



APRIL 2025

# BIG RED LETTERS

BELTON ISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. MALINDA GOLDEN

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Hello Belton ISD,

April 1st marked my first year serving as your superintendent in Belton ISD. It has been a truly rewarding and insightful journey, and I am filled with gratitude for the warm welcome and collaborative spirit I have experienced within our community.

When I stepped into the position a year ago, I was excited by the dedication of our teachers, the enthusiasm of our students, and the strong commitment of our parents and community members to providing an exceptional learning experience for each and every student. Over the past twelve months, my initial impressions have only been reinforced and deepened.

This year has been one of learning, listening, and working together. I have had the privilege of visiting each of our campuses, attending school events, and engaging in meaningful conversations with students, teachers, administrators, and many of you. These interactions have been invaluable in understanding the unique strengths and challenges of our district as we continue to pursue our vision of empowering each and every learner to pursue their dreams and enrich their communities.

Together, we have celebrated countless student achievements, from academic successes and artistic performances to athletic victories and community service initiatives. I have been consistently impressed by the talent, dedication, and character of our students, and I

commend our educators for their unwavering  
commitment to nurturing their growth.

Of course, we have also faced challenges, and I  
appreciate the open communication and collaborative  
problem-solving that have allowed us to navigate them  
effectively. Your feedback and support have been  
instrumental in our ability to adapt and continue providing  
a high-quality education for all our students.

I firmly believe that by working together—students,  
parents, teachers, staff, and community members—we  
can continue to create a learning environment where  
every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

Malinda Golden, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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X @GOLDEN4ED

@BISDSUPERINTENDENT



**Belton ISD**



**BREAKING NEWS**



# **Up, Up & Away with Code! Grant Brings Drone Tech to Classrooms**

Belton ISD's Instructional Technology Team, led by Anna Fitzsimmons and Frank Murray, received a \$14,052 grant from the ESC Region 12 Technology Foundation to kick off *Up, Up & Away with Code!*—a dynamic new program that introduces elementary students to STEM and coding through drone technology.

With the help of the DroneBlocks curriculum, students in grades 2–5 will explore coding basics, practice problem-solving, and apply STEM concepts through interactive drone flight simulations and hands-on experiences. The initiative aligns with the District Improvement Plan and Texas Technology Applications TEKS, encouraging early interest in technology and critical thinking.

“This goes beyond just learning to fly drones,” said Fitzsimmons. “It’s about sparking creativity, innovation, and a love for solving problems.”



# 41 BISD Students Advance to State History Competition

Forty-one Belton ISD students in grades 4–12 are advancing to the Texas State National History Day (NHD) competition on April 5 at the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin. Competing with 15 projects, this group represents the second-largest state delegation in district history.

NHD challenges students to explore history through research, critical thinking and creative presentations. Top finishers at state may advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C., this June.

“This work goes far beyond competition,” said Social Studies Coordinator Chris Lemley. “These students are building vital research, analysis and communication skills.”

To learn more or get involved, contact Chris Lemley at **[chris.lemley@bisd.net](mailto:chris.lemley@bisd.net)**.



# **Coach Bersoza Named 2025 Environmental Ambassador**

Congratulations to Coach Oscar Bersoza, Head Girls Soccer Coach and Girls Athletic Coordinator at Belton High School, for being named the City of Belton's 2025 Environmental Ambassador on March 6, 2025! He was honored by the Cen-Tex Sustainable Communities Partnership and received special congressional recognition for his leadership in environmental stewardship.

Coach Bersoza has led Belton ISD Athletics in organizing park cleanups and improvement projects, especially at Chisholm Trail Park, involving student-athletes in meaningful community service. These efforts not only beautify public spaces but also teach students teamwork, responsibility, and the value of giving back.

"Coach Bersoza truly embodies servant leadership," said Athletics Director Sam Skidmore. "He's not only helping shape strong athletes, but great citizens."

The district is proud of Coach Bersoza and all student-athletes involved in making a lasting impact on our community.







# **Belton ISD Students Explore Careers in Science and Healthcare**

Belton ISD students are stepping beyond the classroom and into real-world science and healthcare experiences. At Lake Belton High School, AP Biology students led independent research projects and shared their findings at the school's first Student Research Symposium, featuring professional-style presentations and a guest speaker from the medical field.

Over at Belton High School, phlebotomy students practiced clinical skills such as vein identification and simulated blood draws as part of the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) program. These hands-on experiences are preparing students for professional certification and future careers in healthcare.

Students from both campuses also attended Health Career Navigation Day at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, where they toured hospital departments, participated in simulations and connected with healthcare professionals.

From labs to hospitals, Belton ISD students are gaining valuable insights and experience in high-demand science and healthcare fields.





SAVE THE DATE!



**April 8:** Parents as Partners - Wellness

**April 16:** Parents as Partners - ESL/Bilingual Event

**April 18:** District Closure (Good Friday)

**April 21:** Student Holiday/Professional Learning Day

**April 21:** Regular Board Meeting

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**May 12:** Regular Board Meeting

**May 17:** Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony

**May 21:** 2-Hour Early Release

**May 21:** Last Day of School

**May 22:** Class of 2025 Graduation Ceremonies

**May 26:** District Closure (Memorial Day)

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**June 16:** Regular Board Meeting

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## **2025-2026 Student Calendar**

# **2024-2025 Academic Calendar**

**Take the Journey**

**Stay Connected**

**We are Hiring**



**Belton Independent School District**

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