



Jaguar Journal

January 5, 2024

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ALL SCHOOL NEWS

3rd Quarter Newsletter

Please take a moment to review [THIS DOCUMENT](#) for information related to the 3rd Quarter. In the linked document you'll find a monthly breakdown of our odd/even/all block days as well as updated information about questions and topics frequently asked this time of year. Topics highlighted include: ACT Testing Day, Attendance/Punctuality, Change to student device access to games, etc...

New Policy - Gaming on District Devices

Effective January 4, 2024 - In an effort to reduce distractions in the learning environment for all of our students, general gaming websites will be blocked on district devices (examples include: Fortnite, [crazygames.com](#), recreational games, arcade-like games, etc). Educational games will still be allowed.

Attendance Notifications and Reporting

Families can expect automated attendance messages by email, phone, and text if a child is absent and their absence has not already been reported by a parent/guardian. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to report an absence or reply to the automated email or phone message.

What is the purpose of attendance notifications?

We realize that students may occasionally need to miss school for planned absences, illnesses, and appointments. However, when a student does not arrive at school or unexpectedly misses a portion of the school day, we are concerned and want to make sure you are aware that your child is absent.

How can I get push notifications?

Families who would also like a push notification can download the ParentVUE app and manage their notifications. If a child has an unreported absence when a teacher submits attendance, then a push notification will immediately be sent to the parent/guardian's mobile device.

Interested in push notifications? Simply download the ParentVUE app ([iTunes app store](#) or [Google Play](#)), enable push notifications in device settings and select attendance notifications through in-app settings. Once the app is downloaded, these instructions will help you complete the set up.

How do I report an absence?

When a student will be absent, parents should report their absence to the building by calling our phone line at 913-239-3701, or by emailing attendancebv@bluevalleyk12.org in advance of the absence. Parents and Guardians may also enter full day absences into ParentVUE.

How do I call my student out for an appointment?

When students need to leave during the day for an appointment, contact with the attendance office **TWO HOURS prior to the absence** is requested. The office will then deliver a pass to the student. Any student leaving the building once the day has begun, must sign out in the attendance office and then sign in upon return. Students are able to then leave the building and drive themselves or meet their parent/guardian in the front circle. Parents do not need to come into the building to sign out students.

If a student becomes ill during the day - they must see the nurse. Mrs. Newton will assess the student and then issue a pass for them to go home after making communication with parents/guardians.

Fostering a Safe School Environment

Blue Valley Schools is committed to promoting and fostering a safe environment in and around all of our schools. Through the convergence of physical and intellectual security measures, we are continuously working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from a wide range of emergencies. Please check out [available ways to report safety concerns](#).

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.

Career Ready Programs Information Nights

The Career Ready Programs department is offering several exciting opportunities for Blue Valley students to earn college credit at little to NO cost to families through Johnson County Community College (JCCC). Students can earn an associate degree OR career-ready certification in high-demand, high paying fields.

The information shared at these sessions will be most relevant for current sophomore and junior students and parents/guardians. You do not need to RSVP to any of these events. We encourage parents/guardians/students to all attend and learn more about these programs.

January 16, 2024 - Emergency Management and Fire Science: Meet with our partners at the Overland Park Fire Department (OPFD) at the OPFD Training Center at 12401 Hemlock at 6:00 P.M.

January 17, 2024 - Dual Degree option: How to earn your associate degree AND your Blue Valley diploma at the same time! Join us on the campus of Johnson County Community College and the

Nerman Museum of Modern Art, Room 217, at 6:00 P.M. [Link to JCCC Campus Map](#)

January 24, 2024 - Career Ready Certification program in:

- Automation Engineering Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Culinary & Hospitality
- Cybersecurity
- Electrician Technology
- Electronic Technology
- Emergency Management & Fire Science
- Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning
- Plumbing
- Welding/Metal Fabrication

We will meet in the JCCC Hugh Libby CTEC building lobby at 6:00 P.M. We will hear from Blue Valley staff, JCCC Deans, Department Chairs, and Blue Valley students currently enrolled in these programs. [Link to JCCC Campus Map](#)

January 25, 2024 Career Ready Cybersecurity and Culinary & Hospitality certification programs:

Meet in the JCCC Wylie Culinary Center building lobby at 6:00 P.M. We will hear from Blue Valley staff, JCCC Deans, Department Chairs, and Blue Valley students currently enrolled in these programs. [Link to JCCC Campus Map](#)

Questions? Please visit the [Blue Valley Career Ready Programs website](#) or please feel free to reach out to Sarah Beren, Liaison to JCCC for Blue Valley Career Ready Programs, at 913-239-4141 or sberen@bluevalleyk12.org and Adam Wessel, Director of Career Ready Programs, 913-239-4023 or ajwessel@bluevalleyk12.org.

New Jag Night

All incoming BVW
9th graders & families

BLUE VALLEY WEST

CLASS OF 2028

NEW JAG NIGHT

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

JANUARY 17, 2024

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

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

SENIOR NEWS Class of 2024

Graduation Cap and Gown Orders

[ORDER HERE!](#)

- Class of 2024 Apparel and Accessories will be available for pick up in the office, 1-2 weeks after order is placed.
- Grad Announcements will come in just after Spring Break (exact date/location TBD)
- Cap, Gown & Tassel will be handed out in May, prior to Graduation Rehearsal
- Class Rings will be available for pick up in the main office 10-12 weeks after order is placed.

Senior Mural Applications

Applications to create the 2024 senior mural are now being accepted. You can find the [guidelines and application here](#). The submission deadline is January 19.

Senior Event Guide



BLUE VALLEY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

ORDER YOUR GRADUATION ESSENTIALS!

Herff Jones is the official provider of your Cap & Gown, Custom Graduation Announcements, Class of 2024 Apparel and Class Rings! Don't miss the chance to celebrate your accomplishments and commemorate your upcoming graduation. Congratulations Class of 2024!

SHOP NOW »

Order by December 1 to receive the best prices of the year!

Megan Theeling # 866.238.5336 # highschools@herffjones.com # herffjones.com

HERFF JONES

Spring Semester is a busy time for seniors! Check out the [Senior Event Guide](#) for all the upcoming dates and deadlines.

ATHLETICS NEWS

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

[Activity Season Passes](#)

Activities and Athletics Message

We are excited to have your families come to support our high school activities and athletics this school year. It is great to see the entire community at these events. It is imperative that our parent community partner with us as we work to encourage a positive atmosphere for our high school games or events.

- Sportsmanship/officials: We want to give our student athletes the opportunity to play as many games as possible and we need officials to make those games happen. With a local and national shortage of officials, we want to make sure officials continue to choose to work Blue Valley events. The number one way we can create a welcoming environment is for spectators, coaches and student athletes to be courteous and respect the official's decisions.
- Tailgating: Tailgating before games has become a tradition for many students and families. We love to see our community gathering together to enjoy food and tailgate games in our parking lots. As a reminder, alcohol and tobacco are not allowed on district property including parking lots. Outside food and drink is not permitted inside the gates except for unopened water bottles. Please visit the concession stands and support our school groups!

Thank you for your help in making our district events a great experience for all who attend. We hope to see your family cheering for our Blue Valley teams this school year.

COUNSELING

[Counseling canvas page](#)

Community Celebrations and Observances

Some January Celebrations & Observances:

- *National Poverty Awareness Month* - While the United States is considered the richest country in the world, 37.9 million people live in poverty, including 12.5 million children. National Poverty Awareness Month works to bring awareness to issues of poverty and increase access to resources and services. To help and or find support, visit [Johnson County Outreach Services](#).



- *Maghi* - January 13 - a Sikh celebration. Some Sikh families will celebrate with a recitation of the holy Guru Granth Sahib and religious rituals in Gurdwaras - a Sikh place of assembly and worship meaning "Gateway to the Guru".
- *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* - January 15 - a day that honors the life and legacy of the civil rights leader. Some families will participate in a day of service to their communities.
- *World Religion Day* - January 21 - established by the Bahá'í Faith community in 1950. Now observed by people around the world, it seeks to find common values shared by different faiths, encourage tolerance and dialogue, and foster cooperation among religious communities.
- *International Holocaust Remembrance Day* - January 27 - an annual day of commemorating the six million Jewish victims and millions of other victims of the Holocaust and Nazism.



Blue Valley West

Lauren is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters