



DISTRICT UPDATE

September 15, 2023

From the Office of Superintendent Michael Kellison
3150 Education Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95407
(707) 542-5197 www.busd.org



Mission:

Inspire learning

Vision:

Engaging and ❤️ (valuing/caring) for our families, students and staff to empower our community.

Dear Bellevue Union School District Families and Staff,

We just finished the 21st day of school which means that more than 10% of the school year is complete. It is remarkable to think of the school year in those terms as it still feels like the beginning of the year. With that in mind, we are reminded how important it is for our students to attend school regularly. The month of September is Attendance Awareness Month. During this month, we are reminding families about the importance of consistent attendance. To further support improving student attendance rates, we hired a District Family Engagement Facilitator who will be working with families who have been identified as chronically absent. Additionally, we contracted with a retired school administrator who will be overseeing student attendance throughout the district. We are hopeful that these efforts will support improved student attendance district-wide.

State of the District

- **LCAP Advisory Committee:** We are currently recruiting members of our community to serve on the LCAP Advisory Committee. The purpose of this committee is to provide support and guidance in the development of our new LCAP. We are hoping to recruit a representative body of staff and parents who can help us in the creation of our BUSD Roadmap to the Future. Please email: superintendent@busd.org if you are interested in joining the committee. Our first meeting will be held on September 21st at the District Office.
- **Safe Routes to School:** The Bellevue Union School District is committed to working with the City of Santa Rosa to identify opportunities for our students to get to and from school safely. Additionally, we will be working with the Safe Routes to School Task Force to encourage families to safely walk or bike to school. On September 28th at 10:30 am, we will be hosting a task force meeting at the BUSD District Office. We will be extending an invitation to our families to attend if they would like to hear more about what is being planned by the City of Santa Rosa and provide them with the opportunity to share what they see as community needs related to walking or biking to school.
- **Enrollment:** Enrollment in the district continues to trend upwards. We are closely watching class and grade level capacities, and we will be ready to open new sections throughout the school year should the need arise. With increased enrollment we continue to hire new staff to provide the support necessary for our schools to operate successfully, and we are continuing to invest in our employees by providing a significant amount of training to all employees as we continue to find ways to allow our people to grow and enjoy success in their work.

In closing, I would like to publicly thank our principals and site leaders for their outstanding work. I am inspired by their commitment to ensuring their schools are functioning at the highest of levels in spite of the myriad of challenges that they must tackle each and every day. With the Week of the School Administrator scheduled for October 8-14, I ask that our community joins me in taking time to appreciate and thank our site administrators.

With pride,
Michael Kellison

SCHOOL SITE UPDATES:

Bellevue Elementary School	
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30	Contact Us @ 707-542-5195
Principal, Nina Craig: ncraig@busd.org	Office Assistant, Blanca Ramirez: bramirez@busd.org
Office Manager, Karina Martinez: kmartinez@busd.org	Family Engagement Facilitator, Amy Flores Casares: aflorescasares@busd.org

Upcoming Meetings & Events:	
Friday, September 15 ~ Spirit Day	Sports Day
Friday, September 15; 3:05-4:30pm	4-6th Girls Volleyball Tryouts
Friday, September 15; 9am	ELAC
Friday, September 22; 9am	Coffee with the Principal/Parent Club
Monday, September 25; 8:30am	Student of the Month
Monday, September 25; 3:30pm	School Site Council
Friday, September 29 ~ Spirit Day	Crazy Hair Day
Other Events:	
Mondays after school	Move Over Mozart
Tuesdays: 2:45pm	Food Pantry
Tuesdays and Fridays after school	6th grade Marimba

Kawana Springs Elementary School

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00	Contact Us @ 707-545-4283
Principal , Denise McCullough: dmccullough@busd.org	Office Assistant , Michelle Williams: mwilliams@busd.org
Office Manager , Susy Bradley: sbradley@busd.org	Family Engagement Facilitator , Erika Corrales: ecorrales@busd.org

Upcoming Meetings & Events:	
Thursday, September 14, 12:00pm	ELAC meeting
Thursday, September 21	School Picture Day
Thursday, September 28, 11:30am Gr. 3-6, 1:45pm Gr TK-2	Walkathon
Thursday, September 28, 2:45pm	School Site Council Meeting
Other Events:	
Mondays	Move Over Mozart
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:05pm	Girls on the Run, Gr. 3-5
Tuesdays and Fridays, 2:35pm	Marimba- 6th Gr.
Thursdays, 10:00 - 11:00 am	Food Pantry

Meadow View Elementary School	
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00	Contact Us @ 707-541-3715
Principal , Jean Walker: jwalker@busd.org	Office Assistant , Isabel Luna: imluna@busd.org
Office Manager , Natali Ramirez: qramirez@busd.org	Family Engagement Facilitator , Paula Hernandez: phernandez@busd.org

Upcoming Meetings & Events:	
September 12th, time tbd	Move over Mozart starts
Weds- Friday Sept 13th-15th, 2023	Outdoor Education for 6th grade
Friday, September 15th, 8:15am	Coffee with the Principal

Friday, September 15th, 9:00am	ELAC committee
Monday, September 25th 8:00am	School Picture Day
Monday, September 18th 3:00pm	School Site Council
Other Events:	
Tuesdays: 2:00-2:15 pm	Food Pantry
Monday & Thursdays: 2:45 - 3:35 pm	Marimba Lesson, 6th gr.
Tuesday time tbd	Move over Mozart

Taylor Mountain Elementary School	
Office hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00	Contact Us @ 707-542-3671
Principal , Margaret Jacobson: mjacobson@busd.org	Office Assistant , Hope Leon: hleon@busd.org
Office Manager , Julie Roza: jroza@busd.org	Family Engagement Facilitator , Elida Guerrero: eguerrero@busd.org

Upcoming Meetings & Events:	
Monday, September 18, 2:45 pm	School Site Council Meeting in Library
Monday, September 18	School Picture Day
Friday, September 29	Colors of the Rainbow: Each grade level wears a single color: TK-K-red; 1st-2nd-orange; 3rd - SDC-yellow; 4th-green; 5th-blue; 6th- purple
Other Events:	
Thursdays: 10:00 - 11:00 am	Food Pantry
Mondays and Thursdays (2:35-3:35 pm)	6th gr. Marimba
Fridays after school (2:40-4:10 pm)	Move over Mozart

DISTRICT UPDATES:

Business Service: Chris Kim, CBO (business@busd.org)

Budget and Financial Update:

On September 12th, the District presented a comprehensive overview and analysis of its unaudited, actual financial activity for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023. This report reflected the District's commitment to scrutinize and refine its budget, thereby facilitating informed fiscal recommendations to the Board of Trustees. This financial report - which is posted on the District's website - should be considered in conjunction with the District's Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget, which was submitted to the Board of Trustees on August 15, 2023. The Unaudited Actuals report serves as a vital tool for understanding how the District concluded the preceding fiscal year. It also provides a historical perspective by pointing to data back to FY 2017/18. The report begins with an examination of enrollment and funded Average Daily Attendance (ADA) figures, proceeds to delineate crucial revenue and expenditure components, identifies the components of the District's ending fund balance (reserves), an analysis of the District's Special Education program and programs funded through one-time sources, and offers insights into various programmatic funds, such as Child Development, Child Nutrition, and Facilities Funds.

Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee:

The District would like to invite your participation as a contributing member of the District's Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee. The specific bond for which we are petitioning your service is related to the District's Measure C Bond which was passed by voters in April 2020. The District is currently seeking members who meet the following criteria:

- 1 member must be an active member of the business community
- 1 member shall be active in a senior citizens' organization
- 1 member shall be active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization
- 1 member shall be the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district
- 1 member shall be the parent of an enrolled child and be active in a parent-teacher organization

Education Services: Aracely Romo-Flores, Director
(curriculum@busd.org)

Family Engagement = Student Success!

Children with families engaged in their education are more likely to...

- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Graduate from high school and attend college
- Develop self-confidence and motivation in the classroom
- Have better social skills and classroom behavior

They are also less likely to...

- Suffer from low self-esteem
- Require redirection in the classroom
- Develop behavioral issues



Please speak to your school principal and your child's classroom teacher about how you can become more involved. You make a difference!

State Testing Results

If you have a 4th, 5th, or 6th-grade student, you will soon receive, if you haven't already, your child's state testing results for English Language Arts and Math. If your child is a multilingual student, he/she will also receive the test results of the English Language Proficiency Assessment for California (ELPAC). If you have any questions about these tests, please contact Aracely Romo-Flores at (707) 544-8164 or curriculum@busd.org. If you have any questions about the results, please contact your child's school.

Learning Resources

At BUSD we have great learning opportunities and resources for our students and our families. All students have access to the following learning tools through Clever:

Lalilo (K-2):

It is an online learning platform that will help your students learn foundational reading skills in:

- Phonics (Letter-sound Correspondence)
- Phonological awareness
- Sight words
- Word families
- Independent reading
- Listening comprehension
- Grammar and conventions

Recommended Usage Time: 15-20 minutes daily

Students can access Lalilo from home for free using an iPad or computer.

Freckle Math and Freckle Language Arts (K-6):

Freckle Math and Language Arts is an online learning platform that allows students to practice Math and Language Arts at their own level in either English or Spanish. Freckle continuously adapts to each student's individual skills so each student is getting the appropriate challenge, whether they're working at, above, or below grade level.

Recommended Usage Time: 15-20 minutes daily per content area (15-20 minutes for Language Arts and 15-20 minutes for Math)

Students can access Freckle from home for free using an iPad or computer.

Imagine Español (TK-2) - for Kawana Springs Students Only

Imagine Español is a personalized learning solution that accelerates grade-level reading and language proficiency in Spanish for students in grades TK–2. Designed to address the diverse instructional needs of native speakers and students learning to read in Spanish. Imagine Español teaches foundational literacy skills in an engaging, game-like environment that celebrates the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

Recommended Usage Time: 15-20 minutes daily

Students can access Imagine Español from home for free using an iPad or computer.

Reflex Math (2-6)

Reflex Math is math practice that makes it easy to get students math fact fluent and ready for more complex math. Assessment, coaching, and practice are delivered via a fun, game-based approach. And because it is fully adaptive, students get the individualized instruction they need to be successful.

Recommended Usage Time: 15-20 minutes daily

Students can access Reflex Math from home for free using an iPad or computer

Accelerated Reader (1-6)

Accelerated Reader is a digital program that helps students and teachers manage and monitor independent reading practice in both English and Spanish. “Just reading” transforms into high-quality reading practice that fuels growth: Reading quizzes monitor comprehension, while literacy skills and vocabulary quizzes extend student learning and build skills mastery.

Recommended Usage Time: 35 minutes per day

Students can access Accelerated Reader from home using an iPad or computer

Learning Resource for Parents

Parents, there are also great learning opportunities for you through the **Sonoma County Adult Education Department**. There are many classes to choose from and **most** are provided in English and Spanish. Best of all, these classes are **free!** Here is the link to the [Fall Schedule](#). Please note that some of those classes are taught right here in our district, at the Meadow View Campus, and because of that, our families have priority registration for those! We hope you take advantage of these!

Food Services: Lynn Wong, Manager (lwong@busd.org)



Check out the [menus](#) for breakfast and lunch.

To find meal sites near you, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304.



Sonoma County Regional Parks Annual Pass for Only \$5/year



The Sonoma County Regional Parks is offering entrance to their parks for only \$5/year (regularly \$69/year) to any of their [55 regional parks](#) for families who qualify for [free meal eligibility](#).

Please contact the Food Service Program with name of student(s), school(s) attending, address, email, and phone number, if you are interested in applying for this discounted entry pass, cafeteria@busd.org. A verification letter will be provided to take to the Sonoma County Regional Parks office to purchase your annual pass. The pass is good for 12-months from the date of purchase. With summer break coming up, this is a great opportunity to get out and enjoy nature!



Human Resources: Stacy Spector, Director (hr@busd.org 916-996-3493)

Hiring for Classified positions. These include:

- Student Supervision
- Substitute Instructional Assistants
- Substitute Student Supervision
- Substitute Custodians
- Substitute Cooks, Dishwashers and Kitchen Operators

Competitive Salary and Compensation:

- Salaries start between \$16.70 and \$17.84.
- Hours range from ½ hour to 6 hours
- Generous medical, dental and vision benefits
- Support for continuing education
- Flexible hours
- Paid holidays
- Accrued vacation hours

All jobs at Bellevue Union School District

<http://www.edjoin.org/BellevueUnion>

Classified jobs at Bellevue Union School District

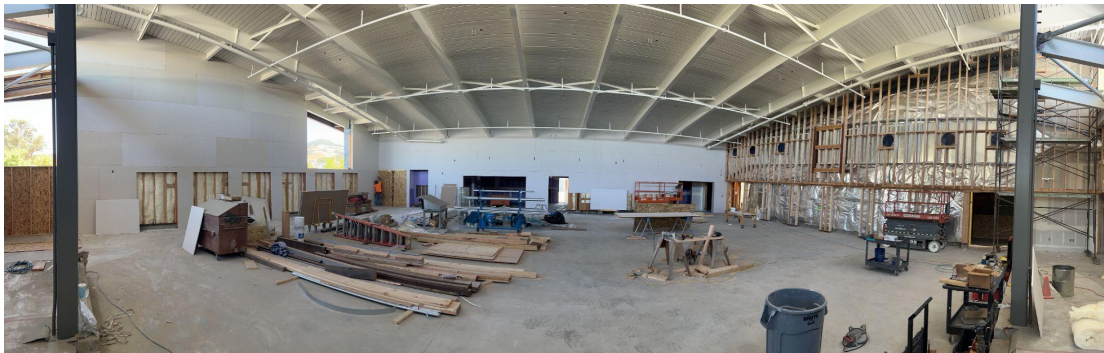
<http://www.edjoin.org/Home/Jobs?countyID=0&districtID=912&catID=3>

Maintenance & Operations: Bill Jereb, Director (maintenance@busd.org)

Kawana Springs Elementary

Office & Multi-Purpose Room MPR Construction Update.

- Ridgeview Builders and their subcontractors have been steadily moving along with construction behind the green fence at Kawana Springs. The contractor expects to be finished and ready for furnishings by February 2024.



Kawana Springs - New compartmentalized storage unit to replace old leaking storage



Bellevue Elementary

- Work continues on the MPR Facade
 - Electrical switch gear fencing installed



- Bulldog “Head” & “Home of the BULLDOGS” signage on order.



- Planters for pollination garden coming soon



Meadow View Elementary

- The girls and boys restroom partitions in the MPR & Library were replaced over the summer with new tamper resistant partitions.



Taylor Mountain Elementary

- Interior Quad Seating Project



- Playground Water Fountain/Bottle Filler relocated and repaired



District Wide Projects

- Parking lot gates have been placed at Taylor Mountain, Meadow View & District Office.
- Door “Buzz-In” systems have been installed at Taylor Mountain, Meadow View, Bellevue and the District Office.
- 400 cubic yards of mulch was spread throughout the district to help with weed abatement.

The District continues to work with our landscape designer, GSM Landscape Architects, to develop plans for our reimagined play areas and grounds.

- Phase 1 - District wide K-Yards & Taylor Mountain Upper Grade Playground
- Phase 2 - District wide Upper Grade Playgrounds
- Phase 3 - District wide Curb Appeal

Please send any questions or maintenance requests you may have about our facilities to mohelp@busd.org. Thank you!

Student Services: Tracy Whitaker (studentservices@busd.org)



Our social emotional curriculum, CharacterStrong, continues in its second year of implementation. This year included a Kindness Kickoff when students first returned to school. The focus for September is RESPECT! *Respect is seeing value in all people and things & treating them with care.* Each week teachers lead a lesson on respect as students develop a deeper understanding of what it means and its impact.

CharacterStrong Tier II curriculum has been added for our school counselors to use with small groups of students who require additional intervention and support in regulating their emotions, relationships, self-management, and coping skills.



Early Learning Center (ELC): For those who attend the NBCC and the special education programs at the ELC, please excuse our mess. A new fence is being installed between the sidewalk in front of the classrooms and the parking lot. Installation will occur **October 4th, 5th, and 6th**. This project may impact parking as well as student drop off and pick up. Thank you for your patience as we improve safety on the ELC site.

Our next Family Connection event at the ELC is on Friday, October 6th from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Our preschool special day class teachers will share ideas about connecting home and school to support student success.

Technology: Ryan Green, Director (it@busd.org)



What is ACP? The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission effort to help

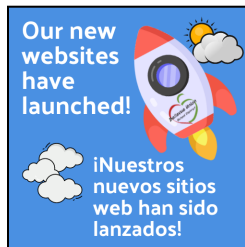
families and households struggling to afford internet service. It provides:

- Up to a \$30 monthly discount on internet services for eligible households.
- Up to a \$75 monthly discount on internet services for households living on qualifying tribal lands.
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider. The one-time discount requires a consumer co-payment of more than \$10 and less than \$50.

The ACP is available to any household with a member enrolled in a federal assistance program including Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medi-Cal, Women, Infants & Children Program (WIC), and others, or that is low-income. Sign up using this link: <https://www.capsonoma.org/acp/>

As always, please send any questions or technology requests to ithelp@busd.org.

General Information About the District: Moriah Hart, Executive Assistant (mhart@busd.org)



Website Launch: To further enhance communication with our community BUSD has worked hard all summer to launch new websites for our schools and the district. Our new pages have gone live. Please let us know if you see any typos or missing links!

September is attendance Awareness month: You may have noticed the attendance facts posted to our Facebook pages and the BUSD phone app this month. The BUSD School Board passed a resolution in August to focus on attendance in September, and all year. Remember, if they're here today, they can achieve tomorrow.



Visual and Performing Arts: At Bellevue Union School District we are committed to arts education for our students. We offer singing, songwriting and marimba instruction for our students during the school day, as well as other music opportunities, including piano, after school. We believe in arts education and know that students who participate in the arts at school stay in school, do better in school and have fun!

If you listen to Classical KDFC (<https://www.kdfc.com/>) on the radio or online they'll be playing a piece by California composer Gabriela Lena Frank for Bellevue Union School District Monday, September 18th, sometime between 7 – 7:30 am.

Our newsletters are always available on our [website](#), on Facebook: www.facebook.com/busd.org and via our mobile phone app available here: www.busd.org/app

With pride,

Michael Kellison

Superintendent

BELLEVUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

3150 Education Drive / Santa Rosa, CA 95407

(707) 542-5197 / Fax: (707) 542-6127

<http://www.busd.org>

www.facebook.com/busd.org