

The Weekly Comet Update

From Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

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

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).

NO School/Early Dismissal

- February 10 & 11 - 3-Hour Early Dismissal for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Information will be coming from the school buildings in regard to the schedule for conferences. We will be utilizing the same schedule of conferences as last semester, with the option for “Zoom” meetings as an option for families who do not wish to or cannot attend in person.
- February 12-15 - No School
- April 2-6 - No School (Spring Break)

COVID-19 Updates

The Bellevue CSD is still seeing some isolated COVID-19 cases with both students and staff, with 9 total for the two groups combined in quarantine at this time. Additionally, the district is still working to mitigate the pandemic and its impact through various actions in the building. All students, staff, visitors, and others are required to wear a mask in the building during the school day when 6-foot social distancing cannot be maintained, along with wearing a mask at all times during events.

Public School Advocacy

Recently I shared material online in regard to the importance of appropriate school funding for the public schools in Iowa with public funds from Iowans. Ultimately, I believe public funds need to be used for public purposes, and not diverted toward private schools. Some specifics:

- 94% of Iowa’s students are educated in public schools.
- Public funds should require accountability and transparency. Non-public schools are not held to the same standard of accountability and transparency.
- More than \$65 million in state tax dollars already support the education of students in private and home school settings.

This is not about Bellevue, but about the state of Iowa and the potential negative impact on funds for public education.

Staff Member Highlight

This week’s Comet staff member highlighted is **Rebecca Lahey**, who is a secondary English Language Arts Teacher. Some specific highlights about her include the following:

Ms. Lahey always enjoyed reading and writing, and had a very influential English teacher in high school. This influence inspired her to get into teaching and make a positive difference in the lives of students. She finds the relationships she develops with students to be the most fulfilling aspect of her job as she works to assist students in thinking critically about their choices and compare fictional stories to their real life experiences.



Additionally, Ms. Lahey is engaged and is getting married in October 2021.

Bellevue Elementary Makerspace

The Bellevue Elementary School has placed a focus on STEM and creativity. Students code robots during their time in Makerspace with Mrs. Kellogg. Ultimately, this is the beginning of the study of coding/computer science for many students in this hands-on and interactive environment.



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



