

Bellaire Public Schools



Home of the Eagles

September • October 2015

www.bellairepublicschools.com

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Welcome Bellaire Class of 2028!

New John R. Rodger Elementary kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Crooks recently welcomed the Class of 2028 at Kinder Club. This special orientation day helps incoming kindergarten students get comfortable with the school and common routines. Youngsters enjoyed a snack, storytime with the teacher, a bus ride and recess.



Reading His Way to New Wheels

Bellaire student, Ben McKay won a new bike and helmet from the "Bikes for Books" program sponsored by the Bellaire Masons. Bikes for Books is a reading incentive for students in third through fifth grades. Ben read several books and wrote summary paragraphs for each book in order to be entered in the contest. He enjoyed his new bike this summer!

Back to School Open Houses

Please plan to attend school open houses
on Wednesday, September 2:

John R. Rodger Elementary
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Bellaire Middle/High
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Please Note

Special orientation sessions are scheduled for ninth and sixth grade students and family members in the Performing Arts Center as follows:

Ninth grade 5:30 p.m.

Sixth grade 6:15 p.m.

Teachers look forward to welcoming students and families to their classrooms. Families will be able to see daily schedules and school work information. Open houses are also a great way for parents to meet one another.

**First Day
of School
September 8
FULL
DAY**



New Year News *- Jim Emery, Superintendent*

I'm glad to welcome Bellaire's newest group of students -- the Class of 2028! That date seems so far away, yet for these kindergarten students and parents, it will pass so quickly.

High school athletes have been busy practicing since early August and all fall varsity teams will have participated in games or contests prior to the official first day of school on Tuesday, September 8.

Class Size & Open Enrollment

One of the priorities of Bellaire Public Schools has always been to provide a quality education for our students. A 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. Presently the school budget makes the hiring of additional staff impossible, and therefore class size has crept upward in recent years. Although class sizes remain higher than we prefer, the BPS Board of Education decided at its July meeting to once again limit the number of students who may enroll via open enrollment/school of choice. For the 2015-16 school year, the only open enrollment requests that will be considered are for students entering second, eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh grades.

High School Class Options

Students at the secondary level have many educational options available to them. Last year legislation known as 21f of the State School Aid Act allowed students in grades 5-12 to take up to two online courses per semester. Those courses can 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 children, given 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 or the Career-Tech Center's Manufacturing Technology Academy. CTC programs emphasize hands-on learning. Dual enrollment and Early College are other options -- taking college classes while still in high school may be appealing to some students.

Graduation Requirements

Though high school students have many options for coursework, they do still need to follow the Michigan Merit Curriculum to earn a diploma, with the law allowing some minor variations to this set of mandated courses. Under limited conditions, a personal curriculum can be requested for a student. For information about personal curriculum, contact K-12 counselor Dave Lewandowski.

Annual Education Reports

Each year, schools and districts across the state post Annual Education Reports (AER) to their school websites by mid-August. However, due to the standardized testing change from MEAP to MSTEP assessments, the Michigan Department of Education has postponed the AER requirement for this school year. The bulk of the information in the AER is three-year data for past statewide assessments. With the new MSTEP in place for the first time last year, there is no data to compare.

School Calendar and Website

Please review 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 to the 2015-2016 school year! I hope that you had a summer filled with happy moments. Now it's time to get back to our wonderful students, dedicated parents and highly qualified staff. The staff has been busily preparing for the first day of school -- Tuesday, September 8 for a full day.

Every day is an important day, as we strive to help all children achieve their highest potential. Through partnership between school and homes, we want students to receive the support they need to succeed. We look forward to working with you and making Bellaire Public Schools the ideal educational community for growth and fulfillment.

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. The cost is \$2.50 per hour and scheduling is flexible. 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 2015 - 2016



Homecoming 2015

Friday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.
Eagles vs Pickford

Sponsor an Athlete

All middle and high school athletes must pay a fee to participate in school sports during the 2015-16 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 Paula McCully or Brad Fischer in the high school office.

NEW Concussion Insurance

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) 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 grade 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 need to make a claim under this new program, contact terri.bruner@kandkinsurance.com or phone (800) 237-2917 toll free.

Sept	2	Open House Elementary 5:00-6:30 p.m. Middle/High School 5:30-7:00 p.m.
	8	First Day of School - Full Day
Oct	30	Half Day for Students and Staff
Nov	2	No School for Students - Regional Staff Development Day
	6	End of First Marking Period
	17	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:45 p.m.
	19	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
	25-27	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
	30	School Resumes
Dec	23-31	No School - Winter Recess
Jan	1	No School - Winter Recess
	4	School Resumes
	22	Half Day for Students End of First Semester
Feb	15	No School - Mid-Winter Recess
Mar	15	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:45 p.m.
	17	Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-7:30 p.m.
	24	End of Third Marking Period
	25-31	No School - Spring Recess
Apr	1	No School - Spring Recess
	4	No School for Students or Staff
	5	School Resumes
May	30	No School - Memorial Day
June	6	Half Day for Students - Exams
	7	Half Day for Students - Last Day
	10	Graduation 7:00 p.m.

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.

Entry Immunization Requirements for Michigan Child Care, Preschool, and School Settings										Rev. May 7, 2015
Age → Vaccine** ↓	Birth to 1 mo	2 to 3 mo	4 to 5 mo	6 to 15 mo	16 to 18 mo	19 mo to 4 yr	5 yr	4 to 6 yr	7 to 18 yr including all 7th graders	
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis	None	1 dose DTaP	2 doses DTaP	3 doses DTaP	3 doses DTaP	4 doses DTaP		4 doses DTP or DTaP, one dose must be on or after 4 years of age	4 doses D and T OR 3 doses if #1 given on or after first birthday. 1 dose of Tdap for children 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher	
Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV7 and/or PCV13)	None	1 dose	2 doses	3 doses	4 doses OR age appropriate complete series	1 dose on or after 24 months OR age appropriate complete series	None	None	None	
<i>H. influenzae</i> type b	None	1 dose	2 doses		1 dose on or after 15 months of age OR age appropriate complete series		None	None	None	
Polio	None	1 dose	2 doses		2 doses	3 doses		4 doses. Only 3 doses required if administered on or after 4 years of age.	3 doses	
Measles,* Mumps,* Rubella*	None	None	None	None	1 dose on or after 12 months of age			2 doses on or after 12 months of age		
Hepatitis B*	None†	1 dose	2 doses		2 doses	3 doses		3 doses		
Meningococcal	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	1 dose for all children 11 years of age or older upon entry into 7th grade or higher	
Varicella* (Chickenpox)	None	None	None	None	1 dose on or after 12 months of age OR cur- rent lab immunity OR reliable history of disease			2 doses of varicella vaccine at or after 12 months of age OR current lab immunity OR reliable history of disease		

Communicable disease rules are the minimum standard for preventing disease outbreaks in school and child care settings. To best protect patients from all diseases we have the power to prevent, healthcare providers in Michigan should follow the 2015 Recommended Immunization Schedule at www.cdc.gov/vaccines or www.michigan.gov/immunize.
*Current laboratory evidence of immunity is acceptable instead of immunization with antigen.
**Students susceptible to these diseases may be excluded from school. All doses of vaccines must be given with appropriate spacing between doses and at appropriate ages to be considered valid.
†Hepatitis B may be administered as early as birth.
Effective Jan. 1, 2015, parents/guardians must obtain a certified non-medical waiver from a local health department. Information provided by MI Dept. of Comm. Health.

Pest Management Advisory

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.

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 (Grades K-5)
(231) 533-8916 x230

Middle/High School (Grades 6-12)
(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.

Bullying Policy

Bullying is defined as any written, verbal, or physical acts, including cyber bullying (i.e. any electronic communication, including, but not limited to electronically transmitted acts, such as internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless handheld device) that, without regard to subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students directly or indirectly. Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student - whether by other students, staff, or third parties (parents, counselors, volunteers, etc.) is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated in Bellaire Schools. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse which causes bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation. Bullying or other aggressive behavior is prohibited during all "at school" activities, including activities on school property, in school vehicles, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function (field trips, athletic events, etc.) The complete Board policy governing this type of behavior, "Bullying - 8260" can be found online in the policy manual on the school's website.

Any student who believes he/she has been or is the victim of bullying or other aggressive behavior must immediately report the situation to the nearest adult (principal, teacher, counselor, volunteer, etc.). Consequences for violation of this policy are listed in the student handbook. Degree of consequences may vary based upon the severity of the violation. Any acts of bullying that involve fighting will be subject to those consequences as well.

Non-Retaliation/False Reports

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports an incident, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry into allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Suspected retaliation must be reported to the nearest adult. Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentional false reports may result in disciplinary action.

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**

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.

September-October 2015

Bellaire Public Schools

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	\$2.30
MS/HS	\$2.50
Reduced	\$0.40
Adult (tax incl.)	\$3.55

Milk

Elementary	\$0.35
MS/HS	\$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.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUGUST 24	25	26	27	28	29
31	SEPTEMBER 1	OPEN HOUSES 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	2 Soccer @ Cheboygan V VB @ Central Lk FB @ Grayling v Charlton Heston Academy	3	4
7 No School Labor Day	8 First Day of School Full Day Soccer v Harbor Lt V VB v Inland Lks	9 MS VB @ Mancelona	10 Soccer v Forest Area V VB @ Mancelona	11	12 CC @ Charlevoix Mud Run JV VB @ Kalkaska Tourney FB v Powers North Central
14 MS VB v Joburg	15 Soccer @ Burt Lk NMCA V VB @ Forest Area	16	17 Soccer @ Roscommon V VB v Northport	18 FB v Posen	19 CC @ House on the Hill Invite V VB @ Grayling Tourney
21 MS VB @ Forest Area	22 CC @ Hanson Hills Invite Soccer v Cheboygan V VB @ Pellston	23 School Pictures for Elementary MS VB v Central Lk	24 School Pictures for Middle/High School Soccer @ Harbor Lt	25 FB @ Brimley	26 MS VB @ Central Lk V VB @ St Ignace LaSalle Tourney
28 Board of Education Meeting	29 Soccer v Burt Lk NMCA	30 Half Day of School MS VB @ JoBurg	1 OCTOBER Soccer @ Forest Area	2 FB v Pickford (Homecoming)	3 CC @ Pine River Invite HS Homecoming Dance
5 V/JV VB @ Central Lk Dig Pink	6 Soccer v Roscommon	7 MS VB v Forest Area	8	9 Soccer @ Glen Lk	10 CC @ Portage Invite JV VB @ Mancelona Tourney V VB @ Suttons Bay Tourney FB v Cedarville
12 Soccer @ NMSL Crossover MS VB @ Central Lk	13 V VB v Onaway College Night	14 CC @ Ski Valley Meet Soccer @ NMSL Crossover	15 V VB @ East Jordan	16 FB @ Onaway	17 JV VB @ Gaylord HS JV Tourney
19	20 V VB v JoBurg	21	22 V VB v Boyne City	23 FB v Pellston	24 CC @ Shepherd Meet
26 MS G BB @ Forest Area Board of Education Meeting	27	28 MS G BB v JoBurg V VB @ Ellsworth	29	30	31 CC @ MHSAA Regional
2 NOVEMBER No School Professional Dev.	3 MS G BB v Central Lk	4	5 MS G BB @ Pellston	6 End of First Quarter	7 CC @ MHSAA State Finals

Dates and times subject to change

Board of Education Meetings 2015-2016

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. 28, 2015	Mon., Mar. 21, 2016
Mon., Oct. 26, 2015	Mon., April 25, 2016
Mon., Nov. 23, 2015	Mon., May 23, 2016
Mon., Dec. 21, 2015	Mon., June 20, 2016
Mon., Jan. 25, 2016	Mon., July 25, 2016
Mon., Feb. 22, 2016	

College Night

Mark your calendars for the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District 2015 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 13, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
NMC Hagerty Conference Center
715 Front Street, Traverse City

School Pictures

Elementary

Wed., September 23

Middle/High School

Thurs., September 24



Students in Transition Empowerment Program (STEP)

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 and youth not living with a parent/guardian 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 school 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 533-8015 x223.

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 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.

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