

Board Briefs

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Education Beyond Expectations

March 6, 2023

Board celebrates Blue Valley High junior Noor Haideri

The Board recognized and celebrated Noor Haideri, a Blue Valley High junior who recently received an international prize and a \$250,000 scholarship from Breakthrough.

The Breakthrough Junior Challenge is a global competition for students to inspire creative thinking about science. During a recent assembly, Noor was surprised to find out she not only won a \$250,000 scholarship but, a cash prize for her teacher Dianne Dunn and \$100,000 for a science lab that will be installed at Blue Valley High.

Board recognizes 3-year and 4-year KMEA students

The board recognized and celebrated Blue Valley seniors who qualified as KMEA All-State for at least three years. Students who were honored include:

Blue Valley High

Lincoln Dahl, BVH, Horn, 3-year participant
Brynn Friesen, BVH, Soprano, 3-year participant

Blue Valley North

Oliver Zhang, BVN, Trumpet, 4-year participant
Michelle Shin, BVN, Violin, 4-year participant
Kayoko Thornton, BVN, Violin, 4-year participant
Eva Marie Girard, BVN, Alto, 3-year participant
Aaron Tseng, BVN, violin, 3-year participant

Blue Valley West

Caroline Epp, BVW, Violin, 3-year participant
Trey Krizek, BVW, Horn, 3-year participant
Eric Seo, BVW, Oboe, 3-year participant

Blue Valley Northwest

Emma Du, BVNW, Violin, 3-year participant
Andrew Gafrick, BVNW, Bass, 3-year participant
Natalie Policky, BVNW, Senior, soprano
Kimberly Gibson, BVNW, Senior, soprano

Blue Valley Southwest

Jack McNiel, BVSU, Trumpet, 3-year participant
Caleb Lee, BVSU, Violin, 3-year participant

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Blue Valley High Chorale performs: Music in our Schools Month

March is celebrated as Music in our Schools Month. At Blue Valley, students have the opportunity to participate in general music classes, choir, band and orchestra. The board celebrated Music in our Schools Month with a performance from the Blue Valley High Chorale. In February, the Chorale competed at the Barbershop Harmony Society National Youth Chorus Festival and took first place making them this year's national champions.

Board honors Monica Rangel and Peggy Salts

The Board recognized Monica Rangel, Food and Nutrition Manager at Prairie Star Middle School, with the Distinguished Service Award and Peggy Salts, Counselor at Wolf Springs Elementary, with the Excellence in Education Award.

Board conducts public hearing for Construction Manager At Risk Delivery method. Board approves Construction Manager at Risk Delivery method

[Jump straight to this section in the livestream](#)

The Board voted to approve the Construction Manager At Risk Delivery method for Bond 2023 projects.

Board approves the 2024-2025 Calendar

[Jump straight to this section in the livestream](#)

The Board of Education approved the 2024-25 school year calendar at their March meeting. The calendar was created with feedback from staff and families. Highlights of the calendar include a week-long Thanksgiving Break and the school year coming to an end prior to Memorial Day. The calendar is available on [the district website](#).

Significant dates included in the proposed 2024-25 school calendar:

- First day of school - Aug. 13
- Thanksgiving Break - Nov. 25-29
- Winter Recess- Dec. 23-Jan. 3
- Spring Break - March 17-21
- HS only finals - 1/2 day May 21-23
- Last day of school
- May 22 for Early Childhood
- May 23 for grades K-11 (1/2 day)
- May 26 Memorial Day

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Board receives legislative update

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The Board received an update from superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan on the 2023 legislative session, including an overview of key dates, the district's priority level positions and testimony submitted by the district for various bills. Patrons can review the district's legislative positions and read the district's testimony on [Blue Valley's legislative web page](#).

Board appoints liaisons for the Kansas Association of School Boards' Region 11 Nominating and Legislative Committees.

[Jump straight to this section in the livestream](#)

The Board appointed Kaety Bowers to a one-year term as the board liaison for the Kansas Association of School Boards Region 11 nominating committee. The Board also appointed Jan Kessinger to a one-year term as a liaison on the legislative committee for the Kansas Association of School Boards' Region 11.

A [video recording](#) of the live-streamed meeting is available for viewing on the [Blue Valley Board of Education YouTube channel](#).



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Board Briefs is published by the Blue Valley School District Communications Department following each Board of Education meeting.