

The Weekly Comet Update

From Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

Believe in the Blue! Believe in Learning! Believe in Bellevue!

NO School and Early Dismissal Dates

- February 12-15 - No School
- April 2-6 - No School (Spring Break)

Last Day of School for the 2020-2021 School Year

At this time, the last day of school for students is scheduled for Friday, May 28. This could change based on future days with no school. The Iowa Department of Education and the State of Iowa requires students to attend school for 1080 hours annually. The Bellevue CSD was originally scheduled for 1146 hours, based on the traditional amount of 180 school days in our district, with each full-day being utilized for 6.5 hours of instruction/day.

At this point, we have had one day with an early dismissal (January 25), one day with a late start (February 9), along with three days of no school:

- January 26
- February 4
- February 5

As a result, our total amount of hours has decreased to 1122.5 hours, but still 42.5 hours over the limit at this time.

As I mentioned, there may be some changes to the school schedule, but at this time the district still plans to end the school year on Friday, May 28.

Winter Weather Alerts

If weather conditions dictate an unplanned late-start, early-dismissal, or a day with no school this will be e-mailed to parents, placed on social media (Facebook and Twitter), along with on media outlets KCRG, KWWL, KWQC. Additionally, it will be on the Maquoketa radio station and Dubuque radio stations. On days with no-school this decision is typically made before 6:00 AM (6:15 at the latest).

Staff Member Highlight



This week's Comet staff member highlighted is Natalie Torres, who is a secondary English Language Arts Teacher. Some specific highlights about her include the following:

- Natalie entered the field of teaching after being inspired into this career from her mother, (who is also an English teacher), and knew from a very young age that she wanted to become a teacher.
- Natalie finds her daily interactions with students is the most fulfilling part of teaching, as she enjoys seeing students connect the content to their own lives.
- Natalie lives in Dubuque with her husband, as they moved to a location that is approximately half-way between her family in Ames and his family in Chicago. Natalie also has a brother-in-law from Spain.

Student Learning



6th-Grade Students Traveling to Mars; 1st Grade Students making Valentine's Day Cards for Mill Valley Residents.

BELLEVUE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS by the NUMBERS

"The primary aim of education is not to enable students to do well in school, but to assist them to do well in their lives outside of school."

9.6 Enrollment Percent Increase in Bellevue CSD enrollment since 2015

22.4 Percent Increase in Bellevue Elementary enrollment since 2015

40.0 Percent Increase in Bellevue Preschool enrollment since 2015

Technology

700+ The amount of student devices for students in Bellevue Elementary and Bellevue Middle/High School

380+ Chromebooks and Macbooks sent home with students each day for their learning

300+ Student Chromebooks and iPads at Bellevue Elementary School

Course Offerings

70+ Number of college courses and programs available to students during an average school year for both high school and college credit.

140+ High School Courses offered at Bellevue High School, including: Art, Business Education/Computer Science, Driver's Education, English/Language Arts, Family and Consumer Science, Foreign Language, Health and Physical Education, Industrial Technology, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Studies, Special Education, and Vocational Agriculture

College Courses

1300+ College course credits completed annually by Bellevue High School Students

400+ College courses completed annually

18 Average College Credits earned by Bellevue High School Graduates

77 Percentage of Bellevue High School students receiving an "A" or "B" in college courses

3.17 GPA in College Courses by Bellevue High School Students

0 Dollars it costs students to take online courses while a student at the Bellevue CSD.

Graduation Rate

98+ Percent of students who graduate from high school in four years at the Bellevue CSD.

91 Statewide Graduation Average Percent

ACT Scores

100 Percent of students required to take the ACT at Bellevue High School

\$0 Cost for students and families to take the ACT (The Bellevue Community School District pays for all fees)

22.1 Average ACT score over the last 5 years in relation to the state average number of students taking the ACT

21.7 Average State ACT Score

Miles Traveled

105,000 Miles traveled by school transportation annually for bus routes and student activities

Meals Served

100,000 Lunches served to students each year

17,000 Breakfast meals served annually to students



