

Bellaire Public Schools



Home of the Eagles

September • October 2016

www.bellairepublicschools.com

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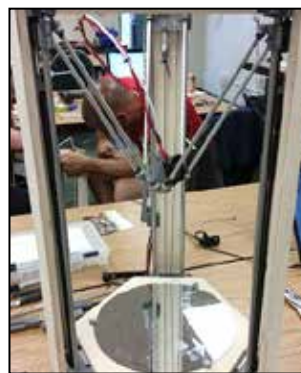


Going for Gold

John R. Rodger Elementary's float in the Rubber Ducky parade was titled "Going for the Gold" with Olympic theming and enthusiastic students proudly representing their school. Thank you to the parent volunteers and students who participated in this fun event.

3D Printer

Teacher Tiffany Sutter attended a 3D printer workshop to help students integrate STEM skills with problem solving. Students may use the school's new 3D printer for class projects. Visit www.donorschoose.org/tsutter to support the fundraiser for the printer's upgraded computer.



Yearbooks are Ready!

High school yearbooks are ready for pick-up with Mrs. Sutter. Extras are available for purchase too. Order your 2016-17 yearbook now at www.balfour.com. Contact Mrs. Sutter at (231) 533-8015 or tsutter@bellairek12.org for yearbook ad pricing and options.



Class of 2029

Mrs. Crooks welcomed the incoming kindergarteners for Kinder Club, including a scavenger hunt in the school, bus ride, snack, playground fun and new friends.

Back to School Open Houses

Please join us
Wednesday, August 31:

**John R. Rodger
Elementary**

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Picnic 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Bellaire Middle/High

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Please Note

- Orientation sessions are
- scheduled for ninth and
- sixth grade students and
- families in the Performing
- Arts Center as follows:
- **Ninth grade 5:30 p.m.**
- **Sixth grade 6:15 p.m.**



Welcome Back

- Jim Emery,
Superintendent

Welcome back! Many high school athletes started practicing in early August and fall varsity teams will have already participated in contests prior to the **official first day of school on Tuesday, September 6**. While the Class of 2017 is excited about their last year of high school, we also have the newest group of students -- the Class of 2029 just beginning the journey. The year 2029 seems so far away but believe me, it will pass more quickly than you would ever imagine!

One of Bellaire Public Schools' top priorities is to provide a quality education for our students. One component that aids in that goal is having a low student-to-teacher ratio as we believe that class size is a critical part of a child's education. Class size has crept upward in recent years due to our school budget which makes the hiring of additional staff impossible. While class sizes remain higher than we would like, the Board of Education decided at its July meeting to once again limit the number of students that could enroll via the open enrollment/school of choice process. For the 2016-17 school year, the only requests that will be considered are for students entering 7th, 9th and 10th grades.

Bellaire Public Schools is an "out-of-formula" school district, meaning that the district does not receive per pupil funding from the State of Michigan like "in-formula" school districts. When a district collects more revenue from their 18-mill non-homestead properties (i.e. vacation homes) than they can receive from the State using the normal per

pupil formula, they are considered out-of-formula. In-formula districts advertise to entice families to join their schools through the open enrollment process so they can receive more funding – usually over \$7500 per additional pupil. That increased revenue can significantly help a school's budget. By no longer qualifying for this additional per pupil funding, Bellaire Public Schools has placed limits on the open enrollment process.

While our district is considered small by many, students at the secondary level have many educational options available to them. In 2015, the School Aid Act began allowing students in grades 5-12 to take up to two (2) online courses per semester. Those courses may be selected from the statewide catalog that is available on the school's website. We encourage parents to carefully consider whether a 100% online course is ideal for their child given the fact that students forfeit face-to-face teacher classroom instruction and support. High school students entering their junior year may also choose to take classes at the TBAISD Career-Tech Center and Manufacturing Technology Academy where hands-on learning is what it's all about. Other options that may be attractive to high schoolers are dual enrollment – taking college classes while still in high school, and Early College. High school students must follow the Michigan Merit Curriculum to earn a diploma, but law allows some minor variations to this set of mandated courses. Under limited conditions a personal curriculum can be requested for a student. Please contact K-12 counselor Dave Lewandowski to find out more about this option.

Please take the time to look over the school calendar included in this newsletter and continue to check the school's website at www.bellairepublicschools.com for updated school and district information.

Principal's Welcome

- Kristi Poel, Elementary & Middle School Principal

Welcome Back! I hope everyone is recharged for another great school year. It is my honor and privilege to serve as a principal in Bellaire where our history of partnership between school and home continues. Our dedicated teachers have spent many days preparing classrooms and creating lessons to help students become engaged in meaningful learning. Our awesome students, involved parents, and excellent staff strive to create the ideal educational community for growth. Let's keep working together to make this school a great place to be every day. I look forward to a positive year filled with enthusiasm for teaching and learning.

Preschool Choices

Bellaire Public Schools is pleased to continue the partnership with Kalkaska Memorial Healthcare offering three options for parents with preschool children: Great Start Readiness Program (4 year-olds) is free for qualifying families, Headstart (3 and 4 year-olds) is a fee-based program for qualifying families, and Preschool (3-5 year-olds) is a fee-based option for all families. Call Tonya Dupuie at 533-8916 x285 for more information.

Before/After School Care

Kalkaska Memorial Healthcare will provide Kid's Club before/after school care for students ages 4 - 12 at John R. Rodger Elementary School. Childcare is available from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m., and from 3:02 to 6:00 p.m. Contact Tonya Dupuie at TDupuie1@mhc.net or call 533-8916 x285.

School Bus Safety



Getting children to and from school safely each day is serious business.

Every year, thousands of children are injured in school bus-related accidents. Many of these accidents can be prevented if children know and follow these rules for bus safety:

- **Rushing** When children are late for the bus, they can lose sight of safety, resulting in accidents. Set your morning routine so that children arrive at the bus stop ten minutes before the bus is due.
- **Stay in the safe zone** Bus drivers have blind spots because of bus design and many children have been injured because the bus driver simply didn't see them. Tell children to stay in the "safe zone"—at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- **Save the horseplay** Goofing around while waiting for the bus, especially if the play extends into the street, can be deadly. Make sure children understand the danger.
- **One at a time** Every child wants to get a good seat, but it's important for children to take their turn entering the bus, lining up in single file to board calmly.
- **No distractions** Bus rules—no shouting, no throwing things, no horseplay—are serious safety issues. Children should understand the importance of never distracting the bus driver.
- **Stay put** Children are eager to leave the bus and often start for the front before the bus has stopped. They should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before leaving their seats.
- **Cut the ties** Clothing with drawstrings can be dangerous because loose strings can get caught on handrails. Remove drawstrings from children's jackets and look for backpacks that don't have drawstrings.
- **Heads up** A dropped book can turn into a serious accident if the bus driver doesn't see it. Tell your children to let the bus driver know immediately if they drop something while getting on or off the bus.
- **The inside story** As tempting as it might be to wave through an open window on a sunny day, children need to understand the importance of keeping their hands, arms, and heads inside the bus.
- **Getting there** Figure out the safest route to and from the bus stop and walk it with children a few times. Make sure they cross streets only at crosswalks or corners, never darting out between parked cars, and always look both ways before crossing.
- **Group bus stops** Parents/adults must wait with their K-3 students for safety reasons.
- **Reporting** Remind your children that they need to report any bus problems immediately to the driver so that it can be dealt with right away.

Please make the time to review these bus safety tips with your children. (Source: "Report to Parents" National Association of Elementary School Principals)

Elementary Drop-Off and Pick-Up Guidelines



Morning Drop-Off

If you drive your child to school, or if you need to enter the building in the morning, please use the athletic complex driveway, which is the first driveway **beyond** John R. Rodger Elementary.

As you enter the athletic complex driveway, please have your student ready to exit the passenger side (backpack ready, hugs and kisses, etc...) by the time your car reaches the drop off location. This helps traffic move smoothly. For safety, there are orange cones in the driveway to remind you that there is only one lane of traffic at the drop-off location.

Parents or students who are dropped off in the morning must enter at the side door – no exceptions. Starting at 7:50 a.m. there is an adult at the side entrance to assist students who are dropped off.

The circle drive in front of the school is used exclusively for busses. The parking lot is for staff only. This system prevents traffic from backing up on the street in front of the school during morning rush.

Drop-off exception: If arriving after 8:15 a.m., please drop off at the circle drive if no busses are present. Students arriving late must check in with Mrs. LeCureux in the office to obtain a pass before going to class. **Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**

Afternoon Pick-Up

If you pick up students after school, please use the athletic complex driveway **beyond** John R. Rodger Elementary. Cars should line up at the side entrance and an adult will be present to supervise. If waiting in a car in the parking lot, please remain inside the vehicle until all cars have proceeded through the pick-up line.

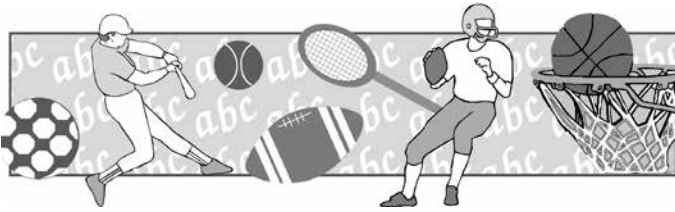


Free/Reduced Cost Meals

A free and reduced cost school breakfast and lunch program is available to families meeting income eligibility requirements. **Families must apply for free/reduced school meals every year.** If you qualify, your children can receive food services at reduced or no cost. Families may complete an application online by visiting lunchapp.com. You may also obtain applications in the school office.

School Meal Accounts

You can access your child's food service account balance and/or add money to the account electronically at sendmoneytoschool.com. If you already have an account it will be the same this year. To set up a new account, please follow the instructions online.



Bellaire Public Schools Common Calendar 2016 - 2017



Homecoming 2016

Friday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.
Eagles vs Onaway

Sponsor an Athlete

All middle and high school athletes must pay a fee to participate in school sports during the 2016-17 school year. Although the fee is nominal and offsets some athletic program costs, it may be difficult for some families to pay given other financial obligations. If you would like to sponsor athletes who struggle to pay the sports participation fee, send a donation to the athletic office where funds will be kept in an account strictly for those in need. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

Sports Volunteers Needed

Successful home athletic events need many volunteers to run scoreboards, take tickets, prepare fields, and more. If you would like to join the athletic department volunteer corps, contact Jean Keiser or Brad Fischer in the high school office.

MHSAA Offers New Concussion Insurance

The Michigan High School Athletic Association is providing eligible athletic participants at each MHSAA member junior high/middle school and high school with additional insurance that is intended to pay accident medical expense benefits resulting from a suspected concussion. The injury must be sustained while the athlete is participating in an MHSAA covered activity. Policy limit is \$25,000 for each accident. Covered students, sports and situations are identical to the catastrophic accident medical insurance which, if the \$25,000 threshold is reached, would require a separate claim to be made.

This new program intends to assure that all eligible student-athletes in MHSAA member schools in grades 7 through 12, male and female, in all levels of all sports under the jurisdiction of the MHSAA, receive prompt and professional attention for head injury events even if the child is uninsured or under-insured. Accident medical deductibles and co-pays left unpaid by other policies are reimbursed under this program to the limits of the policy.

Should you have a need to make a claim under this new program, contact terri.bruner@kandkinsurance.com or phone 800-237-2917 toll free.

• Aug	31	Open House
•		Elementary 5:00-6:30 p.m.
•		Middle/High School 5:30-7:00 p.m.
• Sept	6	First Day of School - Full Day
• Nov	4	Half Day for Students
•		End of First Marking Period
•	7	No School for Students -
•		Regional Staff Development Day
•	16	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:15 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:45 p.m.
•	22	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:00 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:30 p.m.
•	23	Half Day for Students
•	24-25	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
•	28	School Resumes
• Dec	23-31	No School - Christmas Recess
• Jan	1-2	No School - Christmas Recess
•	3	School Resumes
•	19	Half Day for Students (HS Exams)
•	20	Half Day for Students (HS Exams)
•		End of First Semester
• Feb	22	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:15 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:45 p.m.
•	23	Parent Teacher Conferences
•		Elem 4:00-7:00 p.m./MS&HS 4:30-7:30 p.m.
•	24	Half Day for Students
• Mar	24	Half Day for Students
•		End of Third Marking Period
•	27-31	No School - Spring Recess
• Apr	3	School Resumes
•	14	No School - Good Friday
• May	29	No School - Memorial Day
• June	2	Graduation 7:00 p.m.
•	6	Half Day for Students (HS Exams)
•	7	Half Day for Students - Last Day of School

Regular School Day Schedule:
 Elem 8:05 a.m. - 3:02 p.m.
 MS/HS 8:00 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.

½ Day School Schedule:
 Elem 8:05 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.
 MS/HS 8:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.

Six (6) snow days are allowed by the Michigan Department of Education; any additional snow days after those six will need to be made up as additional days to this calendar.

MI Immunization Requirements + Hearing/Vision Screenings

A child enrolling in public, private, parochial or denominational school in Michigan for the first time shall submit one of the following: 1.) statement signed by a physician that child has been tested for and immunized or protected against diseases specified by the director of public health, 2.) statement signed by parent/guardian that child has not been immunized because of religious convictions or other objections, 3.) request signed by parent/guardian that local health department gives the needed protective immunization. **In addition, a statement that vision and hearing tests were passed is required unless parent indicates in writing that child cannot submit to the tests because of religious convictions.**

Michigan law prohibits a principal or teacher from admitting new students without record of having at least one dose of each: measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis. Records for all entering kindergarten students and students enrolled from outside the district will be reviewed to ensure immunizations are up-to-date. Notice will be sent to parents/guardians if there is no immunization record upon school entry or if records are incomplete. Students not in compliance with immunization requirements will be excluded from school until documentation of immunization is presented. Michigan law requires that all students be immunized against the diseases listed in the chart below. Immunizations can be obtained from a physician or health department.

Required Childhood Immunizations for Michigan School Settings

School communicable disease rules are the minimum standard for preventing disease outbreaks in school settings.

Healthcare professionals in Michigan should follow the

2016 Recommended Immunization Schedule at www.cdc.gov/vaccines or www.michigan.gov/immunize to best protect patients from all diseases.

****All doses of vaccines must be given with appropriate spacing between doses and at appropriate ages to be considered valid.**

Entry Requirements for All Public & Non-Public Schools		
Age → Vaccine**↓	4 years through 6 years	7 years through 18 years including all 7th grade students
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	4 doses DTP or DTaP, one dose must be on or after 4 years of age	4 doses D and T OR 3 doses Td if #1 given on or after 7 years of age. 1 dose of Tdap for children 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7 th grade or higher.
Polio	4 doses, if dose 3 administered on or after 4 years of age, only 3 doses are required	3 doses
Measles,* Mumps,* Rubella*	2 doses on or after 12 months of age	
Hepatitis B*	3 doses	
Meningococcal	None	1 dose for all children 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7 th grade or higher
Varicella* (Chickenpox)	2 doses of varicella vaccine at or after 12 months of age OR current lab immunity OR reliable history of disease	

* If vaccination is not administered, current laboratory evidence of immunity is required.

**Students susceptible to these diseases may be excluded from school.

Parents/guardians must obtain a certified nonmedical waiver from a local health department.



Rev. March 31, 2016

New Student Registration

Welcome to Bellaire Public Schools! To register a new student with BPS, please contact the appropriate school secretary listed below for information and to verify registration times and procedures.

Elementary School (K-5) **Middle/High School (6-12)**
(231) 533-8916 x230 **(231) 533-8015 x224**

New registrations will be accepted starting the third week in August. Please call ahead to ensure a secretary will be available. You will be required to provide copy of your child's immunization record and an official copy of your child's birth certificate.

Integrated Pest Management

Bellaire Public Schools utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize sanitation, pest exclusion, and biological controls. One of the objectives of using an IPM approach is to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical applications of pesticides. However, certain situations may require the need for pesticides to be utilized.

As required by State of Michigan law, you will receive advance notice regarding the non-emergency application of a pesticide such as an insecticide, fungicide or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formulation, that is made to the school or grounds or buildings during this school year. Please note that notification is not given for the use of sanitizers, germicides, disinfectants or anti-microbial cleaners. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application.

Advance notification of pesticide applications, other than a bait or gel formulation, will be given by at least 2 methods. Notification will always be made by posting at the main entrance of each school building. Additional methods of notification will include: posting information on the school's website, as well as an email to all parent/guardian email addresses that are known to the district office. Additional information will be included in a school mailing.

Complaint Procedure

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity or access to programs or services may file a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, with the District's Civil Rights Coordinator, Superintendent, Bellaire Public Schools, 204 W. Forest Home Ave., Bellaire, MI 49615. The individual may also, at any time, contact the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 600 Superior Avenue, Room 750, Cleveland, OH 44114-2611.

Title I - Right to Know

Your child currently attends a school that receives funds from the Title I, Part A program, a federal supplemental program designed to help children reach high academic standards. In receiving funds from this program the district has a requirement to inform you, as parents of children attending a Title I school, of information available regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s). Information will be provided to you upon request and in a timely manner of the following:

- Whether your child's teacher has met Michigan qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which Michigan qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of child's teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

You may request additional information on the level of achievement on Michigan's MSTEP assessment. You will also receive timely notice if your child is, for whatever reason, assigned or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified. A highly qualified teacher is defined as a teacher that meets Michigan's qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level of subject area in which the teacher is providing instruction.

Directory Information Release

The law permits that student information known as "directory information" be provided upon request unless parents or an 18 year old student specifically requests that their directory information be withheld from release. This information is used for athletic programs, newsletters, articles for local newspapers, communications with colleges and universities, along with other purposes. This is separate from the request for release of directory information to the military. Directory information is defined as:

1. Name, address, and landline telephone number
2. Date and place of birth
3. Major field of study
4. Participation in school activities
5. Dates of school attendance
6. Honors and awards
7. Photo and video use



Michigan's Attorney General recently included "photos and videos" as directory information as long as parents were informed that the school considered them as such. Any requests for the non-release of student information must be sent in writing to the address below. Such requests must be renewed annually.

**Office of the Superintendent, 204 W. Forest Home Ave.
Bellaire, MI 49615**

September-October 2016

Bellaire Public Schools

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 29	30	OPEN HOUSES 31 Elem 5:00-6:30p MS/HS 5:30-7:00p 9th Gr Orientation 5:30-6:00p 6th Gr Orientation 6:15-6:45p	SEPTEMBER 1 Soccer @ Harbor Lt V VB v Central Lk FB @ Rudyard	2	3
5 No School Labor Day	6 First Day of School Full Day V VB @ Inland Lks	7 MS VB v Mancelona	8 Soccer v Burt Lk NMCA V VB v Mancelona	9	10 CC @ Charlevoix Mud Run JV VB @ Kalkaska Tourney FB v Cedarville
12 MS VB @ JoBurg	13 Soccer v Roscommon V VB v Forest Area	14	15 Soccer @ Cheboygan V VB v E Jordan JV VB @ McBain NMC	16	17 CC @ House on the Hill Invite V VB @ Grayling Tourney
19 MS VB v Forest Area	20 CC @ Kalkaska Invite Soccer v Harbor Lt V VB v Pellston	21 MS VB @ Central Lk	22 Soccer @ Burt Lk NMCA	23 CC @ GRCC Raider Invite	24 MS VB Eagle Tourney V VB @ St Ignace LaSalle Tourney JV VB @ Bear Lk Tourney FB v Engadine
26 Board of Education Meeting MS VB @ Mancelona	27 V VB @ Gaylord SM	28 MS VB v Jo'Burg	29 Soccer @ Roscommon V VB v Harbor Springs	30 FB @ Pellston	OCTOBER 1 CC @ Boyne Falls Logger Invite
3 V/JV VB @ Central Lk Dig Pink	4 Soccer v Cheboygan	5 MS VB @ Forest Area JV VB v Kalkaska	6	7 FB @ Posen	8 CC Bellaire Invite @ Shanty Creek V VB @ Suttons Bay Tourney JV VB @ Mancelona Tourney
10 MS VB v Central Lk	11 Soccer Crossover Game V VB @ Onaway College Night	12	13 Soccer Crossover Game	14 FB @ Charlton Heston Academy	15
17 Soccer MHSAA Districts	18 V VB @ JoBurg	19 CC Ski Valley Meet @ Mancelona	20	21 FB v Onaway (Homecoming)	22 JV VB Ski Valley Tourney @ Pellston CC Class D Meet @ Shepherd
24 V VB @ Boyne City Board of Education Meeting	25	26 V VB v Ellsworth	27	28	29 CC MHSAA Regional @ Gaylord
31	NOVEMBER 1	2	3	4 Half Day of School End of First Quarter	5 CC MHSAA State Finals @ Brooklyn MIS
7 No School Professional Dev.	8	9	10	11	12

Dates and times subject to change

Free Breakfast
Students in grades K-5 may have free school breakfast. Start the day in a healthy way!

Meal Prices

Breakfast	
Grades K-5	Free
All other grades	\$1.35
Reduced	\$0.30
Lunch	
Elementary	\$2.40
MS/HS	\$2.60
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult (tax incl.)	\$3.55
Milk	\$0.50

No person because of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in our United States Department of Agriculture donated food and nutrition programs. Any persons who believes he/she has been discriminated against should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Meal Program

Free and reduced cost school breakfast and lunch program is available to families meeting income eligibility requirements. **Families must apply for free/reduced school meals every year.** If your family status changes at any time throughout the school year, you are eligible to apply. If you qualify, your children can receive food services at reduced or no cost. An application is available online at www.lunchapp.com. You may also find applications in the school office.

Newsletter Delivery

The Bellaire Public Schools newsletter is distributed electronically every two months. Printed copies are also available at school offices, public library, Senior Center, and Bellaire Chamber of Commerce. To request the newsletter delivery via email, contact Bellaire Public Schools at 533-8141.

Board of Education Meetings 2016-2017

Meeting Location:
Bellaire Middle/High School
Performing Arts Center
204 W. Forest Home Ave.
Bellaire, MI 49615

Time:
All meetings are scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

Mon., Sept. 26, 2016	Mon., Mar. 20, 2017
Mon., Oct. 24, 2016	Mon., April 24, 2017
Mon., Nov. 28, 2016	Mon., May 22, 2017
Mon., Dec. 19, 2016	Mon., June 19, 2017
Mon., Jan. 23, 2017	Mon., July 24, 2017

College Night

Mark your calendars for the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District 2016 College Night. High school students are invited to meet representatives from more than 50 colleges and military institutions. For more information contact Terri Sheldon at TBAISD at (231) 922-6331 or tsheldon@tbaisd.org.

Tuesday, October 11, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
NMC Hagerty Conference Center
715 Front Street, Traverse City

School Pictures

All Grades

Tuesday, September 20



STEP (Students in Transition Empowerment Program)

The McKinney-Vento Act states that school districts must ensure the right to a free, appropriate public education for all children, ages 3-17, who are living in transition due to loss of housing. More and more families, as well as youth who are not living with their parent or guardian, are among those who find themselves in this situation. Students who do not have a fixed, regular, and adequate overnight residence need assistance. Students who find themselves living in any of the following situations are encouraged to contact the office as soon as possible:

- In a shelter, motel, vehicle, camper or campground
- Temporarily sharing housing with friends or relatives due to economic hardship
- Unaccompanied youth who are living on their own without parent or guardian
- Inadequate accommodations (lack of electricity, heat, plumbing, or overcrowding)
- Abandoned buildings or on the street

Bellaire Public Schools' STEP Coordinator can be reached at 231-533-8015 extension 223.

Personal Curriculum

The law requires that all students pass a very stringent set of courses to receive a diploma from any public school in the state. The law now allows a parent/legal guardian/adult student/emancipated minor student, or a student's teacher or counselor to request modifications to these high school graduation requirements under limited conditions. Those modifications are made through a "personal curriculum" developed for the student. All students are entitled to a personal curriculum, and if an appropriate request is made, the District will develop a personal curriculum for a student.

When developing a personal curriculum for a student, the District will need to include as much of the original Michigan Merit Curriculum content expectations as are practicable for the student. The personal curriculum must be consistent with the student's educational development plan and it must contain student-specific measurable goals that the student must meet to graduate. The law does limit what courses can be modified or substituted. The District has some additional flexibility to make modifications for students with disabilities and certain transfer students. Before a personal curriculum becomes effective, it must be approved by the parent/legal guardian/adult student or emancipated minor student and the Superintendent or his/her designee. A personal curriculum is not transferrable to another district.

If a parent/legal guardian/adult student or emancipated minor student believes that they would benefit from a personal curriculum, they may request one be developed. To do so, the following steps need to be completed:

1. Make a request in writing for a personal curriculum for your student.
2. The District will review the request and develop a personal curriculum that best fits the needs of that student consistent with limitations and requirements contained in the law.
3. A meeting with the student/parent/guardian and school district designee will take place to review the personal curriculum.
4. Once agreed upon by all parties, the personal curriculum will be set in place.

For more information on personal curricula, including what may and may not be modified, please visit the Michigan Department of Education's Personal Curriculum page at: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_49879--,00.html

If you have additional questions, please contact the school counselor's office at 231-533-8015 ext. 226.

Bellaire Public Schools Newsletter, Vol. 37, No.1, Sept./Oct. 2016. This newsletter is produced five times a school year for parents, residents and taxpayers in the Bellaire Public School District. The newsletter is published by the Bellaire Board of Education:

Tony Martinek	Robert Silk	Walt Mann	Aimee George
Patricia Savant	Mike Robinson	Peter Wendling	

Newsletter editing and layout is provided by the Communications Department, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Comments and inquiries about the newsletter should be directed to James Emery, Superintendent, Bellaire Public Schools, 533-8141. Below are school administrators:

James Emery, Superintendent/High School Principal, 533-8141
Kristi Poel, Elementary/Middle School Principal, 533-8916
Eric Matusik, Food Services, 533-8141