

# The Weekly Comet Update

From Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

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

## **An All-Inclusive Sharing Program between the Bellevue CSD and Marquette Catholic**

After the April 2021 school board meeting, the Bellevue CSD proposed the following changes to the “sharing agreement” with Marquette Catholic. Additionally, further discussions took place with Marquette Catholic representatives in the last few weeks. In order to keep our stakeholders aware of the process, below is some general information (which is not final and has not been agreed to at this time by Marquette Catholic).

### **Overview**

The Bellevue Community School District is offering a fully-inclusive sharing agreement with all Marquette Catholic students by sharing courses and more for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond (adding staff as needed). The Bellevue CSD has openly offered to share any course and program with students from Marquette Catholic, with this all-inclusive sharing being 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 for the enhancement and furtherance of key educational opportunities for students within our entire community.

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, which was held outdoors). During this school year it became clear that learning can happen virtually for students (anytime/anywhere), and that it is important to provide extensive learning opportunities for students enrolled full-time in the Bellevue CSD and to give them our full attention. The option to take online courses from another entity was utilized by Marquette, and it was stated by Marquette representatives during a meeting on May 4 [that] this went well for their students.

### **Benefits to Both Schools**

The district believes the development of an inclusive sharing agreement of extracurricular programs will be beneficial to both schools by preparing all students at a high-quality level whether it is in the Arts, Athletics, FFA, FBLA, or other student groups and areas. Some specific benefits for the students, schools, and the community include the following:

- 1. Unite the community in the long run with one high school team/group in the community:**
  - Brings “one high school team and program for each sport/activity” to our community.
- 2. Increase participation numbers to field teams at all levels:**
  - Larger and more successful teams allow for more participation at various levels. Participating at the “level of competition” appropriate for student talent level, grade level, or age is important, and having teams at the Freshmen, JV, and Varsity levels allow for more students to participate and develop their skills.
    - Students being forced to play at the varsity level before they are physically or mentally ready is an issue in many activities at high schools throughout the state and nation.
  - More teams and participants may also lead to being more competitive and achieving higher levels of excellence than either school is capable of individually at times.
  - The opportunity to participate in all of the extracurricular activities (and other areas) expands choices for students.
- 3. Strengthening youth programs in a unified approach.**
- 4. Less “fundraising” commitments for local businesses with only one set of high school teams/groups to support.**

**Events on the Calendar**

- May 17: 6-12 Band Concert
- May 18: 6-12 Vocal Concert
- May 25: High School Awards Night
- May 28: Last Day of School for the 2021-2022 School Year.
- May 28: "Beyond the Blue" Reception for recipients: Steve Griebel (1996), Nancy Kieffer (Roling) (1982), Greg Schulte (1973), and Art Sunleaf (1985)
- May 29: Bellevue CSD Graduation - 4:00
- August 2 & 3: School Registration
- August 23: 1st Day of School for the 2021-2022 School Year



**BELLEVUE COMETS**

ELEMENTARY + MIDDLE + HIGH SCHOOL

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