



Bett Pride

Bettendorf Community School District
Community Newsletter
V. 17 No. 1 September 2016
www.bettendorf.k12.ia.us

**Passion
Purpose
Pride!**

2016-2017 School Year Transitions, Traditions & New Endeavors

Mike Raso
Interim Superintendent



The 2016-2017 school year will be a year of transition, tradition and new endeavors. We have some major changes in district leadership this year with the upcoming search for both the district superintendent and high school principal. To start the year we have interims in place that have experience in the district and understand the Bettendorf passion, purpose, pride, and expectations.

I have the honor of leading the district into this new school year as Interim Superintendent and look forward to the experiences and challenges of the position. Joy Kelly has been selected to serve as Interim Principal at the high school. David Hlas has also joined the leadership team as principal at Neil Armstrong Elementary. We're also pleased to welcome an enthusiastic group of 36 new certified staff and 18 new support staff to our district team. I've always been proud of the way the staff embraces new team members and guides their transition into the district. Each of our employees, in every role, is an essential piece to our success. They work together to move the district forward for the benefit of the students we serve.

We are continuing to expand our facilities and enhance the learning environment for our students, staff and the community. The middle school parking and traffic flow have been redesigned this summer. With the construction on 18th street too, middle school staff and visitors have faced quite a challenge.

More construction is coming. Plans are unfolding to upgrade all our elementary facilities into 21st century learning environments, starting with Grant Wood Elementary School. Thank you to all our community members who took part in our elementary facilities planning focus groups and for supporting the district facility improvements through the Physical Plant & Equipment Levy and \$.01 sales tax.

We continue to look at ways to accelerate student achievement. The district elementary schools will begin to transition to smaller class sizes with additional kindergarten and 1st grade sections at Grant Wood Elementary. The addition of PRIDE time at Bettendorf High School will offer more opportunities for students to receive academic support and enrichment. We're also excited to begin a 1:1 initiative this year at Bettendorf Middle School which will provide Chromebooks to each middle school student. With this initiative, all students in grades 6-12 will now have in-the-moment access to technology.

A key endeavor for the district this year will be the launch of the district's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. The strategic plan provides a vision of how to move the Bettendorf CSD forward in five key areas: Student Achievement, Alignment & Engagement, Learning Environments, Staff Development, and Resources. Our staff is working together to develop strategies to address each of these goal areas. I invite you to take a look at the plan and review our strategies to work with the BCSD community and students in each of these five areas. View the plan online at <http://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/our-district/strategic-plan>.

The Bettendorf Community School District has a tradition of excellence in education. This excellence is built with the passionate support and partnership between our families, our community and our staff. It is built with the purpose with which we present our programs and curriculum. It is fueled with the pride our entire staff takes in their work. It is my goal to continue to strengthen our tradition and strive to move us forward, together, with one vision, one voice, and as one district. Please join us in welcoming the 2016-2017 school year.

2016-2017 School Year What's New in School

BHS PRIDE Time

Bettendorf High School has changed their bell schedule for the 2016-2017 school year to provide more opportunities for students to receive support, enrichment and other learning. The new bell schedule will include PRIDE Time which was developed from a foundation of the following attributes: Poise, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence. This effort provides a multi-tiered system of support during the school day for all students enabling collaboration with teachers on current course work, participation in enrichment activities, access to academic support, or other services provided by staff and the community. PRIDE time will be determined by student choice or staff request based on academic progress



BHS Students to Transitions to Chromebooks

Bettendorf High School is currently in its fourth year of a 1-to-1 (a tablet for each student) initiative. This year BHS will begin replacing iPads with Chromebooks, starting with the freshman and sophomore classes. The juniors and seniors will continue to utilize their iPad devices until they graduate.

The change is being implemented to allow students to share materials and creations more easily. The Chromebook laptops have keyboards enabling an easier production of written work, especially as our district continues to integrate with Google and web-based applications.

The school will phase out the 1-to-1 use of iPads for students within the next 3 years, but still have carts of iPads available for classroom use. This allows students a choice of multiple devices and the opportunity to utilize the tool that meets their needs for their educational goals.

BMS Moves to 1:1 Initiative for 16-17 School Year

The district is excited to announce the start of its 1-to-1 (one device for every student) Chromebook laptop initiative at Bettendorf Middle School this school year. The initiative will provide every 6th-8th grade student a Chromebook to enhance their educational experience at school and home. Students will receive their laptops in October, as they complete digital citizenship training.

The Chromebook program will improve the middle school students' access to technology and give them the capability to take state assessments online.

Our goal is to improve student learning through Project Based Learning which technology helps facilitate. We want our students to have 21st century skills, including communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

Elementary 21st Century Upgrades

In 2015-2016 a district elementary facilities committee worked with BLDD and community members to develop a recommendation for the board for upgrading each elementary school to meet elementary facility standards, create 21st century quality learning environments and improve equity across the district. The estimated cost of the improvements is \$34.5M.

Grant Wood Elementary will be the first school to be updated. The board of education recently appointed Estes Construction as the construction manager. The district is now considering architects for the project.

Elementary Classrooms & Class Size

The Bettendorf CSD is beginning the transition to a 14th section of kindergarten through 5th grade classes in the district elementary schools. The five year plan will help reduce elementary class sizes to be more comparable to neighboring districts.

An additional class at Herbert Hoover Elementary this year will make it a full 3-section school (three kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms). A kindergarten and 1st grade class have been added to Grant Wood Elementary.

An additional class will be added in each of the following years making Grant Wood a full 3-section school in five years.



News Teachers & Staff

Please join us in welcoming our new staff! The district has 33 new teachers and 21 new staff in other positions joining the district this school year.

Literacy, Math, STEAM Preparing for the Year

Working to Meet the Needs of All Students

Kaye Meyers

Literacy Curriculum & Professional Development Teacher Leader

Working to meet the needs of all students continues as our focus in literacy. Teacher training, materials acquisition, planning, and scheduling have all centered around how to support our students in meeting our state standards as well as provide opportunities to gain deeper knowledge and skill for those who have already attained this goal. The recognition that all students learn at different rates and in different ways is the guiding force to our discussions.

Teachers have received training on materials to be used to support our students' literacy skills. Time is included in our schedules to allow students the opportunity to receive the needed support. Technology which adapts based on individual skills has been incorporated into our curriculum. The district's commitment to teachers participating in Professional Learning Communities as a means to collaborate in service to our students continues as the vehicle to keep us on track to meet our goals.

As we enter this new school year we are committed to helping our students and their families understand what students need to know, how we will know if they know it, and to providing the opportunities necessary if they still need more support or if they are ready

We are committed to helping our students and their families understand what students need to know.



to go deeper. As Albert Einstein said, "Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." Bettendorf Community School District is dedicated to developing within all students a passion for learning, a purpose for skills and pride in doing their best. Let's make this the year everyone finds their "genius."

Help your Student Succeed in Math

Marty Beck

Math Curriculum & Professional Development Teacher Leader

Brain research has proven that all students can learn mathematics. Our intelligence is not fixed; our brains continue to grow as we experience mistakes and struggles. This is called learning. The idea that some students are "math people" and others cannot learn math is a misconception.

As a parent or guardian, the biggest help you can give your student in learning math is the belief that everyone can learn math, no matter what their previous experience has been. Yes, it will take work on your student's part, but that work or "productive struggle" is what grows new brain synapses. Without struggle or making mistakes, your student is not learning, only demonstrating prior knowledge. Support your student in their "productive struggle" and reach out to your child's teacher if the struggle seems too great.

Encourage your student to persevere when they struggle with problems that they cannot solve immediately. Help your student to think through the resources available to assist them in attacking the problem (organized list, class notes, phone a friend, homework help, or a tutorial video on the internet). It is also important to talk with your student about the mathematics you encounter in your daily life, whether comparison shopping, deciding on a car loan or tripling a recipe. The more your student sees mathematics as something useful in everyday life, the more accessible it will feel.

As a parent or guardian, the biggest help you can give your student in learning math is the belief that everyone can learn math, no matter what their previous experience has been.

For links to more resources, apps and games that promote mathematical understanding: <https://goo.gl/3dBV3L>.

STEAM Programs Continue to Expand

Chris Like

STEAM Curriculum & Professional Development Teacher Leader

There is a lot of new and exciting enhancements happening with STEAM at Bettendorf Community Schools. In our elementary buildings, all of our first grade classrooms will be joining the kindergarten and fifth grade classrooms in linking the new Iowa Science Standards to their literacy curriculum. We are also expanding the district's maker spaces in many of our libraries with materials gained from a STEM grant from the state of Iowa. At BHS, the incoming freshmen class will be starting a new course sequencing with Biology 1 and Earth & Space Science. We are also adding AP Computer Science to our STEAM curriculum to prepare students for an academy experience in a partnership with John Deere.



Bett Pride Community Newsletter

Volume 17 No. 1 September 2016

The Pride community newsletter is sent to all residents of the Bettendorf Community School District without charge. Comments and suggestions from patrons are welcome. Contact Celeste R. Miller, Director of Communications, (563) 359-3681, ext. 3005 or email cmiller@bettendorf.k12.ia.us

Bettendorf Community School District
Mike Raso, Interim Superintendent
www.bettendorf.k12.ia.us

Linking learning to life with

PASSION PURPOSE & PRIDE

so that all students can

MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE

BCSD  Vision



Learning Environments & Facilities Summer Facility Projects



Middle School Traffic & Parking Renovation

This summer Bettendorf Middle School underwent a major renovation and restructuring of its parent drop off, traffic flow and parking area. The drop off loop has been expanded. Handicapped and visitor parking areas have been added to the front of the school. Approximately 100 parking spaces have also been added.

Projects funded through SAVE (one cent sales tax) and PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy). Thank you for your support of our school facilities!

Tennis/Pickleball Court Renovation & Addition

The district has partnered with Bettendorf Parks and Recreation on tennis and pickle ball court additions and renovations for school and community use.

When the project is completed this fall, Bettendorf High School will have a total of 12 new tennis courts. Bettendorf Middle School will have six new tennis courts, six pickleball courts, a restroom, and shelter.

The first phase of the project was completed in spring 2016 with the addition of six new courts at the high school on the corner of 18th and Tanglefoot.

The project is also being supported through grants from the Scott County Regional Authority (SCRA).

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District Leadership Changes in Administration



David Hlas

Principal

Neil Armstrong Elementary

Join us in welcoming David Hlas to the Bettendorf Community and Neil Armstrong Elementary School.

Hlas holds a Master of Arts in Administration and Supervision as well as Special Education from the University of Phoenix. He also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary and Middle School Education from the University of Northern Iowa.

Hlas began working in education in 2005. He taught special education at the Ballard Middle School and 8th grade special education in Perry School District. He's served as an administrator for the last 4 years, first as Elementary Principal and Special Education Director for Dunkerton School District and most recently as Associate Elementary Principal for Hansen and Lincoln Elementary in Cedar Falls.

Hlas is replacing Lisa Stevenson who is now working as the Director of Instruction for the Marshalltown Community School District.



Mike Raso

Interim Superintendent

Mike Raso has been appointed Interim Superintendent for 2016-2017 school year. Raso has been serving as the district assistant superintendent since fall of 2008.

Raso has superintendent's licensure as well as an Ed.S. (Specialist in Education) and Masters in Secondary Education Administration from Drake University in Des Moines. He received a B.A. in Elementary Education with a minor in Middle School/Junior High Education Mathematics as well as additional certifications in secondary mathematics and coaching from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

He is an AdvancEd State & National Council Committee Member, as well as a member of the Association for Supervision of Curriculum Development (ASCD), and School Administrators of Iowa (SAI). Raso has served as a SAI (School Administrators of Iowa) Legislative Committee Member.

Raso replaces Superintendent Theron Schutte, who is now the superintendent of the Marshalltown Community School District.

The Bettendorf Board of Education plans to start the search process for the next superintendent in November with the goal of approving a hire in early spring with a start date of July 1, 2017.



Joy Kelly

Interim Principal

Bettendorf High School

Joy Kelly will be serving as the Bettendorf High School Interim Principal for the 2016-2017 school year. Kelly has been an associate principal at Bettendorf High School since July 2003.

Kelly was named the 2014-2015 Assistant Principal of the Year by the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI). She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from the University of Iowa, a Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Specialist in Educational Leadership (Ed.S) from the University of Iowa.

Kelly replaces Jimmy Casas who has accepted a position as Senior Fellow for the International Center for Leadership in Education in New York.

The district will start the search process for the next Bettendorf High School Principal in January with the goal of approving a hire in early spring with a start date of July 1, 2017.



THE LAMP

Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation



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2016

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Your donations help fund student scholarships and innovation grants that enhance curriculum for students. We're a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Join Us in Welcoming BCS Foundation New Trustees



Tara Bell



Jim Farber



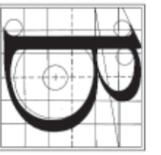
Stephanie Maiers

The Mission of the Bettendorf Community Schools Foundation is to enhance the educational opportunities for our students through the development and distribution of funds.

See what's going on at the Foundation, make a donation to support the schools, honor a teacher or student, or give a memorial.



Visit us online - <http://foundation.bettendorf.k12.ia.us>
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Bettendorf Community School District
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Bettendorf Board of Education At the Board Meeting

Board agendas, minutes and audio files of the board meetings are available online at www.bettendorf.k12.ia.us

August 15, 2016

Special Board Meeting Pending Litigation

The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Bettendorf High School Principal Jimmy Casas. The Board and Casas reached a mutual agreement regarding his departure.

Regular Board Meeting Commendations

Alli Wroblewski - Girls Track
 Congratulations to Bettendorf High School senior Alli Wroblewski who won the open division of the Brady Street Sprint on July 28, 2016. Alli's efforts earned \$500 for the Bettendorf Girls Track Team.

Discussion & Action Items

Board Policy Update
 The Board Policy Review Committee gave an update on the status of policies being updated from the reaudit.

Third & Final Reading of Board Policies
 Directors approved the third and final reading of the following board policies:

- #304.7 Administrative - Professional Development
- #401.7R1 Employee Travel Compensation
- #507.2 Administration of Medication to Students
- #507.2E3 Authorization - Asthma or Airway Constricting Medication Self-Administration Consent

Second & Final Reading of Board Policies
 Directors approved the second and final reading of board policy #401.7 - Employee Travel Compensation

IASB Legislative Priorities

Directors approved their 2016-2017 legislative priorities in six areas: Supplemental State Aid, State Penny for School Infrastructure, At-Risk Student Weighting & Drop Out Prevention, Early Literacy Funding, Mental Health, and Special Education. *More detail is available on the board website.*

First Reading of Board Policy #408.1
 Directors approved the first reading of Board Policy #408.1 - Licensed Employee Professional Development

First & Final Reading of Board Policies
 Directors approved a first and final reading of Board Policy #408.1E1 - Out of District Professional Development Request form (deleted due to new online process) and #408.1E2 - Out of District Professional Development Follow-Up (renumbered to #408.1E1)



Bettendorf Board of Education

Left to right - Scott Tinsman, Gordon Staley, President Pepper Trahan, Paul Castro, Vice President Betsy Justis, Stacey Struck, and Michael Pyevich.

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS read well by the end of third grade	MIDDLE SCHOOLERS pass important courses	HIGH SCHOOLERS stay on track for graduation	COLLEGE STUDENTS earn their degrees	WORKERS succeed in their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

