

# Belton ISD eNews

March 30, 2022



## Message from Superintendent



At Monday night's meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board took time to dive into our [values and beliefs](#). We discussed how, as a district, we are igniting and supporting innovative thinking and problem-solving in our students and staff.

With that conversation in mind, I will share with you a few highlights of innovative initiatives that are at work in the Big Red Community.

An amazing opportunity is coming to Lake Belton High School next fall called INCubatoredu, a program of study that values and supports innovation and entrepreneurship. Working through the curriculum and methodology, students will pursue problem-solving and business development with the support of their teachers, mentors, coaches and a board of advisors. Perhaps one of the coolest aspects of the Incubator program is that it offers a huge opportunity for volunteers from our local business community to get involved.

We are very excited to see what our students will create and discover through INCubatoredu and will share more information about it in the coming months.

Next month we plan on reporting to the Board of Trustees about an exciting new cybersecurity program to be offered at Belton High School. Stay tuned for more information!

Another celebration of innovation is that BHS and LBHS both recently had robotics teams advance to the VEX Robotics World Championship to be held in May. This competition brings together student-led teams from all over the globe to showcase their game strategy, design and teamwork skills. From designing, to building, to programming the robots, our

students are now competing at the elite levels. We wish both teams, Thunderous from BHS and Broncobotics from LBHS, the very best of luck!

Belton ISD is uniquely special because innovative opportunities are available to each and every student, including students who receive special education services. You may have seen on social media this week that students learning life and work skills at Lake Belton High School will soon be operating a coffee shop called Buckles & Beans. When it opens next fall, Buckles & Beans will allow students to experience a work-like setting with the support of their teachers. My team and I got to sample some of their offerings Monday morning, and it was delicious. This project is true innovation at work inside our schools.

At the Board meeting we also talked briefly about another innovative program coming to the special education community next year – the Penguin Project. This program will pair general education students with students receiving special education services. I don't want to give it all away, but the students will be encouraged to 'break a leg' and the results are sure to receive a standing ovation. We plan to hear a full presentation at April's Board meeting.

Innovation is valued in Belton ISD and we will continue striving for exceptional learning experiences that prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.

Have a great week.

Matt Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## News



**Belton ISD Seniors Earn Academic Honors from College Board**

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**Belton High's Tidwell Field Recognized as Top in the Nation**

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**Demographers: Local Economic Growth Continues to Increase Enrollment in Belton ISD**

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## What's Happening

**Learn More About District's Bond Proposal at Upcoming Community Presentations**

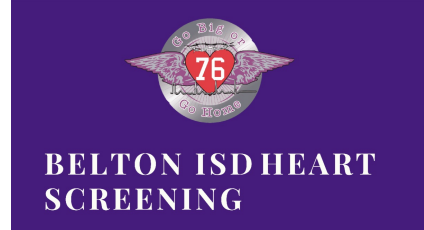
Belton ISD will host three community bond presentations in April to discuss how the district's proposed bond on the May 7 ballot will address growth, aging and evolving facilities, program equity and safety. The meetings — a mix of virtual and in-person — are open to the district's residents. [Learn more.](#)



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**Cardiac Screenings Available for Belton ISD Secondary Students**

Belton ISD is partnering with the Cody Stephens Foundation to offer secondary students in the district a convenient and low-cost cardiac screening next month. The screenings will be offered during school hours on April 12-13 for \$21. The medical electrocardiogram (ECG) will be read by a licensed cardiologist and alert families of any possible heart conditions. [Learn more.](#)



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### Registration Open for Summer Academic Programs

Registration is now open for Belton ISD's summer academic programs that aim to keep students excited about learning year-round. [Learn more.](#)



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## Upcoming Events

- March 30: Southwest Parent Bond Presentation
- March 30: Sparta Parent Bond Presentation
- March 31: Charter Oak Parent Bond Presentation
- April 4: **Policy Committee Meeting**
- April 7: **Community Bond Presentation**
- April 11: Lakewood Parent Bond Presentation
- April 12: **Community Bond Presentation**
- April 13: **Facilities Committee Meeting**
- April 14: BHS Parent Bond Presentation
- April 15: **Student/Teacher Holiday**
- April 18: **Student Holiday/Teacher Inservice**
- April 18: **Board Meeting**
- April 19: SBMS Parent Bond Presentation
- April 20: Tarver Parent Bond Presentation
- April 21: **Community Bond Presentation**
- April 25: Miller Heights Parent Bond Presentation
- April 26: Pirtle Parent Bond Presentation
- April 27: Early Voting Begins
- April 27: BNT@W Parent Bond Presentation

Take the  
Journey

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We're  
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Belton ISD | PO Box 269, Belton, TX 76513

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