

SENIOR PARENT PRESENTATION



**The Official Roadmap for the
Class of 2027**



Monitor – Track grades and attendance using the Parent Portal. (Reminder: Students who miss graduation requirements cannot walk in the ceremony).



Communicate – Connect proactively with the School Counselor for guidance and support.



Execute – Encourage your student to complete applications early and manage hard deadlines.



Stay Informed – Read the weekly school newsletter and official email updates throughout the year.

FALL TRACK

WINTER TRACK

SPRING TRACK

Sept 8:
Cap & Gown
orders open

Oct 1:
FAFSA
Opens

Oct 5 (9am):
Senior
Panoramic
Photo

Dec 11 (3pm):
Yearbook
Pics/Dedications
Due

Apr 30:
College
Decision
Day

May 20:
Seniors Last Day,
Checkout, Picnic
& Practice

May (TBD):
Military
Recognition
Day

Sept 10:
Picture Day
& NACRAO
College Fair
(9-11am)

Sept 22:
No School
(College
Visit Day)

Oct 20:
Cap & Gown
Order
Deadline
(prices increase
after!)

Nov 5:
ASVAB
Test

Mar 23:
No School
(College
Visit Day)

**May 25
(7pm):**
Honors
Night
(TPAC)

**May 27:
(7pm)**
Baccalaureate
(Bellevue
Christian
Center)

**May 29
(9:30am):**
Graduation
(South Gym)

The Attire (Cap & Gown)

Packets distributed in early September. Order the Cap, Gown, and Tassel package online at **Jostens.com** starting September 8th.

~\$60 (Student Responsibility).
Order by October 20 to avoid price increases.

The Memories (Yearbook)

Senior pictures and dedications due by **Friday, December 11, 2026** (3:00 PM). Submit to kinley.weekly@bpsne.net.

Vertical, front-facing.
Digital or print. No watermarks, no props, non-distracting background.

Pro-Tip:
If no photo is submitted, the school Picture Day photo (taken Sept 10 or Oct 22) will be used automatically.

Comparing Post-Secondary Pathways

4-Year College

Focus:



University Admissions.

Action Items:

- Sign up for College Rep Visits via Schoology.
- Attend Bellevue Area College Fair Sept 10 (9-11am)
Located at the BPS Lied Center
- Take ACT/SAT.



2-Year Community College

Focus:



Metro CollegeNOW & IWCC.

Action Items:

- Leverage Metro CollegeNOW for free tuition through the 26-27 school year
- Take Placement tests.



Military

Focus:



Enlistment & Career Exploration.

Action Items:

- Take the ASVAB Test on November 5th (Free).
Sign up with Mr. Schultz.
Great for identifying strengths and narrowing career options.



Admissions Testing Diagnostics

Test Type	Target Path	Cost	Timing & Registration	Score Reporting
ACT	4-Year Colleges	Basic: \$70 / w/ Science: \$75	Sept, Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr, June, July (actstudent.org)	Bellevue West cannot send scores. Must request directly from ACT (\$20 outside initial registration) for UNL, UNO, UNK & NCAA.
SAT	4-Year Colleges	Basic: \$68	Aug, Oct, Nov, Dec, Mar, May, June (collegeboard.org)	Request official scores via College Board.
Placement	2-Year / Metro Community College	FREE	Testing available daily at Metro Testing Center	IWCC requires no placement test.

★ Cost-Saver Alert:
Fee waivers for both ACT and SAT are available for students on free/reduced lunch. See your counselor!

1. The Application

Apply directly on the college website (usually under Admissions).

Action Date: October 1st is Bellevue West Apply2College Day (Assistance available in counseling center; sign up in Schoology).

2. The Transcript

Requested online via **Parchment**. (Instructions provided early Sept).

Parent Action: Submit the electronic transcript release form (emailed Aug 17). Valid until May 31, 2026.

Note: Some schools only require self-reported grades initially.

3. Official Scores

Colleges require official test scores to complete the application.

Rule: Scores must be sent directly from the testing agency (ACT/SAT).

SAVE

UNL, UNO & UNK – Use promo code '**HUSKER**' to waive the application fee. Valid August 1st through November 1st.

FREE

Zero Fee Applications – University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), Metro Community College, and Creighton University currently offer free applications.

WAIVED

Free/Reduced Lunch Waivers – Application fees at many other institutions can be fully waived for students qualifying for Free/Reduced lunch. Contact your counselor.

Unlocking Financial Aid (FAFSA)

Completing the FAFSA (or an official opt-out process) is a state graduation requirement.

GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT

✓ Prerequisite: The FSA ID

- ✓ Parents and students must *both* create an FSA ID at **studentaid.gov**.
- ✓ This acts as your electronic signature.
- ✓ *Warning:* Do this before starting the FAFSA; processing takes up to 3 days.

✓ Filing the FAFSA

- ✓ The application officially opens on **October 1st**.
- ✓ Use your **2025 tax information** for this year's graduating class.



FEDERAL AID REQUIREMENT: SELECTIVE SERVICE

The Law:

Males who turn 18 years of age are required by law to register with the Selective Service System.

The Consequence: Registering is strictly mandatory to remain eligible for Federal Student Loan Programs, Grants, and Jobs.

How to Register: Online at <https://www.sss.gov/>, at a post office, by mail, or when applying for Financial Aid.

Scholarship Sources

(Coordinator: Kathie Britten |
Kathie.Britten@bpsne.net |
402-827-5990)

Scope: Covers 2-year, 4-year, trade, and private schools. Applies to tuition, room/board, books, fees, and certifications.

Categories: Not just academics! Awards exist for financial need, activities, community service, leadership, military ties, health issues, and ethnicity.

The Bellevue Comprehensive: Local scholarships exclusive to BWHS students. Application opens in **October** and is due in **December**.

Where to Look: Go to bellevuepublicschools.org > Academics > Scholarships. Watch for emails and social media updates all year.

The Support Ecosystem

Counseling Office Number: 402-293-4047

Students A - F

Melissa Minahan
(melissa.minahan@bpsne.net)

Students G - L

Susan Polk
(susan.polk@bpsne.net)

Students M - Ro

Emily Fenster
(emily.fenster@bpsne.net)

Students Ru - Z

Bethany Kraci
(bethany.kraci@bpsne.net)

College & Career Center

Randall Schultz
(randall.schultz@bpsne.net)

Scholarship Coordinator

Kathie Britten
(kathie.britten@bpsne.net)



Email Us | West.Counseling@bpsne.net



Bookmark the Web | bellevuepublicschools.org



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Follow on Instagram | [west.counseling](https://www.instagram.com/west.counseling)

“ You aren’t in this alone. Stay plugged in, and let’s make it a great senior year.