



DECEMBER 2025

# BIG RED LETTERS

BELTON ISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. MALINDA GOLDEN

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Hello Belton ISD,

As the sights and sounds of the holiday season begin to fill our community, December brings with it a time for reflection, gratitude, and much-needed rest. We are wrapping up a successful and incredibly productive fall semester, and I want to start by commending everyone—from our newest kindergartners to our graduating seniors, and from our dedicated bus drivers to our amazing teaching staff—for your tireless efforts.

The fall semester has been marked by tremendous growth and numerous accomplishments across Belton ISD. Our students have excelled in the classroom, on the stage, and on the field. This includes incredible success in recent UIL competitions, inspiring performances by our fine arts programs, and impressive academic strides made every day in our schools.

None of this success would be possible without the remarkable commitment of our staff. Their passion for education and unwavering support for every student defines the spirit of Belton ISD. Thank you for making our classrooms places of discovery, challenge and care.

I also extend my deepest thanks to our parents and community partners. Your consistent support, whether through volunteering, serving on committees, or simply ensuring your students are ready to learn each morning, is the foundation of our strength.

With sincere gratitude,

Malinda Golden, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

## Holiday Magic in the Making: Showcasing Belton ISD's 2025 Holiday Card Artists

Belton ISD is wrapping up the year with its annual Holiday Card Contest, celebrating the imagination and artistic talent of elementary students from across the district. Young artists submitted original designs for the chance to have their creation selected as one of the official Belton ISD holiday cards for 2025.

With so many creative and heartfelt entries, judges have the joyful challenge of reviewing a wide range of festive artwork.

A special thank you to our dedicated elementary art teachers for inspiring students to dream big and create with confidence throughout the contest.



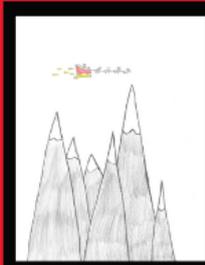
Barbara Martinez  
Charter Oak Elementary



Carly Lewis  
Hubbard Branch Elementary



Cassie Tidwell  
Hubbard Branch Elementary



Charlotte Berens  
Tarver Elementary



Denise Olvera  
Southwest Elementary



Zaylen Wingfield  
Hubbard Branch Elementary



Emily Moreno  
Pirtle Elementary



Evan Waddle  
Charter Oak Elementary



Lilyana Canul  
Southwest Elementary



Rosebud Block  
Southwest Elementary



Selena Raymond  
Southwest Elementary



Ellie Woodrow  
Pirtle Elementary

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## Belton ISD Inclement Weather Protocol

As winter approaches, we want to share how we prioritize student safety when making decisions about school closures, delays, or early dismissals. This video explains the factors we consider, the timing of our decisions and how we communicate with families.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students safe. For more details, please visit our website at [www.bisd.net/weather](http://www.bisd.net/weather).

BISD Inclement Weather Protocols



# Inclement Weather Protocol

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X @GOLDEN4ED

IG @BISDSUPERINTENDENT



**Achievement Unlocked: Celebrating Nationally Recognized Students**

Belton ISD recognized outstanding scholars at the October 20 board meeting, honoring students who earned top academic distinctions from the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Program. This year, 248 AP Scholars, 163 BigFuture Merit Award recipients, and six National Merit honorees, including two semifinalists, were celebrated for their hard work and academic excellence. We are proud of their achievements and the bright futures ahead.



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### Lake Belton Stampede Finished 15th in the State

The Lake Belton High School Stampede Marching Band once again advanced to the UIL 5A State Marching Band Contest, continuing a perfect streak of state appearances since the school opened in 2020. Performing their 2025 show, *The Crown*, the Stampede finished 15th in the state, showcasing remarkable skill, discipline and growth.

Belton High School's Marching 100 also wrapped up an incredible season with a powerful performance of *Between the Storms*. Both bands exemplified the dedication, resilience and artistry at the heart of Belton ISD's fine arts programs.



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### **Excellence on Repeat: Belton ISD Earns Second CTE Honor**

Belton ISD earned the CTE District of Distinction honor for the second year in a row, a statewide recognition from the Career and Technical Association of Texas celebrating strong leadership, innovative programming and exceptional student opportunities. This repeat award reflects the district's commitment to future-focused career pathways, industry partnerships and hands-on learning that prepares students for success in a rapidly changing workforce.



## Construction Comes to Life at Masonry Days

Belton High School students put real tools in their hands during Masonry Days on October 30–31, a two-day, hands-on learning experience hosted with the Texas Masonry Council. Students learned bricklaying basics, rotated through industry-led demonstrations, and participated in a wall-building challenge that highlighted craftsmanship, teamwork and problem-solving. Scholarships from Texas State Technical College recognized standout performers and encouraged students to continue exploring construction career pathways.



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## Stuart Little Sparks a Reading Adventure

Belton ISD students and families spent November 3–9 reading *Stuart Little* together as part of Big Red Reads, a districtwide literacy initiative held during Belton Children's Book Week. With support from the Lena Armstrong Public Library and the Friends of the Belton Library, campuses hosted read-alouds, projects and discussions that inspired imagination and connected students across the district through a shared story.



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### Building Community, Link by Link

Belton ISD students and staff raised \$5,396.17 for the United Way of Central Texas through the district's annual Spirit Chain fundraiser. Over two weeks, campuses added link by link to their colorful chains, turning small donations into big community impact. These funds will support vital United Way programs that help families across Central Texas.





# S A V E T H E D A T E !



**December 2:** Parents as Partners – Dual Language/ESL Programs

**December 15:** Regular Board Meeting

**December 19:** Student Early Release

**December 22-January 2:** District Closure (Christmas/Winter Break)

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**January 5:** Student Holiday

**January 6:** Classes Resume

**January 13:** Parents as Partners – Course Selection for Middle & High School

**January 19:** District Closure (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

**January 20:** Parents as Partners – Special Programs Event

**January 26:** Regular Board Meeting

**January 27:** Parents as Partners – GT Event

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**February 10:** Parents as Partners – Understand Assessment Reports

**February 10:** Parents as Partners – Wellness, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

**February 13:** District Closure (President's Day)

**February 16:** Student Holiday

**February 23:** Regular Board Meeting

**February 24:** Parents as Partners – Dual Language/ESL Programs

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**2025-2026 Student Calendar**

**Take the Journey**

**Stay Connected**

**Digital Backpack**

**We are Hiring**

## About Us

Email: [communications@bisd.net](mailto:communications@bisd.net)

Website: [www.bisd.net](http://www.bisd.net)

Location: 400 North Wall Street | PO Box 269 Belton, Texas 76513

Phone: [254-215-2000](tel:254-215-2000)

Facebook: [facebook.com/BeltonISD](https://facebook.com/BeltonISD)

Instagram: [@BeltonISD](https://www.instagram.com/BeltonISD) Twitter: [@BeltonISD](https://twitter.com/BeltonISD)



**Belton ISD**

