



MAY 2026

BIG RED LETTERS

BELTON ISD SUPERINTENDENT DR. MALINDA GOLDEN

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Hello Belton ISD,

As we step into May, we enter one of the most vibrant and celebratory times of the school year. It is a season of reflection on the growth of our students and anticipation for the milestones ahead.

I am thrilled to announce that the Board of Trustees has officially adopted strategic objectives that will guide the further development of our new strategic plan, Destination 2031. This plan will be informed through the culmination of extensive collaboration with our staff, parents, and community members. It centers on our mission to *empower each and every learner to pursue their dreams and enrich their communities*, guided by our vision: ***Inspiring Dreams. Empowering Futures.***

The plan prioritizes four critical priorities that will guide our work over the next five years:

- **Students:** Ensure exceptional learning experiences that bring our "Journey of a Graduate" to life for each and every student.
- **Staff:** Attract, support, and retain exceptional educators and staff to ensure every student is guided and supported by an outstanding team.

- **Community:** Grow meaningful engagement and partnerships with parents, staff, and community members in support of our shared vision for each and every learner.
- **Financial Management:** Maximize student experiences through transparent, strategic, and sustainable fiscal management.

As we work to set direction for the future, we are also enjoying and celebrating the completion of the current school year. There is a unique energy this time of year always brings to our campuses as we approach the final weeks of school. From end-of-year award ceremonies to the excitement of graduation, we are incredibly proud of the achievements of our students. We especially look forward to honoring our seniors as they prepare to walk across the stage later this month.

To our staff: Thank you for your relentless dedication and for pouring into our students every day. To our families: Thank you for your continued partnership and support of the Big Red community.

Let's make this May a month to remember!

Sincerely,

Malinda Golden, Ph.D.
Superintendent




WE BELIEVE	OUR PRIORITIES
<p>1 TRUST is built through honesty, clear communication, and keeping our commitments.</p> <p>2 EMPOWERMENT is having ownership, being accountable, and leading with purpose.</p> <p>3 ADAPTABILITY is embracing change, being resilient, and celebrating achievements.</p> <p>4 COMMUNITY is cultivated through respect for others, meaningful engagement, and strong partnerships.</p> <p>5 HIGH EXPECTATIONS is the commitment to academic excellence, driven by innovation and a relentless focus on continuous improvement.</p>	<p>1 STUDENTS Ensure exceptional learning experiences that bring our "Journey of a Graduate" to life for each and every student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate academic achievement by increasing the percentage of students who meet or exceed individual growth targets. • Increase the percentage of graduates who earn advanced credentials in college, career, or military readiness. • Ensure safe and supportive learning environments to promote student well-being and academic success. • Provide students with innovative, flexible learning options that balance digital integration with hands-on, real-world experiences. <p>2 STAFF Attract, support, and retain exceptional educators and staff to ensure every student is guided and supported by an outstanding team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen recruitment and hiring pipelines to ensure a consistent pool of highly qualified candidates. • Improve staff retention by fostering a supportive environment that prioritizes employee well-being and satisfaction. • Provide relevant professional learning experiences to ensure continuous growth. <p>3 COMMUNITY Grow meaningful engagement and partnerships with parents, staff, and community members in support of our shared vision for each and every learner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with our local community to provide opportunities that benefit our students, staff, and entire district. • Share clear and meaningful communication that builds trust and engagement. • Foster a service-oriented environment to build satisfaction and trust. <p>4 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT Maximize student experiences through transparent, strategic, and sustainable fiscal management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align capital and facility planning to address current and future needs. • Prioritize allocation of fiscal resources to improve student outcomes. • Position the district for long-term financial sustainability.

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Belton ISD



BREAKING NEWS

Small School, Big Stage: New Tech Robotics Headed Back to VEX Worlds

Belton New Tech @Waskow's robotics team returned to the global spotlight, earning a second consecutive trip to the VEX Robotics World Championship in St. Louis. Building on last year's experience, the team showcased growth in communication, strategy and resilience, proving small schools can achieve big results. Their back-to-back qualification reflects the power of student ownership, collaboration and real-world problem-solving, with the entire campus and Big Red community rallying behind their success.

Lake Belton High School also had a team participate at the VEX Robotics World Championship, joining the global stage and representing Belton ISD among top competitors from around the world.



Young Historians Make History at Texas History Day

Belton ISD students earned top honors at Texas History Day, with teams from Lake Belton Middle School and Lake Belton High School advancing two group documentaries to the 2026 National History Day national contest. Students from Leon Heights Elementary, Alice J. Tarver Elementary and Belton High School also earned top state placements, special awards and historic firsts, highlighting strong performances across all grade levels. The achievement reflects the district's commitment to critical thinking, research and real-world learning as students continue to shine on the state and national stage.



Belton ISD's Culture Work Earns National Recognition Across Six Campuses

Belton ISD earned national recognition for its relationship-driven campus culture, with Belton Early Childhood School, Charter Oak Elementary, Hubbard Branch Elementary, Leon Heights Elementary and Southwest Elementary named Capturing Kids' Hearts Rising Star campuses and Lakewood Elementary recognized as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School. The distinction highlights the district's ongoing commitment to building safe, connected and student-centered learning environments, where strong relationships, trust and shared responsibility drive success across campuses.



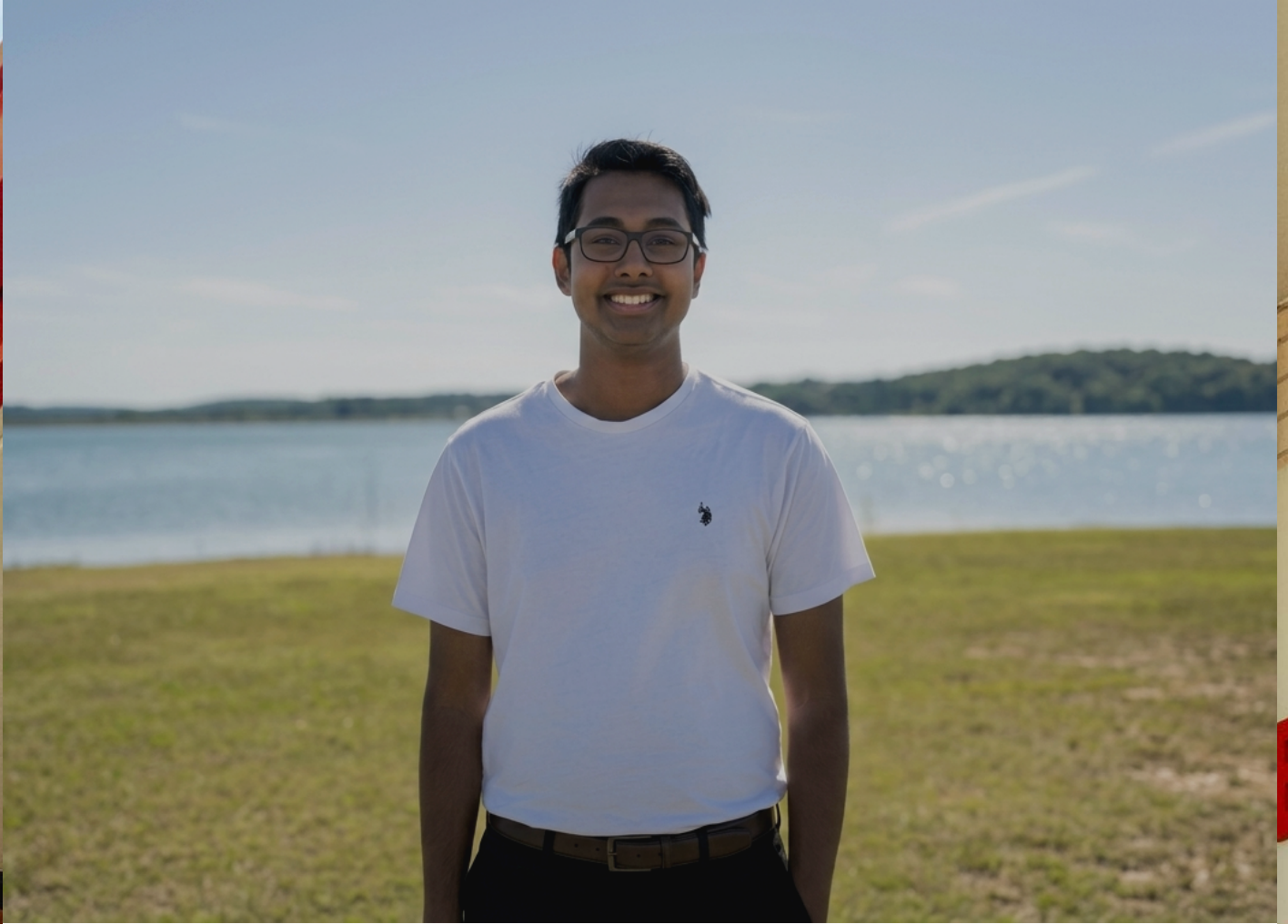
Lake Belton High Students Selected for Special Olympics Leadership Council

Bailey Schorn and Johnny White of Lake Belton High School were selected to serve on the Special Olympics Texas Regional Youth Leadership Council, representing the Central Region as a unified pair. The juniors were recognized for their leadership in promoting inclusion and helping build school communities where every student belongs. Their selection reflects the district's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities that foster connection, confidence and student leadership.



Lake Belton High Student Innovation Goes Global

Lake Belton High School junior Vishnu Kakarla launched BeginFin, an open-source financial literacy platform now used in more than 20 countries. Originally developed for a Business Professionals of America competition, the platform has reached thousands of users with interactive, student-friendly lessons focused on real-world money management. The project highlights Belton ISD's commitment to innovation, career-ready skills and student-driven learning with real-world impact.



Honoring a Legacy of Service with Crosswalk Dedications

Two longtime Belton ISD crossing guards were recognized in April with crosswalk dedications honoring their decades of service to students and families. Leonard Wayne Harris was recognized

for more than 19 years of service at Leon Heights Elementary, and Marinella Vasquez was honored for 27 years of service supporting students at Southwest Elementary. Their impact spans generations, reflecting the district's appreciation for those who keep students safe and serve as trusted, familiar faces across the Big Red community.



July 10: District Closure

July 17: District Closure

July 20: Regular Board Meeting

2025-2026 Student Calendar

2026-2027 Student Calendar

Take the Journey

Stay Connected

Digital Backpack

We are Hiring

About Us

Email: communications@bisd.net

Website: 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

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



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