

# Jaguar Journal

November 22, 2024

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## ALL SCHOOL NEWS

### Thanksgiving Break

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**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**

NO SCHOOL NEXT WEEK  
NOVEMBER 25 - 29

### Student Names in the 2024-2025 Yearbook - Last Chance to make changes!

If a parent or guardian has requested a preferred first name for their student, that will be the first name printed in the yearbook. If a student or guardian has questions about the student's name as it reflects in our student information system, they can log into Student or Parent Vue, navigate to "Student Info" on the left menu and then review the student's preferred name listed. If a student does not show a preferred name, then their first name will appear.

Examples:

Ex1: Katherine Bonnema - logs into Parent Vue and it reflects preferred name: Katie. This student would show as "Katie Bonnema" in the yearbook

Ex2: Bryan Brutto - logs into Parent Vue and sees nothing in the section for preferred name. This student would be shown as "Bryan Brutto" in the yearbook.

Updates to student's preferred name must be emailed directly to our registrar, Terri Chee at [thchee@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:thchee@bluevalleyk12.org) by **December 1st**. Any questions can be directed to our yearbook advisor, Mrs. Sinclair-King at [csinclairking@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:csinclairking@bluevalleyk12.org).

## **PTO News**

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Nurse Beth Erickson needs help during the Hearing and Vision Testing on Monday, Dec 9th from 7:30-11:30am. Sophomores are going to be tested and our job will be to support Nurse Beth with crowd control in both the Vision Lab and the Hearing Test area. Thank you for your support!

SIGN UP HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0948ACA72CA5FAC07-50991751-vision>

### **DO YOU FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?**

It is a great way to see photos from school and PTO sponsored events at BVW and keep up to date about upcoming events. GIVE US A FOLLOW!

**INSTAGRAM:** [ptobvwest](#)

**FACEBOOK:** [BlueValleyWestPTO](#)

### **BVW BLANKETS & YARD SIGNS ON SALE**

Purchase your BVW gear on our website! [ORDER HERE](#)

### **New Jag Night**

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All incoming BVW  
9th graders & families

**BLUE VALLEY WEST**

CLASS OF 2029

# NEW JAG NIGHT

Please join us to learn about enrollment options and opportunities to get involved as a BVW student.

**JANUARY 15, 2025**

Enrollment Information Sessions available  
from 6:00 – 8:45

Activities/Athletics available in Commons  
from 6:00 – 7:30

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## SENIOR NEWS Class of 2025

### Seal of Biliteracy

Every year, the district offers Blue Valley **seniors** the chance to earn the Seal of Biliteracy. When awarded, the Seal of Biliteracy becomes a part of a student's official transcript. There are many benefits to earning this nationally recognized credential.:

- It allows students to demonstrate proficiency in English and a non-English language, thereby recognizing a student's readiness for career or college and for engagement as a global citizen.
- The Seal of Biliteracy affirms values of diversity and recognizes the multiple cultures and languages of our community.
- Employers may not have the resources or knowledge to judge whether an applicant has functional proficiency in another language besides English. The Seal provides high school graduates with a meaningful, industry recognized credential that they can show to potential employers.
- Several universities in the state are also accepting the Seal of Biliteracy for placement purposes and retroactive credit upon completion of higher level coursework: Pittsburg State, Fort Hays State, Kansas State, and Friends—and it is under review at other institutions of higher education.

The **first step** in the process is completing the [Seal of Biliteracy Student Intent Form](#), which is open from **Monday, November 18, 2024 through Friday, December 20, 2024**. Due to the multiple steps

in the process, **this is a firm deadline.**

For more details about this opportunity, please review the [Blue Valley Seal of Biliteracy website](#).

If you have any questions about the Seal of Biliteracy, students can contact their world language teacher, ESOL teacher, or Melissa Clark (K-12 World Language Coordinator) at [mrclark@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:mrclark@bluevalleyk12.org).

## Cap and Gown Orders

Cap and Gowns will be handed out to students at Class Day Rehearsal in May. Graduation Announcements will be delivered and handed out in March, class rings take 8-12 weeks after an order is placed and apparel takes 1-2 weeks. Each graduating class has a unique cap and gown so students cannot wear a design from another year (ie: cannot wear an older siblings gown). [Order Today!](#)



## Graduation Date

Graduations will be held at the Blue Valley West High School Football Stadium, referred to as ANTDAC (Antioch District Athletic Complex) located at 162nd and Antioch.

The schools affected by inclement weather will move inside to the BVW Gymnasium at their regularly scheduled time.

**BVW graduation will be at 7:00pm on May 18**

## Senior Fees

Parents of seniors are asked to contribute a \$40 fee toward their senior activity fund and annual senior class gift that is donated to the school.

Senior Fees help to offset graduation celebration and rehearsal activities that happen throughout the year. Help us make our seniors' final year a great one! [Pay Senior Fee now](#).

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## ATHLETICS NEWS

**Purchase a 2024-25 Athletics Pass**

[2024-25 Athletics Pass](#)

[BVW Athletic website](#) / [Eastern Kansas League](#)

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## COUNSELING

**Naval Academy Virtual Visit**

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**BV WEST WELCOMES**

**US Naval Academy**

**Dec 3, 2024**

**zoom: 366 867 1573 @ 4:30 pm**

**VIRTUAL VISIT**

Learn about the USNA admission process and summer programs as well Academy life and career paths in the Navy or Marine Corps.

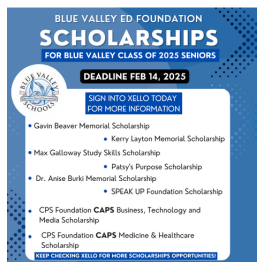


## Scholarships

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**Seven Days Kindness Scholarship**



**Blue Valley Ed Foundation Scholarship**



**Leawood Lions Club Scholarship**

**Counseling canvas page**

## DISTRICT NEWS

## BV Unmuted Podcast Episode: Why Attendance Matters

In the latest Blue Valley Schools' BV Unmuted podcast episode, Superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan is joined by Leah Vomhof (Blue Valley Northwest principal), Stacey Sperry (Prairie Star Elementary principal) and Dr. Cory Cox (Blue Valley North assistant principal) to discuss the importance of school attendance.

To listen to the podcast episode, visit <https://tinyurl.com/AttendanceBV>.

## Civility Policy

We are thankful for the ongoing partnership and support we experience in our school community. Working together we ensure the best possible student experience allowing them to realize personal success. There are times, however, when issues arise which require our continued collaboration to resolve. Families may utilize the matrix linked on [the district website](#) to best address questions and concerns that may arise throughout the course of a school year. Finally, all staff and visitors should conduct their business free from intimidation, harassment, or bullying. The district's Board of Education states expectations regarding civility within [Policy 6341](#). Again, thank you for your partnership in helping to maintain a safe school community environment for all.

## Attendance Matters Article #4: Partnering to Address School Avoidance Behaviors

School avoidance can sometimes arise from anxiety about tests, presentations or social situations. While staying home might seem like a short-term solution, it often leads to students falling further behind, which can increase stress. If your student is frequently absent on test days or showing signs of avoidance, it's important to address these behaviors early.

We understand that as families, you want the best for your child, and we encourage you to help them develop lifelong habits of perseverance. While there are times when staying home is necessary, it's important to avoid providing excuses for missing school unless truly needed. Minor ailments or worries, which wouldn't keep an adult from going to work, shouldn't prevent a student from attending either.

By working together and keeping the lines of communication open, we can find supportive solutions to help your child feel more confident and comfortable at school.

## Community Celebrations and Observances

### Some December Celebrations & Observances:

- **International Day of People with Disabilities - December 3** - a day to celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with disabilities, promote an understanding of disability issues, and mobilize support for the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of people with disabilities.
- **Bodhi Day - December 8** - commemorates the day that the historical Buddha experienced enlightenment. Some Buddhist families will practice meditation, study the Dharma, chant Buddhist texts (sutras), and share a traditional meal of tea and cake.
- **Christmas - December 25** - a Christian holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Some Christian families will celebrate by attending church services and exchanging gifts.
- **Hanukkah - evening of December 25** - evening of January 2 - an eight-day Jewish festival of lights. Some Jewish families will celebrate by lighting a Menorah and eating foods cooked in



oil.

- **Kwanzaa - December 26 - January 1** - a seven-day African-American holiday celebrating culture, family, and community. For some, celebrations may include song, dance, storytelling, and a large traditional meal.



**Blue Valley West**

Lauren is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

