



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

WHERE ALL STUDENTS LEARN

Board of Education News

The Blair Community Schools Board of Education met on March 10, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the District Office. The meeting featured important updates, student recognitions, and staffing approvals for the 2025-2026 school year.

The evening began with the Blair Sparx Dance Team leading the Pledge of Allegiance, demonstrating their school spirit and leadership. The Board then welcomed representatives from the Blair TeamMates program, who shared an update on their ongoing mentorship efforts. As part of their presentation, they premiered a newly produced video that highlights the program's impact on students and the positive relationships it fosters within the community. [Click here to watch!](#)

In addition to program updates, the Board approved several new staff members for the 2025-2026 school year. These hires will help ensure continued excellence in education and provide valuable support for students across the district. The district remains committed to recruiting and retaining high-quality educators and staff to serve our students.

The Board of Education remains focused on supporting students, staff, and families while fostering a strong sense of community. Thank you to everyone who attended or tuned in to this month's meeting.

Message from Blair Community Schools Superintendent, Dr. Randy Gilson



Dear Blair Community,

As we close out the winter months and eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to our entire community for your continued support of our schools. This winter has brought its fair share of unpredictable weather and challenges, but through it all, our students, staff, and families have remained resilient, adaptable, and committed to ensuring that our schools continue to thrive. It is thanks to the unwavering support from each of you that we continue to provide a nurturing and enriching environment for our students.

Throughout the month of March, we celebrated Music in Our Schools Month, a time to highlight the essential role that music and the arts play in shaping the lives of our students. From performances to classroom activities, our students showcased their talent and creativity, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. Our athletics programs also enjoyed a successful season, with our teams and individual athletes demonstrating impressive skills and sportsmanship. It's always inspiring to witness the dedication and hard work of our students both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to the achievements and events in our schools, we've had several educational experiences that have made a lasting impact on our students. Whether it was through hands-on learning opportunities, field trips, or special performances, we've seen our students engage in learning in ways that foster curiosity and personal growth. As always, our commitment to providing a well-rounded education remains strong, and we are excited for the opportunities that the rest of the year will bring.

As we head into the spring season, we are looking forward to the fresh energy that comes with warmer weather and longer days. We also want to take a moment to acknowledge the adjustments we've had to make due to the winter weather, particularly in our preschool programs, and thank our families for their understanding and flexibility. Due to snow days this year, there are some important adjustments for our Preschool programs. To make up for lost instructional hours, we've scheduled additional Fridays for both AM Preschool (March 21, April 4, and May 9) and PM Preschool (March 28, April 11, May 2, and May 16). It's been a unique year, but the spirit of collaboration between our schools and our community has made all the difference.

We were excited to share a Blair TeamMates program video at the recent Board of Education meeting. The video highlights the incredible impact that the TeamMates mentoring program has on our students. If you'd like to watch it, scan the QR code below. We are incredibly grateful for TeamMates' ongoing partnership with our schools and their continued support of our students.

Once again, thank you to all of our families, staff, and community members for your continued support and dedication. Together, we are creating an environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential. We are excited for the coming months and all that we will continue to accomplish as a community.

Warm regards,

Randy Gilson, Ed. D.

Dr. Randy Gilson
Superintendent, Blair Community Schools



TEAMMATES
MENTORING





**Blair
Community
Schools**

Preschool Orientation

Blair Community Schools invites you to attend our Preschool Orientation for families whose children will or have interest in attending Blair Preschool in the 2025-2026 school year. Come meet our staff, explore our classrooms, and learn about the exciting year ahead!

Who, Date, Time, and Location:

Who: Parents of children who will attend Blair preschool in the 25/26 school year

Date: April 1st, 2025

Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

Where: South Early Childhood Center
1616 S Butler St.

Contact Information:

Phone: 402-427-2734

Website: <https://ps.blairschools.org/>



What to expect:

- ✓ Meet the teachers & staff
- ✓ Tour the classroom & school
- ✓ Learn about our daily schedule & curriculum
- ✓ Review policies (drop-off, pick-up, etc.)
- ✓ Ask questions & connect with other families



Disney Musical: Winnie the Pooh Kids

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming musical performance of Winnie the Pooh Kids, featuring talented 5th grade students from both Deerfield Elementary and Arbor Park Elementary. This fun and heartwarming production brings the beloved characters of the Hundred Acre Wood to life, filled with music, friendship, and adventure!

The show will be held on April 3, with a special performance for Deerfield families at 6:00 PM and for Arbor Park families at 7:00 PM. We are also opening the performance to the community on April 4 at 6:00 PM, so everyone can join in the fun.

Our students have worked incredibly hard to bring this classic tale to the stage, and we can't wait to share their amazing talents with you. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to see the magic of Winnie the Pooh Kids unfold!

BHS A Cappella Ensemble Shines at First Ever Competition!

March has been an exciting month for Blair High School as we celebrate Music in Our Schools Month, a time to recognize the importance of music education and the incredible talent of our students. This year, our Blair High School A Cappella Ensemble took the spotlight when they traveled to Columbus High School for their very first competition—and they truly shined! Competing against some of the top-level schools in the region, our talented ensemble earned an impressive 5th place overall, an incredible feat for their first time in competition.

In addition to their overall ranking, the ensemble was honored with several special awards, including Best Newcomer to the Event, Best Small Ensemble of the Day (for groups with 16 or fewer performers), and Best Class B Ensemble. These accolades reflect the hard work, dedication, and musical excellence of our students, who have been practicing tirelessly to perfect their craft.

Blair is proud to continue its long tradition of exceptional support for our award-winning fine arts and music programs, and we're excited to see the A Cappella Ensemble's continued growth and success. Congratulations to these talented students on their outstanding performance—we can't wait to see what they achieve in the future!

BHS Girls Basketball Team Has Strong Season

The Blair Varsity Girls Basketball Team had a strong season, finishing 15-11, the second most wins since 1998. The JV team also excelled with a 14-2 record.

Several players reached impressive milestones: Kate Wulf, a junior, tied the school record with 7 three-pointers in a game and is in the top 10 for both season and career 3-pointers. Addie Sullivan, a senior, finished in the top 10 for points, rebounds, 3-pointers, and free throws in her career. Taytum Macholan, a sophomore, is also in the top 10 for 3-pointers made in a season. Congratulations to the team and these standout athletes for a memorable season!



Happening In Our Schools



Blair High School

BHS students recently had a unique hands-on experience through a free Drone class offered by Metropolitan Community College (MCC). The class, held over two Saturdays for five hours each day, gave students the opportunity to learn about drone operation and safety. They first practiced flying indoors, and then took their skills outside for real-world flight experience. Thank you to MCC for providing this unique learning opportunity!

The FFA Chapter also hosted Drive Your Tractor to School Day on March 28, a tradition that celebrates agriculture. Students drove their tractors from Family Fare past the middle school and to the high school, showcasing the importance of farming in our community and honoring FFA's roots in production agriculture.

We are proud of all our students' hard work and dedication, and we can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds! Go Bears!



Otte Blair Middle School

On March 20, we welcomed Evonik for International Women in Science Day. Volunteers from Evonik presented to 8th-grade science classes on careers in science and performed experiments, making real-world connections for our students. This event aligns with Evonik's commitment to supporting women in STEM fields and promoting diversity in the chemical industry. We appreciate our partnership with Evonik! Their involvement helps inspire our students to consider careers in science and engineering, where women are still underrepresented.

Our 6th-grade students have been working hard on advertisements for local businesses with the Enterprise Newspaper. On Wednesday, March 26th, Paul Swanson will be at OMS to showcase the students' work. This project provides our students with valuable real-world experience in marketing and business communication.

Congratulations to all our students, and be sure to look for their work in the newspaper. This initiative not only develops their creative skills but also connects them with the local business community.

Happening In Our Schools



Arbor Park Elementary School

Spring is in full swing at Arbor Park, and our students have been busy with exciting adventures! Our 1st graders had an unforgettable trip to the Children's Museum in Omaha, exploring hands-on exhibits and interactive fun. Meanwhile, 5th graders took advantage of the beautiful weather with a visit to DeSoto Bend Wildlife Refuge, immersing themselves in nature. On March 6th, our 2nd and 3rd graders took the stage for a fantastic concert, showcasing their musical talents and making us all proud!

Looking ahead, the week of April 7th is packed with fun-filled activities for families to enjoy! The Arbor Park Book Fair runs from April 7th–10th, offering a great selection of books. On April 8th, don't miss our Art Show & Family Night, where you can admire stunning student artwork while enjoying a sweet treat from the Mini-Donut Truck (the donuts are small, not the truck)! We can't wait to see families come together to celebrate our students' creativity and love for learning. See you there!



Deerfield Elementary School

March has been full of incredible experiences for our students at Deerfield Elementary! Wildlife Adventures brought a variety of animals to our school, and both students and staff absolutely loved the opportunity to see them up close and learn about their unique characteristics. Our 1st graders had a fantastic time at the Children's Museum in Omaha, while our 3rd graders visited City Hall to learn about how our town works. It's been a month of exciting adventures and hands-on learning!

Looking ahead, we have even more to celebrate! Our 2nd and 3rd grade music programs are coming up on April 8, and our 5th grade band concert will be on April 10. Our talented 5th grade students from both Deerfield and Arbor Park have been working hard on their Disney musical, *Winnie the Pooh Kids*, which will be performed on April 3. We are so proud of our students and their dedication, and we can't wait for you to join us for these amazing events!

Happening In Our Schools



Blair Preschool

South Early Childhood staff are focused on planning for Birth to 5 Family Engagement Night on Monday, April 7 from 5-7 p.m. This event and other activities will happen during the Week of the Young Child (April 7-10). The Blair Sixpence Program, Introduction to Education students from Blair High School, and other community partners are participating in the engagement planning and activities. Mrs. Ward and staff will offer a Sixpence: Parent Color Works Training on Thursday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m.

A Preschool Orientation to learn about HALF and ALL Day programming for the 2025-26 school year will be held on Tuesday, April 1st from 5:30-6:30 at South Early Childhood Center. A reminder that the 25-26' Preschool Enrollment Google Form including a QR Code is posted on our district website, out in the community, and will be available to complete that night.

Preschool continues their studies of Investigations: Buildings in two classes and Music in the other two classes. Preschool classes have had access to explore, learn, and use different instruments during their study. We want to thank Mr. Mills for spending a day to show preschoolers building processes including tools, safety, and important concepts.



Construction Demonstration

Preschool students at South Early Childhood Center had a special visit from Mr. Ed Mills, Blair High School's shop teacher, who spent the day teaching them about construction and safety.

As part of their Investigations: Buildings study, students watched as Mr. Mills demonstrated various tools and explained how buildings are constructed. He emphasized the importance of safety in construction, showing students the gear and precautions workers use on the job.

This engaging presentation helped bring their classroom learning to life, giving students a deeper understanding of how structures are built. Thank you, Mr. Mills, for sharing your knowledge and enthusiasm with our preschoolers!



Drive Your Tractor to School

On Friday, March 28, Blair High School students proudly took part in Drive Your Tractor to School Day, a long-standing tradition celebrating the importance of agriculture in our community. Originally planned for FFA Week, the event was postponed to Ag Week, ensuring students still had the opportunity to honor the FFA organization's deep roots in production agriculture.

The morning began at the Family Fare parking lot, where students gathered with their tractors before making the drive to the high school. Their route took them past the middle school, allowing community members to watch and appreciate the parade of tractors. This event not only showcased students' pride in agriculture but also served as a reminder of the essential role farming plays in our daily lives.

For many participants, Drive Your Tractor to School Day is more than just a fun tradition—it's a way to highlight their families' hard work in agriculture and inspire others to appreciate the industry. The event also sparks conversations about farming, equipment, and the dedication it takes to work in agriculture.

A huge thank you goes out to the Blair FFA Chapter for organizing this event and to all the students, families, and community members who helped make it a success. Keeping traditions like this alive ensures that future generations continue to recognize and celebrate the impact of agriculture in our schools and beyond!

Wildlife Encounters

Students at both Arbor Park Elementary and Deerfield Elementary had an exciting opportunity to learn about wildlife during a special Wildlife Encounters presentation. Experts brought a variety of animals to both schools, giving students the chance to see them up close and personal.

From reptiles to birds and mammals, the animals were a big hit as students learned about their habitats, diets, and unique characteristics. The hands-on experience helped bring their studies of nature to life in an unforgettable way. A big thank you to Wildlife Encounters for providing such an engaging and educational experience!





Activities & Events

March marked the start of spring sports at Blair Schools, with athletes hitting the field for soccer, track, baseball, and golf. The soccer teams also showed their support for Autism Awareness and Special Education by wearing yellow and blue wrist wraps during their games.



In addition to sports, the elementary and middle schools are gearing up for their music programs over the next few weeks. Students will showcase their musical talents, celebrating the arts and the hard work they've put into their performances. It's an exciting time at Blair Schools as we cheer on our athletes and performers!

We appreciate your support of our students, and encourage you to join us to watch our students shine! Below are a few of our upcoming events and activities. **[Please click here for a full list of events.](#)**



Photos courtesy of BHS Student,
Morgan Archer

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