

WINTER 2023

WILDCAT NEWS

BLAIR-TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Administration

Lynn Halverson

Superintendent

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Dana T. Eide

Middle-High Principal

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Beth Lisowski

Elementary Principal

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Blair-Taylor School District

United Campus

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Blair, WI 54616

www.btsd.k12.wi.us

A Message From Our Superintendent, Mr. Lynn Halverson

It's hard to believe that we are already past the midpoint of the school year and well into 2023! As we enter the new year, it's important to re-establish a clear direction for the district moving forward. As part of re-establishing direction, Blair-Taylor School District engaged the community, staff, administration, and school board in a series of strategic planning sessions. The purpose was to identify priorities at the moment in order to achieve success in the future.

Key priorities that resulted from these sessions include:

- **Maintain Current Operations and Opportunities for Our Students**
 - Over the past two years, our school district has operated with a deficit. In order to continue serving our students with the current opportunities that are offered, the state will need to increase the revenue limit for schools, or we will have to ask our community for permission to exceed the revenue limit.
 - Due to inflation, the costs of maintaining the facility has increased drastically over the past few years.
- **Staff Retention and Attraction**
 - There is a shortage of employees entering education locally and across the nation.
 - Schools are competing for this low supply of employees.
 - Need to guarantee an appropriate compensation model that results in retaining and attracting the highest quality staff members to educate our students.
- **Rebuild the Fund Balance**
 - Fund balance is assets (what a district owns) less liabilities (what a district owes).
 - At the conclusion of the 2022-23 school year, our fund balance is projected to be at 5% of the total operating budget. Fund balance is recommended to be at 15% of the total operating budget.
 - An adequate fund balance can decrease or eliminate the need to short term borrow and avoid associated interest costs.
 - Increasing the fund balance gives our district increased financial stability.

For these reasons, the Blair-Taylor School Board approved a resolution to ask our community the following question on April 4, 2023 (Spring Election):

Shall the School District of Blair-Taylor, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,500,000 per year for three years beginning with the 2023-2024 school year and ending with the 2025-2026 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of expenses to maintain current operations, offerings for students and facility maintenance?

How would the school portion of my tax bill be impacted?

If this question were to pass on April 4, 2023. The tax impact (increase) compared to the current school year would be as follows according to year:

- 2023-24 - \$6.92 / per month / per \$100,000 of property value
- 2024-25 - \$9.33 / per month / per \$100,000 of property value
- 2025-26 - \$8.67 / per month / per \$100,000 of property value

Sincerely,
Lynn Halverson
Superintendent

From the desk of Mrs. Eide



Mrs. Dana T. Eide
Middle-High School Principal
eided@btsd.k12.wi.us
608-989-2525



- Friday, 1/13**
End of 1st Semester
- Friday, 1/20**
No School - Teacher Inservice
- Monday, 1/23**
Report Cards are Sent Home
- Thursday, 2/16**
P/T Conferences 4:00 - 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, 2/21**
P/T Conferences 4:00 - 7:30 pm
- Friday, 2/24**
No School - Teacher Inservice
- Monday 2/27 - Friday 3/3**
Spring Break
-

The desire to learn in a fun, engaging atmosphere is tangible. It feels good knowing we can work through the challenges of the past few years and come out on top. This school year, to help create the best learning atmosphere we can, students analyze their attendance, grades, and behavior expectations as a whole weekly looking for trends and ways to continually improve these qualities. For the first trimester, the middle school students met the grade goal of 90% or more of the students will all passing grades, and the high school students met the goal of 95% or more of the students going without behavior referrals weekly. Together, we will continue to grow a positive learning environment.

WISCONSIN STATE ASSESSMENTS

The state of Wisconsin requires all students to be evaluated using state or nationally normed assessments. The assessments will be given this spring. The following provides some information about these assessments. More information will be sent home as the time for the assessments draws near.

The **Wisconsin Forward Exam** was developed to assess English language arts and mathematics skills for students in grades three through eight, science knowledge and skills for students in grades four and eight and social studies knowledge and skills for students in grades four, eight and 10. The testing window for all students in Wisconsin to be evaluated using the Wisconsin Forward Exam is March 20th through April 28th. We will establish an assessment schedule for students based on several factors, such as optimal testing times of the day, comfortable settings for testing, adequate breaks between assessments, minimal impact on instruction, and individual student needs. Once the schedule is set, we will send information home, so that you can help prepare your child to do their best.

PreACT Secure is new this year. It is a summative assessment given to 9th and 10th grade students that is aligned to the ACT and the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards. PreACT Secure measures what students have learned in the areas of English, reading, mathematics, and science. PreACT Secure closely mirrors the ACT in many ways, including implementation, test delivery, scoring, and reporting. PreACT Secure scores predict how students will perform on the ACT when they reach 11th grade and their readiness for college-level coursework.

The **ACT Plus Writing** exam is given to all eleventh grade students in Wisconsin to assess reading, math, English, science, and writing. The ACT can be used by students for a variety of purposes including college admission, scholarships, course placement, and NCAA eligibility. ACT Plus Writing will be given to Blair-Taylor eleventh graders on Tuesday, March 7th. All 11th grade students are asked to be at school a bit early on that day in order to be ready to begin the assessment. When the exam is finished close to 1:00pm, students with parents' permission will be allowed to leave for the day.

As soon as we confirm the dates and times for these assessments we will let you know, so that you may plan appointments etc. around those days as it is very important that students are in attendance on the days of assessment, so that they do not need to miss classes on other days for make-up testing. Please reach out with any questions you may have.

From the desk of Mrs. Eide, continued.

GOOD ATTENDANCE IS A KEY TO SUCCESS

Preparing for life after high school takes a great deal of work. Being in school daily gives students the best opportunity for successful preparation. It can be difficult to catch up with school work after excessive absences, which can cause students stress. Being in school daily on time not only gives students the best opportunity for academic success, it also prepares students for future employment opportunities where excessive absences could result in loss of a job.

Just as a reminder, parents/guardians are able to excuse students up to ten days over the school year without a note from a medical professional or counselor. "Habitual truancy" may be filed with the county if students exceed ten excused days absent. Any absence without an excuse from a parent/guardian or medical professional is considered unexcused and will result in detention. Please contact Mrs. Eide or Mrs. Kidd in the middle-high school office with any questions.



8TH GRADE RECOGNITION

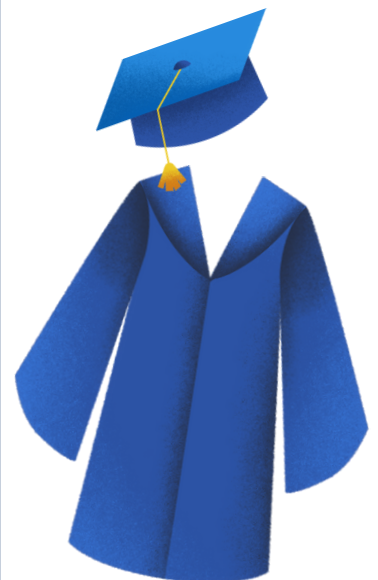
Another important event is the **8th Grade Recognition Event** held in honor of the eighth grade students as they prepare to transition to high school. This event will take place on **Friday, May 26th at 2:00 in the auditorium**. Students are asked to dress in formal attire. Clothing must meet the school's dress code. Everyone is welcome to attend!

SENIOR GRADUATION

Mark your calendar if you haven't already! Graduation will take place on Saturday, May 27th at 1:00 PM in the middle/high school gymnasium. Doors will be opened at 11:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend. Seats are reserved for graduates, staff, and school board members only. Graduates receive their gowns when they arrive at the school that day and turn them in before receiving their diplomas. Families are welcome to take pictures at school with their graduates before they return the gown.

Senior Awards Night takes place the Sunday before graduation. This year it will take place on May 21st. The baccalaureate service will take place in the auditorium at 5:30 PM and the Senior Awards Ceremony will follow at 6:30 PM. Seniors and their families are invited to attend both of these events. Seniors are to dress up in business casual attire and usually sit together as a class.

Senior Exit Interviews take place on Tuesday, May 16th between 3:30-7:30 PM. The exit interviews are conducted with each senior as a culmination of the academic career planning work they have done over their years in high school. Completing an exit interview is a graduation requirement. Family and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend their student's exit interview as it is a wonderful summary of their time in high school as well as future plans.



From the desk of Mrs. Lisowski



Mrs. Beth Lisowski
Elementary School Principal
lisowb@btsd.k12.wi.us
608-989-9835



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Spring Break

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Welcome to 2023! I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and that you were able to spend quality time with family and friends. As we get to the midpoint of the school year, I want to acknowledge our incredible teachers and staff. They are extremely dedicated professionals and I couldn't be more proud. They work every day to support our students and look for ways to improve our teaching and each student's learning.

Making Attendance a Priority

Attendance in school is a high priority this school year for Blair-Taylor Elementary. Over the last several years, the number of students who have been chronically absent has increased significantly. Chronic absenteeism is an important indicator of student engagement and is featured prominently in both state and federal accountability systems in Wisconsin. A student is considered chronically absent if he or she missed more than 10% of possible attendance days.

Regular attendance at school is not only critical to a student's academic success, but it is required by state law (WI 118.15). Research has shown us that chronic absences for any reason, excused or unexcused – have a significant impact on student achievement. Students who regularly miss school are:

- More likely to miss early learning milestones
- Less likely to graduate on time
- More likely to drop out of school
- More likely to experience poor outcomes in adulthood

Attendance Guidelines

- According to State Law:
 - It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility, under Wis. Stat. § 118.15(1)(a) and (am), to cause the child to attend school regularly. If you fail to do so, you may be subject to penalties under Wis. Stat. § 118.15(5).
 - A student is considered truant if he/she is absent without an acceptable excuse for all or part of one or more days during which school is held.
 - A student qualifies to be habitually truant when he/she is absent without an acceptable excuse all or part of five or more days in a school semester.
- A court referral may be initiated and/or a citation issued for a student who is truant.
- *Parent Request Absences:* According to State Law and School Board Policy, parents are allowed 10 days a year for which they can excuse students to be absent for special events, trips, vacations, etc. These 10 days do not include sick days.
- *Sick Days:* According to State Law, the school can request doctor or medical permission/slips for "sick" absences. If evidence of sickness is not provided upon request, absences may be considered unexcused.

Wisconsin Forward Exam

The Wisconsin Forward testing window for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be March 20 - April 28. There will be additional information sent home in student communication folders regarding specific testing dates and times for each grade level. Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th, will be tested in the areas of Math and English Language Arts. Students in 4th grade will also be tested in the areas of Science and Social Studies. As always, we want our students to do their very best on this assessment. Following are some suggestions to help increase student success during the Wisconsin Forward Exam:

- Make sure your child gets to school regularly throughout the entire school year.
- Read with your child every night.
- Ask your child about what they learned at school.
- Have your child eat breakfast at school or at home.
- Have a bedtime routine to ensure students are well-rested and ready to learn.

TITLE I Reading Corner

Hello Families,

What children's book features a pig named Wilbur and his devoted spider friend? If you guessed *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White, you are correct. This Newbery Honor title has been a favorite of many worldwide for decades, and everyone has a chance to read (or reread) this 1952 classic as a family.

One School, One Read is an initiative developed to bring families together through reading. Sounds easy enough, right? It really is that simple. Each family will be issued their own copy of *Charlotte's Web* to read together as a family. A sample reading schedule and interactive activities will be periodically sent home with the students throughout the program. Several staff members have prerecorded each chapter for you to listen to or follow along as you read. A special link will be created on the school district's web page for you to access these recordings and other information about the One School, One Read program.

Thank you to Mrs. McNamer, Blair-Preston Public Librarian, for the generous donation of books. Thank you to each staff member who recorded a chapter to help guide us through the book. Thank you to Mrs. Joten for her tech support during this project. All of your help and support is appreciated.

Families, we hope you enjoy the One School, One Read program this winter. Feel free to let us know what part was your family's favorite. What books would you like us to consider for next year's One School, One Read?

Keep reading and have a safe winter.

Mr. Nelson

Title 1



KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

The date of the Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony has been moved to June 1st in the United Campus Auditorium.

Please join us in celebrating our young learners at 1:30 pm.



ELEMENTARY ART ROOM NEWS:

Students have been hard at work all school year creating and learning in the elementary art room!

Stop by during Parent Teacher Conferences on February 16th and 21st to look at the new art room mural, see what your student has made and learned about this school year, and enter your student into a drawing for an art supply kit!

The District Art Show will be on display between May 8th and May 19th with a reception for the show to take place from 3:30 - 6:00 pm on May 18th. All elementary students will have at least one artwork on display! Join us in celebration of all the creative work our students have made this school year. We can't wait to see you there!



Welcome

NEW BLAIR-TAYLOR STAFF



Bekka Baures, Elementary School Counselor

I am so excited and honored to be joining this amazing community. I am committed to encouraging, supporting, and empowering our students to become their best selves. My passion for school counseling began during my time as a student at Winona State University where I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work and then at UW-Superior where I am currently earning my Master of Science in School Counseling. What I love most about the Elementary level is the genuine curiosity students have in their learning and the world around them, as well as the opportunity for early intervention support that can have a lifetime positive impact on a child. all the support they may need.

Abigail Keenan, High School Physical Education Intern

I am excited to be joining Britton Unverzagt in the High school and Middle school physical education staff for the rest of this school year. I attended college at UW-Eau Claire for Physical education, Health, and Adaptive physical education. I am from Winona, and I have returned there where I live with my boyfriend of 4 years. I enjoy walking and hiking outside, as well as being on the river with friends in the summer. I danced all throughout grade school and still enjoy doing so. I am excited to get to know all the students and staff of Blair-Taylor!



Kristen Fletcher, Elementary Paraprofessional

I am originally from Blair and graduated from the class of 2016. I recently moved back to Blair from Cape Coral, Florida. I live with my fiance Bryce and my two dogs Buddy and Apollo! I am very excited to be a part of the Blair-Taylor School District.





THANK YOU

CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Blair-Taylor School District would like to give a big thank you to all the family and community sponsors that participate in the Christmas project. It is much appreciated and really helps out families in need. It is great to see all the support we have within our community.

FFA

The Blair-Taylor FFA would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Fruit Sale Fundraiser. We raised a substantial amount of money to use toward leadership conferences, conventions, SAE Projects, and other professional learning opportunities. It is because of the tremendous community support that we are able to grow and build the Blair-Taylor FFA Program to be the best it can be. Thank you again!
- Ms. Monson

HANDBELL CHOIR

The 2022 Blair-Taylor Handbell Concert raised \$839 for local charities. Seniors Alexandra Hanson, Hailee Brown, and Evan Nehring chose to sponsor several students for Project Christmas. Extra funds from the concert will be donated to the Trempealeau and Jackson County Humane Societies. Thank you to everyone who braved the winter weather to come to see the concert and to everyone who made a donation to help our community!
- Mrs. Hulne



Blair Taylor High School

YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

ORDER BY:
02/10/2023

To purchase online, go to
jostensyearbooks.com.

Order your yearbook at the lowest price of the year!

For Payments-

Return the order form to the school. Make checks payable to Blair Taylor High School
Pay by credit card online at JostensYearbooks.com
Pay by phone at 1-877-767-5217

*Choose to make 3 easy and automatic payments available when you purchase the yearbook online.

STEP 1: SELECT YOUR PACKAGE
YEARBOOK \$57.00
SIGNATURE PACKAGE \$74.00
 Includes Yearbook, 1 Line of Personalization, Color Autograph Section and 5 Multicolor Signing Markers

★ STEP 2: PERSONALIZE YOUR YEARBOOK FOR \$8.50

NAME
(29 characters max.)

★★ STEP 3: ADD ICONS* FOR \$ 6 . 0 0 EACH

*IMPORTANT: To add icons, you must first purchase personalization in Step 2.

Enter the 4-digit icon code from the chart below into the boxes provided.

Icon 1 Icon 2
 Icon 3 Icon 4

5236	5682	5783	5884	5985	6086	6187	6288	5011
5238	5239	5019	9050	5015	5240	5022	5982	5001
5002	5003	5004	5005	5006	5008	5009	5010	5130
5582	5583	5584	5585	5980	5981	5586	9001	9007
9025	9006	5013	5014	5258	5241	5360	5242	5025
5592	5362	5363	5364	5365	5247	5587	5588	5589
5590	9042	9051	5023	5255	5256	5257	5012	5366
5367	5253	5018	5021	5591	9036	9037		

If you have questions, please call Customer Service at 1-877-767-5217.

✎ STEP 4: ENTER YOUR INFORMATION AND TOTAL YOUR ORDER

Student Name: _____
 Grade: _____
 ID#: _____
 Homeroom: _____
 Contact _____
 Phone: _____

Contact Email:	Price	Quantity	Total
Enter Your Package Price			
Personalization	\$8.50		
Icon(s) ea.	\$6.00 x QTY		
Autograph Section	\$5.00		
Clear Protective Cover	\$5.00		
Photo Pockets	\$5.00		
Donate a Yearbook	\$57.00		
Subtotal			
TOTAL			

YAY! THANKS FOR ORDERING!



SCHOOL DELAYS & CLOSINGS

Student safety is the primary consideration in decisions related to school delays or school closings. Normally, one of three decisions is made. The first may be a late start. In this case, a two-hour school delay is our standard procedure. On "late start" days, there will be no morning Early Childhood, 4- year old kindergarten, or Head Start programs. The second decision we may make is to close school for the day. The third decision is an early release from school, which would normally be at 1:00 pm.

We realize that parents must make childcare arrangements for the day. Therefore, we will try to make school delay or closing decisions by 8:00 pm the night before if possible. In the event that is not possible, we will strive to decide by 6:00 am the day of.

If a decision is made to close school for the day or to have an early release due to inclement weather, all after-school practices and all evening activities and/or events will be canceled.

In the event of school closure, late start, or early release: you will be notified via SCHOOL MESSENGER, which is our communication system (phone message and/or email) used to deliver information to parents and/or guardians.

The below media stations will also carry our school closing information:

WWIS 99.7 FM BRF
WHTL 102.3 FM Whitehall
WKBT CH 8 La Crosse
WEAU CH 13 Eau Claire
WXOW CH 19 La Crescent
WQOW CH 18 Eau Claire
FOX 24/48 La Crosse/ Eau Claire
WAXX 104.5 FM Eau Claire
WAYY 11.50 AM Eau Claire
WECL 92.9 FM Eau Claire
WEAQ 790 AM Eau Claire
WBIZ 100.7 FM Eau Claire
WKTY 580 AM La Crosse
WIZM 14.10 FM La Crosse
Z93 93.3 FM La Crosse
WTRV 95.7 FM La Crosse

MIDDLE-HIGH STUDENTS:

On school closure days, you will be expected to complete remote learning assignments via Google Classroom. You do not need to join your classes' Google Meets, but you do need to complete each of your assignments before the following school day in order to be counted as "present." for class that day.



From the desk of Mrs. Stearns



Mrs. Courtney Stearns
Middle-High School Psychologist
stearc@btsd.k12.wi.us
608-989-2525

Winter
is here.

Do you notice that your student has a harder time with their mental health during the winter months?

It is important to be on the lookout for this and get additional support if needed! Your student could be impacted by **Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)**. With SAD, a person becomes sad or depressed in fall or winter, when days are shorter and it gets dark earlier. SAD is brought on by the brain's response to seasonal changes in daylight. When the daylight hours grow longer again, the depression improves. SAD is also called seasonal depression.

Some signs to watch out for:

- **Changes in mood.** SAD can cause a mood that's sad, depressed, or irritable.
- **Negative thinking.** SAD might cause someone to become more self-critical, or more sensitive to feedback.
- **Lack of enjoyment.** People with SAD may lose interest in things they normally like to do. They may lose interest in friends and stop participating in social activities.
- **Low energy.** People may feel tired, have low energy, or lack motivation to do everyday tasks.
- **Changes in sleep.** They may sleep much more than usual. They may find it especially hard to get up and ready for school.
- **Changes in eating.** SAD may bring on the tendency to overeat. Because of this change in eating, SAD can result in weight gain during the winter months.
- **Trouble concentrating.** Like any depression, SAD can make it hard to focus. This can affect schoolwork and grades.

What can you do?

- Encourage your student to spend some time outside during daylight hours.
- Spend some extra quality time with your student.
- Help them to eat healthy.
- Establish a sleep routine.
- Monitor closely and get help if needed. If you are concerned about your student's mental health, please reach out for help! You know them best and know when they might need support. Places to start with include your student's doctor or a member of the pupil services team at school.

For more information:

<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/sad.html> or
<https://www.childrensmn.org/2020/01/16/seasonal-affective-disorder-what-parents-need-to-know-about-sad/>



From the desk of Ms. Belitz

Child Development Day Screening

Each year the Special Education Department, in conjunction with Western Dairyland Head Start and various agencies, conducts preschool screenings. All children should be screened at least one time prior to kindergarten. Vision and hearing should be checked twice before kindergarten.

Child Development Day is held for students and parents to learn about child development and for the child to be screened for potential need areas. Birth to 3 will be available to screen children as young as 6 weeks old through 2.5 years and the school will screen children older than 2.5 years. This year's Child Development Day will be held on the following days:



Ms. Katie Belitz
Elementary School Psychologist
Special Education Director
belitk@btsd.k12.wi.us
608-989-9835

February 2nd between 5:00pm-8: 00 pm

February 3rd between 9:00am and 11:00 am.

For further information on the pre-school screening process, please contact 608-989-2525. Looking forward to seeing you there!

10 Growth Mindset Statements

What can I say to myself?

FIXED MINDSET

INSTEAD OF:

- I'm not good at this.
- I'm awesome at this.
- I give up.
- This is too hard.
- I can't make this any better.
- I just can't do Math.
- I made a mistake.
- She's so smart. I will never be that smart.
- It's good enough.
- Plan "A" didn't work.

TRY THINKING:

GROWTH MINDSET

- 1 What am I missing?
- 2 I'm on the right track.
- 3 I'll use some of the strategies we've learned.
- 4 This may take some time and effort.
- 5 I can always improve so I'll keep trying.
- 6 I'm going to train my brain in Math.
- 7 Mistakes help me to learn better.
- 8 I'm going to figure out how she does it.
- 9 Is it really my best work?
- 10 Good thing the alphabet has 25 more letters!



From the desk of Mrs. Semb

BROCCOLI POTATO SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups broccoli (chopped)
- 1 onion (small, chopped)
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth, low-sodium
- 1 cup evaporated milk, non-fat
- 1/2 cup mashed potatoes, instant (prepare with water to make 1 cup potatoes; could also use 1 cup leftover mashed potatoes.)
- salt and pepper (to taste, optional)
- 1/4 cup cheddar cheese, shredded (or American)

*Makes 6 Servings

DIRECTIONS

1. Wash hands.
2. Combine broccoli, onion, and broth in a large saucepan.
3. Bring to a boil.
4. Reduce heat. Cover and simmer for about 10 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
5. Add milk to the soup. Slowly stir in potatoes.
6. Cook, stirring constantly, until bubbly and thickened.
7. Season with salt and pepper; stir in a little more milk or water if the soup starts to become too thick.
8. Ladle into serving bowls.
9. Sprinkle about 1 Tablespoon cheese over each serving.

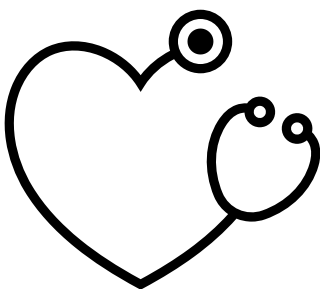


Mrs. Jenny Semb

School Nurse

sembj@btsd.k12.wi.us

608-989-2525



SLEEP AND HEALTH

Adequate sleep contributes to a student's overall health and well-being. Students should get the proper amount of sleep at night to help them stay focused, improve concentration, and improve academic performance.

Children and adolescents who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk for many health problems, including obesity, type 2 diabetes, poor mental health, and injuries. They are also more likely to have attention and behavior problems, which can contribute to poor academic performance in school.

HOW MUCH SLEEP DO STUDENTS NEED?

How much sleep someone needs depends on their age. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine has made the following recommendations for children and adolescents:

- 6 - 12 years old recommended 9 to 12 hours of sleep
- 13 - 18 years old recommended 8 to 10 hours of sleep

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- Model and encourage habits that help promote good sleep. Setting a regular bedtime and rise time, including on weekends, is recommended for everyone—children, adolescents, and adults alike. Adolescents with parent-set bedtimes usually get more sleep than those whose parents do not set bedtimes.
- Dim lighting. Adolescents who are exposed to more light (such as room lighting or from electronics) in the evening are less likely to get enough sleep.
- Implement a media curfew. Technology use (computers, video gaming, or mobile phones) may also contribute to late bedtimes. Parents should consider banning technology use after a certain time or removing these technologies from the bedroom.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

BENEFITS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Regular physical activity can help children and adolescents improve cardiorespiratory fitness, build strong bones and muscles, control weight, Reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression, and reduce the risk of developing health conditions such as:

- Heart disease.
- Cancer.
- Type 2 diabetes.
- High blood pressure.
- Osteoporosis.
- Obesity.



CONSEQUENCES OF PHYSICAL INACTIVITY

Physical inactivity can

- Lead to energy imbalance (e.g., expend less energy through physical activity than consumed through diet) and can increase the risk of becoming overweight or obese.
- Increase the risk of factors for cardiovascular disease, including hyperlipidemia (e.g., high cholesterol and triglyceride levels), high blood pressure, obesity, insulin resistance, and glucose intolerance.
- Increase the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.
- Increase the risk of developing breast, colon, endometrial, and lung cancers.
- Lead to low bone density, which in turn, leads to osteoporosis.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY BEHAVIORS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- Less than one-quarter (24%) of children 6 to 17 years of age participate in 60 minutes of physical activity every day.
- In 2017, only 26.1% of high school students participate in at least 60 minutes per day of physical activity on all 7 days of the previous week.
- In 2017, 51.1% of high school students participated in muscle-strengthening exercises (e.g., push-ups, sit-ups, weight lifting) on 3 or more days during the previous week.
- In 2017, 51.7% of high school students attended physical education classes in an average week, and only 29.9% of high school students attended physical education classes daily.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, CONTINUED

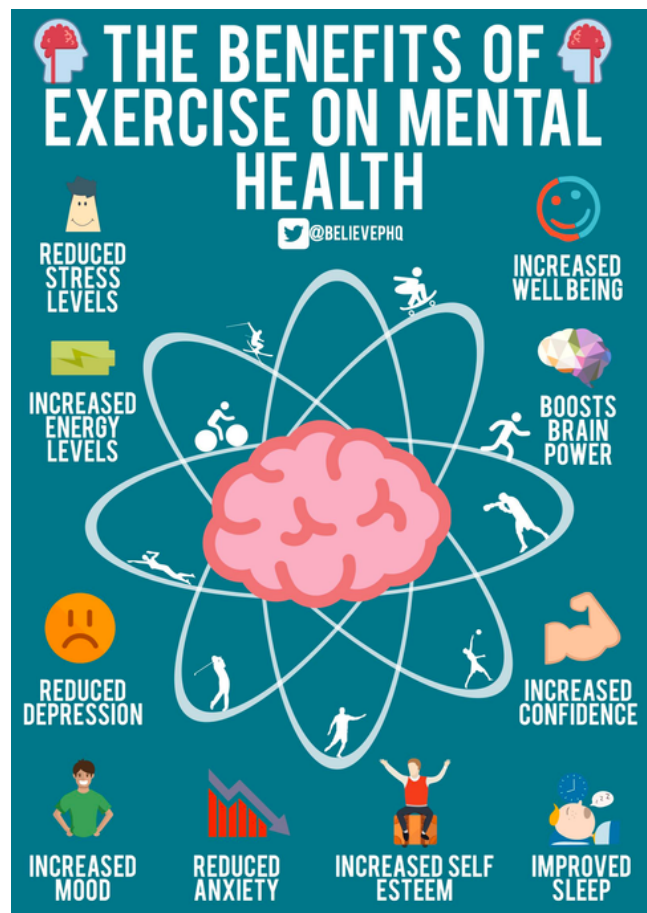
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- **Aerobic:** Most of the 60 minutes or more per day should be either moderate- or vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity and should include vigorous-intensity physical activity on at least 3 days a week.
- **Muscle-strengthening:** As part of their 60 minutes or more of daily physical activity, children and adolescents should include muscle-strengthening physical activity on at least 3 days a week.
- **Bone-strengthening:** As part of their 60 minutes or more of daily physical activity, children and adolescents should include bone-strengthening physical activity on at least 3 days a week.

These guidelines state that children and adolescents be provided opportunities and encouragement to participate in physical activities that are appropriate for their age, that are enjoyable, and that offer variety. The national recommendation for schools is to have a comprehensive approach for addressing physical education and physical activity in schools. This approach is called Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- Students who are physically active tend to have better grades, school attendance, cognitive performance (e.g., memory), and classroom behaviors (e.g., on-task behavior).
- Higher physical activity and physical fitness levels are associated with improved cognitive performance (e.g., concentration, memory) among students.



LIBRARY MATTERS

New Online Resources Provided by the District Library

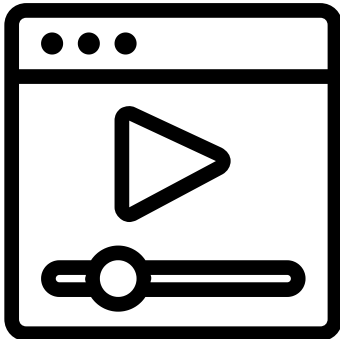
ClickView is an avenue for students and staff to access thousands of educational videos for free. These professionally-done videos are screened/vetted to be sure they are accurate and appropriate. It is also made clear how the videos align with Wisconsin State Standards.



Both staff and students have accounts.

Staff can show videos in class or assign students to watch them later. Many of the videos include supplemental materials, such as quizzes or worksheets/activities. If they wish, teachers can embed questions during the videos to monitor understanding. They also have tools available to monitor how students are utilizing the assigned videos (Do they watch the full video? Re-watch parts? Skip parts?)

Students are not restricted to watching videos that are assigned to them. They are able to use their own account to search for videos to help them to understand troublesome concepts or to learn more about topics that interest them.



In order to log in to their accounts, students and staff need to do the following:

- Make sure they are logged in to their school Google/Gmail account.
- Go to this website: clickview.net
- Click on the orange button that reads: "Sign into ClickView."
- In the space for Username or email address, one should type in their school Gmail address (in its entirety).
- Click on the orange "Next" button below the space where the Gmail address was entered.
- When it shows up as an option, click on the blue button that reads "Blair-Taylor School District."
- If asked to choose a Google account, select one's school district Google account.

Another Successful Book Fair!

We held our annual Book Fair in November. Thank you to our students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members for their outstanding support!

Our goal was to sell 600 books. Based on how much money we made, we estimate that we actually sold 697!

Due to our tremendous sales, we were able to earn \$2500 in Scholastic Dollars for the library, which can be used for a variety of items, including books, furniture, equipment, or digital subscriptions to resources like BookFlix. On top of that, we also raised over \$50 through All For Books donations, which we invested in purchasing new books for the library.



LIBRARY MATTERS

Particularly in our fast-paced world, one challenge a school library faces is ensuring that students and staff are provided with the most accurate, up-to-date information possible.

When it comes to information about all the states and countries of the world, keeping up-to-date books on hand is extremely expensive and takes up considerable shelf space in the library. Sadly, when it comes to these types of books, the library could invest thousands of dollars on new ones, and a few years later, they will already contain inaccurate/outdated information. Taking this into consideration, as well as the fact that many staff members and students already gravitate toward conducting a fair amount of research online, finding an appropriate online database for students to use to conduct research about the world around them seemed like an obvious choice.



Students and staff who are interested in conducting research about the states, countries of the world—geography, politics, and culture—are encouraged to use CultureGrams, which can be found at this link: <https://online.culturegrams.com>

Log-in credentials may be required. Please contact me (jotenk@btsd.k12.wi.us), the United Campus Library, or your child's teacher for the username and password.

Second Trimester Underway

The second trimester at the MS/HS level started on November 28th. While there have been no changes to the schedule and routines we've already established with some grade levels/groups (namely elementary and middle school), the new trimester has resulted in a couple of changes at the high school level.

A number of high school students in distance learning, virtual co-op, or independent classes report to the library during the day, as do some study hall students. Therefore, with the new trimester, we've seen some changes regarding these classes. Then again, as many distance learning (college) classes are on a semester schedule, we continue to see some of the same classes/students that we had first trimester.

Another change is that this trimester, I am teaching a high school Video Editing & Production class. We're just getting started, but I'm excited to see what this fun, creative bunch will produce! (I'm already grateful for and, often, impressed with, the work they've been doing with live streaming!)

As I bring this issue's installment to a close, I thought it'd be fun to share an updated statistic regarding how many books have been checked out so far this school year: →

If you're curious, compared to last year's stats at this time of year, we've seen a dip in circulation at the MS/HS level, but an increase at the elementary. Of course, there could be a number of reasons for these fluctuations, but it is interesting to take note and watch for possible trends.

Book Check-Outs	As of Sept. 20:	As of Dec. 20:
Middle/High School Library	665	1,356
Elementary School Library	1,383	7,423

Are You Following Us On Social Media?

We're not always able to update things as often as we'd like, but we sure do try! If you're interested, here are some ways to engage with the United Campus Library online:

[Elementary Library Facebook Page](#) (Search for "Blair-Taylor Elem. Library" on Facebook)

[Middle/High School Library Facebook Page](#) (Search for "Blair-Taylor MS/HS Library" on Facebook)

–Kimberly Joten, District Library Media Specialist



The open enrollment application period for the 2023 - 2024 school year is from February 6th - April 28th at 4:00 p.m.

What is Open Enrollment?

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

Who can apply?

Any Wisconsin resident in 4K to grade 12 may apply to attend a nonresident school district under the open enrollment program. However, a child may transfer to a nonresident school district for early childhood education or 4K only if the child's resident school district offers the same type of program and only if the child is eligible for that program in the resident school district.

When can parents apply?

The regular open enrollment application period for the 2022-23 school year begins on February 7, 2022, and ends at 4:00 pm on April 29, 2022. The best way to apply is online (a link to the online application is at the top of this page during the application period). Additional information on the regular open enrollment application season can be found on the DIP applications page (<https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications>)

An alternative application procedure allows pupils to apply for open enrollment at any time during a school year if certain criteria are met. For additional information, please visit the alternative application procedures page on the WI DPI website for further information (<https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications/alternative>).

WI DPI OPEN ENROLLMENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email: openenrollment@dpi.wi.gov
or call toll-free: 888-245-2732

Questions may also be directed to the Blair-Taylor District Office
608-989-2525 option 7

Can applications be denied?

Both the nonresident and resident school districts may deny an application for reasons specified in state law. If an application is denied by either the resident or nonresident school district, the parent may file an appeal with the DPI within 30 days. The DPI is required to affirm the school district's decision unless the DPI determines that the decision was arbitrary or unreasonable.

How do students get to school?

Parents are responsible to provide transportation to and from school in the nonresident school district, except that transportation required in a child's IEP must be provided by the nonresident school district. A nonresident or resident school district is permitted (but not required) to provide transportation to open enrolled pupils, however the nonresident school district is prohibited from picking up or dropping off a pupil within the boundaries of the pupil's resident school district unless the resident school district agrees. Low-income parents may apply to the DPI for reimbursement of a portion of their transportation costs.



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent
125 S. Webster Street • Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266-3390 • (800) 441-4563 (Language assistance available)
For telephone accessibility for those who are deaf, deafblind,
or hard of hearing, visit www.wisconsinrelay.com

CURRENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:

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Cell: 507-459-3451
tennet@btsd.k12.wi.us

VICE PRESIDENT:

Perry Kujak

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Cell: 608-797-6160
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CLERK:

David Thompson

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DIRECTOR:

Neil Kniseley

N5451 Pete Coulee Rd.
Taylor, WI 54959
Home: 715-869-0638
knisen@btsd.k12.wi.us

SCHOOL BOARD

**Unofficial Ballot
Nonpartisan Office
Blair-Taylor School District**

April 4, 2023

Notice to Voters: If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by two election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials.

Instructions to Voters: If you make a mistake or have a question, see an election inspector. (Absentee voters: Contact your municipal clerk.)

To vote for a name on the ballot, make an "X" or other mark in the square next to the name. To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name in the space marked "write-in."

District Director At-Large School Board Member Vote for 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Stranberg Staff
Write-in: _____

SAMPLE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS:

**3rd Monday of each month
4th Monday of April and October
United Campus Board Room
5:30 p.m.**

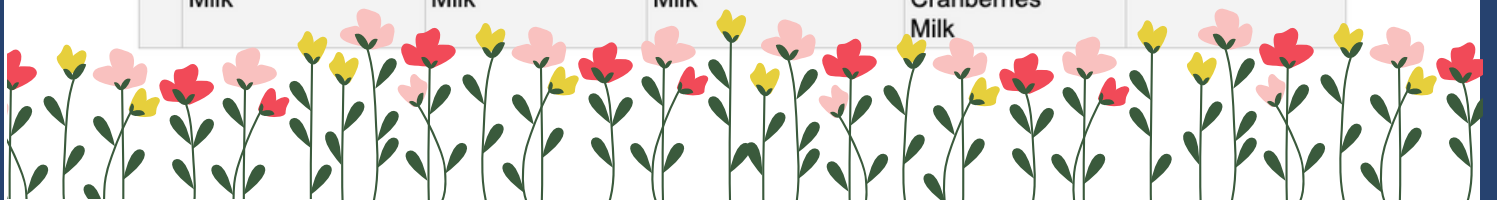


February 2023 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3		
Breakfast	Cinniminis Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Breakfast Bagel Cheese stick Craisins Juice Milk	Yogurt Cheese Stick Blueberries Juice Milk		
	Lunch	Chicken Tenders Sweet Potato Fries Peas Pineapple Scooby Doo Snack Milk	Penne Pasta Red/Meat Sauce Winter blend Garlic bread Mandarin Oranges Milk	Cheeseburger French Fries Mixed Vegetables Peaches Milk	
	Feb 6	Feb 7	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10
Breakfast	Bagel Cream Cheese Apple slices Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Roll Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Scrambled eggs Sausage Craisins Juice Milk	Banana Bread Cheese stick Orange slices Juice Milk
	Lunch	Chicken Fries Hashbrown California blend w/ch Apple slices Milk	Philly Beef Bun Smile fries Corn Pineapple Milk	Cheesy Broccoli Soup Chicken Noodle Soup Breadstick Saltines Cheese stick Peas Applesauce Milk	Chicken Alfredo Pasta Breadstick Winterblend Fruit Cocktail Milk
	Feb 13	Feb 14	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17
Breakfast	Cereal Cheese stick Blueberries Juice Milk	Waffles Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Donuts Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Muffin Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk	Yogurt Cheese stick Strawberry Cup Juice Milk
	Lunch	Corn Dog Baked Beans Doritos Peaches Milk	Calzone Marinara Corn Apple slices Milk	Pulled Pork Bun Sweet Potato Fries Broccoli Fruit Cocktail Milk	Chili Cheesy Breadstick Crackers Peas Applesauce Milk
	Feb 20	Feb 21	Feb 22	Feb 23	
Breakfast	Cereal Bar Cheese stick Fruit Cup Juice Milk	Fruited Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Roll Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese stick Assorted fruit Juice Milk	
	Lunch	Pizza Dippers Marinara Green Beans Pineapple Milk	Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Dinner roll Corn Strawberry Cup Milk	BBQ Bun Sunchips Baked Beans Banana Milk	Mac & Cheese Pretzel Peas Fruit Cocktail Milk

March 2023 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

	Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10
Breakfast	Cereal Cheese stick Blueberries Juice Milk	Omelet Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Long John Cheese stick Craisins Juice Milk	Waffles Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Yogurt Cheese stick Strawberry Cup Juice Milk
Lunch	Quesadilla Salsa Refried Beans Corn Apple slices Milk	Meatloaf Roasted Potatoes Carrots Appleway Bar Peaches Milk	Chicken Filet Bun Smile Fries Broccoli /cheese Fruit Cocktail Milk	Pizza Dippers Marinara Green Beans Pineapple Milk	Meatball Sub Hoagie Bun Potato Wedges Peas Mandarin Oranges Milk
	Mar 13	Mar 14	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17
Breakfast	Muffin Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Roll Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese stick Assorted fruit Juice Milk	Banana Bread Cheese stick Applesauce Juice Milk
Lunch	Chicken Nuggets Deli Roasters Broccoli w/cheese Grapes Cinnamon Crackers Milk	Walking Taco- Frito Taco Meat Shredded Cheese Corn Fiesta beans Tropical Fruit Milk	Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Peas Dinner roll Pears Milk	Philly Beef Sweet Potato Fries Mixed Veggies Pineapple Milk	Pizza Green Beans Peaches Pudding Milk
	Mar 20	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24
Breakfast	Frudel Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Combo Bar Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinniminis Cheese stick Blueberries Juice Milk	Scrambled eggs Sausage Appleway bar Craisins Juice Milk	Waffles Cheese stick Assorted fruit Juice Milk
Lunch	Mac & Cheese Pretzel Carrots Applesauce Fruit Snacks Milk	Hot dog Bun Baked Beans Macaroni salad Doritos Apple slices Milk	Scrambled eggs Sausage Patty Hashbrown Appleway bar Banana Juice Milk	Chicken Tenders Sweet Potato Fries Broccoli w/cheese Pineapple Milk	Tater Tot Hotdish w/Green Beans Mixed Veggies Strawberry Cup Dinner roll Milk
	Mar 27	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31
Breakfast	Cereal Cheese stick Applesauce Juice Milk	French toast Sticks Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Yogurt Granola Cheese stick Blueberries Juice Milk	Mini Bagel Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk
Lunch	Cheeseburger Bun French Fries Peas Peaches Milk	Calzone Marinara California blend w/ cheese Apple slices Milk	Sloppy Joes Baked Beans Sunchips Pears Ice Cream Milk	Turkey Gravy Mashed Potatoes Corn Dinner roll Fruit Cocktail Cranberries Milk	Ravioli Breadstick Carrots Mandarin Oranges Milk



April 2023 Breakfast & Lunch Menu

	Apr 3	Apr 4	Apr 5	Apr 6	Apr 7
Breakfast	Banana Bread Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Long John Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Inservice	No School
Lunch	BBQ Rib Hoagie Bun Curly Fries Cowboy Beans Peaches Milk	Penne Pasta Red Meat Sauce Breadstick Broccoli Pears Milk	Hot Ham & Cheese Bun Smile Fries Carrots Fruit Cocktail Milk		
	Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 12	Apr 13	Apr 14
Breakfast	No School	Cereal Blueberries Cheese stick Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Craisins Cheese stick Juice Milk	Waffles Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk	Egg/Cheese Bagel Cheese stick Orange slices Juice Milk
Lunch		Pizza Dippers Marinara Broccoli Applesauce Scooby Doo Cracker Milk	Hamburger Gravy Mashed Potatoes Dinner roll Corn Mandarin Oranges Milk	Chicken Fries Sweet Potato Fries Peas Apple slices Milk	Hotdog Hotdog Bun Baked Beans Sunchips Peaches Milk
	Apr 17	Apr 18	Apr 19	Apr 20	Apr 21
Breakfast	Yogurt Cheese stick Granola Strawberry Cup Juice Milk	Pancake on a stick Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinniminis Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Waffles Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk	Breakfast Pizza Cheese stick Pear cup Juice Milk
Lunch	Quesadilla Salsa Refried Beans Corn Strawberry Cup Milk	Meatball sub Hoagie Bun Sweet Potato Fries Baked Beans Pineapple Milk	Chicken Filet Bun Smile Fries Broccoli Fruit Cocktail Milk	Cheeseburger Mac Buttered Bread Carrots Peaches Milk	Pizza Green Beans Apple slices Ice Cream Cup Milk
	Apr 24	Apr 25	Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28
Breakfast	Muffin Cheese stick Fruit Cup Juice Milk	Combo Bar Cheese stick Banana Juice Milk	Cinnamon Rolls Cheese stick Grapes Juice Milk	Breakfast Sandwich Cheese stick Craisins Juice Milk	Pancakes Cheese stick Apple slices Juice Milk
Lunch	Chicken Nuggets Deli Roasters Carrots Peaches Snack Crackers Milk	Walking Taco- Fritos Taco Meat Corn Fiesta Beans Tropical Fruit Milk	Meatloaf AuGratin Potatoes Green Beans Banana Dinner roll Appleway Bar Milk	Cheeseburger Bun French Fries Peas Pears Milk	Chicken Alfredo Penne Pasta Broccoli Breadstick Blueberries Milk



Baseball 2023

March 30	Arcadia	4:30 pm
March 31	Brookwood	4:30 pm
April 3	BRF	5:00 pm
April 4	Immanuel	5:00 pm
April 6	at Eleva-Strum	5:00 pm
April 11	Independence	5:00 pm
April 14	Mel-Min	5:00 pm
April 18	at Pepin/Alma	5:00 pm
April 20	at Lincoln	5:00 pm
April 21	at Augusta	5:00 pm
April 24	at Osseo-Fairchild	5:00 pm
April 25	Whitehall	5:00 pm
April 27	CFC	5:00 pm
April 28	at Immanuel	4:30 pm
May 1	GET	5:00 pm
May 2	Eleva-Strum	5:00 pm
May 5	at Independence	5:00 pm
May 9	Lincoln	5:00 pm
May 11	at Mel-Min	5:00 pm
May 12	Pepin/Alma	5:00 pm
May 15	Augusta	5:00 pm
May 19	at Whitehall	5:00 pm
May 22	at CFC	5:00 pm
May 25 - 31	Regional	
June 6 - 13	Sectional/State	

Track 2023

March 21	at Stout	3:30 pm
March 25	at UWL	9:00 am
March 31	at Stout	3:30 pm
April 11	at Bangor	4:00 pm
April 13	at Indee Relays	4:45 pm
April 18	at Luther	4:15 pm
April 20	at Augusta	5:00 pm
April 22	at Cashton	9:00 am
April 24	at Indee	4:00 pm
April 25	at BRF	4:00 pm
April 27	at Royall	4:00 pm
April 29	at UWL	9:00 am
May 2	Blair-Taylor	4:15 pm
May 4	at Whitehall	4:00 pm
May 9	at Mondovi	4:00 pm
May 11	at Mel-Min	4:00 pm
May 15	Rain Date	
May 18	Norse Invite	4:00 pm
May 22	Regional @ Luther	
May 25	Sectional @ Lancaster	
June 2-3	State @ UWL	



Softball 2023

March 28	at Whitehall	5:00 pm
March 30	at Fall Creek	4:30 pm
April 3	Black River Falls	5:00 pm
April 4	Immanuel	5:00 pm
April 6	at Eleva-Strum	5:00 pm
April 10	at CFC	5:00 pm
April 11	Independence	5:00 pm
April 14	Mel-Min	5:00 pm
April 17	at Osseo-Fairchild	5:00 pm
April 18	at Pepin/Alma	5:00 pm
April 20	at Lincoln	5:00 pm
April 21	at Augusta	5:00 pm
April 22	Prescott	12:00 pm
April 24	Loyal	5:00 pm
April 25	Whitehall	5:00 pm
April 27	CFC	5:00 pm
April 28	at Immanuel	4:30 pm
May 1	GET	5:00 pm
May 2	Eleva-Strum	5:00 pm
May 5	at Independence	5:00 pm
May 6	Arcadia Tourney	9:00 am, JV as well
May 9	Lincoln	5:00 pm
May 11	at Mel-Min	5:00 pm
May 12	Pepin/Alma	5:00 pm
May 15	Augusta	5:00 pm
May 18-25	Regional	
May 30 - June 1	Sectional	
June 8-9	State	

Passes for Athletic Events

Athletic Passes for the 2022-23 school year are available for purchase in the district office.

Adult Pass: \$40.00

Senior Pass (62 or older) - Free

GO CATS

School District of Blair-Taylor

N31024 Elland Road

P.O. Box 107

Blair, WI 54616

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WILDCAT NEWS



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