

# The Weekly Comet

From Dr. Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

## Upcoming Events, Early Dismissals, and "No School" Days

- Jan. 15 - No School for students - MLK Jr. Day
- Feb. 14 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
- February 19 - President's Day - No School
- March 6 & 7 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- March 8 - No School
- March 20 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
- March 29-April 2 - No School for Students - Spring Break

## 8th Grade Industrial Tech



Matt Cook shared some of the activities and learning he has started this year with a new exploratory for 8th-grade students in Industrial Technology. Matt has a Science degree and vast experience in construction and related topics. With the importance of CTE overall, it was determined that we needed to add an "exploratory" for all 8th-grade students to expose them to the Industrial Tech building where Mr. Marshall offers courses in his full schedule of students. Matt shared the work students participate in from reading a tape measure, working with the the chop saw and band saw, CNC, and much more..

## Weather

The weather for the 2nd semester has been eventful to this point, especially in comparison to the last two months where we had virtually no weather-related issues. But, it is the time of the year when snow, freezing rain, cold, wind, and related types of weather occur.

Make-Up Days - I have already been asked by some people about make-up days. This is not determined at this time. The Bellevue CSD Board of Education will be talking about this in our upcoming meetings, but student time over the last several years in the state has been based on hours (not days). Our school calendar is required to have a minimum of 1080 hours, but in order to effectively address weather-related early dismissals or late starts districts exceed this number in their school calendars that are approved by the school board and submitted to the state. For instance, this year the Bellevue CSD calendar had 1133 hours scheduled. This does not mean that we will not make up the days, but that we may not make up all the days with students.

In-Person Learning - It is also the belief that having students in school is important for their learning, which is also a reason the district at this point does not have any plans to utilize "virtual days" where students work on schoolwork at home and/or have teachers and students have class online via Zoom or similar programs. Additionally, teachers have contracts for 188 days in most cases, and utilizing as many as possible of the days with students is important (other days are scheduled as learning days for them in the school with other teachers).

## Some FAQ's include the following:

1. Will we make up one of these days on January 15, a day that is a Teacher Professional Learning Day (also MLK, Jr. Day)? No. Teacher professional learning is already scheduled for teachers, along with this is a day that some parents/students have made plans for in regard to appointments, college visits, and other things.
2. Will we make up the days over our district's Spring Break? At this time it is unlikely based on families potentially making plans, along with our staff members. But, this could change if we have a significant amount of days missed.
3. Will we make up all of the days that are missed? As stated earlier, not necessarily. But, we also want to utilize our teachers with students as much as possible. Yet, a common thought is that if we can end before Memorial Day it is a positive for students and families with the many summer activities that occur with youth in our community.

