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Bett® Pride

Bettendorf Community School District Community Newsletter

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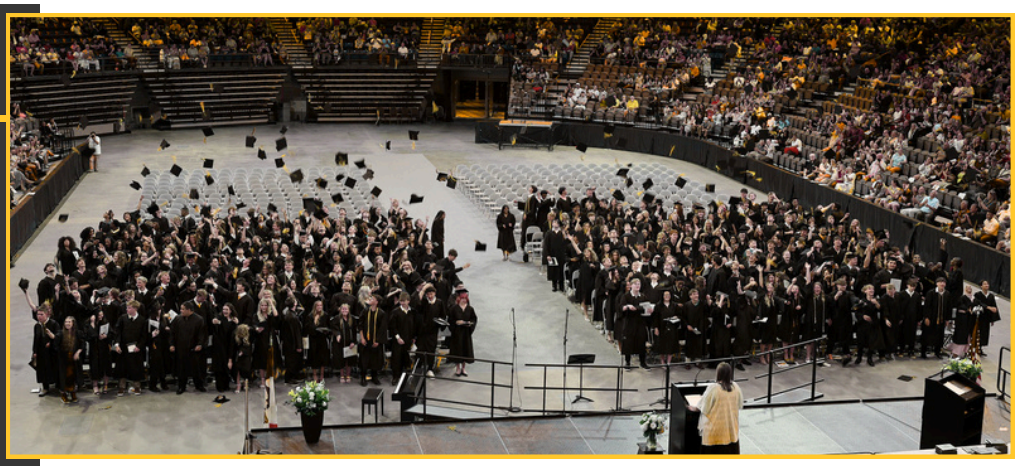
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Bettendorf Community School District

(563) 359-3681
3311 18th St.
Bettendorf, IA 52722
www.bettschools.org
@BettSchools



Introducing the Bettendorf High School

Class of 2026

We are honored to have helped you learn and grow into the successful young adults you are today. Wishing you nothing but the very best! Bulldog Pride forever!

Graduates - 351
Scholarships - $127,600

Class Motto
"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." - Dr. Seuss

Class Color - Gold
Class Flower - Yellow Peony
Class Song - "Landslide" Fleetwood Mac

Class Officers:
Mateo Troche - President
Claire Franzman - Vice President
Kelly Le - Secretary
Rowan Schalk - Treasurer
Benjamin Gillette - Media Specialist

Check out the list of graduates, the graduation program, and the video of the ceremony.



Dr. Michelle Morse
Superintendent

Superintendent's Message
Reflecting on a Remarkable School Year

As we close the 2025–26 school year, I want to thank our students, staff, families, and community for another incredible year in Bettendorf Schools. This year has been filled with growth, achievement, resilience, and countless moments that remind us what makes Bettendorf such a special place to learn and work.

Our students continue to inspire us through their accomplishments in academics, fine arts, athletics, service, and everyday acts of kindness. I am deeply grateful for our dedicated staff members whose commitment and care help every student succeed. We also celebrate and thank our retirees for their years of service and lasting impact on our schools.

To our families and community members, thank you for your continued partnership and support. Your involvement helps create opportunities for our students to thrive.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to providing outstanding educational experiences for every learner while building on the strong traditions of Bettendorf Schools.

Thank you for a wonderful school year. I hope everyone has a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer, and we look forward to welcoming students and staff back in August for another great year.



Dr. Morse, joined by Principal Burchard, presents the Employee of the Quarter Award to Kait Jensen, a preschool teacher at Neil Armstrong Elementary, with her students.

Dr. Morse Named a 2026
Woman of Influence

Congratulations to Dr. Morse for being selected as one of eleven women for the QC Business Journal 2026 Women of Influence - honored for having the vision to see what's possible, the persistence to build it, and the generosity to bring others along.

Your leadership continues to inspire our students, staff, and community! #BettPride

Learn more - https://bit.ly/QCBJ-WomenofInfluence



Honoring a Legacy of Dedication and Service

BCSD 2026 Retirees

Thank you to our retirees for your years of dedication, compassion, and service to our students, families, and colleagues.

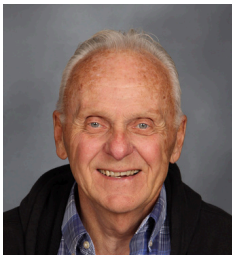
Your impact on our schools and community will be felt for years to come, and we are deeply grateful for all you have given. Wishing you happiness and fulfillment in this exciting new chapter!



Mike Ahrens
Physical Education
High School
32 Years of Service



Marsha Baker
Bus Driver
Operations
38 Years of Service



Gary Larson
Bus Driver
Operations
16 Years of Service



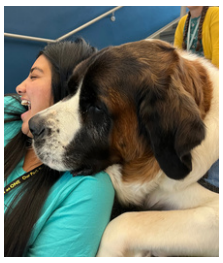
Rita Manwiller
Academic Interventionist
Middle School
21 Years of Service



Kris McKissick
1st Grade
Herbert Hoover Elem
23 Years of Service



Jeanne Nock
Paraeducator
Middle School
10 Years of Service



Ranger
Prof. Therapy Dog
Neil Armstrong Elem
11 Years of Service



Sarah Rasmer
Paraeducator
Neil Armstrong Elem
11 Years of Service



Amy Schebler
Paraeducator
Mark Twain Elem
25 Years of Service



Kathy Seibel
Teacher Librarian
Herbert Hoover Elem
13 Years of Service



Chris Sherman
Nutrition Services
High School
24 Years of Service



Five Decades of Service and Smiles

Celebrating Denis Glynn 50/50

Congratulations to Denis Glynn (BHS Class of 1976 - 50 year anniversary) on an incredible 50 years of service in Nutrition Services at Bettendorf High School! His dedication, hard work, and commitment to generations of students and staff have made a lasting impact on the Bettendorf community.

Join us in thanking Denis for five decades of caring service and Bulldog pride!

"Denis' enduring smile and friendly personality have made him a beloved part of Bettendorf High School for 50 years. His positive attitude leaves a lasting impression on everyone he meets, and we are incredibly grateful for his years of service to our district." Michelle Riessen, Nutrition & Wellness Manager.

Free Meals for Kids

2026 SUN MEALS

Youth 18 & Younger

June 8 - July 31

Monday - Friday



Breakfast & Lunch

📍 **Mark Twain Elementary**
Breakfast: 8:30 - 9:30 am
Lunch: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
No Meals July 3

Lunch

Lunch: 12 - 12:45 pm
No Meals June 29 - July 3

📍 **Bettendorf High School**
📍 **Lincoln Park** - 951 27th St.
📍 **McManus Park** - 1200 Mississippi Blvd

In the event of inclement weather, the park location will be the Bettendorf Community Center - 2204 Grant St.

- *Weather alerts will be available daily by 11:30 am.*
- *Call ahead at 563-344-4113 for location updates.*

Notice of Nondiscrimination

It is the policy of the Bettendorf Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing discrimination complaints. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the Affirmative Action Coordinator (Executive Director of Human Resources), District Administration Center, 3311 18th St., Bettendorf, IA. 52722, (563)359-3681.

$.01 Sales Tax (SAVE) Funds Improving our Schools!

Bettendorf Middle School Renovation Charges Ahead This Summer

Your tax dollars are helping to build brighter futures for our students! Thank you!

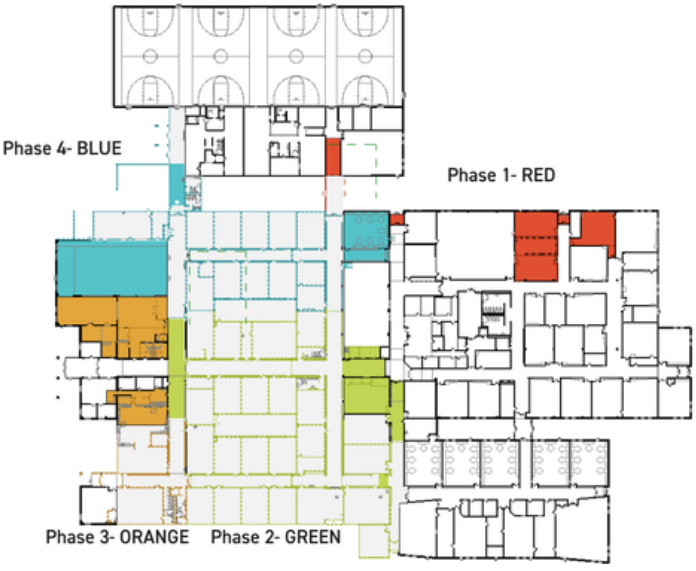
Bettendorf Middle School is battening down the hatches this summer as crews dive full speed into summer construction for the phased, $33.7 million, five-year renovation project at the school.

This summer, the Russell Construction team will complete a new 12-classroom addition located off Spruce Hills Drive across from Cumberland Square. The new classroom wing is designed to support collaborative and adaptable learning environments and is being built to meet storm shelter designation standards. Watch for information about a future ribbon cutting and open house celebrating the new addition.

Demolition of the original structures will also begin this summer as the construction team prepares for Phase Two of the project, renovation of the building's interior.

During summer construction, Bettendorf Middle School will be closed to the public.

Top right: MS Social Studies Teacher Melissa Hawthorn touring the new classroom wing.



The area in green will be demolished this summer, with reconstruction of the area being completed through Aug. 2027.





Run With Carl

Annual Labor Day Run Fundraiser

Monday, Sept. 7

1/2 Mile Children's Fun Run
(age 12 and under)

5K Walk/Run
5-Mile Run

Funds Scholarships and Classroom Grants at Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation & Pleasant Valley Schools Educational Foundation

Register to run or volunteer at
www.runwithcarl.com



Bettendorf High School music students are showing off new band and orchestra equipment funded through an SCRA grant.

SCRA Investing in Music: **New Instruments Enhance BHS Programs**

The Bettendorf High School Instrumental Music Department enhanced its program this year through a 2025 Scott County Regional Authority (SCRA) Grant, allowing for the purchase of several new instruments and equipment. Additions include new sousaphones with both brass and fiberglass bells, a drum set with travel cases, chimes, a xylophone, and string instruments for use by 4th-grade students.

These investments are already making a noticeable impact. The marching band showcased the new sousaphones at the IHSMA State Marching Festival, and the BHS Jazz Bands have earned excellent ratings at contests this season while performing with the new drum set.

Beyond immediate successes, these instruments represent a long-term investment in students and the community.

With proper care, they are expected to support music education at BHS for decades to come, providing opportunities for future generations of musicians to learn, perform, and excel.

BCSD 2026-2027 Property Tax Levy Decrease

The Bettendorf Community School District property tax levy rate for the 2026-2027 fiscal year will be $12.13 per $1,000 of taxable valuation. This marks a decrease of 27 cents from the previous year's rate of $12.40.

"Our goal is to provide the resources our students need to thrive -academically, socially, and emotionally - while being conscientious about the impact on our taxpayers," said Tyler Reedy, Executive Director of Finance and Business.

The Bettendorf Community School District remains committed to fiscal responsibility and transparent financial stewardship. By carefully managing resources and maintaining efficient operations, the district continues to deliver high-quality educational opportunities while minimizing the tax burden on local residents.

See our Schools in Action!

Follow our district on social media @ BettSchools for updates, events, and highlights.

Bett Connect
Bettendorf High School Alumni
Students | Staff | Community
bettconnect.com

www.foundation.bettschools.org

The Lamp

The Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation works to enhance the educational opportunities for Bettendorf Community School District students through the development and distribution of funds.

BCSF Board Members

President - Anne Dunbar | **Vice President** - Gretchen Farwell | **Secretary** - Jill Frerichs | **Treasurer** - Kelsey Hartog | **Trustees:** Lauren Pena Chrissotimos, Kevin Cullum, Jim Farber, Benjamin Keith, Jennifer Smith

Foundation Awards:
Senior Scholarships & Department Awards



Department Outstanding Student Awards

Art – Atalissa Bloyd
Business (Joseph D. Hayes) – Sara Cullum
Computer Science – Abigail Rashid
Family and Consumer Science – Jacee Cale
Health Sciences (Schmertmann) – Mallory Sullivan
Industrial Tech – Jack Girskis
Instrumental Music (Michael J. Green Music Education) – Stella Lundh
Language Arts – Benjamin Gillette
Life Skills – Jacob Bitterman
Math (Verla Funk) – AJ Willey
Physical Education – Jenna Farwell
Science (Don and Mary Schaefer) – Noah Leavitt
Social Studies (Patrick A. Burr) – Destiny Borland
Student Services – Natalie Everding
Vocal Music – Anaelle Mutamba
World Language (Keith Bonnstetter) – Gabriella Wade

Scholarships

Alla Family Foundation Academic Excellence – Joseph Evans & Nisha Siva
Barbara J. Brown Golden Bulldog Award (Athletics) – Maggie Menster & Joseph McDermott
BEA (Teachers Association) – Payton Paul
BHS Class of 1956 – Rowan Schalk
Bettendorf Rotary (Mooney and Stradt Families) – Jonathan Isaacson & Stella Lundh
BHS Legacy – Cody Trevino & Gage Tucker
Bill and Alice Mary Meier – Henry Gillies
Bill and Ellen Stradt – Olivia Snow
Carl D. Schillig Memorial – Sara Cullum
Dean L. Halverson Memorial – Payton Terronez
Denny Thiessen Memorial – Peyton Nagle
Dr. A.E. Lampe Family – Kadena Gibbs
Dr. Raymond W. Oles (Math/Computer Science) – Armon Williams
For a Better World – Marlee Behrends, Abigail Holland, Sophia Wainwright
Friends of Theatre – John Rowe
Give Like Charly – Emma Reilly
Janice Lawson Eternal Spirit Award – Emmalee Woltz
JoAnn M. Stuhr (Math) – Parker Pruitt
Judith Wade – Natalie Everding
Martin Samuel Eason – Rachel Frohlich
Pamela D. Johnson, Ph.D. (Educational) – Madison Stark
Public Service – Madison Stark
Quinton J. Sandry Vocational (Edison Academy) – Milana Griffin
Redeemer Lutheran Pathway (Edison Academy) – Alana Rico & Tyler Hodges
Rich and Dee James (Citizenship) – Audrey Seneli
Roberts Family – Jacee Cale
Stewart N. Lounsberry – Jack Mohr & Jenna Farwell
Thomas Jefferson Elementary Spirit of Community Service Legacy – Piper Fredricksen & Keegan Widmeyer

Bettendorf Community School District

Administration Center
3311 18th St.
Bettendorf, IA 52722
www.bettschools.org
Dr. Michelle Morse
Superintendent

School Board
Paul Castro, President
Ryan McGivern, Vice President
Michelle Bruty
Eric Engles
Brian Hanssen
Patrick Larkin
Jessica Witter

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