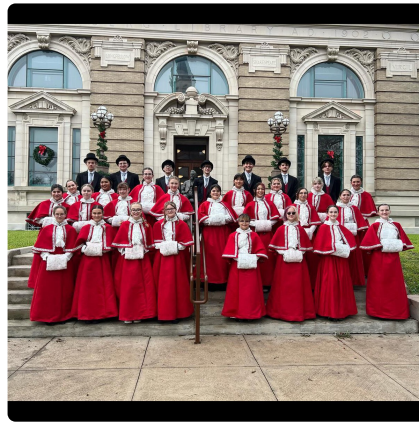


# Belton ISD eNews

DECEMBER 7, 2023



--- [Click Here to Translate This Newsletter](#) ---

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Big Red Community,

We are closing out an exceptional first half of the year in Belton ISD. Highlights include Region 12 honoring Lake Belton High School teacher Kate Kelley as Teacher-of-the-Year; New Tech @Waskow earning a place on the AP® School Honor Roll; the Belton High School Tiger football team being crowned bi-district champions; the Lake Belton High School Marching Stampede earning their third trip to state marching competition; the Leon Heights Elementary honor choir performing for the State Board of Education; and Temple College piloting an adopt-a-school program at Miller Heights Elementary. The fall semester has been full of moments to #CelebrateBISD.



These celebrations exemplify our commitment to create the conditions for each and every student to pursue their dreams and enrich their communities. During the winter break we will continue our efforts to ensure the physical condition of our schools creates the right environment for students and staff. Installation of secure vestibules across the district will begin this month and will continue through the summer. These projects represent the fulfillment of important promises within the 2022 bond and help us further our efforts to improve the conditions for student learning and growth. The timelines and scope of the projects will impact many BISD campuses through the coming months.

Continuing our focus on safety and student support, we also know that the individual choices students make contribute to their learning environment. To that end, we want to continue our Parents as Partners efforts as we move into the spring semester and address an important topic for BISD families. Substance abuse is impacting every community across the state and nation, including our own. Early next year, BISD will be providing parent education and support opportunities to help ensure we thoughtfully partner to address this issue for the benefit of our students.

I want to close with a mention of an exciting new chapter in the Big Red Community. On December 14, nearly 400 James L. Burrell Elementary students will visit their new campus with their teachers for the first time. These students will begin next semester at their brand-new campus, which will serve as a testament to the incredible educator for whom it was named.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for the official grand opening of James L. Burrell Elementary on January 20, 2024, at 1 p.m. During the event, we will celebrate the completion of the school and reflect on Mr. Burrell's legacy and impact on the community. This school would not be possible without the support of our community and the approval of the 2022 bond election, and we are excited to share it with you.

I wish you and your family a safe, happy holiday season in the Big Red Community!

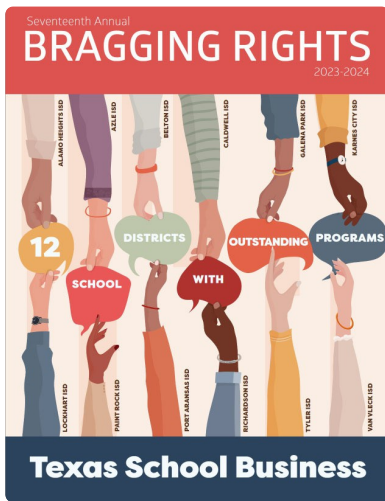
Matt Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Belton ISD

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## TOP STORIES

### **Belton ISD Recognized in Texas School Business Magazine**

Belton ISD is one of twelve districts that were highlighted in the 2023–2024 17th Annual Bragging Rights special issue of the [Texas School Business Magazine](#). Every December the publication recognizes school districts that have implemented programs that are improving the lives of Texas students, teachers, schools, and communities, and we are proud to be among them.



## Belton ISD Duo Receives All-State Musical Achievement

Two Belton ISD high school students, Emily Jeong and Pablo Ureste, achieved the remarkable feat of becoming 2023–2024 Texas Music Educators Association ([TMEA All-State Musicians](#)).



### Belton ISD Duo Receives All-State Musical Achievement

High school students selected to perform in the All-State concerts have competed in auditions to qualify at the state level. All-State is the highest honor a Texas music student can receive. 1,875 students were selected through a process that began with over 70,000 students from around the state for the honor of performing in one of 18 ensembles, only the top 2.6% of musicians who initially audition become all-state musicians.

## Belton ISD Celebrates 12 Theater Students as 2023 National Thespian Qualifiers

Belton ISD is celebrating 12 theater students achieving the distinction of becoming [2023 National Thespian Qualifiers](#). Students attended workshops by theater professionals and competed in multiple events at the Gaylord in Grapevine on November 15-18.



## Belton ISD Middle School Musicians Earn Seats in TMEA All-Region Band

Belton ISD's middle school bands traveled to College Station on November 11 to compete for a seat in the [TMEA Middle School All-Region Band](#). Over 100 students received the remarkable achievement and were selected for the TMEA Region 8 South Zone All-Region Band.



**Belton Middle School  
Band**



**Lake Belton Middle  
School Band**



**North Belton Middle  
School Band**

## TRENDING TOPICS

### Attendance Matters

We love seeing our students every single day and miss them when they are out. We realize some absences are unavoidable due to medical obligations or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Absences can be submitted online [here](#).



### Free and Reduced School Meal Application

Belton ISD families are invited to submit a Free and Reduced School Meal Application for the 2023-24 school year. Free and Reduced meal applications are for more than just meals! The application is available [online](#).



### Meet BISD

Meet BISD is an opportunity to spotlight teachers, staff and administrators who are changing lives in the Big Red Community. If you want to recommend someone who personifies our [world-class competencies](#), please submit a nomination [here](#).



## BOARD BRIEFS

Board Briefs are a monthly recap of updates following our regularly scheduled workshops and meetings of the Belton ISD Board of Trustees. Did you miss the November 13th board meeting? Here's a recap from BISD Board Trustee Janet Leigh.

Board Briefs - November 17, 2023



# BELTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD BRIEFS

November 17, 2023  
Regular Board Meeting



## GET INVOLVED

**ENGAGE & EMPOWER WITH**  
VOLUNTEER AND PARTNERSHIP SYSTEM



Belton ISD believes the learning experiences of our students are enhanced through the engagement of our community. That's why we welcome your partnership! Whether you are a parent, guardian, community member or business leader, we are excited to have you join us.

If you would like to serve with us, sign up with our new [volunteer management system](#).

# Volunteer Readers Needed



## To be a Literacy Partner

Contact Education Connection  
512.813.5918  
info@education-connection.org



click here!



Humility + Consistency + Simplicity



# 2023 Board of Trustees

# Winter Break

December 15  
2-Hour Early Release

December 18-January 1  
District Offices & School Closed

January 2-3  
Offices Open & Teacher In-Service

January 4  
Students Return



## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7: [Parents as Partners - Family Access 101 & Internet Safety for Parents and Guardians](#)

December 11: [Board Meeting](#)

December 15: [Early Release](#)

December 18 - January 1: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)

January 2-3: [Student Holiday / Teacher Workday](#)

January 4: [Spring semester begins](#)

January 15: [Student / Teacher Holiday](#)

January 22: [Board Meeting](#)

February 13: [Parents as Partners - Work Readiness & CTE Programs](#)

February 19: [Professional Learning / Student Holiday](#)

February 20: [Teacher Learning & Workday/Student Holiday](#)

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**2023-2024 Academic Calendar**

Take the Journey

Stay Connected

We're Hiring

### About Us

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Belton ISD Communications

