Bertrand Community School
March 2026

From the Desk of the Superintendent

March always feels like momentum. The days get a little longer. The energy shifts. And in a school like Bertrand, that means we lean in even harder. This time of year is about growth - academically, personally, and as a community. And I am so proud of the work happening inside these walls.

Strong Instruction, Real Growth: Across K–12, our teachers are digging deep into instruction that matters. We continue to focus on:

- ✔ Data-informed decisions
- ✔ Literacy growth at every level
- ✔ MTSS supports that are proactive, not reactive
- ✔ College & Career Readiness pathways

Our elementary students are showing steady growth in reading and math, and our secondary students are building skills that directly connect to future careers - whether that's skilled trades, health sciences, agriculture, business, or continuing education. We don't "meet to check a box." We collaborate to get better and it shows.

Statewide Recognition for Bertrand: At the end of March, our Jazz Band and our student-led business, Viking Grind, will represent Bertrand at the Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association Spring Conference performing and presenting for educators from across rural Nebraska. In addition to taking the stage, our students will lead a breakout session showcasing our student-based business model and sharing their real-world learning and leadership with administrators and teachers from districts statewide. Schools want to know how we built Viking Grind, how we've grown our music program from fewer than 10 students a year ago to more than 60 today, and how we continue to innovate, think out of the box, and push back on the status-quo to ensure we are providing every possible opportunity for our kids. This is more than a conference appearance, it's a powerful example of authentic, student-driven leadership. We're not just part of the conversation, we're driving it. We're reshaping the narrative of rural education and showing the state exactly what's possible when expectations are high and innovation is fearless.

Viking Culture: Work Hard. Love Harder. Have Fun: If you've spent any time in our building lately, you've seen it:

- Staff supporting one another.
- Students showing up for activities.
- Teachers present at games, concerts, and events.
- Kids holding doors, saying thank you, and stepping up.

That's not accidental. That's culture. We believe in being:

- ***Value-Driven***
- ***Inclusive***
- ***Kind***
- ***Integrity-Focused***
- ***Nurturing***
- ***Growth-Oriented***

Bertrand is not a big school. But we are a bold school. An innovative school. A future-focused school. We work hard. We love harder. And we have a whole lot of fun along the way. Spring is busy. It's fast. It's exciting. And it's a reminder that

what we're building here matters - not just in Bertrand, but across rural Nebraska. Thank you for believing in Viking Pride.

In Service,

Nicole J. LeClaire
Superintendent

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Principally Speaking.....

Stay Safe This Spring

As we approach springtime and say goodbye to winter, please continue to monitor the weather forecast closely. Nebraska weather can be unpredictable this time of year. It may be calm and mild in the morning and change quickly by afternoon. We appreciate your flexibility and attention to weather updates as we navigate this transition season.

Celebrating Our Talented Students

If you have been following our Bertrand students and their activities, you know how much we have to celebrate. For a school our size, our students continue to excel not only on the athletic field, mat, and court, but also in fine arts, music, FFA contests, speech, and in the classroom.

Their dedication, leadership, and representation of our school and community make us incredibly proud. When you see these students, please take a moment to congratulate them for their hard work and success.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

Severe Weather Awareness Week in Nebraska is coordinated in partnership with the National Weather Service.

This week provides an opportunity for schools, communities, and businesses to review and practice procedures for severe weather events. As long as no severe weather is expected or occurring, a statewide tornado drill will be conducted on Wednesday between 10:00–11:00 a.m. CDT (9:00–10:00 a.m. MDT). If severe weather is active, the drill will take place the following day.

Practicing these procedures helps ensure that students and staff are prepared and safe.

Important Dates

- **March 12** – End of 3rd Quarter
- **March 13 & 16** – No School (Spring Break)
- **March 20** – First Day of Spring

Upcoming Events

- **April 3 & 6** – No School (Easter Break)
- **March 16** – District Speech (Southwest)
- **March 21** – Prom
- **RPAC Band @ Arapahoe**
- **March 26 & 30** – NSCAS Testing (Grades 3–8)

What is NSCAS?

The statewide assessment system administered by the Nebraska Department of Education is called the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS).

Students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 participate in this assessment. The test:

- Measures student performance against Nebraska content standards
- Is aligned to grade-level expectations
- Is untimed
- Is administered online

These assessments provide valuable information about student learning and academic growth.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Bertrand Community School. Our students' success is a direct result of strong collaboration between school and home. As we head into spring, we look forward to finishing the third quarter strong and celebrating many accomplishments together.

The Last Laugh

A few years back I spent a lot of time, money, and effort childproofing my house. It didn't work so well. My daughters still got in. 😂

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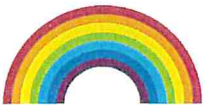
🎉 Celebrating Our January AR All-Stars! 📚

Way to go, readers! We're so proud of the effort and determination you've shown this month. Every quiz passed and every book completed is helping you become an even stronger, more confident learner.

Your commitment to reading makes a difference every single day. 👏

Keep turning pages and chasing your goal! 🌟 📖

Bentley Collicott
Waylon Jasnoch
Naomi Johnson
Hadley Jones
Alyeana Kuck
Blake Cable
Bronson DeBoer
Miley Holen
Rikyn Kuck (2)
Clay Peterson
Macrae Wilken
Kaleb Wolf
Sebastian Christen
Hudson Evans
Palmer Galusha
Hadley Kreitman
Chloe Kuck
Linkyn Moon
Kinzley Potter
Vincent Rabe
Jasmine Ruiz-King
Maddox Steinbrink
Faye Stratman
Jozlyn Weber
Jenna Nelson (4)
Owen Stratman
Grady Gardine
Jillian Weber
Ximena Aceves
Tinley Langford
Tobi Langford
Raina Nelson (6)
Lillian Vinzant (3)



From the Counselor.....

UPCOMING TEST DATES!!!!

- April 7th--ACT STATE TEST FOR ALL JUNIORS
- April 13th--ASVAB testing for any student in grades 10-12
- April 15th--Pre-ACT FOR ALL SOPHOMORES

These are important tests for our students and their futures. Scholarship monies, entrance into college programs, and other awards are determined by these tests. Please encourage your student to take them seriously and to try his or her very best on all of them.

THIRD QUARTER ENDS MARCH 12th! FOURTH QUARTER STARTS MARCH 17th! The END of the school year is near, so please be mindful of grades and getting things done. If you are struggling with a class, please see Dr. C. for help.

Course request sheets are out! Students in grades 8-11 (current) need to have a blue sheet filled out for next year. They were available at PT Conferences and have been outside Dr. C's office since then. Please try to have them done and returned no later than the end of third quarter (MARCH 12th). This allows us to build the best schedule possible for all of our students.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors, please be looking in your Google Classroom for updated scholarship postings. If you are needing transcripts for college classes, those need to go through CCC or whichever college you took the course from. High school transcripts can be requested through Dr. C. Please allow 48-72 hours for turnaround. Final transcripts will not be ready until late May or early June and will be submitted off of your check-out sheet.

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Junior High and High School
March Quiz Bowls

Wednesday, March 18 @ Holdrege Prairie Museum
Junior High: 9 am

Thursday, March 19 @ Holdrege Prairie Museum
High School: 9 am

****Final competition for the year.****

Dear Friends of the Bertrand Higher Education Fund,

The committee to distribute scholarships from the Bertrand Higher Education Fund (BHEF) will be meeting this spring. BHEF Scholarships are different from memorial and other "flow-through" scholarships that move through the BHEF account. Many people are not financially able to establish large, continuous scholarships on their own, but this fund allows people to make donations of all sizes. The donations are then pooled together to help Bertrand graduates realize their dream of higher education. Certainly, the goal also continues to be support of our community through support of our students and their futures.

If you believe this is a worthwhile cause and wish to participate, please **make checks payable to BHEF**, drop them off at the school or mail your contribution to:

Bertrand Community School,
503 School St.
Bertrand, NE 68927

Donations may be made at any time during the year. However, in order to donate towards the class of 2026 we would like to have your donation by **March 20, 2026**. Donations sent by this date help us prepare for our annual selection meeting when we determine how many scholarships the BHEF can afford to award to this year's graduates.

Remember, **your donation is tax deductible**.

Please pass this information on to anyone who you think might be interested. (We do apologize if you have received this information more than one time. Please assist us as we promote the BHEF and give an extra copy to someone who may have not received one.) The graduates of Bertrand Community School and the BHEF committee members thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Bertrand Higher Education Fund (BHEF)
Bertrand Community School

Please return this portion with your donation **check made payable to BHEF** by **March 20, 2026** and mail to the school:

Bertrand Community School
503 School St.
Bertrand, NE 68927

Thank you for helping BCS graduates!

Name(s): _____

BHEF Scholarship Donation: $_____

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Schedule Subject to Change					
1	2 Spring Sports Practice Begins BBB Dist Finals TBA	3 9:00 FFA CDE @ Curtis BBB Dist Finals TBA	4 10:00 Tornado Drill	5 1:00 Dismissal-Inservice GBB State @ Lincoln	6	7
8	9 7:00 FFA Officer Mtg @ Loomis	10	11	12 End of 3rd Qtr BBB State @ Lincoln	13 No School	14
15	16 No School District Speech @ SW	17  7:00 FFA Mtg @ Loomis	18 9:00 JH ESU Quiz Bowl @ Holdrege	19 9:00 HS ESU Quiz Bowl @ Holdrege 11:00 TR @ UNK	20	21 **PROM**
22	23 1:00 RPAC Band Clinic 7:00 RPAC Band Concert @ Arapahoe	24 2:30 TR @ Minden	25	26 3-8 Gr NSCAS Testing FFA State Convention @ Lincoln	27 12:00 TR @ SV 3:30 GO @ Alma	28 Class D All-State Band Speech-State @ Kearney
29	30 3-8 Gr NSCAS Testing 6:00 Cheer Parent Mtg	31 3-8 Gr NSCAS Testing				

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule Subject to Change						
			1 10:00 GO @ Cambridge	**2** 10:00 TR @ Elwood	**3** No School	**4**
5 	**6** No School	**7** 11 Gr ACT Test 10:00 GO @ Elwood 1:00 JHTR @ Overton	**8** 9:00 Gr 7-12 Spring Activity Pictures	**9** 10:30-4:30 NHS Blood Drive	**10** Gr 5-8 Music Contest @ Cambridge 10:00 TR @ Axtell	**11**
12	**13** Gr 10-12 ASVAB Test 6:30 Cheer Tryouts	**14** 9:30 GO@ Arapahoe 1:00 Loomis JHTR @ Bertrand	**15** 10 Gr Pre-ACT	**16** 2:00 JVGO @ SV 6:30 6-12 Gr Concert	**17** No School for Students 10:00 Bertrand Track Inv	**18**
19	**20** 10:00 JHTR @ Elwood	**21** ACT Make-up Day 10:00 GO @ Alma	**22** 10:00 TR @ Arapahoe	**23** 4:45 FFA Officer Interviews @ Loomis	**24** 9:00 Kindergarten Roundup District Music @ Minden 12:00 TR @ Lexington 3:30 GO @ SV Dual	**25**
26	**27** TR - Alt Date for Bertrand Meet	**28** 9:00 GO @ Kearney 10:00 JHTR @ Bertrand 2:30 JVGO @ Alma 6:30 NHS Induction	**29** National Walk at School Day 5th Gr to Water Jamboree	**30** 10:00 GO RPAC @ MV		

Lunch March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Subject to Change All meals served with fruit and veggie bar & white or chocolate milk					
1	2 B: Cereal or parfait L: Ham & cheese bunza & peas	3 B: Pizza bacon scramble or parfait L: Goulash, green beans & cheesy buns	4 B: Waffles or parfait L: Chicken noodle soup, cheese stick, & bread	5 **B: Croissant sandwich or parfait** **L: Taco & corn**	6 B: Turnover & cheese stick or parfait L: Turkey or tuna sandwich, carrots & Hash browns	7
8	9 B: Cereal & toast or parfait L: Poppyseed chicken, peas & roll	10 B: Omelet or parfait L: Pizza & green beans	11 B: French toast or parfait L: Chili or potato soup & cornbread	12 B: Breakfast cake, sausage or parfait L: Beef enchiladas & corn	13 No School	14
15	16 No School	17 B: Cereal & toast or parfait L: Chicken nuggets, green beans & roll	18 B: Pancakes or parfait L: Cowboy stew & PB & J	19 B: Sausage gravy & biscuit or parfait L: Taco & corn	20 B: Muffin & cheese stick or parfait L: BBQ pork sandwich, baked beans & chips	21
22	23 B: Cereal or parfait L: Rotini & meat sauce, green beans & cheesy buns	24 B: Breakfast burrito or parfait L: Pig in a blanket & baked beans	25 B: Waffles or parfait L: Chicken noodle soup, cheese stick & bread	26 B: Waffle sandwich or parfait L: Nacho & corn	27 B: Cinnamon roll & cheese stick L: Turkey, tuna or chicken salad sandwich, carrots & hash browns	28
29	30 B: Cereal or parfait L: Breaded chicken patty, mashed potatoes & gravy & roll	31 B: Pancake wrap or parfait L: Beef stroganoff, peas & roll				