



Bertrand Community School

December 2025



From the Desk of the Superintendent.....

As we step into December and the final weeks of the first semester, I continue to be amazed by the energy, pride, and momentum moving through Bertrand Community School. The past few months have been filled with learning, creativity, and community partnership—each contributing to the vision we share for our students: opportunity, growth, and a sense of belonging.

This fall, our students and staff have pushed forward in meaningful ways. From launching hands-on Career & Technical Education pathways to expanding our MTSS framework and strengthening our early literacy efforts, Bertrand has been hard at work building a brighter future for every learner. Our student-run Viking Grind has been buzzing with business, our shop renovation is progressing, and our classrooms are filled with students actively engaged in problem-solving, performance, collaboration, and curiosity. These things don't happen by accident—they happen because of dedicated staff, supportive families, and a community that continually invests in its youth.

December also brings traditions that make Bertrand special. Grandparents Day reminded us how powerful it is when generations come together. Holiday concerts, service projects, and classroom celebrations are right around the corner, offering more opportunities for students to shine and for families to connect with the school.

As we look ahead to the new year, we will continue our work on long-term planning, facility improvements, and academic supports to ensure Bertrand remains a place where students are known, challenged, and supported. I want to genuinely thank our staff for their work, our families for their trust, and our community for their unwavering commitment. Your partnership is the heartbeat of this district.

I wish each of you a joyful holiday season filled with rest, family, and moments that remind you why small-town schools like ours are such a blessing. Thank you for making Bertrand Community School an incredible place to learn and grow.

In Service,

Nicole J. LeClaire



Principally Speaking.....

This time of year has a special, almost magical feel. Cookies are baking, trees are being decorated, and gifts are being wrapped. Families are making plans to celebrate the holiday season during what is often a very busy time. In the rush of it all, we sometimes forget to slow down and enjoy the season and the people we love most.

December is certainly a full month at Bertrand Community School as well. Winter sports are in full swing, with games and matches quickly filling our calendars. The Speech, One Act, and Christmas Concert teams are preparing for their events. Junior high sports are also in full swing, and the senior high Quiz Bowl team will be attending competitions. Add in open gym and daily practices, and it's easy to see how full our students' schedules become.

With so much happening, it's easy to get swept up in the hustle and bustle. Please remind your child to take time to relax and unplug when they can. For adults, the same is true. We work hard to keep activities organized and to support students by attending their events. Thank you for all you do to encourage our students and be present for them. Still, it can sometimes feel overwhelming to find balance in such a busy season.

As we move through December, I encourage you to take care of yourselves and those you care about. Make time to enjoy the wonder of the season with the people you cherish most.

They Did It Again! 🏆 One Act!!!

Congratulations to **Mrs. Kaps & Mr. Schwarz** and their talented **One Act students** earned **FIRST PLACE at RPAC East! As well as Outstanding Tech Crew!!!!**

Cast Members:

Jyden Wilkins, Ashlynn Edgren, Isaac Hernandez, Kevin Chavez, Addie Andersen, Livia Philips, Ryker Schroeder, Alyvia Rabe, Diego Rodriguez, Nohelia Elox Mora, Aspyr Chapin, Kyler Schroeder, Hailey Lund, Ella Oeltjen, Bailey Vinzant, Sofia Guajardo, Ivy Nelson, Jayden Glassmeyer, and Jennifer Elox Mora.

Outstanding Tech Crew:

Shelby Schoene, Brayden Evans, Wyatt McCain, Aspen McNierney, Ivy Nelson, Jayden Glassmeyer, and Jennifer Elox Mora.

Your hard work, dedication, and teamwork truly paid off—Bertrand is proud of you all! 🥳🌟

Important Dates

- **Nov. 26–28:** No School
- **Dec. 1–12:** NHS Canned Food Drive (watch for flyer)
- **Dec. 1:** District Play Production @ Wilcox-Hildreth
- **Dec. 4:** 1:00 p.m. Dismissal
- **Dec. 9:** PK–5 Christmas Concert
- **Dec. 18–19:** Grades 7–12 Finals, 1:00 p.m. dismissal
- **Dec. 18:** Grades 6–12 Christmas Concert
- **Dec. 19:** End of 2nd Quarter
- **Dec. 22–Jan. 5:** Christmas Break, No School
- **Dec. 24–28:** NSAA Moratorium

Understanding Educational Lingo

ELL (English Language Learner): Students who are learning English in addition to their native language.

ESL/ESOL (English as a Second Language / English for Speakers of Other Languages): Classes and support programs that help students improve their English skills.

RTI (Response to Intervention): A way teachers provide extra help to students who need it to succeed in school. RTI has morphed into MTSS (Multi Tiered Systems of Support)

Up Coming Months Topics Stay tuned in future newsletters as we break these down one at a time in parent-friendly language!

- **PBIS** – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports
- **SEL** – Social and Emotional Learning
- **FERPA** – Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- **ADA** – Americans with Disabilities Act
- **IDEA** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- **PLC** – Professional Learning Community
- **STEM** – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- **SPED** – Special Education

The Last Laugh
What do you call an old snowman?
Water!

 Way to Go, October AR Achievers!

We’re so proud of our amazing readers who’ve reached the next level in Accelerated Reader! Your curiosity, focus, and love for books continues to shine. ✨

Every story you complete strengthens your skills and builds your confidence as a learner.

 Let’s give a big cheer for our newest AR superstars — you’re showing everyone that readers are leaders! 🎉

Keep reading, keep growing — your next adventure is just a page away! 

Blake Cable	Sebastian Christen	Faye Stratman
Gabriel Christen	Hudson Evans	Jozlyn Weber
Bronson DeBoer	Palmer Galusha	Sebastian Estrada
MaLynn Gardine	Emma Gonzalez	Jenna Nelson
Miley Holen	Blakely Hock	Alyssa Rabe
Rikyn Kuck (3)	Hadley Kreitman	Kalysta Freese
Clay Peterson	Chloe Kuck	Grady Gardine
Fernando Rodriguez	Linkyn Moon	Jayton Kreitman
Noah Teel	Kinzley Potter	Tilden Sand
Macrae Wilken	Vincent Rabe	Ximena Aceves
Kaleb Wolf	Elizabeth Rodriguez	Raina Nelson
Sterling Birkel	Maddox Steinbrink	Lillian Vinzant

From the Counselor.....

The first semester is winding down. Grades will be on report cards in about a month, so it would be a great idea to check PowerSchool to see if your student is missing anything or how their grades are looking.

CCC Classes will be ending in early December (about a week before we end), and registration for next semester's classes has already started. I have several registration forms from students and will take those to Holdrege. After December 12th, you will have to take them to Holdrege on your own. Be advised that classes fill up quickly, and students might not get into their classes if they wait until the last minute. All registration forms will need to be in before Christmas break, or you will not be able to get into the class. Students have had all of November and all of December to get this done. If you have any questions, please talk with Dr. C.

LAST ACT FOR SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSES IS FEBRUARY 14TH. REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 9TH.

For those Seniors who have not completed their FAFSA, this needs to be done ASAP! The sooner you get it done, the sooner you will know how much money you have for college from the federal government. Some schools require it to be filled out for institutional aid as well. Please see Dr. C. if you need help.

Parents of Sophomores and Juniors!!! Your students can also be taking college classes. Many of them have talked with Dr. C. already, but if you want your child to do this, please make sure they have filled out a registration form. The same deadlines as above apply.

UPCOMING DATES

April 13—ASVAB This is open to any student in grades 10-12. You do not have to be going into the military to take it, but if you are thinking about a career in the military, it is a must. I would strongly encourage students to take it so that they can look at the career piece that goes with the ASVAB. It is a very powerful tool that provides invaluable information.

April 15th—Pre-ACT This is for all sophomores. We will be taking the pre-ACT on this date so that students can begin to see where they are strong and where they need to focus their efforts before taking the ACT as a junior.

ANY STUDENT IN GRADES 9-12 CAN TAKE THE ACT AT ANY NATIONAL TEST DATE. I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO TAKE IT AT LEAST THREE TIMES BEFORE THEY GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL.

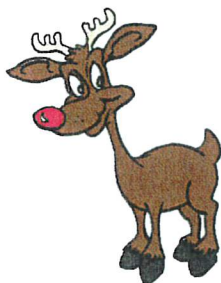
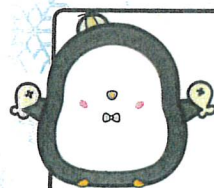
I have a limited number of waivers for the registration fees. These would be for students who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program here at school. The waivers are valid for two tests, so please keep your waiver with you if you do use one. I cannot give you a second one.



Our preschoolers had a wonderful time on our trip to the pumpkin patch in Beaver City! We rode a 4-wheeler train through the patch, zoomed down big slides, and bounced to our hearts' content in the bounce house. It was a day full of sunshine, pumpkins, and happy smiles!

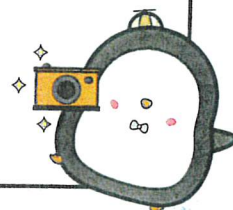


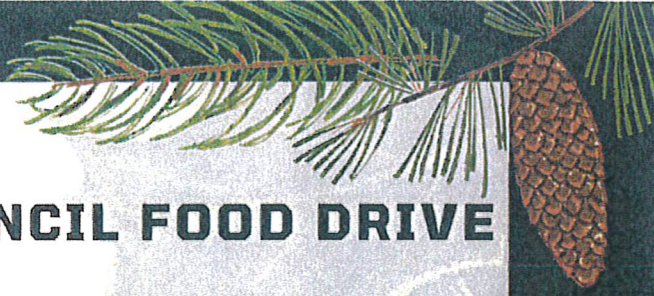
Tuesday, December 9th our Pre-school-5th grade will have their Christmas Concert. The performance will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the middle gym/stage. This concert will also feature our 4-5th grade beginning band students! Dress attire for the concert will be nice Christmas dress clothes.



December Quiz Bowl

Monday, Dec. 1st:
Junior High Quiz Bowl
@Cambridge, 1pm





NHS AND STUDENT COUNCIL FOOD DRIVE

December 1st - 12th

*The class in each group who collects the most needed items
will earn the following rewards!*

PreK - 3rd Grade: Popcorn Party!

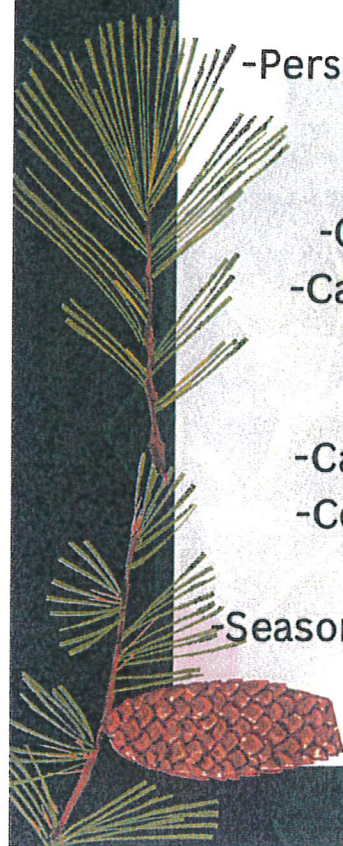
4th - 6th Grade: Ice Cream Party!

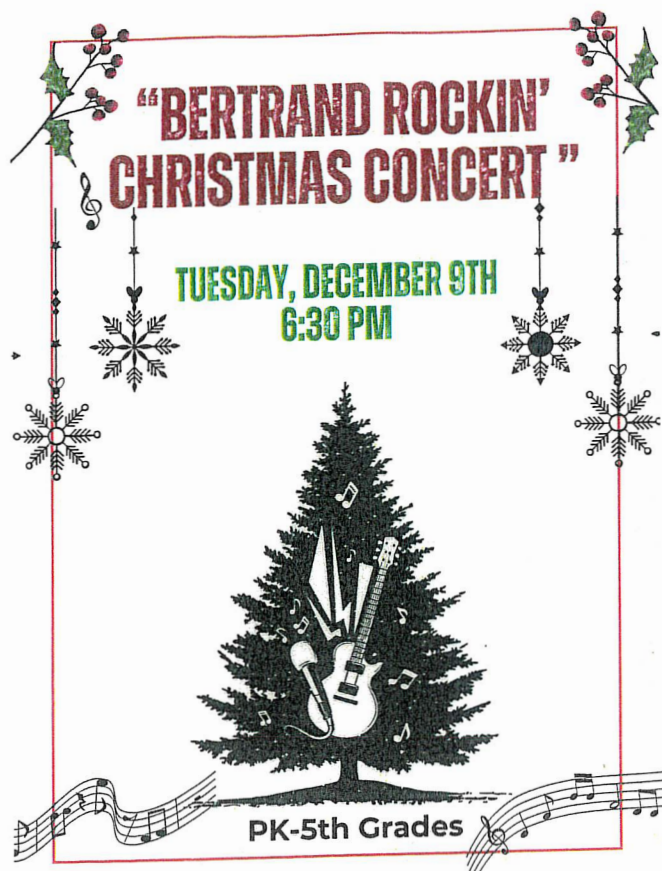
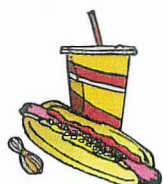
7th - 12th Grade: Pie A Teacher!

Additionally, if we collect **2,500** needed items, **NHS
and Student Council** will deliver candy canes to
each classroom.

****Please check expiration dates before donating. Thank
you!****

NEEDED ITEMS INCLUDE:

- 
- Personal Hygiene Products: Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap
 - Laundry Detergent, Dishwashing Soap
 - Paper Products: Kleenex and Toilet Paper
 - Canned Meat (Chicken, Tuna, Beef, Stew, Turkey)
 - Canned Veggies, Canned Fruit, Beans, Canned Soup
 - Pasta, Pasta Boxed Meals, Pasta Sauce
 - Cereal, Breakfast Items, Granola Bars
 - Cake Mix, Brownie Mix, Dessert Mixes, Baking Items
 - Condiments: Mayo, Mustard, Ketchup, BBQ Sauce,
Salad Dressings, etc.
 - Seasonings: Salt, Pepper, Onion Powder, Garlic Powder, etc.



Concessions Sign-Up

We truly appreciate all the support we've received from our parents and community members who back Bertrand athletics and activities. Once again, we're inviting you to volunteer for concession duties. If your son or daughter participates in extra-curricular activities, we hope you'll consider lending a hand.

We strongly encourage participation from all parents of student-athletes—no matter the season—as *every* activity benefits from the profits raised through concessions. Your generosity and commitment of time in the past have made a tremendous difference, and we are so grateful.

This year, we do have student groups helping, but we will still need additional volunteers throughout the winter season. We will post opportunities on the Viking Nation Facebook page and on the school website as needs come up. Anyone is welcome to jump in and help!

Thank you so much for your continued support!

The Weight Room and Gym will be
CLOSED

December 22-January 2nd
Due to floor refinishing and fumes



Bertrand Community Calendar of Events

- December** Cross Diamond Meat ~ Operation Christmas Beef, contact Meredith for details: 402-741-0833
- December** Pretty & Fabulous ~ Nebraska 2025 Holiday Passport Stop ~ event runs till January 11th.
- December 6** Bertrand Volunteer Fire Dept ~ Santa Truck Rides, Bertrand Fire Hall @ 2:00 pm
- December 6** Bertrand Youth Advisory Committee ~ Gift Wrapping Fundraiser, Village Town Hall @ 1:30 pm
- December 9** Bertrand Community Blood Drive ~ Bertrand Community Building
- December 9** Bertrand Village Board Meeting @ 6 pm
- December 10** Young at Heart ~ Holdrege High School Swing Choir performance
- December 12** Community Coffee @ 9:30 am ~ Bertrand Nursing Home
- December 18** Downtown Businesses- Customer Appreciation Day, stop by participating businesses for a treat or visit
- December 18 & 19** Young at Heart Senior Center ~ Annual Holiday Bake Sale
- December 24, 25, & 26** Young at Heart Senior Center ~ Center will be closed for the Christmas Holiday
- December 25 & 26** Village of Bertrand will be closed for the Christmas Holiday
- January 1 & 2** Young at Heart Senior Center ~ Center will be closed for New Year's
- January 1 & 2** Village of Bertrand will be closed for New Year's

BERTRAND TOWN SQUARE

COMMUNITY NEWS AND INFORMATION

TO READ: Read fresh news every Tuesday for free at any of the 29 places in and around Bertrand where Town Square is displayed.

TO SUBMIT: Fill out the form at bit.ly/bertrand-town-square.

TO SUBSCRIBE: Go to bertrandtownsquare.com, visit the village office, or call 308-325-0448 to subscribe. You'll get a copy by mail.

TO SPONSOR: Get your business ad on an issue by visiting bertrandtownsquare.com. Two positions are available every week.

Bertrand Fire Station

Enjoy a magical afternoon filled with fire truck and hay rack rides, treats and a special visit from Santa.

Dec 6th @ 2pm

516 Minor Ave ~ Downtown Bertrand

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Hours for the Holidays

Wed. Dec. 24 - close at noon
 Thurs. Dec. 25 & Fri. Dec. 26 - closed
 Wed. Dec. 31 - close at noon
 Thurs. Jan. 1st - closed

— VILLAGE OF BERTRAND —

Cross Diamond Meats

Operation Christmas Beef

Help us spread some Christmas cheer in Phelps County by donating \$25 which we will match to give a family \$50 worth of beef this Christmas!

Thanks to you, we gifted beef to 20 families and this year we want to double that and donate 40 boxes of beef!

Can you help us?

We will start receiving donations online at crossdiamondmeats.com on November 17th!

But if you would like to donate NOW, contact Meredith Cable at 402-741-0833

BYAC GIFT wrapping Fundraiser

Bertrand Youth Advisory Committee
 Dec. 6th 1:30 pm
 Village Town Hall

Come early & drop off your gift! We will wrap while your family visits Santa and enjoy the activities at the Bertrand Fire Station! Free will donation will help fund our community projects.

Pretty & Fabulous is one of the stops on the 2025 Nebraska Holiday Passport! Event dates are Nov. 14th through Jan. 11th.

Pretty & Fabulous
CLUBHOUSE & BORDERS