

LMS Eagle News

February 9th, 2025

From the Desk of Ryan Colburn

It can be difficult to appreciate how amazing things are when you are in the middle of them. I have lived in KC my whole life and have been a Chiefs fan all that time.. Growing up in Kansas City in the 80's, I watched some mediocre, at best, Chiefs football but still remained a fan. Right now, however, our kids are literally witnessing one of the most amazing runs in football history. Five Super Bowls in six years and three, possibly four, titles in that time. Not to mention the divisional and AFC championship games we have witnessed along with all the wins we have seen during the regular season to get us to this point! I could go on and on, but you get the point. Win or lose this Sunday, this is an incredible run and it doesn't look like it's going to stop anytime soon!

A few years ago as the school year ended, I found myself so caught up in all that was going on around me that I felt I was missing things in my personal life. I knew I needed to slow down and focus on what was in front of me and not try to anticipate things that were coming. Frankly, I was missing my current reality. The old adage comes to mind to "stop and smell the roses." What I was doing was walking past those "roses" and not appreciating them. So, in my best interests, I decided it was time to really stop and try to be more mindful of my current situation, whatever it may be, and enjoy where I was. The same can be said for our Chiefs. What an incredible run this is and while we would love for it to go on forever, we know that is not reality.

Our kids' time in middle school is like that as well. This is such a quick time in their lives but they grow and change so much, nevertheless. As parents and educators, we need to take some time to pause and appreciate the burgeoning humans that they are and are becoming. So, give **yourself the gift of pausing** and spending time with them to enjoy them just as they are today and even tomorrow because this time goes by so fast and you don't want to miss any of it.

Sincerely,

Ryan Colburn

BVEF Champions of Student Learning

Do you know a Blue Valley educator who goes above and beyond to cultivate a learning environment where relationships are the cornerstone, where kindness and compassion are guiding principles, and making a profound difference in the lives of young people is not just a goal but a lived reality? Help the Blue Valley Educational Foundation (BVEF) recognize their extraordinary impact by nominating them today for the BVEF annual Champion for Students Award! This \$2,500 BVEF award recognizes three exemplary teachers (one elementary, one middle, and one high) whose impact extends far beyond the learning environment, shaping the trajectory of their students' journeys and leaving an enduring legacy of excellence.

Any member of the Blue Valley Schools' Community (e.g., school administrator, student, family member, staff, etc.) is welcome to submit [one nomination](#) on behalf of an educator (any staff member in Blue Valley Schools - teacher, paraprofessional, administrator, kitchen manager, etc.). The application window will open on February 10th and close on March 7th.

To nominate an educator, complete the [2025 BVEF Champion for Students Award form](#) by Friday, March 7th.

Football

**INCOMING
FRESHMAN
FOOTBALL
MEETING**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT 6:00PM

BLUE VALLEY NORTH

**MEET THE COACHES
LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAM GET INFORMATION ON
SUMMER WORKOUTS AND THE 2025 SEASON**

Born to Soar

Please use this form to nominate a staff member (teacher, paraprofessional, front office, support staff, etc....) who you feel is going above and beyond this year. We will recognize one staff member each week for the entire school year by presenting the award to them during a time they work with students. Staff will also be given an awesome picture of two eagles to keep in the classroom for

the week to generate discussion and celebration around their award. This award will be presented each Thursday at some point during the day.

[Born to Soar Nomination Form](#)

Career Ready Programs

Blue Valley has many exciting opportunities of study that await your student during their time in high school in Blue Valley.

Blue Valley has developed a partnership with Johnson County Community College (JCCC) to offer options for career ready certifications in a variety of fields. The Career Ready Programs currently available for students on the campus of JCCC are:

- Automation Engineer
- Automotive Technology
- Culinary and Hospitality
- Cybersecurity
- Electrical Technology
- Electronics Technology
- Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning
- Plumbing Technology
- Welding and Metal Fabrication

Additionally, students who want to get a jumpstart on their college education can also choose to earn their associate's degree, along with their high school diploma, as full-time JCCC students during their junior and senior years in high school- at little to no cost to them or their families.

Blue Valley also offers a Fire Science program in collaboration with the Overland Park Fire Department. to offer a pathway for students to earn certifications toward being a firefighter/paramedic.

While these opportunities are a few years away for your student, we know that it is never too early to start planning for your child's future.

Career Ready Programs will be offering opportunities for students to visit the OPFD Fire Training Center and JCCC to see the programs in action, speak with faculty and students and learn even more about these exciting opportunities!

OPFD trip: April 1st (12:30-2:00 @ OPFD FTC)

JCCC trip: April 2nd (12:30-2:00 @ JCCC)

- NOTE: students will select from two different tours at JCCC.
 - Tour 1: CRP Tour (auto, welding, HVAC, culinary, etc.): students will tour the CTEC building on the campus of JCCC
 - Tour 2: Dual Degree Tour: students will go on a general campus tour (academic buildings, student center, library, etc)

To sign your student up for either/both trips, please complete this [FORM](#) by **8:00 am on Monday, March 3rd**. Transportation will be provided.

To learn more about these opportunities, please email Adam Wessel, Director of Career Ready Programs, at ajwessel@bluevalleyk12.org and/or Sarah Beren, Career Ready Programs Liaison to JCCC, at sberen@bluevalleyk12.org.

BLUE VALLEY ED FOUNDATION



Raffle
for a
Reason

8 incredible experiences to choose from.

300 tickets.
1 winner.
Drawing March 4.

sponsored by 

 <p><i>Cruise</i> FOR 2 BERMUDA OR ALASKA</p>	 <p><i>Disney</i> FAMILY VACATION</p>	 <p><i>Napa</i> GETAWAY</p>	 <p><i>Rock Out</i> at the COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS</p>
 <p><i>Scottsdale</i> FUN IN THE SUN</p>	 <p><i>Hawaii</i> GETAWAY</p>	 <p><i>Sports Fan</i> CHOOSE THE EVENT & LOCATION</p>	 <p><i>Virgin Islands</i> ALL-INCLUSIVE FAMILY</p>



Patti Christian

Patti is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters