other aspects leading to the 2.60% increase (plus an extra \$500 for teachers from the TSS Fund, which has to be used for teachers).

I will recommend at our Board meeting to approve this officially (after the Bellevue Education Association, presumably, ratifies it later this week). I will also recommend we approve all other contracts and agreements for the same rate.

Support Staff and Principals

I recommend we approve the same agreement of 2.6% for all support staff and principals.

**Approve Teaching Staff, Support Staff, and Principals**

**APPROVED** - Below is information in regard to the staff for the 2021-2022 school year, at this time.

**Bellevue Community School District  
Staffing 2021-2022**

<b>Elementary</b>				
PK	Sam Van Gorp	Alesha Ries	Trisha Pickett	
K	Amy Ernst	Rachael Griebel	Kelsey Ernst	
1st	Emily Reeg	Amanda Michels	Olivia Witte	
2nd	Britttni Decker	Mindy Stroud	Alex Wulfkuhle	
3rd	Josh Kueter	Sami Pitts		
4th	Nikki Decker	Tana Herrig		
5th	Makenna Christiansen	Tracey Till		
Title I	Kim Jochum			
Reading Specialist	Abby Veach			
Special Needs	Jodi Deppe	Dori Venema		
Elementary Counselor	Emily Rickertsen (0.80)			
Elementary Music	Victoria Schuler (General Music)	Evan Davies (5th Band)		
<b>Middle/High School</b>				
Business	Tracy Weber			
English Language Arts	Kristen Wright (est. 0.5 ELA/0.5 SS)	Natalie Torres	Rebecca Lahey	
Family & Consumer Science	Angie Feller			
Guidance	Scott Jess (+15 Days)			
Industrial Tech	Mike Marshall			
Math	Judy Michels	Adam Smith	Pam Van Vleck (6th)	
Physical Education/Health	Mark Ruden (K-12)	Chet Knake		
Reading/Special Education	Jennie Michels (est. 0.5)			
Science	Matt Cook	Craig Reuter	Pam Van Vleck	
Social Studies	Dave Ripperger	Matt Jaeger (BIG)	Dave Wright (SS .2)	Kristen Wright
Spanish	Erica Theisen			
Special Needs	Rick Casel (At-Risk)* (est. 0.88/0.12)	Jodi Heim	Jennifer Meyer	
	Jace Ohlert	Kendra Baker	Jennie Michels (est. 0.5)	
Vocational Agriculture	Blair Bodkins (+20 days)			
Vocal Music	Jake Huntley			
Band	Evan Davies			

<b>Shared (K-12)</b>				
Art	Jesse Bakey			
Gifted/Talented	Curt Ernst (TLC)			
PE	Mark Ruden			
Teacher-Librarian	Heather Wood			
School Nurse	Kelley Humphrey			
<b>Teacher Leadership Coaches</b>				
STEP/Instructional Coach	Curt Ernst (STEM)	Cris Kellogg (STEM)	Jessica Hingtgen (Curriculum)	Matt Jaeger (0.5)
Model Teachers	Emily Reeg (K-1)	Mindy Stroud (2-3)	Tracey Till (4-5)	Mark Ruden - PE/Art
	Kristen Wright - English	Adam Smith - Math	Pam Van Vleck - Science	Tracy Weber - CTE

**Bellevue Community School District  
Staffing 2021-2022**

<b>HS Coaches &amp; Sponsors</b>			
Athletic Director	Dave Wright (+10 days)		
HS Baseball	Pete Bonifas		
HS Baseball Asst	Jake Schaefer		
V Basketball (B)	Chet Knake		
HS Basketball Asst (B)	Tim Roth	Cord Heim	
V Basketball (G)	Scott Jess		
HS Basketball Asst (G)	Josh Kueter	Matt Wedeking	
HS Bowling (B)	Riley Till/Randy Weber		
HS Bowling (G)	Mark Ruden		
Cross Country (G/B)	Scott Jess		
Cross Country Asst (if need)	Michael Steines		
V Football	Chet Knake (Co-Head)	Matt Jaeger (Co-Head)	
HS Football Asst	Mark Ruden	Steve Nemmers	
B Golf	Chet Knake		
G Golf	Mark Ruden		
V Softball	Jamie Deering		
HS Softball Asst	Carli LaCoursiere	TBD - Alyssa Klawitter	
HS Track (B)	Scott Jess		
HS Track (G)	Judy Michels		
HS Track Asst	Michael Steines		
HS Track Asst (if needed)	TBD		
V Volleyball	Jodi Heim		
HS Volleyball Asst			
V Wrestling	David Ripperger		
V Wrestling Asst	Patrick Bauer		
MS Basketball (B/G)	Rick Casel	Pete Bonifas (B)	Dave Wright (G)
MS Baseball	Rick Casel		
MS Football	Rick Casel	Matt Cook	
MS Track (B)	Matt Jaeger		
MS Track (G)	Jessica Hingtgen		
MS Softball	Dennis "Bud" Schroeder		
MS Volleyball			



MS Speech	Kristen Wright		
MS Student Council	Jennie Michels		
MS Wrestling	Cole Prichard		
Band	Evan Davies		
HS Cheerleading	Heather Merrick (0.5)	Rebecca Lahey (0.5)	
Class Sponsors	Rotation of Staff - Srs: Ohlert/Smith	Jrs: Cook/K. Wright	Soph: Lahey/Torres
HS Dance	Ashley Olsen		
HS FBLA	Tracy Weber		
FFA	Blair Bodkins		
HS Musical	Jake Huntley		
HS Musical Assistant	Kristen Wright		
National Honor Society	Kristen Wright		
Newspaper	Kristen Wright		
HS Speech	Pam Van Vleck (0.5)	Natalie Torres (0.5)	

HS Quiz Bowl	Adam Smith		
HS Student Council	Adam Smith		
Vocal Music	Jake Huntley		
HS Yearbook	Kristen Wright		
Athletic Trainer	Nicole Schaefer		
Weight Room Coord.	Matt Jaeger		
Robotics	Pam Van Vleck		Mike Marshall

<b>Office Secretaries</b>			
Bellevue Elementary Office	Karla Weinschenk		
Bellevue MS/HS Office	Nicole Schaefer		
Bellevue CSD Central Office	Rhonda Roth		
<b>Supervisors/Directors</b>			
	Tim Roth (Transportation)	Brett Ernst (Maintenance)	
	Jessica Bormann (Food Service)		
<b>Custodians</b>			
Bellevue Elem	Bob Kilburg		
Bellevue Elementary (some MS/HS)	Jeff Kilburg		
Bellevue MS/HS	James Cavanaugh		
<b>Food Service</b>			
Cooks	Dianna Valanat	Kathy Ohlert	
	Jody Tebbe	Mary Lou Gerlach	
<b>Transportation (Bus, etc.)</b>			
	Joe Daugherty	Duane Sprank	Brett Ernst (PM)
	Larry Kepple	Randy Feller	Gary Hansen
	Tim Roth	Mary Jo Meier (S.E.)	Brent Roling
<b>Associates</b>			
	Barb Deppe	Mary Jo Meier	Jill Ruggeberg
	Beth Norpel	Paquita Ditzler	Lacey Van Zuiden
	Brandi Bailey	Tami Purvis	Allison Ernst
	Heather Merrick	Iris Davies	Lauri Feller
	Heidi Kueter	Carli LaCoursiere	Jane Steines
	Pete Bonifas	Trish Kilburg	
<b>Business Manager</b>			
	Penny Medinger		
<b>Building Principals</b>			
	Elementary Principal	Jeanette Hartung-Schroeder	
	MS/HS Principal	Jeff Recker	



## Fees for the 2021-2022 School Year

**APPROVED** - Below is a summary of recommendations for fees for the 2021-2022 school year, along with the "trends" of fees over the last several years. A Summary of Costs for the 21-22 school year is below:

### Increase of Instructional Materials Fees

- **Grades 9-12**           \$70 to \$75
- **Grades 6-8**           \$60 to \$65
- **Grades 3-5**           \$55 to \$60
- **Grades K-2**           \$50 to \$55
- **PK (3-year old)** \$350 to \$375 (this is still only about \$3.25/hour)
  - *\*Reminder: There is no cost for 4-year old preschool as it is partially funded by the state.*
- **Grades TK**           \$35 - Staying the same

### Computer Fee

- **1:1 Computer Fee** \$45 - \$50 (our costs have not been as high this year, but we are replacing computers annually for two grades, plus a rotation at the 11th and 12th grade level every 5 years approximately)

### Activity Fees

- **Activities Summary of Changes:**
  - Increasing all *HS sports at the Varsity Level* to \$5 for both adults and students for all schools in the River Valley Conference. Some other changes are the following:
  - Increasing the cost of *MS track* to \$5 for adults, with other events at the MS level remaining the same.
  - Increasing the *Family Pass* to \$200. Some reading to this is that a family of 4 would cost \$20/event...therefore, they would "pay for this" after attending 10 home events (this would include all levels from MS to HS).
  - A typical year has the following amount of events high school events (recognize this does not include JV, F/S, or MS)
    - Football                   4-5 games
    - Volleyball                5-6 games
    - Basketball               10-12 games
    - Track                      2-4 meets
    - Baseball/Softball       10-12 gaems
    - Wrestling                 2-4 meets
    - **Total**                   **33-43 events**

*\*The increase at the school levels is due to bringing in about \$30,000 for each building, and spending about \$60,000 for each building. The trend had been that more funds were spent at the high school, but recently more funds have been spent at the elementary level from books, software, and other materials. etc.*

Food Service/Nutrition

- We are not raising most prices, but the one we are is for the adult lunch where we must raise it to \$3.95/meal based on federal requirements. Right now the USDA plans on offering free meals for all of next school year (which we get reimbursed for).

**A summary of proposed/recommended fees are the following:**

	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12	FY11	FY10
<b>EDUCATION:</b>	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day	8 blocks:6/day
Instructional Materials Fee - Gr 9-12	\$75.00	\$70.00	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00
Instructional Materials Fee - Gr 6-8	\$65.00	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Instructional Materials Fee - Gr 3-5	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Instructional Materials Fee - Gr K-2	\$55.00	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
1:1 Computing Fee	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$40.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
PK Tuition/semester 3-yr olds	\$375.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$330.00	\$320.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
PK Tuition/semester 4-yr olds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Instructional Materials Fee - Gr TK (if not 5 yrs old by 9/15)	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Instructional Materials Fee - Gr TK (if 5 yrs old by 9/15)	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Date Changed:	5/10/21	5/11/20	5/13/19	5/14/18	5/8/17	5/11/16	5/11/15	5/12/14	5/13/13	5/7/12	5/9/11	5/10/10	4/13/09
Elem in-town Transportation-to/from daycares only													
per ride (x2 if 2 rides/day)	not offered	not offered	not offered	not offered	not offered	not offered	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.00				
Date Changed:	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5/11/16	6/8/15	6/9/14					
Yearbook		\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$50.00	\$45.00	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$45.00
engraving 1-line		\$6.25	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$5.45
MS Yearbook				\$5.00									
Elementary Yearbook				\$8.00									
Library Fines													
Music Instrument Rental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Drivers Ed	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$370.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$340.00
Date Changed:	7/13/20	6/10/19	10/8/18	10/9/17	10/10/16	10/19/15	10/13/14	5/12/14					
<b>NONPUBLIC: ***per class/hour taken for 1 complete year; divide by 2 for semester</b>													
Bookrent-High School (9-12)	\$9.38	\$8.75	\$7.50	\$6.88	\$6.25	\$5.63	\$5.63	\$5.63	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Bookrent - Gr 6-8	\$8.13	\$7.50	\$6.88	\$6.25	\$5.63	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$4.38	\$4.38	\$4.38	\$4.38	\$4.38
Bookrent - Gr 3-5	\$8.57	\$7.86	\$7.14	\$6.43	\$5.71	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$4.29	\$4.29	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75
Bookrent-Elementary (K-2)	\$7.86	\$7.14	\$6.43	\$5.71	\$5.00	\$4.29	\$4.29	\$4.29	\$3.57	\$3.57	\$3.13	\$3.13	\$3.13
<b>NUTRITION:</b>													
Milk	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.35	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Breakfast-Std	\$1.70	\$1.70	\$1.70	\$1.65	\$1.65	\$1.60	\$1.50	\$1.50	1.40	1.25	1.25	1.15	1.15
Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	\$0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
Breakfast-Adult	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.20	\$2.15	\$2.15	\$2.10	\$2.00	\$2.00	1.85	1.60	1.60	1.50	1.50
Lunch PK-5	\$2.80	\$2.80	\$2.70	\$2.65	\$2.60	\$2.50	\$2.40	\$2.40	2.25	2.10	2.00	1.85	1.85
Lunch 6-12	\$2.85	\$2.85	\$2.75	\$2.70	\$2.65	\$2.60	\$2.50	\$2.50	2.35	2.20	2.10	1.95	1.95
Reduced Lunch	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
Lunch Adult	\$3.95	\$3.85	\$3.75	\$3.70	\$3.65	\$3.60	\$3.50	\$3.50	3.35	3.10/2.75	2.65	2.50	2.50
Extra Dish	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.70	\$1.65	\$1.65	\$1.60	\$1.50	\$1.50	1.40	1.25	1.25	1.10	1.10





## Driver's Education

**APPROVED** - The Iowa Legislature is in the processing of potentially passing legislation this session in regard to Driver's Ed. The bill affects Parent Taught driver education. It has moved on to the Senate for final approval before being sent to the Governor. Currently, homeschooling parents may apply with the DOT to teach their children driver education. If passed, this bill would extend this provision to allow all parents to work directly with the DOT to provide driver education for their child. If this passes, our district will still be **required** to provide or make available driver education for students.

Our current Driver's Education course has went well from my perspective. The charge to students is \$370 for the session, and this price has remained the same since 2013 (not much has remained the same over that time span!). Some specific information in regard to some costs for the district.

1. The district gets reimbursed for gas from the AEA annually.
2. The district does pay for all students enrolled who qualify through the state for Free/Reduced Meals. This total is paid by the school district \$370 for "free" and about \$150 for reduced.

Another change is that the "classes with the instructor" will now all be online with a Driver's Education teacher. This is a change since COVID-19, and one that will make it more convenient for parents and students as they will not have to bring students into class at our school. The class, both currently and in the future, does not count toward graduation credit or on a student's grade-point-average.

I recommend we approve this agreement with the Mississippi Bend AEA (as we must provide this service as a school district).

## Summer Work and Facilities

Meyer provided an overview of some of the planned work for the summer, and also open some time up for a discussion on future facilities that we discussed at our last meeting.

Some of the plans for the summer include the following:

- Moving furniture back into classrooms that was removed as a result of COVID-19 and providing space for students.
- Hallway/Classroom cleaning, etc.
- MS Classroom lights and ceiling tile being removed and replaced (future windows)
- Therapeutic rooms being added/modified in some special education classrooms in the district.
- We have also added cameras to both gyms.

Meyer sent a previous public document with some of the prior diagrams for our buildings and an overview of our property at or near the MS/HS Campus. The board will discuss this at the regular June Board of Education Meeting.

Also, below are dates for future elections:

2021 - Odd Year	2022 - Even Year	2023 - Odd Year
<b>March – 1st Tuesday</b> March 2, 2021	<b>March – 1st Tuesday</b> March 1, 2022	<b>March – 1st Tuesday</b> March 7, 2023
<b>September – 2nd Tuesday</b> Sept. 14, 2021	<b>September – 2nd Tuesday</b> Sept. 13, 2022	<b>September – 2nd Tuesday</b> Sept. 12, 2023
<b>November - 1st Tuesday after 1st Monday</b> November 2, 2021		<b>November - 1st Tuesday after 1st Monday</b> November 7, 2023

Review of Financial Options for Construction

General Obligation Bond Funds with a 60%+1 vote:

- \$2.70 GO Bond \$12.5 million
- \$4.05 GO Bond \$19 million

PPEL with board approval, and no vote or public hearing needed

- \$1.34 PPEL \$3.5 million

SAVE with board approval, and a public hearing

- 20 Years \$4.2 million

Some scenarios include the following:

- GO \$2.70 vote and SAVE \$16.7 million
- GO \$.270 vote with PPEL \$16 million

Recognize the following:

- These are estimates (our enrollment also impacts the SAVE...higher enrollment = more funds)
- We also have other needs that we use SAVE and PPEL for, including roofs, building needs, and future building needs (Ag/STEM building, upgrades to current buildings and facilities overall)

Meyer expressed his belief for the need to establish a “visual” where facilities will be located in the future. A key component is recognizing “where these additions are located” in the future, with a clear plan and “map for the future.”

Meyer believes there is a need for a new **Bellevue Elementary** in the future, along with the following:

- **Ag Room** (possibly with **STEM** or even **Industrial Tech** upgrades in the future)
- Potentially moving the **Industrial Tech and Bus Barn** to make room for other upgrades
- **Music/Art Room**

- **Other**

Another consideration to keep in mind in regard to a new elementary school is to add a **daycare to it on-site** (either as part of the building, or a separate building across the parking lot, etc.). The benefit of having it on-site is the convenience aspect for our parents when dropping off students for school.

Some people have also mentioned the following (these are only some, and some are likely inadvertently left off of this list) as "desires" to be included:

- Auditorium
- Recreation Center (collaboratively with the City of Bellevue), including an indoor pool, indoor track, weightroom, VB/BB Courts, etc. There may be some partnerships available with the city or other entities for this type of vision and plan.
- New Competition Gym
- Music Room/Athletic Practice Area (separate building)

These are obviously a little more "visionary" as a whole, and some would say a huge "wish list" but it is worth noting.

Do we want to meet at some point in regard to "planning areas" and reviewing documents of our facilities? Or, meet at our June meeting.

### **Courses and Activities for the 2021-2022 School Year**

Meyer shared information in regard to River Valley Conference updates (that I know at the time), district football, and courses for next school year.

#### River Valley Conference

Some basic updates from the RVC are the following:

- North Cedar is planning to leave the conference for the Tri-Rivers Conference, which will be in effect for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The River Valley Conference (RVC) has also had interest expressed from Maquoketa and Beckman expressing interest in joining the RVC in the future.
- The RVC believes they would like to stay together as a conference in the future, with the same divisional settings of North and South. A breakdown of this is the following:
- North: Bellevue, Northeast, Camanche, Cascade, Monticello, Anamosa
  - Maquoketa and Beckman would join the North division, with another team possibly being sought for the South.
- South: Durant, Wilton, Tipton, West Liberty, West Branch, Durant, Iowa City Regina
- Maquoketa and Beckman anticipate applying for membership by September 1, 2021, with them joining the conference in the 2022-2023 school year.
- There is some discussion about volleyball only being divisional games, then a division only tournament at the end of the season. It is important to recognize that volleyball has a lot of Saturday tournaments, and that it is much different than a basketball schedule (see the next item).

- There is also some discussion about having basketball being divisional games (play each other home and away) only, and allowing for some other non-conference games for teams from the other division. This would allow for more non-conference games that may be within a shorter travel distance, larger gates, or more advantageous in other areas for the teams.
- \$5 admission for all varsity events in the RVC (adults and students would be the same price, and not the \$5 and \$4 split that we currently have).

Football Schedule for Fall 2021

August 27	at Northeast
September 3	Starmont
September 10	at North Linn
September 17	Maquoketa Valley (Delhi)
September 24	North Cedar - <b>Homecoming</b>
October 1	at East Buchanan
October 8	at South Winneshiek (Calmar)
October 15	Clayton Ridge - <b>Senior Night</b>

\*The schedule for next year will be the same (corresponding Fridays), but at opposite locations.

Sharing between the Bellevue Community School District and Marquette Catholic

The Bellevue CSD proposed the following changes to the "sharing agreement" to Marquette Catholic recently (after the April 2021 school board meeting), along with having discussion with some of the Marquette Catholic representatives. Ultimately, the sharing proposal was to share/make available ALL courses at the Bellevue CSD to Marquette Catholic, along with sharing ALL extracurricular and co-curricular activities, with the Bellevue CSD being responsible for all costs of the activities (officials, transportation - drivers, fuel, etc. - equipment, staffing costs, and other related costs).

During the 2020-2021 school year, classes and activities were not shared by the Bellevue CSD due to COVID-19 (except for Marching Band at the start of the school year). During this time it became clear that learning can happen virtually for students (anytime/anywhere), and that it is important to provide learning opportunities for students enrolled full-time in the Bellevue CSD. The option to take online courses from another entity was utilized by Marquette, and it was stated this went well for their students during a recent meeting. Additionally, this allows our school system to provide more support, time, and energy to students in classes without the enrollment of "shared-time" students from an independent school system.

The following document/proposal was shared with Marquette:





#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Tom Meyer  
Phone: 563.872.4001 ext. 260  
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#### **OFFICERS**

Kevin Lundin  
President  
Penny Medinger  
Secretary/Treasurer

#### **DIRECTORS**

Janet Sieverding Vice President  
Allysen Bonifas Member  
Martha Henning Member  
Mike Reed Member

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1601 State St. | Bellevue, IA 52031 | 563.872.4001 | [www.bellevue.k12.ia.us](http://www.bellevue.k12.ia.us)

**BELLEVUE COMETS**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Overview

The Bellevue Community School District is open to sharing courses and more with students from Marquette Catholic. The Bellevue CSD will share any course with students from Marquette Catholic, but this sharing is dependent on sharing all athletic and other extracurricular programs (to be hosted by the Bellevue CSD) in future years.

While the Bellevue CSD has provided courses for Marquette Catholic in previous years, it appears that a change in the partnership is necessary in order to continue this in the future for the enhancement and furtherance of key educational opportunities for students within our entire community.

### Benefits to Both Schools

The district believes the sharing of extracurricular programs will be beneficial to both schools in preparing them at a high-quality level whether it is in the Arts, Athletics, or other similar areas. Some specifics include the following:

- Unite the community in the long run with one high school team in the community.
  - Brings "one high school team for each sport" to our community.
- Increase in participation numbers to field teams at all levels.
  - Larger and more successful teams may bring in more coaches, increase revenue (spectators, etc.).
  - This may also lead to being more competitive and higher achieving levels of excellence than either school is capable of individually at times.
  - Allows students to play at the "level of competition" that is appropriate for them and their talent level, grade level, or age.
    - Students being forced to play varsity before they are physically or mentally ready to do this is an issue in many activities at high schools throughout the state.
- One consistent team for all youth to participate in, along with potentially strengthening youth programs.
- Less "fundraising" commitments for local businesses with only one set of high school teams to support.



## Superintendent Evaluation

Meyer shared the evaluation document for the Superintendent Evaluation at the meeting. The evaluation will occur at the June meeting in closed session, unless members want it to be open (it does not matter to me). This is the typical time we have had the evaluation of the superintendent.

## Information Items

### Prom and Graduation Updates

- Prom:
  - Meyer provided an overview of Prom at the meeting, and some potential future changes with both the structure of Prom and After-Prom
- Graduation:
  - We are starting to reserve seats for people who will be attending graduation (Families: specifically parents, grandparents, and siblings - including potential spouses of siblings). At one point we were going to limit it to this number, but are now allowing anyone to attend, but we will seat parents, grandparents, and siblings of graduates together. Masks will be required, but social distancing will be limited (although we will have families, as described earlier, sit together).
  - Also, let me know if you are planning on attending graduation at 4:00 on Saturday, May 29. I would like board members who are going to attend to be here no later than 3:45.

### Book Donation

- Meyer was contacted by a family in town who donated \$700 for the district to purchase books (equal between the two buildings). The person who contacted me stated that it was part of the families funds they received in their stimulus payment, and wanted to give it back to the "public" entities in our community. The family does not want their name shared.

### Safety Precautions 2021-2022

- Meyer shared some thoughts on next year's safety precautions, and his hopes to be back to relatively "normal" classrooms for next August when students return, and no requirement to wear masks. But...this could also change and be adapted based on conditions. But, the district is going to move items back into classrooms (plan at this time). We will seek guidance from the health department, etc.

### Legislative Updates

- Meyer shared a few legislative updates and the importance of contacting legislators.

## Comments from Building Principals, Superintendent, and Board Members

- Jeanette spoke about the Elementary Field Day and multiple class field trips in May.
- Jeff spoke about schedules for next year and the business of this time of year for all students.

- Meyer shared information and reminded people about the Bellevue BIG Exhibit Night on Wednesday from 5:30-7:00 at the Button Factory, an article in Food Management about the aquaponics program and their partnership with Mill Valley Care Center. Meyer also shared information about Tractorcade that will utilize the MS/HS Parking Areas as a "home base" from June 6-9.

**Adjourn**

Next meeting is on June 14, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

# AMANDA MICHELS

30218 398<sup>th</sup> Ave. Bellevue, IA 52031 amichels@dbqschools.edu 563-599-4585

## EXPERIENCE

**AUGUST, 2006 – CURRENT**

**FIRST GRADE TEACHER, DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT | DUBUQUE, IA**

- Create and adapt lesson plans and classroom work to meet students' individual needs.
- Create instructional materials appropriate for students with wide range of mental, physical and emotional maturities.
- Provide a comfortable, inviting classroom that supports all students.
- Demonstrate sound work ethics, reliability, dedication, cooperation and responsibility.
- Display kindness and concern for all students, helping to build self-esteem.
- Design lesson plans and instructional material conforming to current state and district standards.
- Utilize the 5 essential reading components in daily instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.
- Maintain a standards-based report card, documenting grades and progress towards the standards.
- Establish and maintain relationships with students, parents and staff.
- Communicate student progress and areas needing improvement to parents during parent conferences.
- Work with district teachers in math lesson study groups to incorporate cognitively guided instruction elements within daily lessons.
- Work closely with special education teachers to align specially designed instruction with core instruction.
- Utilize MTSS framework to provide targeted support to struggling students, academically and behavioral.
- Work weekly in a grade-alike PLC group (professional learning community).
- Utilize formal and informal assessments, including FAST, Observation Survey and running records

**AUGUST 2002 – JUNE 2006**

**FIRST GRADE TEACHER, HANFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT | HANFORD, CA**

## EDUCATION

**MAY 2002**

**BACHELOR'S DEGREE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**

Double major in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. Member of Kappa Delta Pi.

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

- Assessment for Learning with Carol Commodore
- Teacher's College Writing Project
- Math Lesson Study with CGI training
- FASTBRIDGE Math and Reading
- Iowa Reading Research Center: Small Group, Skills-Based Instruction
- Iowa Reading Research Center: Effective Literacy Instruction
- Pint-Sized Science Initiative

## **CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY**

- Bridges in Mathematics
- Bridges in Mathematics Intervention Kit
- ST Math
- Imagine It! Phonics
- LEAD 21 Reading
- Fastbridge Word Boxes
  
- Fastbridge Word Mix-Up
- LEXIA Core 5
- Daily 5 & CAFE
- Seesaw
- Screencast-O-Matic
- Pint Size Science

# Sami Pitts

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Bellevue, IA 52031

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## Mission Statement

I am a motivated team builder who is ready to make a difference in our local community. I have a love for learning and implementing new strategies to help students succeed. I am willing to try new things, work to meet each student at their independent level, and propel them forward in their own learning.

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## Highlights and Experience

### Andrew Community School | 1st Grade Teacher

August 2018 - Present | Andrew, IA

Foster a safe and calm environment for learning. Keeping the classroom positive, clean, and upbeat.

Collaborate with students in small groups to gain knowledge to their personal interests and build learning around preferred topics.

Give students choice in learning environments while holding each student to high expectations.

Plan and deliver daily instruction connected to the Iowa Core while crossing subject areas for more enriched lessons.

Fluent in instructional strategies and interventions to propel student achievement, while adjusting instruction and graphing students progress. I focus on academics and social-emotional needs. I use and am fluent in 95%, Press, FCRR, Spire, Heggerty, Number Sense Intervention, Numeracy Project, Kathy Richardson, Math Best Practices, AIM and currently registering for Orton Gillingham.

Use Daily 5, Engaging Readers By Deanna Jump, Illustrative Mathematics, and Mystery Science multiple times per week.

Plan and implement hands-on lessons, linked to first grade standards that foster predicting, creating, building and writing while working with peers.

Implemented district computer programs and track student progress to help all students reach their highest ability. Currently using Lexia Core 5 and Happy Numbers. Use Canvas to keep all students connected during Covid to the classroom. Students can access lessons, post responses, have small groups, and access all materials needed.

Collaborate with my teaching partner daily to maintain the best instruction for all students. Participate in coaching rounds with the Instructional Coach.

Meet with the grade levels above and below to keep an open line of communication and stay vertically aligned.

Lead the weekly PLC for preschool-first grade. Plan, group, and assign groups for each WIN time round to all other teachers involved in cross grade sharing for PK through 2nd grade.

Communicate with parents weekly via letter, email, Facebook and/or Canvas.

Implement The Leader In Me to help build the whole child

Guided students in the goal setting process. I help to set meaningful goals, monitor progress and help students reach their full potential while teaching time management, priorities and life skills.



# Beyond the Blue

## **Recognizing Bellevue Community School District Graduates**

On Friday, May 28 the Bellevue Community School District will host its 4th Annual "Beyond the Blue" recognition for Bellevue High School graduates for their accomplishments after graduation.

**Inductees this year include the following:**

**Steve Griebel - 1996**

**Nancy Kieffer (Roling) - 1982**

**Greg Schulte - 1973**

**Art Sunleaf - 1985**

All friends, relatives, classmates, community members and others are welcome to attend the social hour at the Old Button Factory, Lower Level at 6 p.m., with a program and recognition at 7 p.m.

These individuals were selected by the Beyond the Blue Committee in January of 2020, but did not have the opportunity to have a recognition event. As a result, the committee is honoring these Bellevue HS graduates in 2021 and held all nominations for this year until selection again in January of 2022. These candidates were selected from an outstanding pool of graduates who were nominated based on their outstanding contributions to society in a variety of areas.

The "Mission of Beyond the Blue is to recognize graduates who have impacted society in a positive manner through their outstanding accomplishments and contributions."

After seeking nominations over the last year, the four nominees were selected from a pool of applicants for their outstanding contributions to society in a variety of areas. The "Mission of Beyond the Blue is to recognize graduates who have impacted society in a positive manner through their outstanding accomplishments and contributions."





A Bellevue, Iowa, high school aquaponics program uses grant money to raise catfish and use the waste to nourish plants.

NEWS & TRENDS > SENIOR DINING

## Viewpoint: Senior dining food service and high school students team up for growth opportunities

Chef Chad Myers of Mill Valley Care Center got curious when a teacher from his old hometown high school began showing up at the nursing home with incredibly fresh greens: first basil, then lettuce and more.

Tara Fitzpatrick | May 10, 2021

What used to be a trend has now become the standard. Whether you want to call it “farm to table” or “buying local,” sourcing ingredients responsibly and sustainably is the standard that every kitchen leader should adopt. Even in situations where the chef may be contracted with a small number of purveyors and locked into what is accessible, finding opportunities to get top-notch ingredients is something that I find to be an important part of feeding people responsibly.

Related: [Stories from the front lines: An Iowa senior dining chef's story of creatively caring for residents and staff during the coronavirus crisis](#)

Recently one of these opportunities presented themselves to me. I'm a chef at Mill Valley Care Center in Bellevue, Iowa. [editor's note: at the time of publication, Chad has accepted a new position at a different senior living facility in Iowa]. A teacher at the local high school reached out to me and asked me if I wanted some fresh basil. I said, “Of course,” and he brought it to me. I didn't really know how they grew it, but didn't ask any questions at that time. Then a few weeks later he asked me if I wanted some lettuce and kale. Now, my ears perked up, and I had to ask how they are accomplishing this at school. It's the same high school I went to, and we definitely weren't growing produce back when I was in school.

**“EVEN IN SITUATIONS WHERE THE CHEF MAY BE CONTRACTED WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF PURVEYORS AND LOCKED INTO WHAT IS ACCESSIBLE, FINDING OPPORTUNITIES TO GET TOP-NOTCH INGREDIENTS IS SOMETHING THAT I FIND TO BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF FEEDING PEOPLE RESPONSIBLY.”**

—CHAD MYERS, CHEF AT MILL VALLEY CARE CENTER

and what's involved. I took a tour and learned all about their operation.

The aquaponics program is through the Bellevue Big Program, which is a program designed for learning independence and responsibility. It teaches the students to manage their time correctly and gets them ready for the real world. They want the program to be heavily involved with the community and for the students to feel like they are in a real-life job situation.

The program began in 2016 with a small group of students exploring their passions and receiving core high school credits in a non-traditional environment. They had the local Department of Natural Resources (DNR) giving them about 100 catfish at the beginning of each year to release in the spring. The DNR helped them set up all the equipment and they decided to do tons of research and learn about aquaponics. They got grants to help pay for the equipment, and slowly started to experiment with growing produce. The program raises both the fish for nature and produces the food that they sell to me. I have gotten kale, basil, lettuce and fresh dill. They are currently growing some watercress, which I am very excited to use here at Mill Valley.

**"IT'S THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL I WENT TO, AND WE DEFINITELY WEREN'T GROWING PRODUCE BACK WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL."**

—CHAD MYERS, CHEF AT MILL VALLEY CARE CENTER

The aquaponics system is set up in various sections; the first section is the fish tank



that the fish produce in the water. Then from the grow bed the water flows through another PVC pipe back into the fish tank. This cycle repeats itself while the system is pumping water.

The long-term goal for the program is to have a partnership with a restaurant or other food service provider within the community. They want to make it mutually beneficial for the program and the business. I think this is a fantastic program, and I know that as long as I have the ability to utilize this program, I will be the biggest supporter of them.

*Chad Myers is a chef at Mill Valley Care Center, a nursing home with 40 residents and an assisted living side with about 18 tenants just nine blocks away from where he lives with his family in the small Iowa town of Bellevue. A longtime country club chef, Myers switched to senior dining and hasn't looked back. He specializes in down-home Midwestern cuisine through his own fine-dining lens.*