

Bertrand Community School
May 2026



From the Desk of the Superintendent

Dear Viking Family,

As we bring another school year to a close, it's hard not to feel an overwhelming sense of pride in what our students, staff, and community have accomplished together. From the classroom to the stage, from the field to competitions across the state, Bertrand students have continued to represent what it means to be a Viking: hardworking, resilient, and committed to excellence.

This year has been filled with moments worth celebrating. Our students have achieved academic success, grown in their leadership and character, and taken advantage of expanding opportunities across our Career Pathways. Whether through Agriculture, Skilled and Technical Sciences, Health Sciences, or Hospitality, our students are not just learning, they are preparing for life beyond high school with purpose and direction.

At the same time, this month has reminded us that a school is far more than a place of learning—it is a family. The loss of Connor has deeply impacted us all, and in the midst of that heartbreak, the strength of the Bertrand community has been unmistakable. The outpouring of love, support, and compassion for the Hill family and for one another has been truly humbling. It is in moments like these that we are reminded of who we are. We take care of each other. We show up. We lean on one another. And we move forward—together.

Alongside these moments, we also pause to recognize a bittersweet milestone as we honor two extraordinary educators who are retiring after decades of service to Bertrand Community School—Scott Schwarz and Shauna Wilken. Together, they have shaped the lives of generations of Bertrand students. They have taught not only our children, but in many cases, their parents as well—leaving a lasting imprint on families across our community. Their classrooms have been places of learning, creativity, encouragement, and unwavering care. They are, without question, cornerstones of this school. It is impossible to measure the impact they have had or to fully express the gratitude we feel for their dedication, passion, and commitment to kids over the years. Their legacy will live on in the countless students they have inspired and the strong foundation they helped build here at Bertrand. They will be deeply missed.

We also say goodbye to several other valued staff members who are moving on to new opportunities. While it is never easy to see great people leave, we are proud of the work they have done here and excited for the impact they will have as they go on to influence a new group and generation of students. Once a Viking, always a Viking—we wish them nothing but the very best in their next chapter. Please join me in wishing Trish Hakonson, Shelby High, Jordan McBride, Kylee McBride, Ali Vacura, and McKaylla Christian the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Looking ahead, there is so much to be excited about. Our commitment to expanding real-world opportunities for students continues to grow stronger. Next year, we are proud to open The Viking Grind to the public with a walk-up window located on the back side of the school. This student-run business has already become a cornerstone of our Career Pathways programming, and we are excited to share it more fully with our community.

In addition, our Skilled and Technical Sciences shop renovations will be complete, providing our students access to modern, industry-level equipment and learning environments. These upgrades will allow us to deliver true 21st-century learning experiences that are hands-on, relevant, and aligned with the skills students need to succeed in today's workforce.

Everything we do is grounded in one goal: every Bertrand graduate leaves prepared for what's next. Our "3E Promise"—that every graduate will be Enrolled, Employed, or Enlisted—guides our work, and we are seeing that impact in both the opportunities our students pursue and the confidence they carry.

As we close this chapter, thank you. Thank you for your support, your trust, and your belief in our school. Bertrand is special because of its people, and it is an honor to serve this community.

We wish all of our students and families a safe, restful, and well-deserved summer. We look forward to welcoming you back next year as we continue to build something truly special together.

In Service,

Nicole J. LeClaire
Superintendent

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Principally Speaking.....

The 2025-2026 school year is coming to a close. Looking back, we're incredibly proud of the achievements of both our students and staff and we're gearing up for a lot of exciting activities, events, and projects yet to come.

Kindergarten Round Up

On April 24th we had the opportunity of hosting our Kindergarten Round-Up and were delighted to meet some of our future Vikings! It's looking like we will have close to 12 Kindergarten students for next year. Any parent(s) interested in enrolling a new student can swing by the office and grab an enrollment packet.

Kindergarten Enrollment

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2025-26 school year is here. In Nebraska, a child must be five years old by July 31st of the school year to enroll in kindergarten. If your child is ready to be enrolled in kindergarten you will need up-to-date immunizations, original birth certificate or copy of an original birth certificate and vision screening (within the past six months). If you have additional questions please give Steph Edgren a call at school 308-472-3427.

PK Graduation

We are so excited to celebrate the advancement of our preschool students. We will be having our Preschool graduation on Wednesday, May 14th at 6:00 PM.

Custodians and Maintenance

Over my many years in education and countless visits to schools across the state, I can confidently say that Bertrand is fortunate to have truly outstanding custodial and maintenance staff: Diana Erickson, Amanda Heying, and Cole Birkel. Each of these individuals consistently goes above and beyond in their roles, demonstrating a level of commitment that does not go unnoticed.

Their strong work ethic, attention to detail, and dedication to maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming environment are essential to the daily success of our school. Because of their efforts, students and staff are able to learn and work in a space that reflects pride and care.

Beyond their professionalism, Diana, Amanda, and Cole bring a positive and friendly presence to our building. They build meaningful relationships with students and staff alike, contributing to the strong sense of community we value at Bertrand.

They are reliable, proactive, and always willing to step in wherever needed, often anticipating and addressing issues before they become concerns. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and the pride they take in their work. Their efforts play a vital role in making Bertrand Community School a place where everyone feels welcome and supported.

Year End Items

May 4: FFA Banquet 5:30 PM
May 6: 5th & 6th grade Science Fair, 1:30 PM
May 8: Seniors Last Day
May 11: Elementary Honors & Field Day, 12:00 PM
May 11: Trash Pickup Day in Bertrand 6:30 PM
May 11: Pk - 5 Spring Concert 6:30 PM
May 12: 7-12 Academic Awards & NHS Induction 6:00 PM
May 14: 1-6th grade AR to Hastings
May 14: PreK Graduation 6:00 PM
May 14: Baccalaureate @ Immanuel Church 7:00 PM
May 15: Last day of school, noon dismissal **Breakfast served NO LUNCHES**
May 16: Graduation, 3:00 PM
May 18: Activities Banquet Potluck, 6:30 PM

Graduates and Families

As graduation day approaches, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank the parents and families of the Class of 2026 for the countless hours, dedication, and care you have invested in raising these remarkable young adults. Your unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement have played a vital role in shaping who they are today. The partnership between home and school is invaluable, and your involvement has made a lasting difference in your child's educational journey.

To our graduating seniors congratulations on this significant achievement. Your hard work, resilience, and commitment have brought you to this milestone, and you should take great pride in all you have accomplished. As you move forward into the next chapter whether that be college, the workforce, or military service, know that you carry with you the skills and character needed to succeed.

It has been a true privilege to be part of your journey. Bertrand Community School will always be a place you can call home, and our support for you extends far beyond graduation day. We look forward to watching the paths you choose, the goals you pursue, and the impact you will make in your communities and beyond.

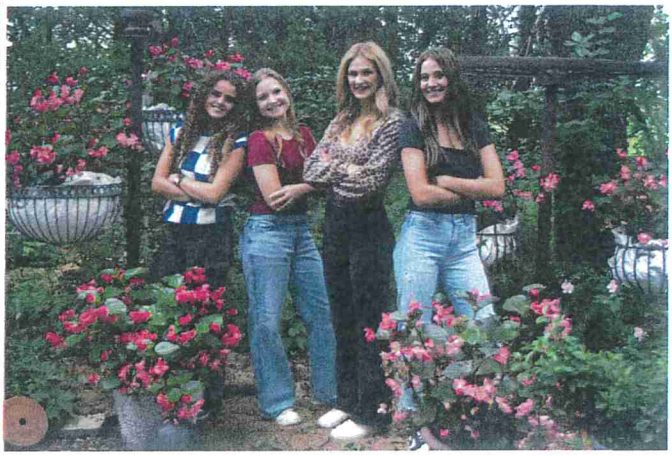
Thank you again to our families, and best wishes to the Class of 2026. Your future is bright, and we are excited to see all that lies ahead.

The Last Laugh



Congratulations
Class of 2026







🎉 Celebrating Our March AR Achievers! 📚

Our students have been putting in the effort and it shows! Through their hard work in Accelerated Reader, they're building strong reading skills and growing every day.

Each book they read opens the door to new ideas, exciting adventures, and greater confidence.

Let's give a big cheer to these amazing readers—keep up the great work and keep reaching for those goals!

Miguel Artalejo
Waylon Jasnoch
Naomi Johnson (2)
Hadley Jones
Alyeana Kuck
Ezekiel Nelson
Blake Cable (3)
Bronson DeBoer
MaLynn Gardine (2)
Michael Gersper
Miley Holen (2)
Rikyn Kuck
Noah Teel
Macrae Wilken
Kaleb Wolf
Sebastian Christen
Hudson Evans
Hadley Kreitman
Crew Pierce
Jasmine Ruiz-King
Maddox Steinbrink
Jozlyn Weber
Lilly Hansen
Jenna Nelson (3)
Ryker Schwarz
Avary Kuck
Reata McCain
Raina Nelson (3)
Lillian Vinzant (2)

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CONGRATULATIONS

WELCOME
TO
THE
2026-2027
BHS CHEER SQUAD

Adrian Sand- Captain
Baylee Kipp - CoCaptain
Ella Oeltjen
Bailey Vinzant
Jayden Weber
Adlea Hock
Ashlyn Wendell
Liv Rabe

Graduation 2026

As graduation approaches, we are pleased to continue our 2nd Annual Graduation Gift Drop Bag tradition. Prior to the ceremony, designated bags labeled with each graduate's name will be located in the commons/concession area of the gym.

Guests may place cards or gifts in the appropriate bags upon arrival or departure from the ceremony. This initiative provides a convenient alternative for families and guests, helping to reduce postage costs and the need to attend multiple graduation events when schedules do not allow.

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ACTIVITY BANQUET

The 2025-2026 Activity Banquet will be held on Monday, May 18th at 6:30 pm in the east gym. This event is sponsored each year by the "B" Club to honor the achievements of the Bertrand High School students, athletes, and student managers. This event will be a potluck format. Please bring your own table service and drink glasses. Drinks will be furnished.

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END OF SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

LOST AND FOUND: Throughout the year many items are left at school. These items will be on display till June 11th. Items not claimed will be donated.

LUNCH BILLS: May 14th will be the last time lunch will be served. Breakfast will be served on May 15th. Students who owe money will be notified in advance and must pay their bill before clearing school on May 15th.

ALL BILLS MUST BE PAID BEFORE YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO CHECK OUT OF AND LEAVE SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER, UNLESS PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. Examples of bills: Library fines, technology charges, sports uniforms, shop bills, music bills, etc.

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Bertrand Community Calendar of Events

May 1 Dog and Cat License Due ~ Village of Bertrand

May 1-31 Young at Heart will be having their annual Memorial Day Flower Fundraiser

May 3 Hi-Line Golf Course One Man Scramble ~ Contact Aaron Long 308.991.7173

May 4 JuneBug Day Camp ~ Prairie Equine Experience

May 8 Community Coffee @ 9:30 am ~ Bertrand Nursing Home & Assisted Living

May 11 Spring Tea @ 2:00 pm ~ Bertrand Nursing Home & Assisted Living

May 12 Village of Bertrand Board Meeting 6:00 pm at Village Hall

May 19 Cross Country Market Meat & Greet

June ~ Summer sports will be in full swing, stop by the ballfields and catch a game or two. Please help support the summer ball program.

June 12 Community Coffee @ 9:30 am ~ Bertrand Nursing Home & Assisted Living

June 2-Aug 25 Bertrand Farmer's Market ~ Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 pm at the Bertrand Park

June 27-June 30 Bertrand Fair & Rodeo Days. Look for more details on the Fair & Rodeo Facebook page. Event calendar will be printed soon with all the events. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED, please consider helping to make the 76th Anniversary a great success!

June 28 Young at Heart Senior Center Fundraiser 11:30-1:00 ~ Pulled pork, beans, chips, & dessert





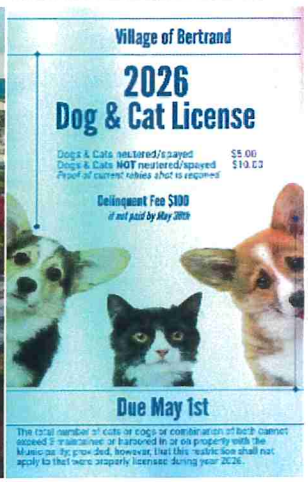


The Bertrand Fair Serving Committee has begun preparing for our 2026 Fair and Rodeo!
As we begin planning for the upcoming fair, we are asking for your continued support. Donations help us keep this tradition strong and allow us to give back even more to our community each year.
We are proud to share how proceeds from the 2025 Bertrand Days Fair were reinvested back into our community:
Because of your support, we were able to contribute to several local organizations and projects, including:

- Bertrand Area Chamber: $500
- Bertrand Fire Department: $500
- Young at Heart Senior Center: $400
- Bertrand High School Scholarships: $900 (2/$250 scholarships)
- Bertrand Nursing Home & Assisted Living: $300
- Bertrand Lions Foundation: $200
- Village of Bertrand (Community Building): $2000
- Village of Bertrand (Pool): $299
- Bertrand School (Bleacher project): $500
- Bertrand Food Pantry: $200
- Loomis Fire Department: $500
- Class of 2026 (working shifts for donation to post prom): $700

In total, over $6,000 was given back to support programs, services, and improvements that directly impact our community.
If you would like to contribute or get involved, please reach out to Beverly Hansen or Mandy Sand
Thank you for helping us make a difference in Bertrand!





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 308-325-0445 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.





May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Schedule Subject to Change					**1** 10:30 RPAC TR @ Cambridge	**2**
3	**4** RPAC GO & TR Weather Date 2:00 JVGO @ Cozad 6:30 FFA Banquet @ Bertrand	**5** 1:00 JHTR @ Cambridge 12:00-3:00 Birkel's Class in East Gym	**6** Gr 1&3 to GI Field Trip 1:30-3:00 Gr 5 & 6 Science Fair	**7** 9:00 GO @ SV 10:00 TR @ Alma 5th Gr to Ft Kearny	**8** Senior's Last Day	**9**
10	**11** 12:00 Elem Honors & Field Day 6:30 PK-5 Concert	**12** 6:00 Academic Banquet & NHS Induction	**13** 11:00 TR Districts @ SV	**14** Last Day of Preschool 1-6 Gr AR to Hastings 10:00 GO @ Bertrand 6:00 Preschool Grad. 7:00 Baccalaureate @ Immanuel	**15** Noon Dismissal  Last Day of School	**16** **3:00 Graduation**
17	**18** 8:00 FFA St Horse Judging @ Norfolk 9:00 GO Dist @ Johnson Lake Teacher Workday 6:30 Activities Banquet	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22** TR State @ Omaha	**23**
24	**25** 	**26** 6:30-9:30 am Weights	**27** GO State @ Columbus 1:00-3:00 Incoming 3-6 Gr B&G Basketball Camp	**28**	**29**	**30**
31						

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30-9:30 am Weights GBB League @ Wil-Hil	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6** 7:30-8:30 pm VB Open Gym by position
7	**8** 6:30-9:30 am Weights GBB League @ Wil-Hil	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12** BBB Camp @ Kearney Catholic	**13**
14	**15** 6:30-9:30 am Weights 6:30-8:30 pm VB Open Gym by position GBB League @ Wil-Hil	**16** GBB Camp @ Axtell	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
21	**22** 6:30-9:30 am Weights GBB League @ Wil-Hil	**23**	**24** GBB @ Anselmo-Merna Camp 7:30-8:30 pm VB Open Gym by postion BBB Camp @ Cozad	**25**	**26**	**27** 6:30-8:30 pm VB Open Gym by position
28	**29** No Summer Weights 7:30-8:30 pm VB Open Gym all positions	**30** No Summer Weights 7:30-8:30 pm VB Open Gym by position		Schedule Subject to Change		

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30-9:30 am Weights VVB @ Minden	2	3	4 
5	6 6:30-9:30 am Weights	7	8 JVVB @ Cambridge	9	10 JVVB @ UNK	11
12	13 6:30-9:30 am Weights 5:00 VB Tri vs Axtell Elm Creed @ E.C.	14	15	16 VVB Sand Camp	17 JVVB Sand Camp	18
19	20 6:30-9:30 am Weights VVB Camp @ UNO	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 6:30-9:30 am Agility Circuit (Outside) East Gym and Weight Room Closed for Refinishing	28	29	30	31	

Lunch May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Menu Subject to Change All meals served with white or chocolate milk and a fruit and veggie bar					1 B: Turnover & cheese stick or parfait L: BBQ pork, baked beans & chips	**2**
3	**4** B: Cereal or parfait L: Poppyseed chicken, peas & roll	**5** B: Sausage gravy & biscuits or parfait L: Mini corn dogs, green beans & roll	**6** B: Waffles & peanut butter or parfait L: Hamburgers, baked beans & chips	**7** B: Croissant sandwich or parfait L: Chicken fajitas & corn	**8** B: Muffins & cheese stick or parfait L: Turkey or tuna sandwich, carrots & hashbrowns	**9**
10	**11** B: Cereal or parfait L: PJ & J, cheese stick & chips	**12** B: Omelet or parfait L: Pizza bunza & peas	**13** B: French toast or parfait L: Pig in a blanket & green beans	**14** B: Bacon pizza scramble or parfait L: Taco & corn	**15** B: Cinnamon roll & cheese stick NO LUNCH NOON DISMISSAL	**16**
17	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**
24	**25** 	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**