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Bellevue Public Schools hires a new superintendent and a new principal for Bellevue East



Above Answering questions from News Editor Samantha Collison, Dr. Jeff Wagner, East’s 2016-17 principal, shares his thoughts on working with teachers. “I’d like to just learn a little bit about the building and the culture and the climate, get to know the strengths of the staff and get to know the community a little more. I think it’s just about listening and learning.” Wagner said. *Photo by Faith Wer*

Left BPS School Board President Phil Davidson and Board Trustee Nina Wolford discuss their hopes for the district and for East. “I hope Dr.Wagner brings a lot of the things that Mr. Stueve had and did. Mr. Stueve was very good with the students and I hope those relationships continue. I know that Dr.Wagner is excited to get started and I hope that he brings some fresh energy to the job,” Wagner said. *Photo by Faith Wer*

BPS hires new superintendent, principal of East

Samantha Collison
News Editor

Bellevue East has hired a new principal, Dr. Jeffrey Wagner, and BPS a new superintendent, Dr. Jeff Rippe, for the 2016-2017 school year; Rippe will be replacing Superintendent Frank Harwood, who will be accepting a superintendent position in another district.

“I’m going to be the superintendent in DeSoto schools in Kansas. There are a lot of reasons: I’m originally from Kansas, both my sons live in Kansas, we have family there and a lot of connections there, so that’s one of the biggest reasons,” Harwood said.

This is Superintendent Frank Harwood’s fifth year as the superintendent in Bellevue. He was drawn to this district because his wife graduated from Bellevue East, and her family ties here appealed to them. However, his family connections in Kansas have drawn him back to that state.

Harwood said the most challenging aspect about BPS is navigating the discrepancies between perception and reality

and trying to show people that a lot of the issues are mostly misconceptions based on perceptions, especially with the community’s views of transgender students and the culture at East. Overall he says he will miss the district, though.

“My favorite thing [about working in this district] is the people. There’s a lot of support for the schools,” Harwood said.

Harwood said that he misses being a teacher because it allowed him to interact more with students, but being in BPS and interacting with the students reminded him of why he likes his job.

“East is a really good school; the students here are great and they have a lot to be proud of. I think that’s what really binds people together, is that common cause and I think it’s important that all of the students understand that there are highs and lows in all of the things going on and high school is the time to be learning about those things and growing and it’s been an honor to be a part of that,” Harwood said.

The district conducted a community survey, asking what stu-

dents and parents wanted in a superintendent. The school board hired Ray & Associates Search Firm, who presented the board with a list of candidates that reflected the board and the community’s wishes, which was then narrowed down to three candidates. Those candidates were interviewed by the board on May 4; Jeff Rippe was offered the job on May 6. In addition to the change in superintendent, Bellevue East will have a new principal next school year.

“We’ve taken the approach that we need to get our students more in-line with the college and career programs that other districts are doing. Mr. Harwood thought it would be appropriate to have this position and with [Mr. Stueve] knowing the schools the way that he does, Mr. Harwood suggested him for the position and [the board] thought he would be a good fit,” BPS School Board President Phil Davidson said.

Stueve was the assistant principal at West before he was the principal at East, and school board member Nina Wolford said that his experience at both schools is what makes him a

good fit for this position.

“I am not sure how I am going to respond to not having students as part of my day to day life. The students at East are what makes East the special place it is. [My message to the students is to] always continue to do the best you can and to do the right thing in all decisions and success will surely follow. I hope we continue to move forward in making sure every student’s needs are being met and that we continue to prepare our students for the next phase in their lives,” Principal Brad Stueve said.

The school board chose Dr. Jeffrey Wagner to fill the principal position at East. Wagner was one of nine candidates chosen to be interviewed from a regional search.

“The board then narrowed it down to four candidates, and each of those four candidates went through all of the stakeholders, a group of students, a group of teachers, and a group of parents. After that, [Mr. Harwood] and his team consulted with the school board to make the final decision,” Davidson said.

Wagner graduated from Wayne State College and taught at Lewis and Clark Middle School and North High school. He also held the positions of being a student support teacher and a dean of students at North before being an assistant principal at Westside Middle School and then assistant principal at Westside High School.

“[The position at East] was a leadership position in a class A high school, and there’s only about 28 of those in the state, but the thing that I think really drew me to East was that I had some ties with East back when I was coaching [football and girls soccer] at North High School. There’s also just a community feel, it’s a little bit of a smaller community, kind of like Westside is, where the school is a part of the community and the community feeds into the school. It’s not a super big district like OPS with a lot of high schools and a lot of bureaucracy and ambiguity, so the community piece was exciting.

See Changes on page 2

Changes: New principal’s ideas

Continued from page 1

With only two high schools you’re able to do some things differently, and I think there’s a good foundation here. I follow people on Twitter and social media, and I think the teachers here are awesome and the student body is awesome,” Wagner said.

Wagner’s immediate plans for East involve getting to know the culture of the school and meeting teachers and students, but he does have some ideas for improving the school. As he values student involvement, one of his ideas is a student leadership council that will meet with the principal each month.

“[The council will include] three freshmen, three sophomores, three juniors, and three seniors, one other staff member, and those students will bring another student from their class so I can share some things that are going on in the school, talk about things coming up in the building and also get that input from students. I think this will help improve communication. That 14 to 16 students will remain constant every month, but it’s not going to be a vote or a popularity contest. I want kids on the council that are influential and students really listen to, and I think being able to listen to students and have a comfortable spot where there’s hopefully some trust built is important. Over the course of 10 months, if every one of those students

brings another student, you’re talking almost 150 more kids that are face-to-face with the principal,” Wagner said.

Wagner’s other main focus will be on what he calls the pieces of the PIE: pride, instruction, and student ngagement. The piece of the PIE that Wagner hopes will affect the school most noticeably would be student engagement.

“How do we involve students in their own learning with student to student collaboration or student to teacher collaboration? I’d like to have different areas of the building that are collaboration zones and down the road, can we have rooms that have the glass markerboards on the walls so in any room you can have conversations where you can draw out and diagram? Can we make the media center a collaboration zone where students can work out problems together? Can we get TVs in rooms where students can take the iPads and airplay what they’re doing onto the TVs and show presentations or the projects that they’re creating?” Wagner said.

Wagner isn’t the first administrator to have ambitious ideas, and the community’s primary concern is money. With the major cuts to the district’s budget in the last few years, there isn’t money to spare on non-essential purchases. However, Wagner believes that there are other ways to pay for things.

“School budgets are tough in almost any school you go

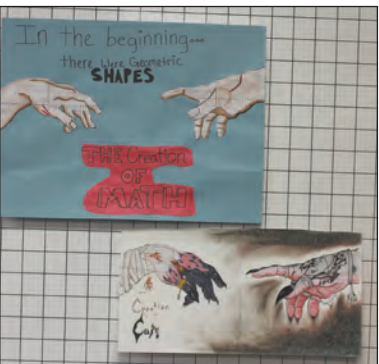
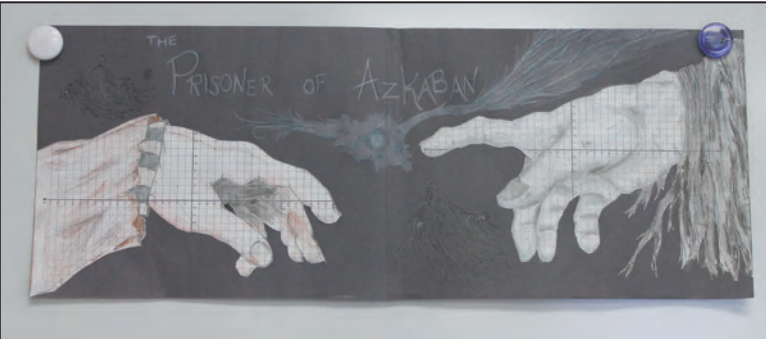
to, so right now I’m looking for grant opportunities. I think [a grant writer] would be a great investment for the district. I think the district is big enough that a grant writer could be worth their weight in gold, but there’s also a lot of grants that teachers and counselors can write and get. I’m also looking to see if there are businesses that are willing to help with some of the furniture costs or see if we can get items that businesses would be willing to donate when they remodel their office spaces. There’s also fundraising opportunities. I think there are ways to try to do some of those things and be creative,” Wagner said.

The school board is also on board with wanting to hire a grant writer and are currently looking into options for hiring someone part-time or full-time. Overall, the board and Wagner are optimistic about the administrative changes and the future of the East and the district.

Stueve is optimistic as well. With as many changes as East will experience, there is some continuity with Stueve remaining a part of BPS. The student body will always consider Stueve a Chieftain, he said that he has always made the students at East a priority.

“I know I can look in the mirror everyday and say for certain that every decision I made while being the principal at East, I made with the students’ best interests at the forefront,” Stueve said.

Students incorporate art into graphing review



Sitting in her math class, senior Gabriel Linder is creating her-graph picture project assigned to the class. “I started off with just a blank sheet of paper, and as the project progressed more and more, it took it’s own form.” Photos by Maria Mwita

Clubs celebrate recent victories

Destiny Soto
Features Editor

It’s no secret that Bellevue East is an exceptional school when it comes to academic and artistic groups. East may not be the best at sports, but they can certainly place well in quite a few state-wide competitions.

From East’s Science Olympiad team, Senior Tommy Casart brought home a W with his first place in Dynamic Planet and Chemistry Lab. Senior Della Wilson took home a first place in Dynamic Planet as well as junior Sam Seaman with her first place in Chemistry Lab.

Studying Latin has paid off for freshman Casey Nolte, who brought home a silver medal and was named Maxima cum Laude. Freshman Zade Lewis also won a silver medal and the title Maxima cum Laude.

Also, East’s Latin Club attended the NeJCL State Convention participated in a variety of academic, artistic, and athletic events. Juniors Caelum Lefevers and Anthony Rutledge won first place in mythology. Sophomore Elise Mayor won first place in T-shirt design and junior Alex Molnar won first place in 3D art.

East’s Art Club is no stranger to awards either. Junior Baxter

Knee surprised himself with winning his award for first place and earning the title “The Best in Junior Class.”

“I put in a lot of hours into the piece that won, which was a portrait of my grandmother. I didn’t really think I was going to win anything. We are required to enter two artworks in the show that’s hosted at Bellevue East and I wasn’t even there when I won the award. I was at a McDonald’s, in Lincoln, when my friend texted me that I won,” Knee said.

East’s ACADECA team won the State Economics Challenge with their four person team consisting of juniors Morgan Gallagher, Greyson Kreis, Marina Madrigal and Kelly Speltz. They won one of the two state divisions, the Adamsmith division, which is geared towards people in AP classes. They placed runner up in the other, which is the David Ricardo division and is meant for students that are new to Academic Decathlon.

“We took a huge computer test and the top ten went to the state final competition and from there, the top two at the state competition do a pretty intense quiz bowl round against each other and then the winner wins the award, and that’s what we

did,” Gallagher said.

Future Business Leaders of America won yet another first place award at the state level with their public service announcement project showing the positive impacts of sports in student athletes’ lives. Senior Missy Walther, junior Karissa Jacobsen and sophomore Joey Walther put together the video.

“I honestly wasn’t expecting us to win anything at all, so it was a really great surprise. We put a lot of hard work into it which ended up winning us first place. We also qualified for nationals in Atlanta, and I’m pretty excited for that,” Jacobsen said.

Juniors Kelly Speltz and Alex Plowman were both appointed to positions on the district board which covers all of Nebraska and a portion of Iowa. Their duties are to keep these states informed about Key Club and help with volunteering.

“Being on the district board is a lot of fun because it’s different than being involved in your school Key Club in the way that we’re planning events for all of Nebraska and Iowa’s Key Clubs. I get to see, on a large scale, the impact of the Key Club and how what we’re doing impacts the community and to me that is really great,” Speltz said.

Samantha Collison
News Editor

In order to better engage students in a review of basic graphing skills, instructor Cynthia Watts had her students plot points to create pictures.

“I could have provided a worksheet where the students labeled the axes and plotted points and named quadrants, which they might have completed, but they might not have completed it. What we decided to do instead to review these graphing skills was to give them a choice of a picture, and then they had to graph the picture. So they started with a blank sheet of graph paper and a list of points that they needed to plot - and plot accurately - and then connect the right points, and it created a picture,” Watts said.

Students could choose the difficulty of the picture, so they could do a simple picture in pencil and get full credit, but for extra points the students could choose a more difficult image, add color or add more detail.

This hasn’t been the only project of its kind this year. The students have also filled shapes with popcorn to understand volume and made shapes out of toothpicks and gumdrops. Watts said that her students have benefitted greatly from these hands-on projects and lessons

“The nice thing about it is it gives the students that aren’t confident in math an opportunity to do a math project where they may be able to use other skills that they are confident in to have a better feeling about what math is,” Watts said.

Watts was surprised by how engaged students were during the graphing project. After starting the period with a quick review of skills, students immediately began work on their projects and were more engaged than usual.

“Actually, it did [incentivise me], because I thought that math was really boring, but after she combined math with art, I actually started paying more attention in class it became fun and it improved my math skills,” junior Angel Dominguez said.

Although the math department at East already incorporates many hands-on projects into the curriculum, Watts encourages even more teachers to try them out. It’s not only fun for the students, it teaches them a, according to Watts, very important lesson.

“I would definitely say it’s really important to do things that are hands-on from time to time and have some real-world applications, because then students understand and realize why math is really an important part of everyday life, even though you don’t realize it,” Watts said.

Metro area security assures community’s safety

Bobby Storck
Web Editor

Last November, Paris, France was attacked by suicide bombers armed with assault rifles, killing 128 and wounding hundreds more. On March 22, Brussels, Belgium was attacked, again by suicide bombers, killing 32 and wounding an additional 300. Back at home, attacks such as the shootings in San Bernardino, California have made headlines across the country. In the last 6 months, the western world has suffered from all sorts of shootings and bombings. What if something like this were to happen in the Omaha Metro Area?

“To the very best of our abilities, [the Bellevue Police Department] works every day to ensure the city is safe from many dangers including terrorism. Prevention is driven by information and information sharing. Counter terrorism efforts are very dependent on information gathering and information analysis, so we partner with all our neighboring law enforcement agencies including Offutt Air Force Base Security, the FBI and the State Patrol and share data,” Bellevue Police Chief

Mark Elbert said.

Bellevue is the home of Offutt Air Force Base, so we could be a potential area for terrorists to attack. Bellevue police are trying their best to prevent this from happening, asking locals to report any suspicious activity.

“It is critical for people to be vigilant without being paranoid. Pay attention to one’s surroundings. Most important for us is for people to notify us or other authorities when they see or hear something that is suspicious,” Elbert said.

Public places are the main targets for attacks across the globe. That is why places such as the Centurylink Center in Omaha are stepping up security.

“The safety of our guests and staff is our top priority, and security at all events at CenturyLink Center Omaha is extensive. In the past several months we have stepped up our visual and bag checks at the doors and we’ve included the use of handheld metal detectors at some events. We are continually evaluating our security plans and will make adjustments as needed. We work very closely will all law enforcement agencies (from the federal level to the local level) to ensure that anyone who comes to our facilities is safe and se-

cure,” Centurylink Center Director of Communications Kristi Andersen said.

Just like the Bellevue Police, the employees at the Centurylink center ask fans to report activity that could endanger the lives of others.

“We ask that fans arrive early for added security checks and that they remain vigilant. Fans are our eyes and ears, and if they see anything suspicious, we want them to alert a staff member or law enforcement. If you see something, say something. Should any type of situation arise during an event, guests should listen for a public announcement, pay attention to the messages on the electronic boards in the facility and look to nearby ushers and staff for guidance. CenturyLink Center Omaha Team Members have been trained to assist in emergency situations,” Andersen said.

Security in Omaha in general has been stepped up across the city. Omaha police wants employees of all companies to be trained in reacting to any attacks to ensure maximum safety for all potential victims. Training would include keeping cool during a crisis, and contacting law enforcement while staying safe.

“We work with the Joint Ter-

rorism Task force. We rely on the public to give us information and we take appropriate action on any information we receive. We also use the ALICE model of response to active killer situations. Each situation is different so people need to have situational awareness and think about what they would do in different scenarios beforehand,” Omaha Police Department Public Relations Officer Michael Pecha said.

The ALICE model stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter then Evacuate. It is taught to many police forces across the US to combat a terrorist situation. At East, staff have our own strategies for dealing with these threats in the form of lockdown drills.

“We are going to follow the policies that are already in place as far as something like a huge crisis. We work collaboratively with the Bellevue Police. If something like this happens, it will immediately be a lockdown situation, which we will then follow the procedures that are in place,” dean Chad Holtz said.

These lockdowns are helpful for students in the classrooms, but the kids in the hallways are still at risk. Dean Megan Elam said students outside class-

rooms will sometimes go toward the event to go check it out.

“We have had incidents in the building where students run towards the situation to see what’s going on. That’s [what you don’t do], especially if the situation could be a potential threat to the students,” Elam said.

Students at Bellevue East are also concerned with their safety. Junior Alex Molnar thinks the security is enough to prevent a terrorist attack.

“I think the security at Bellevue East is pretty good. Sometimes I feel it could be a little better, with more monitoring of hallways, specifically ones with heavy traffic. This will hopefully keep someone from hurting more people,” Molnar said.

Although Nebraska is in the middle of our nations, that does not make it invulnerable to attacks such as those at Columbine and San Bernardino. Law enforcement across the Metro want citizens not to worry, as they believe they are prepared for anything thrown at them.

“As for terrorist attacks, I feel we are pretty safe because people around here are aware of the possibility and what to look for, and most don’t want it to happen,” Molnar said.

Students inspired by Holocaust speaker

Maria Mwita
Entertainment Editor

Holocaust speaker Dr. Jeruzalski, also known as Dr. Fred Kader of Omaha, came to Bellevue East to speak to some of the students about his personal experience of the Holocaust on April 5th.

Instructor Whitney Wilson really wanted a Holocaust speaker to come to our school and talk to us since her English class just finished the book “Night” and it related to the Holocaust and would be good timing.

“I believe it would have been great, not only for my English class but for other teachers that would like to bring their students as well,” Wilson said.

Wilson organized the meeting of the Holocaust survivor to come to our school. Kader lives and works here in Omaha so it wasn’t as difficult.

There are not as many Holocaust survivors left. So being able to talk with and hear the story of Dr. Kader is quite amazing.

“ Being able to witness a Holocaust survivor for the first time was eye opening and inspirational because of what they went through and their strength that they have for going through this.” Jenda Simonsen said.

Simonsen and many other students thought the same thing. Many commented how cool it was to see and meet a Holocaust Survivor. After the presentation, many students went to go speak with Dr. Kader and get a photo with him. Some even go an autograph from him.

“ It was a really great experience and I’m glad I got the chance too.” Freshmen Lillie Mixan said.

Kader was a ‘hidden child’ of the Holocaust. When the Holocaust happened he was a child. He doesn’t really remember much of his younger youth and doesn’t really know if he wants too. He was born in Antwerp Belgium in 1938, only knowing bits and pieces of his childhood.

“ It doesn’t trouble me as much as people would think that I don’t remember very much of what happened. Frankly I don’t want to, because I want to focus on the good in my life.” Kader said.

Kader did not begin to learn about his childhood and family till the early 1990’s when he traveled to New York to a Holocaust convention with his friend. He didn’t really believe that anyone would know him or have any information on him. He stood corrected when a man when up to him and told him that he may have some information for him and showed him this book. His name, and many others’, was under a list of children that were taken care of by like a daycare of some sort. Kader’s mom left him with under their care.

“I don’t know why I survived the Holocaust when so many other people died at the hands of the Nazis.” Kader said.

Kader’s life was different since the meeting in New York. He felt a sense of completion.

“ Life is short, always continue on.” Kader said.

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Post-high school plans



Seniors were surveyed by scholarship adviser Pam Toyne regarding their post-secondary plans. Only those who gave a response have been published.

Albers, Carter	Bellevue Univ	Eggert, Blake	Continue my Education	Lampe, Matthew	UNO	Rodriguez, Jennifer	Metro CC
Alexander, Jacob	Continue my Education	Einspahr, Emily	Metro CC	Lane, Caylynn	NWMSU	Rody, Paris	Metro CC
Altman, Hunter	CSM	Emmert, Connor	Metro CC	Larsen, Alexandria	UNO	Rody, Schulyer	Military
Ashelford, Alex	Metro CC	Esminger, Julia	Work Full-Time	Larson, Nickolas	Military	Ross, Jacob	Baker College
Abiley, Aaron	Join the Military	Evers, Kimberly	UNO	Leary, Connor	Military	Rotundo, Jesse	Work Full-Time
Bell, Amber	Metro CC	Farland, Jesse	UNO	Lebbert, Connor	Metro CC	Rydberg, Seth	Metro CC
Bell, Brandi	Capitol School of Hair Design	Fellbaum, Trevor	UNO	Leeper, Tyler	Military	Sahs, Kaylyn	Tom Jackson Productions
Benalaya, Jesus	UNO	Flaharty, Kaeleigh	Metro CC	Lesley-Taylor, Kali	Metro CC	Saunders, Nicholas	Project Search
Bennett, Alexis	NWMSU	Ford, Janie	Metro CC	Lewis, Emily	Metro CC	Schlupp, Jessica	UNO
Beyer, Nathan	IWCC	Fredrickson, Katelyn	Metro CC	Liebenthal, Andrew	Univ of South Dakota	Schmader, Brenna	UNL
Bianchi, Joshua	Military	Furlow, Alexandra	Metro CC	Littleman, Kevin	Military	Schmidt, Joshua	Military
Bigner, Kelsey	Metro CC	Gamble, Nicholas	Work Full-Time	Lohrman, Michael	Military	Schmuff, Nathaniel	Southern Maryland College
Bilek, Neva	UNO	Gann, Austin	Metro CC	Lyle, Sean	Work Full-Time	Schroyer, Lacey	Military
Bishop, Noah	IWCC	Gantt, Brysen	UNO	Macfarlane, Ashley	Metro CC	Schulz, Jordan	Work Full- Time
Black, Austin	IWCC	Hernandez, Ana Maria Garcia	UNL	Magee, Hairl	Peru State Univ	Seldon, Dante	Metro CC
Bladow, Alexander	UNO	Gasparovich, Steven	Iowa State Univ	Major, Bayleigh	Metro CC	Seldon, Marshall	Metro CC
Bolden-Espinoza, Chastity	Metro CC	Gaston, Lynn	Metro CC	Marcum, William	Work Full-Time	Siders, Austin	Work Full-Time
Bond, Samantha	Metro CC	Gentes, Annie	UNO	Martin, Stephan	Military	Slie, Sydney	UNK
Brazda, Brooke	UNO	Gentle, Cannon	Metro CC	Matteo, Shelby	Midlands Univ	Smith, Brandon	UNL
Brewer, Joslyn	Lincoln Univ in Missouri	Gilreath, Courtney	Metro CC	Mayden, Jonathan	Metro CC	Smith, Emily	Capitol Hair Design and Esthetics
Brockhaus, Trevor	2 year college	Gleason, Katherine	Metro CC	Maynes, Serena	Metro CC	Smith, Jasmine	Colorado State Univ
Buras, Jeriann	Metro CC	Gomez, Ayele	Work Full-Time	McCollum, Daniel	UNO	Smith, Truman	Metro CC
Butler, Clayton	Metro CC	Gomon, Jonathan	Metro CC	McComic, John	Military	Soratorio, Krizzel	UNO
Butts, Elizabeth	Work Full Time	Gomon, Patrick	Southeast CC	McDowall, Collin	Metro CC	Soucek, Jacob	Metro CC
Campbell, Alyssa	Metro CC	Gonzalez, Gabriella	UNL	McIntosh, Brannon	Bellevue Univ	Spence, Rayden	Full Sail Univ
Campbell, Ethan	UNO	Goodwin, Justin	U.S. Naval Academy	McQuillen, Jake	UNL	Spray, Christopher	Work Full-Time
Carias, Angelica	Metro CC	Gordillo, Emmanuel	Metro CC	Mejia Santiago, Yostin	Work Full Time	Stapleton, Naja	UNO
Carney, Cassandra	UNL	Grier, Devan	Metro CC	Menephee, Brandi	Wharton CC	Stevenson, Joshua	Baker College
Carroll-Fansler, Lepree-Ava	Metro CC	Griffin, Cassandra	UNO	Meneses, Justen	UNO	Stoltenberg, Andrew	Work Full-Time
Cattano, Cameron	Metro CC	Guillen, Rene	Metro CC	Miller, Adrian	Military	Sweenie, Corbin	IWCC
Cervantes, Jesus	Metro CC	Guzman, Alexandra	UNO	Miller, Jacob	Military	Sweet, Erin	IWCC
Chaney, Sydney	NWMSU	Hall, Caitlyn	Metro CC	Mills, Tristan	Wayne State	Swingle, Ryleigh	UNL
Ciurea, Nicholas	Southeast CC Milford	Hall, Matthew	Military	Mitchell, Darian	IWCC	Targy, William	UNO
Clevenger, Justyn	IWCC	Hand, Ashlee	UNO	Mitchell, Jordan	ITT	Tarver, Wilkins	Work Full Time
Coffelt, Heather	UNO	Hansen, Ashley	UNO	Moffat, Paige	UNO	Taylor, Madison	Capitol School of Hair Styling
Collins, Joseph	UNL	Harbin, Robert	UNL	Montejano, Armando	Metro CC	Thomson, Christopher	Military
Conley, Baylee	Midland University	Hart, Joseph	South Dakota State	Montoya, Sandy	NWMSU	Tichy, Allison	North Platte CC
Copple, Frankie	Metro CC	Hassan, Mohamud	IWCC	Moore, Jake	Continue my Education	Tilson, Christian	Southeast CC
Cornell, Trevor	Work Full-Time	Haynes, Katie	NWMSU	Miss, Emma	Metro CC	Titus, Tyina	Metro CC
Cornish, Christopher	IWCC	Haynes, Vincent	Metro CC	Murray, Tristan	Navy	Torres, Dominik	Work Full Time
Cox, Viktoraea	UNO	Hazzard, Cody	Military	Musil, Dru	Continue my Education	Tracy, Shae	Metro CC
Crompton, Kollin	Drake University	Headley, James	Metro CC	Nelsen, Colin	Work Full-Time	Trosper, Alexander	Work Full-Time
Crouch, Nathaniel	UNO	Hedglen, Scott	Bellevue Univ	Nielsen, Zachary	UNO	Ullom, Jordan	UNO
Colene Cruz, Jazmyn	UNO	Hensel, Colin	Nebraska Wesleyan Univ	Nighswonger, Makenna	Metro CC	Urzendowski, Rachel	Metro CC
Culbertson, Avery	Bellevue Univ	Hicks, Alexis	UNO	Norton, Roger	IWCC	Vazquez, Isaiah	Florida Institute of Technology
Dacanay, Cameron	UNO	Higgss, Grant	IWCC	Novotne, Antonio	Mt Mary	Velehradsky, Hannah	UNO
Damery, Christiana	Metro CC	Hike, Jack	UNL	Orr, Jade	IWCC	Vilcinskask, Shayla	UNL
Dandy, Aarhyn	Metro CC	Hindman, Joshua	Iowa State Univ	Osborn, Austin	UNL	Vogel, James	Metro CC
Davis, Christopher	UNO	Hindman, Miranda	Metro CC	Packard, Jacob	IWCC	Walker, Mackenzi	Metro CC
Dengel, Kaylie	Concordia Univ	Holloway, Trevor	UNO	Palos, Christian	UNO	Walker, Christian	UNO
Denny, Taren	UNL	Huff, Alyssa	Metro CC	Paniagua, Yessica	Metro CC	Walther, Haley	Metro CC
DeReus, Kennedy	Colorado State Univ Pueblo	Hyland, Nicholas	IWCC	Parker, Briana	Sierra CC	Walther, Mirjana	Creighton Univ
Diaz, Angelic	Metro CC	Jenison, Dayton	UNO	Pauly, Patrick	Metro CC	Walton, Ian	Military
Dillon, Natalie	Grace University	Jerauld, Christina	CSM	Pennell, Amelia	Grace Univ	Watkins, Davy'Anna	Bellevue Master's Com
Dinogan, Vanessa	UNO	Jewell, Kayleigh	Creighton Univ	Perez, Abigail	IWCC	Weaver, Jacob	Monmouth College
Dolezal, Libby	UNO	Johnson, Alexis	IWCC	Pettit, Logan	UNO	Wetterlund, Michael	Metro CC
Dolezal, Ryan	UNO	Johnson, Jade	Metro CC	Petty, Devin	Spartan College of A&T	White, Darrell	Metro CC
Domach, Nyajima	Joseph's College of Beauty	Johnson, Molly	IWCC	Pierce, Jared	Bellevue Univ	White, Wesley	Metro CC
Duffy, Adam	UNO	Jones, Griffin	Military	Piper, Brianna	UNO	Whitfield, Daniel	South Dakota School of M&T
Duke, Chyea	Metro CC	Jones, Raheem	Military	Piper, Jordyn	NWMSU	Wiech, Danielle	IWCC
Duros, Kaitlyn	Metro CC	Jordan, Kathleen	Military	Pokorny, Avey	Military	Wiechel, Olivia	Metro CC
Duros, Kasey	MetroCC	Jordan, Matthew	Metro CC	Porter, Hayley	Central Michigan Univ	Wilcoxson, Stephen	Work Full-Time
		Joseph, Latisha	UNO	Portrey, Samantha	Metro CC	Wilkins, Meghan	Military
		Juba, Kayla	Work Full-Time	Powell, Anethea	Metro CC	Williams, Lauren	Bradley Univ
		Kavan, Grant	Work Full-Time	Prewitt, Bryan	UNL	Williams, Seriana	UNL
		Kelly, Arnold	Peru State Univ	Quinn, Bethany	UNL	Wilson, Connor	Work Full-Time
		Kerby, Sarah	Metro CC	Ramsell, Andrew	Eastern Kentucky Univ	Wilson, Della	UNL
		Khaitov, Malika	UNL	Randall, Sarah	Metro CC	Windorski, Bruce	Metro CC
		Kinman, Katlyn	Bellevue Univ	Reavis, Devlin	Work Full Time	Woerner, Andrew	UNO
		Klein, Elizabeth	Metro CC	Reese, Hunter	Work Full-Time	Woods, Amara	Metro CC
		Klumper, Ashton	UNO	Rivera, Miguel	Metro CC	Worrall, Matthew	Work Full-Time
		Kudirka, Anthony	Metro CC	Robbins, Brandon	Metro CC	Yost, Andrew	Work Full-Time
		Kusek, Christopher	UNO	Roberts, Jordan	Marymount Manhattan College	Zawistowski, Sarah	Univ of Missouri

Senior boys compete for the spotlight

Nia Booth
Opinion Editor

Nodding his head along to Jesse McCartney’s “Beautiful Soul,” senior Vaughn Windorski serenaded the audience in front of him. He mouthed the words and pulled a white glove from his pocket in preparation for his next song as he tried to win the coveted Mr. Bellevue East tiara.

“I got into the contest because two of my best friends, Steven Lang and Ben Walther did it last year and since then I knew I wanted to be a part of it. It was something that I’ll never forget,” Windorski said.

Bellevue East hosted the annual Mr. Bellevue East contest on May 6 with 5 seniors boys, Vaughn Windorski, Colin Hensel, Brysen Gantt, Kollin Crompton and Stephan Martin competing. Each student got to do a pick-up line, talent, swimsuit, and dance of their choice during the contest.

“To compete contestants were to pick up applications in my room and turn them in by April 19. Once they were chosen, contestants chose their own talent and songs, which should relate to who they are and their personality,” STUCO

sponsor Rachel Schutte said.

The work put in behind the scenes to making of the pageant happen wasn't completely easy. The contestants had to put in their own work to help bring the contest to life.

“My favorite and hardest part of the contest was the costumes. Putting on my mermaid outfit was really difficult, but it was funny to see myself in it. Making the outfits was the hardest because it took about four hours to get everything put together,” Windorski said.

At the end of the competition Colin Hensel was crowned as Mr. Bellevue East and Vaughn Windorski as Mr. Congeniality. Hensel’s award was determined by the judges that were there, while Windorski’s award was determined by audience votes collected during the pageant.

“The winner got chosen by the judging panel which consisted of teachers. Contestants were ranked from 1 through 5 for each event: formal wear, talent, pick up line, swimsuit, and interview, 5 being not their favorite and 1 being their favorite. Each number, 1-5, had a point value. Points were added up and that determined the winner. Mr. Congeniality was voted by the audience,” Schutte said.

The contest raised \$553.60 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Money was



Seniors Colin Hensel, Kollin Crompton, Brysen Gantt, Vaughn Windorski, and Stephan Martin model one of their outfits for the 2016 Mr. Bellevue East pageant.

collected from the tickets and during the event the contestants ran around the room collecting donations.

“It was great when I found out how much money we raised for Make-A-Wish. The whole reason I did it was to help people and I think it was great that East was willing to give that much money in support of them,” Hensel said.

In addition to raising money, the Mr. Bellevue East contest really meant

something to Hensel. As a senior, he saw this as one more thing to do during his senior year.

“A lot of people will say it’s just a little thing but it’s kind of a right of passage to go through. Being able to participate in this event that only seniors can do means a lot to me atleast. I hope that guys will continue to sign up for it in the future because it really is a great experience,” Hensel said.

Java ‘N Jazz jives well with the community

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

The lights were dim, the atmosphere was calm and the jazz was soulful. The East jazz band and Mission Middle School band gathered in the East band room with a crowd of 200 people April 11. Parents, students and teachers appeared at this event known as Java ‘N Jazz hosted by East.

“It was created to provide a performance outlet for our jazz band they didn't have a lot of performing opportunities so that's why we started it,” band director Patrick McCarty said.

Java ‘N Jazz provided a way for Jazz band to show their talent, and raise some money.

“I thought it brought a lot of

enjoyment to the performers and the audience, it creates a great visibility for our jazz band and a sense of community,” McCarty said.

The East jazz band performed first, then the Mission Middle band, followed by the East jazz band again. There were also some poetry readings from some students.

“It was calm and the lights were dim and the music was nice and there was our jazz band and there were baked goods and it was overall a nice experience,” sophomore Ha-leigh Smith said.

The entire Jazz band performed and this allowed them to show their parents and fellow classmates their talent. The Jazz band does this every year, so it has become something that

the students can look forward to and practice for.

“I helped set up a little bit and then I performed guitar for jazz band,” sophomore Samantha Moore said.

Moore had the privilege of playing alongside East's principal, Brad Stueve. She enjoyed the event, as she also went last year.

“I went to Java ‘N Jazz because I worked it last year and it was a lot of fun and I was also performing,” Moore said.

Overall, attendees of the event thought it was quite a success and the jazz band students plan to continue to practice and improve for next years event.

“I would go again because it was calm and it was interesting” Smith said.



Principal Brad Stueve shows off his talents at Java ‘N Jazz April 11.

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Students team up with adults for mentoring

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

Every week, a mentor meets with a child in need of a little help or guidance. Little does the mentor know in meeting this young student or child, they are inspiring the next generation, and teaching life lessons. The student is learning from the mentor in a program called TeamMates. TeamMates is currently a program in Nebraska, Iowa and parts of California. “Tom and Nancy Osborne founded the TeamMates Mentoring Program in 1991 in an effort to provide support and encouragement to school aged youth. The goal of the program is to see youth graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary education,” Director of Program Services Maureen McNamara said. To help reach this goal, the students will meet with their mentors every week for about an hour at a time. These mentors are volunteers from the community that have proved their dedication to enhancing the lives of these young students, they must be 18, have an approved background check, and fill out an application. “The TeamMates Mentoring Program currently provides a mentor for over 7,000 youth across Nebraska and Iowa, as well as in San Diego, California,” McNamara said. The core values of TeamMates are: commitment to the youth, integrity, and trust, safety and inclusion. These are the foundation of the program. According to the National Mentoring

Partnership, there are over 15 million teens in need of a mentor. “The need is great for caring adults in the lives of youth and with your help we can make a difference, one youth at a time. Regardless of your background or your professional position, you have a role to play in the future of mentoring. By supporting the TeamMates Mentoring Program, you can change the future for an entire generation of young people,” McNamara said. Students or youth can be nominated to be in the TeamMates program by teachers, counselors or parents. It is usually youth that need a caring adult in their life, to be a positive influence. “It started off in 7th grade year when I was sitting there with my counselor and she talked to me about my family and realized that I was the only girl in my household, so she decided to get me like a big sister and she gave me my mentor,” senior Erin Sweet said. Sweet meets with her mentor every week at school. Once together, Sweet and her mentor will talk about life experiences and how to learn from them. Sweet says there is not one thing she dislikes about the program. “We have a trip to the zoo, we go to Creighton basketball games, we just meet up and have fun,” Sweet said. Sweet says she is not as bad in school as she used to be. She thinks it is a beneficial program for any youth that feels alone. “You’re learning from your experiences and it’s making you

a better person,” Sweet said. To ensure that the student and mentor get along and connect, each fill out an interest inventory, so they may be paired up accordingly. “It gives me somebody to talk to and it gives me somebody to shadow to figure out what I like to do and encouragement about what I want to do,” freshman Abigale Mohler said. Mohler joined the TeamMates program because she wanted to know about scholarship opportunities. Mohler said she is taught about how to better her life and how to reach her goals. She will walk around with her mentor every week when they meet up together, and talk about what is going on in each other’s life, while also planning fun trips, like to the zoo. “My favorite part is knowing what the mentor does because they come

and they are so passionate about what they do and it is really fun to watch people’s eyes light up and be so passionate about the things they do in their everyday lives,” Mohler said. The TeamMates program is available and open to anyone. All a student must do is contact their counselor or someone who can recommend them to the program. Anyone wanting to be a mentor can fill out an application online. “Our young people face different challenges today that affect them personally. If we are going to make a difference, we have to get involved with them as one-to-one mentors. We thank you for your support and we know that one student at a time, we can make a difference, not only in this generation, but for the generations to come,” McNamara said.



During the trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo, senior Erin Sweet works with counselor Vickie DeBuhr to figure out their adventure on May 3. Photo by Maria Mwita

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Students find prom night enchanting



Bellevue East's prom court (left). From left to right: seniors Dillon Hike, Riley Herringer, Cameron Dacanay, Janie Ford, Adam Duffy, Bethany Quinn, Brandon Wold, Sydney Chaney, Katie Haynes and Zach Nielson. *Photo by Destiny Soto*

Swaying to the music, junior Kyra Thomson enjoys her dance with freshman Jordan Kirschner. "I liked prom a lot and my favorite part was the music," Thomson said. *Photo by Maria Mwita*

Enjoying their last prom together (far right) are seniors Chris Davis and Lepree-Ava Carroll-Fansler. "Nights like this can be a fairy tale, if only you believe in true love," Carroll-Fansler said. *Photo by Destiny Soto*

Freshman Hailey Hike mingles at ISEC Prom (top right) "I'm very happy that I get to experience things like prom with Jordan and that I get to hang out with him," Hike said. *Photo by Destiny Soto*

Falling off the mechanical bull, (bottom left) junior Ron Thomas tries to conquer the beast during after prom. *Photo by Destiny Soto*



(Bottom far left) Laughing the night away is junior Dava Butson and senior Kaylee Baker. "Overall, prom was one of my favorite things because I felt like a princess and had a lot of fun," Butson said. *Photo by Destiny Soto*

Holding the microphone is junior Howie Delp. He gives an inspiring speech at ISEC Prom and gives everyone a smile. *Photo by Destiny Soto*

Helping to set up for ISEC Prom is junior Makayla Younger. "I thought it was cool to help out with special prom because I felt like I was helping a good cause," Younger said. *Photo by Maria Mwita*

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School lunches: From delivery truck to tables

Opinions differ on lunch policies, changes, choices

Bobby Storck
Web Manager

Everyday, students go down to the lunchroom at least once a day. There, hundreds of students pass through the lunch line, or go to the snack shack. This yields a traffic problem as each and every student needs to get their lunch and have time to eat it. This is why some changes have been implemented and possible others are on their way.

"We put in a third remote line in the lunchroom to ease with congestion and kids get their lunches more quickly. Although the lines still seem really long, that's only because there is now only two passings. We also used to have a build-a-sub line where students could come through and buy a sandwich like at a Subway or a Jimmy Johns and build their own sub. Because we started to see those numbers go down, we now have somebody that premakes the sandwiches and has them for sale in the Snack Shack. The number of students buying subs has gone up again because of the shorter wait time," Bellevue East Food Manager Diana Hike said.

In the past, lunches were separated into four lunch sessions, with second and third lunches having to leave fifth hour and return to it after lunch. Some students decided not to go back to class and instead wandered the halls. This of course was against the rules, so last year at semester, the school changed the lunch passing so that there were only two lunch passings: before and after fifth hour. This did take students out of the halls, but it only increased the number of students in the lunchroom at one time.

"When it first started, it was a bit of a challenge. We decided to do an offer vs serve. That means

when you come through the line, we offer you one entree or the alternative. This allows us to limit how much food one student can take from the lunch line. This works with the government act as the choices always tend to be of a healthy nature. I think what we serve is a fair enough portion as far as serving size and calorie size, but anyone can just go into the snack shack after the lunch line anyway if they are still hungry," Hike said.

Many students dislike the increased number of students in the lunchroom per passing, but school lunch officials believe the changes they have put forth to quicken the lunch line are liked by most students.

"We believe these changes are getting a positive response from the students. I think that's mostly due to the wait time reduction. I know how kids like having different choices, so that's why we always have two choice on what entree to have each day. When we do something different, we ask the students what they think. Overall I think these changes are getting a positive response from students," Hike said.

Even though most students have gotten used to this change, new changes are sure to come. This is partly due to the fact that we are getting a new principal next year, who might want to change things up.

"Because we have a new principal coming, I am not quite sure of any major changes to the food situation for next year. The food service is always looking at new ideas for the students: how they can change the menu, how they use different ideas, and what we can do to make it more appetizing," Hike said.

Even with a new principal coming, having both a snack shack and a lunch line should

not change. Many students prefer the snack shack to the lunch line, citing reasons such as more types of food and shorter lines.

"I get lunch just about everyday. Although I go through the lunch line and go to the snack shack, I prefer the snack shack because it has more of a variety of food. I also don't like how the lunch line is way too long," senior Isaiah Vazquez said.

Being at East for the past four years, Vazquez has seen his share of changes and policies come and go. However, he thinks the school's lunch problems are out of their control.

"I don't think there is really much the school itself can do. Most of the problems are at a district or national level. I would like the school to extend the lunches back to four lunch periods because there is just too many people," Vazquez said.

Unfortunately, the likelihood of going back to the old way is very slim as the two lunch period system does take students out of the hallway. As bad as the lunch lines are, some people dislike how the food tastes even more.

"I think the school lunch tastes like cardboard. It has no flavor and I feel like I am going to puke after eating it. The school needs to make real food like they do at other schools in the Metro area like Papio South," senior Chris Thomson said.

Whether one likes the school lunch or not, possible changes can still impact how students get their lunch each and every day. Regardless if a student brings lunch, goes through the lunch line, or go to the snack shack, lunch is still an important part of school life and an important part of maintaining a healthy life.

"I prefer the snack shack, mostly because it's a lot cheaper and I feel like I can get more food," Thomson said.

Delivery Truck In the early school mornings, a delivery truck comes to the back of the school to deliver fresh ingredients needed for that day. In the picture below and the picture below right, there is a delivery milk truck and a delivery man. He brings in the needed items to the kitchen, where the food service workers prepare the meals. *Photo by Faith Wer*

Double Cheeseburgers In the bottom right picture, one of the food service workers prepares the double cheeseburgers for the lunch that day. The burgers are made fresh everyday and before each lunch. They are put onto hot bugs and wrapped in tinfoil, then stored in a warm place to keep them hot for the students. *Photo by Cailin Tomsu*



Spicy Chicken A typical lunch tray is pictured above. This is what students that go through the normal lunch line may choose to eat. All the food is prepared daily. *Photo by Faith Wer*

PB&J Every morning the food service workers prepare the meals for the lunch that day. In the middle left picture one food service worker is making the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches fresh, for the students. *Photo by Cailin Tomsu*

Fresh Veggies Every morning the food service workers cut the fresh vegetables need for the salad bar and the students lunches that day. In the picture directly below, one food service worker is cutting fresh celery. *Photo by Cailin Tomsu*

Hot Buns The hamburger buns are prepared fresh everyday for the double cheeseburger lunch option. One food service worker starts laying out the buns to make the hamburgers in the picture at the bottom left. *Photo by Cailin Tomsu*

Wrap it up Warps are made everyday, fresh and ready to serve the students by the food service workers as in the picture in the bottom right. *Photo by Cailin Tomsu*



From production lines to plates

Samantha Collison
News Editor

From an idea to ingredients to plates, the food served to students in the cafeteria crosses many hands on its journey to the table.

"We have a central warehouse kitchen. We get the menus monthly for breakfast and for lunch, so everything that's on those menus is pre-planned down there. If you look at our menus, a lot of the things on the menu is ordered down at our central warehouse. Things like chicken and gravy and spaghetti, those are things that we have recipes here and we make ourselves. Anything that doesn't come to us ready to heat and eat, we make," Food Service Manager Diana Hike said.

The food used to make breakfasts and lunches comes from a variety of sources, but all of it is delivered to the central warehouse for the district. From there, the food is delivered to the individual schools where it is prepared.

"The amount of food that is purchased as heat and serve is minimal, compared to the amount of food that is prepared fresh daily. No food items are prepared at the district level, it

is all prepared at the individual schools," Director of Food Service Mary Hansen said.

All of the menus are written to follow state and federal guidelines, and while off-menu items also have to be approved by the district and follow these guidelines, the schools have some freedom when it comes offering different options to students.

"As the school year last year--when I first started--went on, kids started asking for more things on the menu, so that's when we started making the breakfast burritos, which we make ourselves. We order the eggs in, we dice the meat, we put it together and put it out on the line. We've made things like that because students wanted us to broaden the menu and have more choices. When a student comes and says that they want more choices, anything that we order out of here has to be compliant with the school guidelines," Hike said. "Pending guidelines on things, we've tried to put a variety of things out there for you. If I get the feedback, I always go to Mary Hansen and ask, 'What can we do to get this.' She's very open-minded so if it's within reason for us to do it, we can probably get it done."

Food service staff members

are constantly working, preparing food and serving it. Different workers come in at different points in the process, but by the time students are lining up for first lunch passing, everyone is in the kitchen and everyone is working.

"Depending on the menus, there are two people who come in at 6:30 in the morning and we do the prep for breakfast. We have one main cook; she will do most of the preparation as far as the hot meals go, and then there's one other person on the register, which is me. Then at 8 o'clock in the morning, we have another group that comes in that makes our cold sandwiches, our chef salads, our wraps, the parfaits. At 11am, that's when our last group of staff comes in to get the rest of our prep work done, so that by 11:25 when that first bell rings, we are good to go. Our schedule staggers because when [our main cook] starts cooking depends on what we're having. Our goal is to get it out there as fresh as possible to you guys, and to have a certain amount for the first line and the same options for the second passing," Hike said.

Students lift, earn shirts

MeganMiller
Sports Editor

Students are given the opportunity to earn different shirts for meeting weight lifting thresholds for four different lifts in weight class at Bellevue East.

"I lifted a lot of weight and a lot of times over and over again," senior Avey Pokorny said.

Avey Pokorny is one of Bellevue East's best female lifters. She is the only female to have earned her black shirt so far for the 2015-16 school year.

"To be perfectly honest, I could lift the weight I needed to for my purple shirt my freshmen year. I didn't go straight to my purple one because I wanted them all, so I just did the minimum we needed," Pokorny said.

There are six different shirts that can be earned. The first shirt is white, then gray, purple, and then black. There are also two elite shirts that are even harder to earn, elite gray and elite black.

"There's six levels of shirts. White through black is kind of the basic levels and they're pretty challenging. There are two elite levels which are really challenging. Only two people have ever earned an elite black. So, we have a white shirt, which we consider you to be a strong sophomore to get that. There's a gray shirt which is probably a strong sophomore/junior. There's purple shirt. It gets a lot thinner, strong juniors and seniors. Then there's the black shirt. Not very many juniors get that. The elite are very rare. The elite gray, maybe 15 people in 15 years have earned that. The elite black only two in 15 years have earned that one. It gets harder, the more difficult as you go up the food chain," instructor Tobin Higgs said.

There is only one person still at East who has earned an elite shirt. Senior Grant Higgs has earned his elite gray shirt.

"I felt accomplished. I was getting pretty close at it[elite gray shirt] for like a year and I finally got it and felt really accomplished and proud of myself," Senior Grant Higgs said.

Shirts are earned by reaching a certain amount of weight in four different lifts. How much students have to lift is determined by how much they weigh. They also have to pass the class with a B or better to earn their shirts.

"They've got to meet a standard in four lifts; Squat, bench, power snatch and clean to get the shirts. We have a body weight adjustment for guys that weigh under 150 pounds and for tiny girls. It adjusts the weight based off the percentage of the body weight. They have to hit all four standards at the testing," Higgs said.

The system of earning shirts was based off of systems that the coaches had seen at other schools. They modified the other systems they had seen to be a system that they thought would be good for the school. They made it so the system had fitting and reasonable weights for students to lift. Jackson Gilbert is a sophomore in a weights class who likes the system for getting shirts.

"I like it. It makes you actually have to work instead of you acting like you can not earn anything and just having it handed to you," Gilbert said.

Different students earn their shirts at different rates. Some people take longer than others to earn their shirts. Other students work hard and earn shirts quickly.

"[It takes] some people four years to get their white shirt. Some people never get there. Some are very strong, work very hard and they earn a couple shirts a year. It depends on the work ethic and your genetics. If you've been touched by the finger of God, you're going to get very strong, very quickly and probably earn a lot of shirts," Higgs said.



These shirts are the six shirts that can be earned for lifting weight. In order, they are white, gray, purple, black, elite gray and elite black. Photo by Faith Wer

Soccer girls share secrets

Cailin Tomsu
Editor in Chief

Secret soccer sisters was created by head soccer coach Sara Fjell two seasons ago to bring the team closer. Each soccer player is assigned to another player, regardless of JV or Varsity placement, to give gifts or motivation to each other. The players give their gifts to Fjell and wait patiently to see their secret sisters faces light up when they receive their gifts.

"We started secret sisters two season ago. I wanted a way for the girls to connect with each other/get to know each other, and have a system of positivity and encouragement as a team," Fjell said.

Secret sisters also bring the girls closer, and creates curiosity. It helps the players stay positive and pumped for upcoming games. The gifts are given every week, or before every game.

"I think the best part, because when you play sports especially soccer, it's really tiring on your body so just little things like a pack of gum, lets you know someone's rooting for you," sophomore Eden Liebenenthal said.

Liebenenthal plays outside defense on varsity, she has been on varsity her whole high school career. She does not want to know who her secret sister is be-

cause she says it ruins the fun. All the players will find out who their secret sister is at the end of the season.

"It is fun for the girls to receive the gifts from their teammates and I love seeing the girls get excited about what they got from their secret sister. I have read a lot of the notes they write each other, and I think it brings in a lot of encouragement and support amongst our team during season," Fjell said.

To keep the secret in secret sisters, Fjell delivers the gifts to the players they belongs to.

"I think it really gives a positive aspect on things, like if we lose a game we can give them notes," sophomore Elena Felix said.

Junior Karissa Jacobsen will give her secret sister some elite soccer socks, positive notes with inspiring quotes and gatorade.

"Its really nice getting other people on the team just little surprises here and there, it helps them get through the season," Jacobsen said.

Jacobsen also does not want to know who her secret sister is, but does find herself getting curious. Sophomore Hannah Cunningham, however enjoys the curiosity side of secret sisters.

"My favorite part of secret sisters is the curiosity behind who's giving who what," Cunningham said.



Cheese! On the field after a game, varsity soccer girls say goodbye to their senior players. Photo courtesy of Sara Fjell

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Bowling now NSAA sport12-sport athletes 2016

Megan Miller
Sports Editor

Because bowling has been made a unified sport by the NSAA, Bellevue East will have bowling as a sport for the 2016-2017 school year.

"I was both happy and sad. I was happy because now it will finally be recognized as a sport instead of a club, and I was sad because we have such a great club and and it's been regulated by parents and I'm not sure how it's going to transverse over into being a sport and having more school regulations," sophomore Tristan Wilkins said.

Unified sports are a little different from regular sports. Unified sports have students of varying abilités.

"Unified sports combine students with and without intellectual disabilities," activities director James Hirz said.

Bowling is the first unified sport that the NSAA has sanctioned. In the future, they may sanction multiple other unified sports, but it is not yet definite.

"We'll have whatever the NSAA sanctions. I think probably down the road you'll see track, maybe some swimming, I think they'd like to do basketball at some point in the future, but all that is going to depend on the time frame and what the NSAA does with it," Hirz said.

Having another sport will not affect East that much. However, because bowling was made a sport, money will have to be spread out over more sports.

The school will need money to pay the coach, the bowling alley

fees and possibly their uniforms. Having a unified sport will also offer opportunities to students with intellectual disabilities, who would otherwise not participate in any sports.

"Of course there's finite resources to sponsor them all. It's one more sport to spread money out across, but I don't think it's going to have a dramatic impact and it will provide opportunities to some of our kids who otherwise wouldn't participate in anything," Hirz said.

The money from the school will help benefit the program. The bowlers will no longer have to pay for all of their gear. They may still have to pay for some of it, but less money will come out of their pockets.

"I think it will benefit it because we will get some money from the school and instead of our normal fundraising, and perhaps get some better equipment for some of the younger bowlers who don't have the money to support themselves," Wilkins said.

A coach will be hired for the bowling team. The current boys team coach is Trent Dalton. There is a chance that Dalton could stay the coach because he is a USBC certified coach, but nothing has been finalized yet.

The school is currently looking for a coach, and the administration does not yet know who the coach will be. Merry McCully, a sophomore who was on the east/west bowling team, thinks getting a new coach will be an adjustment.

"We might get different coaches, ones that we're not used to. We'll have to get used to them," McCully said.

Nia Booth
Opinion Editor



Senior Haley Walter ran cross country, swam, ran track and played tennis.



Senior Brani Menephee played volleyball, basketball and soccer.

- Q:

What sport did you enjoy the most?
- A:

" I enjoyed swimming the most because we got along really well and we just got really close as an entire team."
- Q:

Do you plan on continuing any of your athletes into college?
- A:

" I will be but just not competitively but I will whenever I want to just for fun. For sure I'll do cross country because I plan on running a lot."
- Q:

What's your inspiration for playing sports?
- A:

" My family in general is pretty sports oriented and they always but that on me so it's pretty motivating."

- Q:

What sport did you enjoy the most?
- A:

"Soccer was my favorite sport because I was the closest with the girls on that team."
- Q:

What's your inspiration for playing sports?
- A:

"My friends really inspire me because they push me to do my best. They help hype me up before i'm about to compete and that really helps with how I do."
- Q:

Do you plan on continuing any of your athletics into high school?
- A:

" Maybe, I want to and I've had college's approach me about it, but I'm just not sure yet."



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Sports spring through end of year season



Guarding her goal keeper, sophomore Abigail Brooks (top left) swoops in and saves the ball from the opposing team. She holds off the other player just long enough for the goal keeper to snatch the ball.

Photo by Destiny Soto



Overcoming Sprinting ahead of West, senior Daniel Whitfield tries to head the ball. Because of Whitfield, and the team’s efforts, East eventually surpassed the Thunderbirds and pulled a win 1-0.

Photo by Faith Wer

Defending her team, junior Elaine Stueve runs to steal the ball and keep the opposing team from gaining advantage in the game.

Photo by Destiny Soto

Serves up Freshman Gabbie Estep (bottom left) serves in a tennis game. “It makes me feel good about myself, and the people around are really nice and overall it’s just a great experience,” Estep said.

Photo by Megan Miller



Junior Tyrell Eubanks (Right) is in the middle of long jumping at Westside High school. “As I take off, my mind is blank and I begin to feel weightless, just flying. Such a blessing to live those long jumping moments,”

Eubanks said.

Photo by Maia Mwita



Family Throwing a pitch to Papillion - La Vista, sophomore Alex Pavon(Left) keeps his form. “Baseball makes me feel relaxed like I am just part of a family. All my teammates are like brothers that I never had, I have a great relationship with all of them,” Pavon said.

Photo by Faith Wer

FORE! Sophomore Jakob Hollinger focuses on hitting a golf ball as close to the hole as he can. Hollinger swings back to get enough power to hit the ball far enough.

Photo by Mackenzie Krumland

Swish! As her teammate hits the tennis ball, sophomre Alex Welch (left) focuses on the match. “I personally enjoy playing tennis because it just help you make new friends and work as a team to achieve goals and earn points,” Welch said. The team worked hard to earn points against their opponent.

Photo by Megan Miller



Started from the bottom Hitting a ball to far left field, senior Joe Hart(right) follows through on his swing. “I was six or seven, my dad put me in T-ball, and it just kind of progressed from there,” Hart said.

Photo by Faith Wer

BELLEVUE EAST TOM TOM

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Cailin Tomsu Editor in Chief

Nia Booth Opinion Editor

Stephenie Conley Adviser

Sports should count as PE

Staff Editorial

Athletes usually physically exert themselves everyday after a long 7 hours of school, to be followed by hours of homework. In Bellevue Public Schools students are required to have 2 semesters of P.E. to graduate. Athletes, especially those that play multiple sports will be worn out by the time they have to attend their after school practice. We as the Tom Tom staff believe that athletes should be allowed to earn P.E. credits for playing sports.

If a student is working out very hard after school, why should they be required to work out in school as well? Implementing sports as P.E credits may also make school enjoyable for students, knowing they are earning a credit by doing something they like. Coaches would take attendance every practice, keep records of who attends what games or meets, and record the amount of effort the student puts into the sport. This would then eliminate the problem of students saying they are in a sport, but never showing up, or putting in effort. The coaches would then give that information to someone in the school that deals with credits, and if the student fits the specified criteria, then the student would receive a P.E credit. The student could then get most of their P.E credits done outside of school, and have more time to focus on academic classes, or still weight classes if they choose.

According to the Nebraska Department of Education, the purpose of gym classes and physical activity in schools is to teach the children and students about the importance of physical activity, and to do in this in a way that is enjoyable to the students so then they can continue to be active throughout their life. Schools are supposed to be doing this by including all students, neer using physical activity as punishment, developing the students motor skills, allowing the students maximum prac-

tices available for each activity, and follow up assignments that encourage long term habits. According to the Nebraska Department of Education, “quality physical education programs are needed to increase the physical competence, health-related fitness, self-responsibility, and enjoyment of physical activity for all students so they can be physically active for a lifetime”. Once students reach high school, there are more sports available and the sports also take a more competitive turn compared to sports in middle and elementary school. Since one of the main goals of physical education is to teach life long habits and to ensure that the student is enjoying the activity, extracurricular sports and competitive club sports should be counted as P.E credits because a student is choosing to participate in these sports, therefore they may enjoy it, and they are continuing to show interest in physical activity which helps develop those life long habits.

Some school districts have already implemented this as a way for students to gain P.E credits. Maria Carrillo High School in California implemented this in the 2012/2013 school year. The students at Maria Carrillo high must fill out a form to be eligible. The Tucson School District of Arizona approved extracurricular sports counting at P.E credits, but after the sports season the athlete must take a physical fitness test and pass to earn their P.E. credit. In Idaho, students can also earn P.E. credits for Idaho approved sports and club sports that have been approved by the district. These schools have experienced no harms or disadvantages due to allowing students participate in sports in exchange for P.E. credits.

It is our opinion that students should not have to strain themselves in school while taking gym classes if they are actively participating in sports. Most students play sports they enjoy, therefore they are learning that physical education can be fun. This will help the student with healthy life habits.

Bigger than East vs West; Starbucks vs Scooters



Maria Mwita
Entertainment Editor

Starbucks vs Scooter’s. The controversy of the century. Which coffee house is better than the other? Well I will tell you that I believe one of them is better than the other, by a mile stone.

I am not one of those students that comes in with Starbucks or Scooter’s practically everyday. I ride the bus to school so that can’t happen and plus I have no money. I really haven’t had many drinks from Starbucks or Scooter’s. I went to both places the other day and compared some of their drinks.

Let’s start with hot drinks. Scooter’s hot chocolate taste amazing! I like how they serve it with the whipped cream perfectly swirled on top. It’s not too sweet. Starbucks on the other hand doesn’t have as great as hot chocolate. It’s not bad, but Scooter’s is just way better. Scooter’s has a drink called the Caramelicious.

The Caramelicious tastes really good. I like it alot and it’s really sweet, but the caramel isn’t as prominent to me. Starbucks has a drink kind of similar to that I sampled. It’s the Caramelized honey latte. I know it’s a latte but these two drinks are similar to each other in taste. Starbucks did really well with this drink, it’s one of my favorites that I tasted.

Smoothies are a whole different ball game. Scooter’s has more of a variety of smoothies than Starbucks. Both places have a Strawberry Banana Smoothie. Starbucks strawberry banana smoothie is gross. In complete honesty, I did not

really like it, at all. The flavor and texture of it was unpleasant. Scooter’s however has the best Strawberry Banana Smoothie that I have ever tasted in the whole wide world. Take note that I’ve never left the country before. My point is that the smoothie is really good and people should go taste it. Also Scooter’s Mango and Pina Colada smoothies are the “bomb.com.”

Starbucks and Scooter’s both have an Iced Coffee drink. Starbucks Iced Coffee drink is really good and is better than Scooter’s regular Iced coffee drink. But Scooters has a better variety of iced drinks than Starbucks. For example Scooter’s has the Iced Mocha, Iced Turtle Latte and the Iced Caramelicious. Scooter’s also has the Iced Candy Bar Latte which is just amazing and is heaven in a cup. Starbucks and scooters both have really good Ice Tea. Starbucks does have a better selection of Ice teas. Lots of tropical type flavors, which I prefer. Then there is also just regular hot tea. Starbucks has some really, and I mean really, good tea. The Mango Black Tea Lemonade is phenomenal.I’d recommend it.

Scooter’s has some of the best blenders. The blenders may be my favorite part of going to Scooter’s. They have the Mocha Blender, the White Mocha Blender, Candy Bar Blender, Turtle blender and the Matcha Blender. Starbucks really doesn’t have very good blenders. They aren’t bad just not as great as Scooter’s when it comes to the taste.

I not only tried both and Starbucks and Scooter’s, but some of their food too; just a little. Starbucks has some really good breakfast items like their cinnamon buns. They are so yummy. Just thinking about it has my mouth salivating. They also have breakfast burritos which are pretty good, too.

Overall I prefer Scooter’s over Starbucks. Scooter’s just has more to offer and they are really particular on the taste of their drinks which makes them better because I think they value that aspect more which. Scooter’s also doesn’t have as strong of a coffee taste to their items. Some people may want or like that but as a teen I haven’t really adapted to it yet. Overall to me Scooter’s is better than Starbuck’s.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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COMMENTS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THE TOM TOM ARE ENCOURAGED IN THE FORM OF LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. LETTERS MUST INCLUDE YOUR FULL NAME, GRADE, AND BE SENT TO ROOM B-03 OR DELIVERED TO A MEMBER OF THE TOM TOM STAFF IN ORDER TO BE PUBLISHED. YOU MAY ALSO E-MAIL LETTERS TO STEPHENIE.CONLEY@BPSNE.NET

EDITORIAL POLICY

The role of the Tom Tom is not only to promote the accomplishments and highlights of the school, but also to inform the Bellevue East community of events and issues that will affect the students, faculty, staff, administration, and community. Its primary focus is to serve Bellevue East High School and cover issues that affect teenagers today. The Tom Tom does not necessarily represent views of the Bellevue Public Schools and strives to support itself through advertising. In order to achieve the optimum learning situation, as well as serve its audience to the best of its ability, the staff believes that the decisions should rest primarily with the adviser and editors, according to standards of journalism. Material judged to cause significant psychological harm, or that violates the privacy of a person, or that is libelous will not be printed. Obscenity or profanity will not be printed in the Tom Tom. Stories in the Tom Tom will be based on substantial facts with quotes clearly attributed to named sources whenever possible. The Tom Tom will not run gossip or stories or columns founded on rumor without facts. Any student appearing at a public event such as a sports event or music concert may be photographed, and that photo may be published without violating the privacy of that individual.



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How well do you know Bellevue East?

Megan Miller
Sports Editor

Take this quiz and see how well you know East. Compare answers with freshman Breeze Perry ● sophomore Abby Higgs ● junior Dava Butson ■, and senior Bethany Quinn ■

1. What does it say right when you walk into the front of the school?

- A) Bellevue East High
- B) Never gonna give you up never gonna let you down
- ● ● C) Bellevue east home of the chieftains

2. What does it say around the Chieftain head in the senior commons?

- A) Bellevue East High School Forever and Always
- B) Bellevue East High School Chieftains senior class 2000
- ● ● C) Bellevue East Chieftains

3. How many sets of stairs are there in the school?

- ● ● A) 12
- B) 7
- C) 19

4. How many wings are in the school?

- A) 15
- B) 11
- ■ C) 12

5. What side of the hallway has even numbered rooms?

- A) Left
- ● ● B) Right

6. Which way does the Chieftain head face?

- ■ ● ● A) Right
- B) Left

7. What class gave the mural by the c wing to the school?

- ■ ● ● A) Class of 1998
- B) Class of 1955
- C) Class of 1879



8. How many deans are there?

- A) 7
- B) 3
- ● ● C) 4

9. Which lockers are on top?

- ● A) Even
- ■ B) Odd

10. How many purple poles are there in the senior commons?

- A) 7
- ● B) 10
- C) 14

11. How many trees are in the senior commons?

- A) 0
- B) 3
- ● ● C) 6

Bonus Question 12: What quote is written on the brick wall in the front of the school?

Answer Key: 1. C, 2. B, 3. A, 4. B, 5. B, 6. A, 7. A, 8. C, 9. A, 10. A, 11. C Bonus. Some people see things as they are and say, "Why?", I dream things that never were and say, "Why not?"

Mumford & Sons excite fans at CenturyLink Center

Destiny Soto
Feature Editor

I took a look around, allowing the excitement of my surroundings to seep into my mind and my body. I could see the people around me, each of them growing as impatient as me. As I walked toward the CenturyLink Center my enthusiasm began to increase and I could no longer hide the smile on my face. I was preparing myself for the best night of my life.

On April 19, all the way from London, England, the British rock band, Mumford and Sons, made its way to Omaha Nebraska where it gave an outstanding performance. Mumford and Sons, formed in 2007, consists of four talented musicians- Marcus Mumford, the lead vocalist, Ben Lovett, the pianist, Winston Marshall, who plays the banjo and electric guitar and Ted Dwane who rocks the double bass. Mumford and Sons has released three albums: "Sigh No More" (2009), "Babel" (2012) and "Wilder Mind" (2015). "Sigh No More" sat at number two on the UK Albums Chart and the Billboard 200 in the US. Their other two albums, "Babel" and "Wilder Mind," both debuted at number one in the US as well as in the UK.

Back in the US, I searched for my seat in the vast amphitheater with the more than 1,000 other fans that gathered anxiously in the giant bowl shaped arena. The excitement pulsed through the air and a cacophony of cheers exploded from the crowd as the four band members made their way onto the stage. The beginning chords of their famous song "Snake

Eyes" drifted throughout the stadium, prompting anyone who knew the lyrics to sing along. I was surprised at the song choice that started off the concert because it is a slower song, but, nonetheless, I was enjoying every note. As the song came to an end, the cheers started back up and so did the music.

"Little Lion Man" played second. This song did not fail to provoke ear shattering encouragement from the crowd. I belted the lyrics out with all I had in me, just like all of the other music lovers in the stadium. Each string plucked and each note hit boosted the exhilarating groove of the music.

The cheerfulness built and the song came to an end, bringing to our ears, the beginning of another soul-jumping song. "Below My Feet" took off to a slow start but ended with the down-to-earth, optimistic feeling that a lot of M&S songs have.

When the band came to the seventh song, "Believe," Marcus Mumford requested that all light sources, including flashlights, phones or lighters, be shone towards the stage. This created an effect that I believe I can only experience a few times in my life. I was truly amazed at the beauty of the scene. The song played through our veins and we created our own galaxy. The lights were our stars and we were the planets. The stage was our sun as it gave us the life we needed in the moment. I still get goosebumps when I think about the grace in the atmosphere.

The setlist continued with brilliant songs until the concert came to the last song of the night. The four talent-



Songs from the album "Babel" were a few of the many performed by the band Mumford & Sons April 19 at Omaha's CenturyLink Center. *Image used under fair use*

ed artists sprinted through the crowd to a very small platform that was centered closer to the larger portion of the crowd. Marcus, Ben, Winston and Ted went on to shush the crowd and continued to do so until they announced that they were to sing "Cold Arms" on this tiny platform, with only one microphone and one guitar. We were asked to remain quiet to allow the music to flow to every ear in the stadium.

The moment was timid and fragile and the heartfelt song played quietly throughout the theater. Our bodies swayed to the music as we absorbed the sound.

I was disappointed in the briefness of the 14 songs played, but I had fallen more in love with the music from my experience. It appeared that the crowd felt similarly because not one person left their seat after the band left the stage. We cheered

for an encore and were granted four more songs after waiting several minutes. "I Will Wait" preceded the last song, jolting everyone to their feet as we jumped and stomped to the beat of the song. The joyfulness from me and everyone else in the crowd was astonishing.

Although I did pay \$6 for a drink that was no larger than 20 ounces, the night was one of the best of my life. I would do it again if given the opportunity, no matter the monetary cost. I will never forget how it felt to be in the same place as the people who wrote some of my favorite songs while they played them.

If I could rate Mumford and Sons and their performance fairly on a scale from one to ten, they would exceed ten with ease. I would recommend anyone who is a music lover, no matter the genre, to attend at least one concert by this exceptional band.

Culinary arts student shares tasty recipes



Mixing it up. Helping Senior Vaughn Windorski make biscuits and gravy, Entertainment Editor Maria Mwita waits for instruction. The two cooked an instructional video for the Bellevue East newspaper's website The Chieftain Quill. *Photo by Faith Wer.*

Maria Mwita
Entertainment Editor

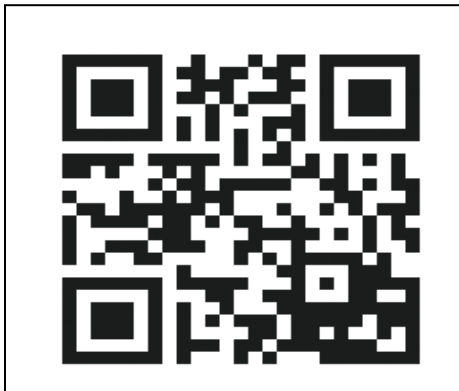
Biscuits and Gravy

Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 2 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- Dash salt
- 1 tbl sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

- 1/2 tsp Cayenne pepper
- Mix dry ingredients
- Cut butter into dry ingredients until pea sized crumbs
- Add cheese
- Mix in buttermilk Knead for 2 minutes.
- Transfer to ungreased baking sheet,
- pat into 6 x 6 square.
- Cut into 12 even sections (Do not separate)
- Bake for 15 minutes on

- 400 F
- Gravy Ingredients**
- 5 cups Milk
1 roll Sausage
1/2 cup flour
Cayenne pepper to taste
Salt
pepper
- Cook sausage until done. After that mix the ingredients together until preferred consistency. Once finished pour gravy onto the biscuit and bon appetite!



To watch the instructional video on how to create this delicious snack along with street tacos just scan the QR code above and enjoy.



This is the finished product produced by sophomore Maria Mwita and senior Vaughn Windorski in the consumer science room. Photograph by Faith Wer.

Cool ideas to style up your locker for next school year

Nia Booth
Opinion Editor

To make sure that you keep your locker organized and unique next year there are a few essentials to think about.

How can you add a homey feel to your locker?

Add pictures of your friends and family. Nothing is better than arriving at school and opening your locker and seeing the smiling faces of your loved ones. The images can be held up with simple every day things like tape or magnets.

How can you stay organized with the help of your locker?

By adding a simple white board, organization can become easy. It can help you if you use it to write out a checklist every-day and or week with due dates or necessary supplies for homework. No one wants to get a pile of homework only to find that they left essentials at school. Avoid this problem and get yourself a handy dandy mini white board.

Worried about looking your best throughout the day?

Slap a mini mirror in your locker and worry no more. Never again will you worry if your breakfast is stuck in your teeth or if that red pimple is turning a gooey white because you'll always know. You'll be the friend that can always be counted on if cute schoolmate is walking by because it helps with a quick appearance check before they walk by.

Always leaving your pens and markers around the school?

Get yourself a pen and marker holder to keep track of those high school essentials. If you always have a place for them you'll be less likely to lose them. That one annoying kid in your math class can't borrow a pencil that isn't with you, can he?

Really want your locker to out shine the rest?

Then invest in locker wallpaper and maybe even a mini battery operated chandelier. There a millions of possibilities and creative decorations to choose from.



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