

# 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 at-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, KWVL, 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).

### Parent-Teacher Conferences; NO School and Early Dismissal Dates

- 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. A total of 14 students and staff are in quarantine or testing positive at this time (Based on reporting requirements the district can only say that the number of positive tests is <6 at this time). This number is slightly higher than last week (9).

These cases are traced to the individuals contacts with others who were positive "outside of school" and to other family members who are positive. The Jackson County positivity rate as of 2.4.21 is 12%, which is slightly higher than last week as well (19th highest in state) But....overall, our numbers are MUCH better than they were in November.

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.

### Virtual Learning or a "Snow Day"

Some have asked if the Bellevue CSD is going to have a "Virtual Learning Day" when school is canceled due to weather or not. While this may sound like a good idea in some ways, there are some drawbacks with this approach. At this time we are not planning on any virtual learning days as a result of weather, although this could change in the future if we have a significant amount of days missed due to weather conditions. Some brief reasonings for this include the following:

1. While it may work for some of our high school students, our elementary students do not have a device sent home with them daily. Could we send a device home with students when we believe there will be a weather-related closure? Yes, but this is also not as easy as it sounds as the device and a charger would need to be sent home, and chargers for the devices are secured in specific areas at this time in many classrooms.
2. If we have a virtual learning day, and parents still must go to work, often times the elementary students may need to go to child care at a different location where learning online may not be viable.
3. If older students are watching younger siblings they may also have a difficult time "attending their virtual class" while still making sure that their younger siblings are doing what they are to be doing. This was noticed during this pandemic multiple times.
4. Sometimes....students need a snow day to "enjoy" the snow and revitalize. Granted, if it is below zero for the temperature they may not be outside playing a significant amount of time either! I also believe that an "in-person" learning day is still better than a "virtual-day" for our students in nearly all circumstances.

There are also other factors, but this summarizes some of the key points.

As I mentioned earlier, IF....we have a significant amount of more days without school due to weather this may change. At this time, our last day of school is tentatively scheduled for May 28 (it was Wednesday, May 26 until last week!). Additionally, our school year in regard to state requirements is based on "hours" in school and we are over the state limit by more than 50 hours.

### 6th Grade Coding

6th graders are finishing their projects on coding in "Scratch" and using a "Makey Makey" to control it. Outstanding learning opportunities for students.



# 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

