

**BENNETT  
BULLDOGS**



# Bennett Elementary School News

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Dear Bennett Families,

As November rolls in we are beginning to hit our stride with the reentry into full-time in-person learning. Having mastered the mitigation measures and routines that keep us healthy and safe we are ramping up our efforts in growing as individuals and a community as well as our academics. Everyone from teachers to students have made such great efforts to reconnect and engage in the joy of learning together. Not without its challenges, we continue to work with each other to support everyone. Hopefully we can make sure we take the time to not only recognize those challenges, but also the hard work and perseverance, with a celebration of our accomplishments. In this month we honor our veterans for their sacrifices on our behalf and we give thanks for what we have in our community and with each other. Let's keep up the great work and keep each other strong. Lots of learning and growing to do!

With much thanks, your principal,

David Staight

## [Finding and Translating School News](#)

You can use the website translation feature at the bottom of the page to read this newsletter in any of the languages offered. The link for the newsletters is <https://bsd405.org/bennett/resources/announcements/>

Puede utilizar la función de traducción del sitio web en la parte inferior de la página para leer este boletín en cualquiera de los idiomas ofrecidos. El enlace para los boletines es <https://bsd405.org/bennett/resources/announcements/>

## IMPORTANT DATES

November 5	Picture Retake Day
November 11	Veteran's Day – No School
November 25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday Break – No School

**Veteran's Day Assembly.** In honor of our military veterans we will be taking our in-person assembly to the virtual environment for Veteran's Day. We will be presenting a pre-recorded virtual assembly that will be available to all classes starting November 10<sup>th</sup> just prior to the holiday. Please feel free to join along and learn about this important celebration of those that have served in the military and the commitment they have given to keep our country secure. We appreciate you! If you would like you can recognize your special veterans by completing and sending in the attached Veterans Day Hero poster. We will post them as part of our presentation and in the main Bennett hallway for the month of November.



Veterans%20Day%20  
Hero.docx

**COVID-19 screening and diagnostic testing.** Schools will be implementing both of these types of testing, with all testing being available in all schools by November 5, 2021. This process has been developed in collaboration with the District's multi-disciplinary health and safety team. You are receiving a communication because your school will begin the testing process during the week of 11/1/21. Our school will begin

- Pooled surveillance testing in classrooms with the opportunity for your child to test weekly on Tuesdays beginning 11/9/21.

and

- Diagnostic testing on Tuesday 11/2/21. Diagnostic testing will be available at Bennett on Mondays and Tuesdays during school hours for students with symptoms.

Testing may only occur with permission and consent. You can provide us with information on your desire to opt-in of the COVID-19 testing using [this link](#) to complete the consent form. You are automatically opted-out unless you complete the form as the [Washington Department of Health](#) requires the District to *obtain written parental consent for minor students and assent/consent for students themselves* if they are 18 or over and their own legal guardian, **any student that does not have consent will not be tested.**

All COVID-19 tests administered in Bellevue School District are available through grants for the purpose of keeping schools open. As such, tests can only be provided to Bellevue School District staff and students. Further, diagnostic tests can only be provided to symptomatic individuals and those that have been close contacts of an infected person. They cannot be provided for pre or post travel requirements.

All COVID-19 testing in Bellevue School District will be completed via a shallow nasal swab through [Atlas Genomics](#). These Atlas tests were selected because they are PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests, providing more accurate test results than rapid antigen testing. Further, the tests are approved for self-administration under a trained observer (does not need to be a health care professional), allowing for more efficient and expanded access.

**Diagnostic testing** results, regardless of if they are positive or negative, will be sent to the individual who was tested directly from the lab — usually within 12 hours. These results will also be provided to the District COVID-19 Coordinator and **Public Health — Seattle & King County** so any necessary contact tracing can occur.

In **pooled surveillance testing**, there will only be communication if there is a positive result in the pool. If there are no positive results in a pool, there will be no further communication with the individuals in the pool. If there is a positive result in the pool (which would typically be identified within 12 hours), those individuals and/or their parent/guardian will be contacted and referred to diagnostic testing to identify the positive individual(s). The people in the pool will need to quarantine until the positive person is identified, usually within 12 hours of the diagnostic test. Contact tracing will then begin with the positive individual.

For more information on COVID testing in Bellevue School District you can visit the FAQ page found [here](#). For questions related to testing at our school, please contact me at [staightd@bsd405.org](mailto:staightd@bsd405.org).

**Counselor's Corner.** When was the last time we looked at our lives and didn't whip up a list of things we wanted to change? Change is not a bad thing if it brings us closer to our true selves, but true and meaningful change comes must come from a place of **love** and **acceptance**, of **gratitude** and **peace**.

We are teaching our students, through social-emotional learning, to use tools such as breathing, gratitude, self-compassion, self-kindness, (being a friend to self), humanity, (understanding we are all human, we get to make mistakes), positive self-talk, as well as understanding and recognizing different emotional regulation strategies.

Remembering gratitude, true gratitude for ourselves, what we stand for, have accomplished, how we feel and more can help us stay grounded. Here is a simple way to start the habit of gratitude: Find one or more things to be grateful for each day of the week.

Suggestions:

- Write down or share one thing to be grateful for each day of the week.
- Discuss together what acknowledging and expressing gratitude feels like and how it can help us focus and take responsibility for our own happiness.
- Use for yourself when you are feeling down to remind yourself of all that there is to be grateful.
- Use to end an especially hard week.

In the spirit of being grateful, I just want to let you know how grateful I am to work with the wonderful Bennett community! And as always, please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions that you have for me at [didricksont@bsd405.org](mailto:didricksont@bsd405.org) or 425-456-4807.

Warmly, Tiffany Didrickson (Ms. D)

## K-12 Multilingual Learners Family Information Night

Please join us for a live virtual event to learn about the MLL program.

- When: **Monday, November 15, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**
  - Where: [Microsoft Teams](#)

During this live event, families will:

- Learn about how students are supported through the MLL model
- Learn about the new WIDA ELD Standard Framework and assessments
  - Learn about the K-7 math curriculum adoption
  - Learn about resources to help your child at home
  - Learn about school and community services

Following the presentation, staff will reserve time to answer questions from families. The session will be recorded for families that cannot join the live event.

Use mobile device scanning to join the live event!

¡Utilice el escaneo de dispositivos móviles para unirse al evento en vivo!

使用行动装置扫描以加入线上活动!



**Reminder about Pre-Arranged Absences.** With the holidays approaching, we'd like to remind you that Bellevue School District allows each student 5 pre-arranged absences (PRA) per year. You may use these one at a time, or all at once. These are excused absences that you can use for a travel day, a sport or dance competition or a longer trip. If your child will be missing 3 or more days, we ask that you submit a **pre-arranged absence form** at least 2 weeks prior to your trip. If your child will only be missing one or two days, please email [bennettattendance@bsd405.org](mailto:bennettattendance@bsd405.org).

**Panorama Student Survey.** In early November, we will be doing the Panorama student perception survey to collect information on school climate and to provide teachers with feedback from students. The survey is run through Panorama Education (<http://www.panoramaed.com>) and is given to all students in grades 3-12 in the district. This is the seventh year we are doing the survey.

The purpose of the survey is to help increase student voice in our district. It gives us an indication of where our strengths are and where we can do better. Here is some additional information about the survey:

- The survey is confidential. Staff will not see how an individual student answers a survey.
- It takes students about 15-20 minutes to complete the survey.
- Students fill out a section on school climate, and then fill out a teacher survey for their teacher.
- The survey will be given in class between November 2 and 6.
- Results will be out in mid-November. Teacher-level reports are only be available to the individual teachers themselves. Principals and district staff will receive summary data for schools and the district as a whole.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Naomi Calvo, Director of Research, Evaluation & Assessment, at [calvon@bsd405.org](mailto:calvon@bsd405.org) or (425) 456-4274.

**Weather Ready for Fall.** Weather forecasts show Record rainfall for October and continued wet weather that is chilling down to a winter level. Recesses will still be held outside to ensure students are having multiple fresh air opportunities throughout the day. Our one covered area is limited, so students need to be prepared for wetter conditions during recess. Please consider sending them with a raincoat daily as weather often changes mid-day.

**Reporting Safety Concerns.** Bullying and safety concerns can always be reported to any staff member at school. The **Elementary Level Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Incident Reporting Form** is available to all families in the office. Finally, Bellevue School District also utilizes an anonymous reporting tool called SafeSchools Alert through which anyone can make a verbal or written report of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Information on how to submit a

report via any of these methods is available on the district website at [www.bsd405.org/help/report](http://www.bsd405.org/help/report).

**Need Help with Technology?** Tech support is available Monday through Friday! Visit <https://bsd405.org/techsupport> for details. For self-guided support, explore the list of common questions and resources. Information on BSD Technology Centers is available on our [website](#).

**2021-22 Official Notices for District Families.** It is the intention of Bellevue School District that all students, parents and school employees have access to an and understanding of Sstate laws, regulations, and district policies that pertain to school and student rights. Find linked below the BSD Official Notices for this year. <https://bsd405.org/about/resources/notices/>

**Free & Reduced Priced Meals.** Although lunches are free to all students for the 2021-2022 school year, it is still advisable to complete, if you have the need, The Free and Reduced Priced Lunch application for the 2021-22 school year is available. Completing the school meal benefit application to qualify for free or reduced priced meals will allow your student to gain access to:

- Fee Waivers or discounts\* offered by the district.
- Community resources such as Operation School Bell, Backpack Meals and Shoes that Fit.
- Potential expansion of federal P-EBT benefits.
- Uninterrupted school meal benefits for the first 30 days of the 2022-2023 school year.

*\*The Fee Waiver Program offers waived fees for IB & AP tests, extracurricular activities such as ASB dues, event registrations, field trips, performances, social events/dances, transportation fees, athletic fees and discounted summer school tuition.*

More information about the application and how to get help is also available from [Nutrition Services](#).

**Sponsored Programs from the Bellevue Schools Foundation.**



Mental Health and Signs of Suicide: The Data Behind the Stigma

November 3, 5PM via Zoom

[RSVP HERE](#)

Please join Bellevue Schools Foundation and the Bellevue School District Educators for a presentation on current mental health trends in Bellevue's Public Schools.

You will have a chance to hear directly from the District's experts about the ways in which students are currently supported, the impact of this support and which tools and resources are the most effective. There will also be a chance for the attendees to engage with educators directly through a Q&A session and learn about future programming planned.



### **Bellevue Schools Foundation Annual Click-a-thon**

**On November 9-10, give at least \$100 and it becomes \$200 or more!**

Thanks to our generous matching fund donors, when you give at least \$100 on these two days, they will match your donation.\*

Your donation - in any amount - supports:

- Mental Health
- Early Learning
- Computer Science & STEM
- Arts and Innovation
- National Certification for Teachers
- Equity and Inclusion
- Mentoring

\*Up to \$31,000

Keep an eye out for our QR code or give online at [bsfdn.org](https://bsfdn.org).