

BELLE PLAINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT 716 UPDATE



WELCOME BACK!

We are extremely excited and looking forward to the 2024-2025 school year. From preschool through graduation, we prepare students for success in and out of school. There are so many great things to celebrate about being a part of the Belle Plaine Public Schools. We have been planning for the upcoming school year and looking into the future. We spent some time reflecting on the past taking time to learn where we have come from and building off those strengths will only improve our future.

We believe in nurturing every student's potential, preparing them for a successful future. This includes opening doors to renowned academic institutions across the country, hands on learning experiences that unlock student passions to pursue career and technical programs or go right to the workforce. Belle Plaine Schools PreK-12th grade is focused on being a leader in providing cutting edge curricular opportunities that seek to unlock student passions so they can pursue a future focused on something they love to do.

Our PreK-12th grade academic programming has prepared graduates to attend some of the country's top universities. Current and former graduates have/are attending some of this country's top universities from Boston University, the University of Minnesota, Purdue University, Michigan Tech, the University of Kansas and many others. We also have students go on to have successful experiences at many of the top local colleges and universities like St. John's, St. Thomas, Gustavas, Bethel, St. Olaf and many others. We might be a small school system, but our programming PreK-12th grade clearly prepares our students to pursue their passions and find their desired path.

As our students return to our hallways in a few weeks, ready to take on the challenge of learning and becoming their best selves in this new 21st Century, it is a good time to celebrate a handful of graduates that have come before them, that have engaged fully in all that Belle Plaine Schools has to offer. These students, along with countless classmates, have blazed a path for students at Chatfield, Oak Crest, and our Junior/Senior High to follow as they will create their own legacy of excellence and prepare to reach their full potential in any endeavor they pursue.



Highlighting our students is important in demonstrating the powerful legacy our public schools provide. In future newsletters, the Belle Plaine Public Schools will continue to add snapshots of student success. We welcome and encourage you to use the QR code to share success stories of past graduates with us to be highlighted in future newsletters.



CAREER, TECHNICAL & WORKFORCE CAREERS

We have worked hard over the last few years to grow and bolster our career and technical education program. This program continues to grow and build on the strong foundation that has been present for decades. This coming year we will have a record number of students participating in career and technical education programs between our onsite program and Southwest Metro. We will have over 40 students attending Southwest Metro participating in a variety of programs ranging from FAA Certification for flying Drones, to Prostart Culinary courses preparing students to go right into the workforce as a chef, and many medical careers where students can become certified as CNA's and EMT's.

This year our Construction Trades students are going to be building a shed to support our softball complex. This will be an excellent hands-on learning experience for these students.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Carter Eiden, a 2024 graduate of Belle Plaine High School, placed 1st in Fruit and Nut Production Proficiency at the State FFA convention back in April, earning a spot to Nationals. Carter will be attending Alexandria Tech in the Fall of 2024.

Kiya Williamson, a 2024 graduate of Belle Plaine High School is Region 7 State Nominating Committee Member (1 of 8 in the State) Kiya will be attending South Dakota State University in the Fall.



THE ARTS

Year-after-year we have one of the strongest Arts programs in the state of Minnesota. With the One Act Play starring at state last year we are now tied with Eagan High School for the most stars at the One Act State competition for all high schools regardless of size in Minnesota.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Bella Rieff, a 2024 graduate of Belle Plaine High School excelled in both our theater and speech programs. Bella was a 2024 speech State Champion and participated in the national speech competition in Omaha Nebraska. Bella is attending the University of Minnesota this Fall.

Michael Schultz, a 2024 graduate of Belle Plaine High School excelled in both our theater and speech programs. Michael was a 2024 speech State Champion and participated in the national speech competition in Omaha, Nebraska. Michael is attending Bethel University this Fall.

ATHLETICS

Each year we celebrate a number of accomplishments with our student athletes. This past year was no different. We had multiple section final appearances, state tournament appearances for both teams and individuals. We also celebrated an individual state championship in wrestling. When you look at high schools throughout the state per capita, we have to have one of the highest percentages of students that go on to play the Division I, Division II, Division III and NAIA levels of any school district. This is a credit to our kids' commitment day in and day out to becoming the best they can be as well as countless hours of time and dedication from their coaches.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Cameron Chard, a 2024 graduate of Belle Plaine High School excelled as student athlete and was Belle Plaine's first female softball player nominated for Miss Softball in the state of Minnesota. Cameron will be playing softball in the Big Ten for the University of Minnesota.

Ted Hohn, a 2024 graduate of Belle Plaine High School excelled as a student athlete in baseball during his time at Belle Plaine. Ted will be playing baseball for the University of St. Thomas this Fall.

Belle Plaine Public Schools has prepared these and many other students academically to be able to attend a wide variety of colleges and universities ranging from one of America's top universities Boston University, to Big Ten schools like the University of Minnesota, and many of the highly regarded and prestigious MIAC schools.



It's my pleasure to welcome back our students and families this coming school year. We promise to continue to put students first as we live our mission to pursue excellence in academics, programming, and the social and emotional development of our students. Fostering a CULTURE of kindness, inclusion, and pride in ourselves, our school and our community.

Ryan Laager
Superintendent



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