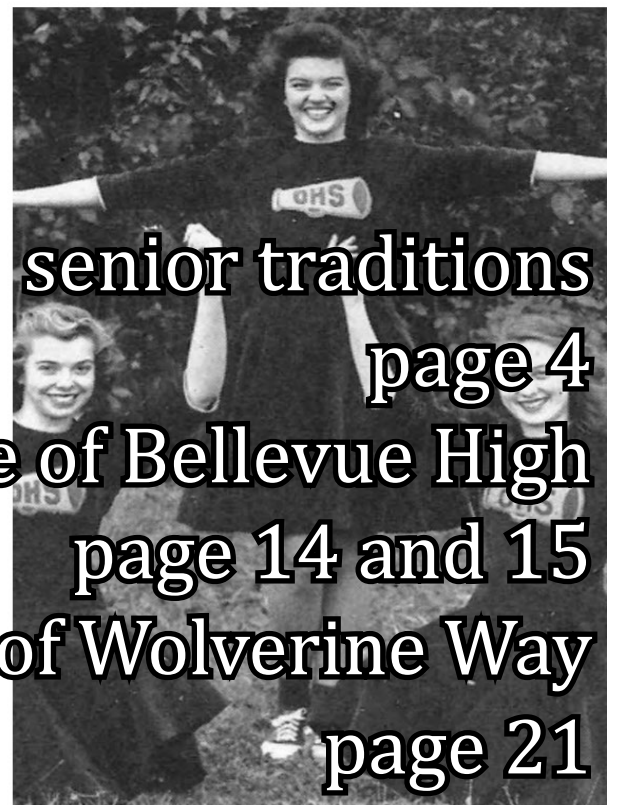
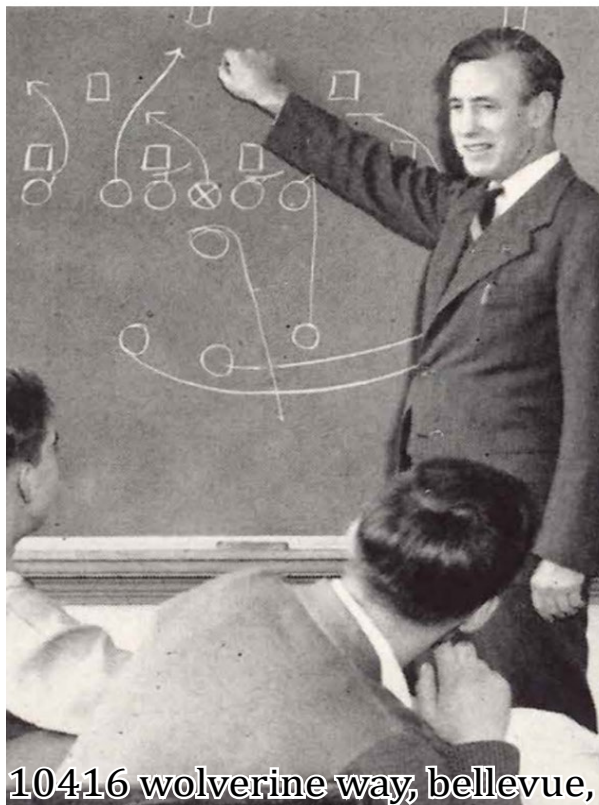


THE BARQUE

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bellevue high school



100
YEARS OF
BHS



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First year: teachers reflect on starting



DERIK ZHU
Clubs Editor

Being a nervous freshman on the first day of school is a memorable experience many have gone through. Just as incoming freshmen take these huge steps forward in their lives, teachers new to the school also face a multitude of newfound experiences and uncertainties as they find themselves adjusting to a different environment. In light of this common occurrence, four longtime teachers shared their unique experiences and memories from their first years at Bellevue High. Their stories - which range from overcoming cultural differences to discovering a sense of true belonging - offer glimpses into both the struggles and successes that teachers have had here.

1. Linda Hurley

For Linda Hurley, current Japanese teacher and mentor to school leadership programs such as ASB and LINK crew, settling in was a difficult experience. As a young teacher new to the country and the district, she not only had to learn about teaching, but social norms as well.

"One of the first lessons of many that I learned from my students was that in America you earn the students' respect; you don't just receive it naturally like in Japan," Hurley said.

Though Hurley was brimming with eagerness, sometimes she was unsure of how to channel it and other times she had to discover her own path forward. This led to her becoming quite busy due to all of the work she had to manage.

"The staff welcomed me, but I was way too busy in my classroom to connect with all the staff in the first year. I spent so much time prepping, even on Saturday and Sunday. I couldn't sleep at night if I didn't have the papers copied and ready to go," Hurley said.

However, because of practice from her first few years at Bellevue High, Hurley is now beloved by all her students and takes on many leadership roles within the Bellevue High community.

2. Chuck Kralovich

Chuck Kralovich, one of the physics teachers, enjoyed a warm and friendly first few years at Bellevue High. Guided by his mentor in the teaching staff in the old school building, he learned the ropes at school.

"My mentor helped me with lesson planning and taught me the unwritten rules of teaching, such as basic etiquette with students and staff that all teachers should know," Kralovich said.

He also felt a lot of warmth from his fellow teachers and his students.

"I was given a tiny room and students were packed into it, which gave it a cozier feeling. Staff members were also friendly to me and I was able to frequently hang out with other teachers in the staff lounge," Kralovich said.

3. Jennifer Townsend

When English teacher Jennifer Townsend arrived at this school, she felt scared and intimidated. Nevertheless, she was welcomed with open arms.

"It was my second year of teaching, and the reputation of the school was up there for sure. However, everyone was very welcoming and colleagues in my department took great care of me in terms of sharing curricula and lesson plans," Townsend said.

One experience she recalls is being nervous about how parents would perceive her come curriculum night.

"I thought I wouldn't be taken as seriously because of my tattoos. However, that was not the case at all, and I've always had a great experience with the parent community here," said Townsend.

The plentiful support from students, parents and teachers alike plus the congenial environment at Bellevue High helped Townsend adapt and truly settle in throughout her first few years here.

"I felt like this was where I needed to be, as if I had found my home. I couldn't get over the fact

that this whole space of my classroom was mine," Townsend said.

4. Randy Litzenberger

Randy Litzenberger, a reliable longtime history and civic teacher here, also felt overwhelmed as a new teacher at the school.

"Everything was new to me when I started teaching at Bellevue High in 1998. I was 24 years old and trying to figure out teaching as a career," Litzenberger said.

However, with support from students and staff, his first years were enjoyable and he learned a lot.

"I remember students like Marques Barnes always laughed at my jokes during first period, and Anne Katri remains one of the smartest students I've ever had. I absolutely would not have survived my first year without [teachers] Lori Alexander, Dave Sherbrooke, Stephen Miller and Jeremy Best. Each of these outstanding teachers was an experienced veteran who showed me how to be a professional," Litzenberger said.

Though these teachers all had their own separate journeys to get to where they are now, their stories are remarkable and demonstrate the fantastic community at Bellevue High.



FRESH ON THE BLOCK: Kimberly Richardson's first year as an ELA Teacher at Bellevue High is 2023. She has found a similar network of support as veteran teachers have had.

History of racial diversity at Bellevue High



HOJOON SUNG
Business Assistant

Though it can be difficult to imagine the school any other way, Bellevue High has undergone innumerable changes since its establishment in 1923. The school has experienced five major wars, three economic crashes and seventeen presidents during its 100 years of existence, all of which have shaped the school into what it is today.

One of the most important aspects of Bellevue High's history has been its student body. From its humble farmer beginnings to its big tech workers today, Bellevue's ethnic makeup has changed dramatically.

Carol Schmidt, a world history teacher at BHS who has done extensive work on the history of the school's student body, explains what the school looked like 100 years ago.

"[Bellevue High in the 1920s] was mostly Japanese and white... Japanese farmers who were near Wilburton could send their kids here, and the areas they lived in got incorporated into the school district," Schmidt said.

Thanks to the growing industry and the 1848 Gold Rush, Japanese immigrants arrived in great numbers in the American frontier entering the 20th century. As immigration increased, Bellevue High School grew and diversified rapidly.



LOOKING BACK: Carol Schmidt examines old yearbooks to study the history of the student body at Bellevue.

"Bellevue went from having just three seniors in 1924 to 51 seniors by 1942... ten of which were Japanese," Schmidt said.

However, everything would change in 1942 as President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066.

"The community was growing so fast, but by 1948-1949, there would have been no Japanese here at the time," Schmidt said.

E.O. 9066 forced all Japanese Americans on the West Coast to relocate to military internment camps, where they faced brutal conditions and discrimination. Often far from home, many Japanese Americans struggled to return home, or chose not to, and the Pacific Northwest's demographics again shifted towards Caucasians. Though the Truman administration made a formal apology and compensations with the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act, the effect was done: Bellevue High School's racial diversity plummeted.

"This was the whitest school well up into the '70s and '80s," Schmidt said.

Bellevue's diversity finally saw an uptick in the 1990s, as economic deregulation allowed corporations and large businesses to flourish. With more jobs than ever, a new wave of immigrants arrived in the U.S., ready to diversify Bellevue once more.

"We started to get bigger numbers of Koreans... and then we started to see a real uptick in both Hong Kong Chinese, Taiwanese and [Chinese] mainlanders coming here," Schmidt said.

Often highly specialized workers, many East and South Asian immigrants came to the U.S. seeking positions in tech companies like Amazon and Microsoft. As many of these companies relocated to Seattle, the city's population skyrocketed, and more people began to settle in nearby suburbs like Bellevue.

Senior Gary Zhou, whose family immigrated to the U.S., explains how Bellevue appealed to his family for its familiar climate and growing Asian community.

"It was sort of like following a trend... it was a snowball effect," Zhou said.

Today, Bellevue has a 50% minority population, which is reflected in its diverse array of restaurants, stores, and local businesses. In 2017, it was ranked 11th in the nation for cities with the highest percentage of Asian residents, and at Bellevue High, 57% of the student body is Asian, Hispanic, Black, multiracial or other.

Whether it's the original Japanese farmers or the South and East Asian immigrants today, Bellevue High's student body reflects the city's rich history, which will always be an invaluable aspect of the school.

Renovation and Tradition: the BHS Building

MICHAEL MASTERS
Marketing Manager

Bellevue High School has a rich history dating back a century. Throughout its existence, the school building has undergone various remodels, additions, and name changes, reflecting the evolution of the Bellevue community and its educational needs.

The story of Bellevue High School begins in 1924 when the original school building, known as Bellevue Union High School, was constructed on a plot of land on Bellevue Way. The two-story brick structure served as the primary educational institution for the growing town of Bellevue and its surrounding areas. Over time, however, the school's facilities proved inadequate to accommodate the increasing student population.

In 1938, a major remodel and expansion project took place, transforming the original building into a larger, more modern facility. This renovation included the addition of new classrooms, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. With these improvements, Bellevue Union High School provided its students with a more comprehensive and diverse educational experience.

The following decades saw the further growth of the Bellevue population, leading to increased demand for educational facilities. As a result, in 1951, a new wing was added to the existing structure to accommodate the growing student population. This expansion provided additional classrooms and administrative offices, ensuring that Bellevue High School could meet the needs of its students effectively.

In the early 1970s, the Bellevue School District constructed a new high school building to replace the aging structure. The new building was completed in 1973 and named Bellevue Senior High School. This modern facility featured state-of-the-art

classrooms, a library, science laboratories and athletic facilities. In addition, the new building was also designed to foster a dynamic learning environment and provide students with access to a wide range of educational resources.

As the community continued to grow and the educational landscape evolved, the school's name changed again. In 1983, Bellevue Senior High School became Bellevue High School.

During the remodeling process, one of the auxiliary gyms was planned to be a pool; however, the construction workers built the pool without space for a pool deck, so people would've entered the water when opening the door. Since this design was dysfunctional, the pool was filled with concrete, and another auxiliary gym was created.

"The fact that Bellevue should've had a pool is a story that is passed down every year to the new swimmers with sighs of frustration, lamenting on how nice it would've been for us to have a pool in our high school," class of 2023 alumni Ricardo Larrondo said.

Bellevue High School experienced further updates and renovations in the following years to accommodate changing educational needs and technological advances. Modernization efforts included the addition of computer labs, improved athletic facilities, an updated performing arts center, and upgraded classrooms. These enhancements ensured that Bellevue High School remained at the forefront of educational excellence and could adapt to the evolving demands of the 21st-century learning environment.

Today, Bellevue High School is a landmark in the Bellevue community, representing a long-standing commitment to quality education. The building has symbolized the area's growth and progress throughout the years. With its modern amenities and dedication to fostering academic

achievement, Bellevue High School continues to prepare students for success in higher education and the professional world.

"One of the things I love most about Bellevue is that it feels like a mixture between the past and present, with a lot of the brick focus on the exterior reminding me of the past and all the people that came before us while the amount of windows and the modern feel of the interior reminds me that we as active students are the future, and it's very inspiring to me," senior Isabel Cai said.

The history of the Bellevue High School building is a testament to the evolution of Bellevue. As Bellevue High School moves forward, it remains a cornerstone of the community, ensuring that future generations receive a well-rounded education in a modern and supportive environment.



THE FIELD: Pictured on top is the modern Bellevue High Football Field. Below is the field before renovation. Bellevue, as a building, has experienced many changes.

ALL GRAPHICS / MADELINE MASTERS

PHOTO: JI PENDERCAST





Brody Ruckhaber
Sports Editor

The deepest stages of the pandemic changed many aspects of everyday life. Overall, online school pushed students to new heights as they grew with the challenges that they faced.



Natalie Birkeland
Editorial Editor

Iconic senior traditions through the years

Throughout the years at Bellevue High School one thing has stayed the same: senior traditions. Generations of senior classes have established traditions that still carry on to this day. Many of these traditions are sacred to seniors and have all juniors sitting on the edge of their seats waiting for their turn. As an incoming senior myself I am excited to share some of these fun traditions with you.

1. Senior takeover. As the current senior class graduates and the juniors transition to seniors, a special event that takes place is

senior takeover. This event is a student-run and not affiliated with Bellevue High School. Senior takeover is where groups of incoming seniors have younger underclassmen (typically a junior) drive them to different locations decided by the organizers. At each location all the incoming seniors gather to hangout and bond before their last year of high school.

"I got first-hand experience at this event in the summer of 2022, I drove my senior friends around the event. It was a blast to get to watch the senior class bond and have tons of fun before heading into their final year," junior Charlie Dyer said.

2. Senior Sunrise. After a nice long summer filled with sun and water fun, the seniors come back to school in September for one last year at Bellevue. To kick off this year, the seniors come together for another fun bonding experience. This special tradition has been around for many years and does not need a lot of explanation. All the seniors come together a few hours before school starts so that they can sit on the auxiliary field and watch the sunrise together. They bring blankets and pillows to cuddle up with their friends, building a sense of community with the new seniors. After the sun rises over our beauti-



SMILE FOR SUNRISE: The class of 2024 gathers on the field for their first and last senior sunrise ever. They were super excited for this event as it is something students look forward to all four years of high school.

ful school, there is usually still about an hour or so before class starts, so many students choose to go get breakfast with their classmates. One hot spot currently to go get breakfast with friends is Chace's Pancakes Corale. A fun way to spend the morning before class is to catch some breakfast and coffee with friends after an early wake up.

3. Senior Assassin. Probably the fan favorite of senior traditions is the classic senior assassin (not affiliated with BHS). This is one of the most intense times of the year. At the beginning of May, all the seniors will chip in five to ten dollars to enter the contest. An underclassman will randomly pair up each person with someone to eliminate each other with a water gun. The goal of the game is to stay alive and eliminate your target. The person who stays alive the longest while eliminating their targets wins the prize money. It's a dog-eat-dog world during this time. There is a plethora of rules in place to make sure that the game is fair. Some including that you cannot eliminate your opponent on school grounds during school hours or on any of the sports fields. However, you can team

up with your opponent's friends to trick them into trusting you and then you shoot them with the water gun. It's a month of intense strategizing and no trust of those around you. This has been a classic senior tradition for many years.

4. Prom. BHS prom is a very special event that makes for a final night of fun with the whole senior class as well as any underclassmen that are invited. Nothing is more fun than tearing up the dance floor with your best friends. Prom is a landmark in senior traditions and is a great time to commemorate the last moments with the people you have known for the past four years.

As a new class becomes seniors, we are excited to continue these traditions.

PHOTO / BELLEVUE ASB

May Koh
Copy Editor

The Bellevue Collection; one of our city's staples



Whether it is hanging out with friends, grabbing a bite to eat, or even looking for a job, one place always comes to mind: the mall. Since 1946, The Bellevue Collection has been a prominent source of entertainment for people of all ages, including many students at Bellevue High.

"I have gone to the mall since I was in elementary school; it's such a nostalgic place for me now," junior Sanya Tiwana said.

Home to over 200 retail stores and a plethora of restaurants and food vendors, there are countless things to do at Bellevue Square. Whether you are buying new clothes at Aritzia and Free People or grabbing a bite from Panda Express, the collection is suitable for all activities and all ages. Now, many avid shoppers of Bellevue High still regularly visit the stores of the Bellevue Collection.

"I love Bellevue Square so much, it's such an amazing environment! There's a wide variety of clothing places, but honestly it could use more food options. Overall, a great place to meet friends and hang on weekends and after school. Parking is easy to get in and out of and hours are super reasonable. Also, if you're ever looking for Sanya Tiwana and Sophia Taylor, they will most likely be in Aritzia," senior Shaina Fitzpatrick said.

Many weekends and after school afternoons are spent browsing the racks at various stores, looking for new outfit's other goods. Any shopping for back to school, new seasons or big events can be done at the Bellevue Collection. Anything and everything one's heart desires is guaranteed to be hidden in one of the many venues here.

Many students at BHS who share the nostalgic memory of frequenting the walkways of the mall in their middle school and elementary years now see it in a new light: jobs. As one gets older, the thought of making money and not relying on parents becomes extremely enticing.

"The mall was a fun place to run into familiar faces and I got to chat with a lot of interesting people from all walks of life while rolling cinnamon rolls," senior Kieran Fitzpatrick said.

There is an abundance of opportunities for teens at the Bellevue collection; whether it is in retail or a coffee shop, wishes for a first job can be granted here. Being able to work behind the counter and see friends and peers from a whole new perspective is eye-opening for many teens and gives the mall a whole new meaning. The mall is a place for both fun and entertainment, as

well as new learning opportunities and experiences, prominent in every bit of a Bellevue kids' childhood.

The Bellevue Collection celebrated their 75th anniversary just shy of two years ago, following behind Bellevue High School's 100 years. It has become a staple in childhoods of multiple generations, serving as a place for community, connection, and entertainment.

Although the mall is loved by most Bellevue kids, there is still a group that feels they have outgrown it.

"I loved going to the mall when I was younger, and playing at kid's cove was the highlight of my weekends. Now, it just feels crowded and boring, and I feel like there's not much to do there except just walk around. I feel like there's lots of other things I would rather do than be at the mall, so I rarely go anymore," senior Pat Preecha said.

Shopping at the same stores and eating at the same places may grow old after a decade of going there, and many high schoolers can agree that other activities are more enticing than roaming the halls at the mall.

But the known truth is, no matter if the Bellevue Collection isn't one's go-to meet up spot now, it has been a part of and impacted the lives of countless people. And it is a given that this array of food and stores will continue to entertain and impact the lives of the new generations to come.



Bellevue Shopping Square, late 1940s

THROWBACK: The parking lot of the mall in the late 1940s preceeding its renovation. This would not provide nearly enough space for its popularity today.

PHOTO / DOWNTOWN BELLEVUE NETWORK

ALL GRAPHICS / MADELINE MASTERS



A Glimpse into the Voices of Bellevue

KOSHA UPADHYAY
Inclusivity Manager

Recognized as the voices of Bellevue, choir has been working tirelessly to effectively represent the community at Bellevue High School.

Although the founding of choir is relatively unknown, major work was done in developing choir from the 60s through the 80s by choir directors Jim Taylor and Judy Buckmaster. Since then, teacher Andrew Jacobson has taken choir under his wing.

Despite its changing management and situation, one major aspect of choir has remained constant: the goal.

"At choir, we aim to encourage community, foster a sense of belonging and encourage good artistry," Jacobson said.

To reach this goal, choir has been taking extra measures to encourage diversity and social activism.

When we think of the songs sung by choir, we often think of old, boring classical music; however, the opposite is true.

"A few years back, I had a student from Russia, so we did some Russian music. I try to find the passions and the loves of the students and incorporate it in class," Jacobson said.

Music represents the culture and immense history of people. To account for this, choir tries to incorporate as many different styles of music as possible such as gospel, Latin, traditional African, Indian music, and much more.

Furthermore, choir also works to support each student involved.

Initially choir only had two classes but expanded to four classes to support the diverse musical levels at Bellevue: concert choir, treble choir, chorale and Bellairs.

Concert choir is open to anyone who is interested in singing, while treble, chorale and Bellairs are audition-based.

Across all classes, vocal coaches are offered to each student in case they need further support in developing their singing technique.

Choir's support extends past its students to the Bellevue High community and beyond.

During MLK assemblies, choir especially picks songs that stand with African Americans and their struggles. Additionally, during the Covid pandemic, choir organized a virtual concert to spark hope and bring joy.

"Music will continue. And when we sing, we will keep singing. When we come together, it will all be sweeter," Jacobson said while introducing the concert.

Nonetheless, organizing an entire choir is no small task and there have been plenty of challenges throughout the years.

"The biggest challenge is getting bodies through the door," Jacobson said. This is largely due to the anxiety and stigma associated with joining choir.

Many are afraid to join choir because they are anxious about singing in front of others. Similarly, getting male voices in choir is difficult as well due to the stereotypes surrounding it.

"There sometimes is negative stigma around choir and I had the fear of being labelled a 'choir kid.' But after joining choir, it was so much fun, I made a lot of friends and am excited to continue next year!" junior Alex Tran said.

Even though there may have been some setbacks in choir's journey, they have nonetheless persevered and have had some significant milestones.

Every year, to display their accomplishments and talent, choir organizes four concerts. While these four concerts may range in location and type, in the past choir has sung at graduations, elementary schools and Disneyland.

Their most recent concert was "We Will Rock You," where they sang classic rock songs from the Beatles and Queen.

Music is such an integral part of our lives so much so that we have begun to view it as ordinary.

However, it is the exact opposite—music has the ability to unite people and can serve as a catharsis.



A GRAND PERFORMANCE: The Bellevue Choir singing a variety of choral music like standard classic, folk, and American at an evening concert in front of a large crowd.

PHOTO / COLIN MILLER

All the Plays and Shows of Bellevue High

SYDNEY TAM
Focus Editor

Bellevue High has been performing plays and shows ever since 1924, and even after 99 years, Bellevue continues to put on outstanding shows, never failing to entertain their audiences no matter what genre of the play. Every year, the school offers a variety of performances, and its productions are always very impressive. The performing arts ensures that every student is highlighted, whether it be a leading role or a technical position. The program also encourages students to hone not only their acting, singing, and production skills but also teaches them teamwork, discipline, and time management.

"My experience in theater is great, the community is very welcoming, and the class is such a fun way to learn skills like improv, public speaking, and writing/performing a script," junior Audrey Grays said.

Bellevue High School's theater is currently led by director David Kline, who has directed over 50 shows at Bellevue and is also an award-winning writer. Furthermore, Bellevue High's theater program welcomes many talented student actors and allows their students to pursue their acting careers. Below is a list of many of the early plays that Bellevue has performed over the years:

1924: "Captain of Plymouth"; 1925: "Princess Chrysanthemum"; 1926: "Welcome Home, Jimmy," "Her Son's Sweetheart," "The Little Rogue Next Door," "The Belle of Barcelona"; 1927: "Assisted by Sadie," "Come Out of the Kitchen"; 1928: "In the Spring a Young Man's Fancy," "If Men Played Cards as Women Do," "Maker of Dreams"; 1929: "All for Chloe," "In the Next Room"; 1930: "The Whole Town's Talking," "The Passing of the Third Floor Back"; 1931: "A Girl to Order," "Turn Him Out," "Do Men Gossip?," "For the Love of Money"; 1932: "The Hidden Guest"; 1933: "Kempy, Man or Mouse," "The Dead of Night," "She Stoops to Conquer," "Betty Lou"; 1934: "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Jewels of the Desert"; 1935: "Little Women," "The Hermit's House," "Cinderella," "Ask the Professor"; 1936: "Much Ado About Nothing," "Drums of Death"; 1937: "Laugh Clown," "The Whole Town's Talking," "Melinka of Astrakhan"; 1938: "Wasps's Nest," "The Arrival of Kitty," "The Trysting Place," "The Valiant," "The Dear Departed," "Girl Shy"; 1939: "The Late Christopher Bean," "A Ready Made Family," "Happy-Go-Lucky," "Oh Doctor"; 1940: "Trail of the Lonesome Pine," "Cupid Scores Again," "Mamma's Baby Boy"; 1941: "The Bellevue Murder Mystery," "Love Goes South"; 1942: "What's Cookin?," "The Call of the Banshee," "Who's Boss?"; 1943: "Cross My Heart"; 1945: "You Can't Take It With You"; 1946: "Footloose"; 1947: "Tiger House, One Wild Night; 1948:

Ever Since Eve, Footloose; 1949: The Gay Nineties Revue, What A Life; 1950: Our Hearts Were Young and Gay, Mother Is a Freshman.

"I enjoy having the opportunity to express myself and to perform in theater. Each production has been very enjoyable to be a part of great cast members, sets, and amazing directing that brings things that would never be possible to life," Grays said.

Bellevue High has hosted and put on an assortment of plays of different genres such as comedy, mystery and romance. Bellevue Theater always outdoes itself. The student actors constantly inspire others by sharing their passion for live theater performance. The school's commitment to the performing arts extends beyond the stage, as students involved in the shows benefit from a rich educational experience and the feeling of what it's like to be performing with a cast. With a supportive community, dedicated educators, and passionate students, Bellevue High's shows and plays continue to be a source of pride and inspiration for the entire school community.

As the years go by, Bellevue's collection of plays continues to grow more expansive, and something that students look forward to every year. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for Bellevue's theater!



THE THEATRE DEPARTMENT: Drama students take the stage in one of BHS' memorable plays.

PHOTO / COLIN MILLER

LILLY ROBILLARD
Editor-in-Chief

The history of the Beacon yearbook



ALL GRAPHICS / CHRISTINA LIU



PHOTO / COLIN MILLER

BIG SMILES: Senior Amber Serres admiring the pictures of class of 2023, from Beacon's previous yearbook.

I want to preface this by acknowledging that the rivalry between The Barque and Beacon still stands. This is no peace treaty, but Beacon has a history that is undeniably crucial to our school.

The first Beacon was produced in 1925, a time when Bellevue was vividly different from today. There is a 1924 edition of The Reflector which features Bellevue High School, and it is possible this may have been an inspiration for the yearbook.

The yearbook did not look like the hardcover, digitally designed book that we know today. The first editions of Beacon looked like pamphlets, featuring a significantly larger amount of writing than newer editions, similar to what you would see in a newspaper. Just like our current yearbooks, Beacon used to feature class pictures. However, in contrast to our current ones, they used one big class photo and included satirical descriptions of each student below the image.

The Barque staff has been featured in each yearbook since its creation, but their rivalry was not as clear back in the day. What is now a place to make shallow digs at the school newspaper used to be filled with lists of the paper's accomplishments as well as compliments for the hard work of the organization.

Our sports teams and clubs can also be seen in all editions of these books, but the difference in team composition as well as available activities widely broadened as time went on. Clubs such as Girls Glee Club and Skiing Club can be seen featured in some of the different editions; clubs such as these do not exist today but were staples in the BHS community back in the day.

Many prominent world events such as World War II, the Great Depression and COVID-19 have taken place through BHS history, and throughout these Beacon continued. The addition of color to the pages of the yearbook has significantly contributed to its shift from

writing to a primarily photo-based book. A change in organizational hierarchy also influenced the Beacons development.

Beacon leadership positions used to include Art Editor, Editor-in-Chief (EIC), and Business Manager. Now, due to the process of creating the yearbook becoming much more technical, many more staff members are in leadership positions than before. Beacon now has three EICs and an editing staff consisting of Senior Ads, Student Life, Seniors, Sports, Underclassman, Clubs, Academics, Family and Marketing Editors.

As time went on and printing services as well as digital design platforms became increasingly accessible, our yearbook gradually formed into what it was today. Each year, students line up to get their edition of the yearbook, and these are mementos they keep for the rest of their lives.

"I'd say it's really molded into the community of Bellevue over the years recording so many traditions and really becoming an iconic keepsake," senior Kaia Liffick said.

Book signing has become much less popular through the years. Pages dedicated to getting signatures from your peers are filled less and less, and how many times you can get HAGS written on one page no longer remains important to students. Besides the seniors, many choose not to get their yearbook signed at all.

Older yearbooks are available on the BSD library website. From changes in demographics and extracurriculars to student government and technology these books allow us easy access to so much of our unique history. These books allow us to keep vital pieces of our high school experience forever and we cannot wait to see what they produce this year.

LAUREN YIM
Graphic Designer

The evolution of different art classes at BHS

Bellevue High School offers a variety of art classes; from performing arts classes such as concert band, symphonic band and drama, to visual classes like ceramics, computer graphics and costume design; each class proposes a unique set of skills to students. From the long history of Bellevue's bands to the newer history of classes like steel drums. Despite Bellevue's notoriety as a sports school, boasting many accolades in football, lacrosse and the likes performing arts are also a hallmark and integral part of its culture.

Bellevue has long been known for its accomplished bands, most notably, the jazz band, which has triumphantly won numerous festivals and even hosts the Bellevue High Jazz Festival. The annual event was born in 1982 and has been going strong for forty-one years since. The festival spans two days and invites middle, junior and high school bands.

Recently, music programs have been facing heavy cuts to funding—Seattle's Washington Middle School faced severe budget restrictions which cut the program nearly in half.

Similarly at Mountlake Terrace High School in Snohomish county, funding was reduced heavily, which is threatening to end the school's band, choir and drama classes. The BHS Jazz Festival raises money for Bellevue's band programs, in hopes that budget cuts will not end music courses like it has in other parts of Washington.

Despite the popularity of Bellevue's band classes, some of its lesser-known classes offer just as much in terms of enjoyment (for example, the steel drums classes which are often times not appreciated when schedule applications roll around.) Interestingly, the steel drums BHS has now, were acquired from a middle school, where they sat in storage. The class has seen an on-and-off history due to a lack of interest and a lack of people signing up. This year, unfortunately, the class was not offered.

"Steel drums is a class that we've offered in the past and it's exciting to be able to offer a class for people that haven't played an instrument before and gain instrumental experience," band teacher Edd George said.

Aside from the music side of the performing arts department, Bellevue has a lively drama and theater scene, putting on shows regularly, including Camp Sasquatch and Legally Blonde and plays like Crimson House and Dracula.

"One of the reasons Bellevue High School is so academically strong as it is, is because it's artistically sound. The drama department has been here for one-hundred years since we actually started," drama teacher David Kline said.



As Kline and Rajesh put it, the drama department has a pivotal role within Bellevue's rich tapestry of culture and history, from the dawn of the school, the department has stood the test of time and continues to flourish into the present, having everlasting effects extending even beyond the confines of BHS's own theater.

While Bellevue certainly has a formidable music and drama department, the history of visual arts at BHS similarly rivals it. A lot of classes at Bellevue have a lengthy archive and the visual art courses are no exception. For decades of Bellevue High School's existence, Draw and Paint, Ceramics and Metal Design and Jewelry have been offered.

The visual arts department gives students an abundance of classes to choose from, including computer-based design and the more familiar traditional arts. An uncommon but nonetheless popular course is Metal Design and Jewelry; a class which has been at Bellevue for decades. In the course, students learn a variety of skills related to jewelry fabrication such as polishing, stone setting and also components of design.

"It's an easy class and super cool, because you get to make things you can actually wear out of copper, gold, silver, and ceramics," sophomore Felissa Gill said.

As Gill puts it, Metal Design and Jewelry is a class that engages students' creativity to produce an end product straight from their imaginations; students use a variety of materials and techniques to create a unique piece. In terms of arts, whether they are performing or visual, Bellevue provides rich opportunities that accompany extensive histories, dating back to the very creation of the school.



PHOTO / COLIN MILLER

HARD AT WORK: One of Ms. Yale's many art classes is drawing and planning in their sketchbooks.

A century of the top fashion trends



KATE PETERSON
Photo Team

Throughout the years, we have experienced an evolution of style trends. As we celebrate 100 years of BHS, taking a look back at what high schoolers wore back in the 1900s is a shock to today's fashion. But the real question is, will leg warmers from the '80s be making a comeback by the 2024-2025 school year?

Back in the 1920s, the popular fashion was more conservative and modest compared to what is now. Many high school girls wore dresses that fell just past their knees. Long skirts with bar strap shoes and tucked-in flowy blouses were the look. Girls wore cardigans over their ruffled cotton dresses and wore their hair short and neatly done. By the 1960s, girls averted to showing more skin. As styles evolved into the '80s, women were into fishnets, legwarmers and neon colors. The classic scrunchie from the '90s even made a comeback for about a year back in 2020. Now, in 2023, high school girls tend to wear clothes that are more form-fitting. Looking back at photos of high school girls in the 1920s, you'd rarely ever see a girl wearing a cropped top or showing any mid-section. It just wasn't a normality amongst the girls during that era. In current day, a high school girls go-to outfit consists of a baby tee, high-rise jeans and some sneakers; quite contrary to shoe styles from the 1920s called 'bar shoes.' These were closed-toe sandal looking shoes that had a simple design with a heel, single strap and button to fasten. This is quite contrary to what most teenage girls wear to school today. Sophomore Stella O'Connor was voted 'most stylish' in last year's yearbook.



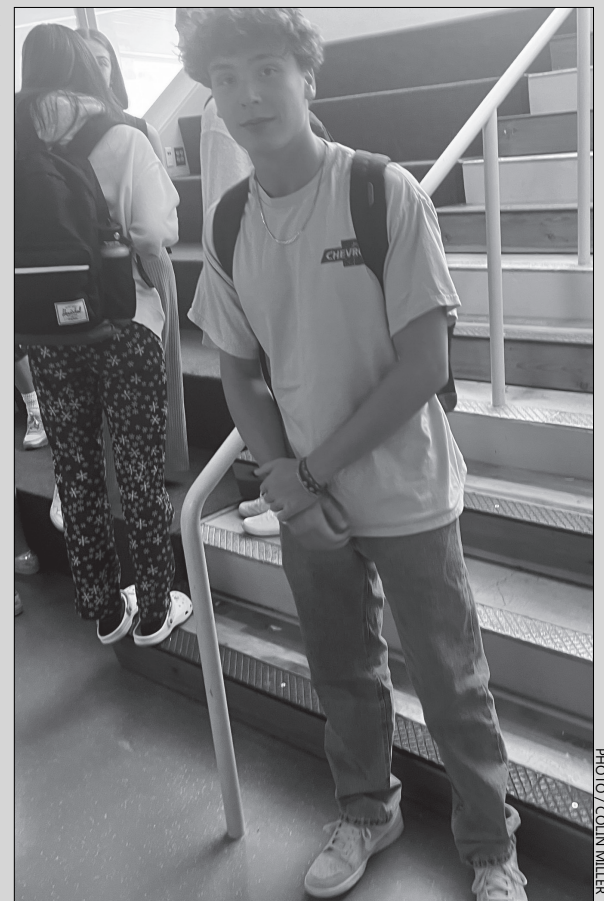
"I like to be casual and comfy for school but still put together. My inspiration is clean girl aesthetic," O'Connor said.

On the other hand, teenage boys fashion over the past century has become much more informal than it was in the 1920s. Many boys wore long trousers, dress shirts or casual knitwear, and sometimes even three-piece suits with flat caps to school. Boys during this era kept their hair short and neatly done up. As styles evolve later into the 1900s, a bomber jacket over a white t-shirt was a must-have for a high school boy. Boys also tended to wear their hair longer and more freely than in the '20s.

The '80s were a golden era for denim. Double denim looks and acid washed jeans was a look everyone strived for. The '80s era had some iconic fashion moments, including statement shirts, padded shoulders and even neon pants. In today's era, you'll catch middle-aged boys in more of an athleisure type fit. You'd never catch a teenage boy in a 3-piece suit at school, except maybe on varsity boys lacrosse gamedays in the spring. Forget the rest of the attire, shoes can carry an outfit.

"I was in high school during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Everyone in my days wore acid wash jeans with no rips, and either Nike or Adidas shoes," history teacher Randy Litzenberger said.

Over this time period, not only did the shoes evolve from confined boots to Nike dunks, the length of boy's hair also progressively lengthened. Although this is a general statement, the flow in 2023 is arguably much more luscious than the flow in 1923. Looking over the past 100 years, we've seen many styles come and go.



FIT CHECK: senior Henry Boettcher showing off his stylish outfit. Recently Bellevue students have adapted throwback fashion trends into their wardrobes.

PHOTO / COLIN MILLER

Bellevue's renowned jazz band program

SADIE FADER
Opinion Editor

You know it, you love it, and BHS has it: jazz. Every day, a select group of students wake up early to attend their zero period jazz class. One might wonder why these students willingly lose an hour of sleep, but for the jazz kids, it is worth it.

Jazz has been a part of BHS for over 40 years. Edd George and William Harvey are the teachers for Jazz 1 and Jazz 2. No matter if you just started or have been playing for years, jazz band will always welcome students to join.

"One of the big reasons I came to Bellevue was to be able to play guitar because Interlake had stricter rules about music classes and I wasn't allowed to join," senior Ian Yum said.

Currently Yum is one of two guitarists in Jazz 1 and Bellevue is eager to hear more of him throughout this year. Last year, Jazz 1 was able to perform in Hot Java, a performance sponsored by Starbucks in the Paramount Theater. The process to get chosen took lots of hard work so all the jazz students were excited.

"We submitted recordings back in the fall of three songs' it is such a great opportunity to play at an event where everyone in the audience is there for a great time. It's no longer a competition' everyone just wants to hear great music," George said.

Jazz 1 was also able to participate in the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival back in Idaho last year. It's been over 20 years since BHS's jazz band attended this festival. To bring back the first-place trophy was a huge achievement. In addition to participating in festivals, BHS Jazz also organizes them.



MUSICAL SPIRIT: Jazz band posing on the back entrance stairs. As a zero period class, all members of jazz band get to school before first period to practice their music before the start of their day.

Bellevue High's Jazz Festival is annually hosted at BHS and schools travel from as far as Oregon to participate. This festival not only raises money for the music program, but there are many learning opportunities provided by clinicians. Harvey used observe this festival as a middle schooler enrolled in Odle, but now he is helping host the event himself.

"When you're a kid, 50 bands performing is awe-inspiring since you didn't get to hear the bands play until then. As a host, you try to create that feeling for other people. Giving them a wow factor, having a good time, feel supported and share their music with others," Harvey said.

McKenna George, Mr. George's daughter, explained jazz's influence on past students.

"Jazz band allows us to build a strong community that will last outside of high school that you can't build elsewhere in the school," McKenna said.

Not just students are impacted, Mr. George is always excited to teach the class and encourage the upcoming musicians.

"Jazz is a combination of dedicated kids in jazz band, their creativity and freedom of the improvisatory nature of jazz," George said.

Jazz band is successful in part due to the support provided by Bellevue High.

"The jazz program is a shining light and something that brings me back to my own school experience as a student-musician and trombonist. Whenever I start to feel tired or uninspired, I walk over to our music department and it never fails to fill me with appreciation, a sense of joy and gratitude for the work we do at BHS," principal Vic Anderson said. Jazz has been a loved program in BHS for years. It's never too late to sign up, so if interested, just stop by the music room or you are always welcome to come to their concerts, too.

ALL GRAPHICS / CHRISTINA LUU

PHOTO / COLIN MILLER

NATHAN KWON
Editor-in-Chief

Music department goes to Disney



For students at Bellevue High School, every four years brings an extraordinary opportunity that combines music, camaraderie and the enchantment of Disneyland. With band teachers Edd George and William Harvey spearheading the trip, the band, choir and orchestra create memories that last a lifetime as they embark on a magical journey.

The first question that arises is how Bellevue High School qualifies for this experience. Edd George explains that Disney reviews videos of their performances to determine if they meet the standard of excellence required to perform within Disney parks. The application process begins a year in advance, and Bellevue High School has never had a problem with qualifying. This success is attributed to the strong reputation and professionalism of the school's music groups. However, setting up the trip is not without its challenges.



GROUP PHOTO: The members of the Music Department smile big while visiting Disney Land. This groups talent gave them the opportunity to be able to sing and perform in Disney Land.

Harvey mentions that the biggest roadblocks they face are logistical in nature. Coordinating the travel arrangements for hundreds of students, managing payments, and ensuring the safe transport of instruments to California require meticulous planning and attention to detail. Due to these hurdles, George and Harvey dedicate approximately 50 hours each year to organizing the trip, not including the time spent rehearsing.

While students prepare to witness the magic of Disneyland and enjoy their time in the park, there is much that goes on behind the scenes unbeknownst to them. George and Harvey handle bookkeeping tasks,

liaise with travel agents, work with accountants and collaborate with the school district to gain approval for the trip. Additionally, they coordinate with the school nurse to ensure that students receive the medication needed.

With such extensive effort required to make the Disneyland trip a reality, one might question why George and Harvey continue to invest so much time and energy into it. Their response is unanimous: the trip creates unforgettable memories, fosters new friendships and provides a unique opportunity for students to interact outside the confines of the school environment.

"Not everything hard is worth doing, but everything worth doing is hard," Harvey said.

The impact on students' lives, the joy they experience and the friendships they form make the effort more than worthwhile.

When asked about their favorite aspects of the trip, they both mention the joy of going on rides with the students, watching the fireworks display with everyone gathered in awe and getting to know students better during bus rides and meals. Furthermore, they find great joy in witnessing the reactions of students during jazz performances and seeing the choir and orchestra shine on stage.

In the long history of this trip, there have been no major catastrophes either during the planning stage or while on the trip. The dedication and careful organization of George and Harvey, combined with the responsible behavior of the students, have ensured smooth and safe experiences year after year.

As for the future, George and Harvey plan to continue hosting the Disneyland trip every four years until they retire or until Disneyland closes its gates. This tradition did not begin with them, as the band used to go on separate trips, but the inclusion of the choir and orchestra has added an extra layer of logistical complexity. Nevertheless, both teachers firmly believe that the additional effort is worthwhile, as the trip allows students to create lasting memories and forge lifelong friendships.

The Bellevue High School Disneyland trip has been a cherished tradition since its inception in 2010, and its roots extend even further back — Harvey recalls going on a similar trip as a sophomore at Interlake High School in 1997. Over the years, the trip has become an essential part of the high school experience, offering students a chance to explore their musical talents, bond with their peers, and immerse themselves in the magic of Disneyland.

CHRISTINA LIU
Graphics Manager

Accolades of the Bellevue High orchestra

In 1927, an era when sprawling farmlands dominated Bellevue, BHS established the oldest high school orchestra in the city. When the orchestra launched, it only consisted of seven student members and struggled to find enough musicians to form a larger ensemble. Despite having limited resources, the orchestra steadily grew in size and garnered a credible reputation in the latter decades.

Throughout the years, after performing in thousands of concerts, the orchestra became a cherished cultural institution and creating an inspiring community. The size of the orchestra grew from only seven students in 1927 to 115 in 2023. Moreover, students competing the Washington All-State Audition, a notable musical competition in Washington State, increased from 13 members in 2020 to 22 members in 2023.

The orchestra is not only a place to learn musical techniques or practice instruments, it also fosters school spirits by holding many school concerts and performing during several assembly. For instance, they put together special musical pieces during the Martin Luther King assembly, commemorating his legacy with all BHS students. Additionally, during every graduation ceremony, the orchestra performs on stage as the graduating seniors walk by, creating a celebratory atmosphere.

With its long history, the orchestra holds several unique traditional events. Amount these events, the annual winter concert is one of the most remarkable concerts as it's the first concert of every school year. The Disneyland trip that happens every four years is another event students are always enthusiastic about. During the trip, students get to perform in the parks and have fun with their peers.

"My favorite memory from orchestra is when I get to perform in Disneyland with my friends on stage," senior Chloe Cheng said.



Most music department students went on the trip and performed together. During the trip, many formed new friendships along the way.

"I'm an orchestra student, so I didn't get to meet a lot of choir students in school, but I made friends with them during the Disney trip," junior Emma Yu said.

The success of the trip and concerts would not be possible without the unwavering support of the orchestra booster parents, the orchestra council, and the orchestra director Andrew Kam. These incredible individuals dedicated their time to organize musical events, playing a vital role on ensuring the orchestra's continued excellence.

The orchestra's impact goes beyond its performances. It serves as a welcoming and accepting community, providing a comfortable platform for young musicians to develop their skills and passion for music together.

"With a diverse range of identities and personalities within the orchestra, it becomes a fascinating experience to witness everyone synchronizing their movements and creating harmonious sounds together," Kam said.

To ensure the growth of young musicians, the orchestra offers after-school tutoring, sectional practices, and combined rehearsals. These opportunities allow individual musicians to receive guidance and support from both their teacher and their peers, while also providing a chance for the entire ensemble to refine their performances.

From only seven students in 1927 to more than 100 students in 2023, the BHS orchestra has not only grown in size but has also woven itself into the very fabric of school life. Through concerts, assembly performances, and cherished traditions like the Disneyland trip, the orchestra created countless indelible memories for students. The orchestra brought together diverse individuals to create beautiful music, while remaining a source of inspiration, excellence, and inclusiveness for all.



BEAUTIFUL NOTES: The Orchestra poses as they perform their concert. Orchestra has been known as a great way for students to express their musical creativity.

PHOTO / COLIN MILLER

ALL GRAPHICS / CHRISTINA LIU



Local Pizza Gone National- the Svensons

COLIN MILLER
Photo Manager

There have been many famous families throughout Bellevue's history, and the Svensons are undoubtedly one of the most iconic. Both the Svensons went to Bellevue and graduated in 1985.

In high school and college, the Svensons also had some great accomplishments. Scott Svenson helped bring home Bellevue football's first state championship as the starting quarterback, even going on to play at Harvard! Ally Svenson graduated from Bellevue and went to the highly academic Wellesley, where she learned how to work with and support others.

After graduating college, they moved to the United Kingdom. During this time though, they missed the coffee back home. As a result, they started the Seattle Coffee Company, which helped pave the way for coffee in the UK. Espressos made to your order and the coffee shop culture was new there. The Svensons expanded quickly and grew to 65 stores in less than two years. While they were in the UK, they were also pivotal in growing Carluccio's Caffè Brand, an Italian coffee shop. After four years, Seattle coffee company was bought by Starbucks and there are currently over 200 stores.

Ten years later, they founded MOD Pizza. They were inspired by their four hungry kids and wanted to offer other busy families a quick and affordable dining option, Ally once said. Originally, starting it in Bellevue, MOD has grown massively. There are more than 500 locations nationwide, including one in Canada as well. On demand customizable pizza was minimal at the time of MOD's creation, and the Svensons sought to change that. MOD offered a new way to eat pizza. You can add whatever toppings you want, and it will be ready in a matter of minutes. Compared to the basic Domino's and Pizza Hut, this "fast food" pizza offers a much higher quality and variety of flavor. MOD has also created legendary desserts throughout the years, such as the cinnamon twists, but right

now the "No Name Cakes" are extremely popular (chocolate with marshmallow filling).

But why the name MOD? What could it mean? It's an acronym, meaning "made on demand", to signify the self-made pizza and toppings, but to the Svensons, it's a lifestyle. It represents spreading positivity and maybe being a little rebellious. Seen inside the stores are the sayings "How do you MOD?", and "What's your MOD?". The Svensons main goal is to cause a positive impact on people's lives through MOD.

Their first location can be found on Bellevue Way, which is decorated with pictures of the Bellevue Community. For example, they have a picture of the Bellevue football team after a state championship in 2012. Some of the MOD pizzas are named after the Svensons kids (Jasper, Tristan, Dillon, and Caspian), who also attended Bellevue. Some Bellevue students have even worked there as a nice side hustle.

"I worked there for some time over the summer, and it was really nice because me and my friends could get half off during lunch" current senior Darius Naini said.

Naini got a chance to be a part of the MOD squad, a very cool culture. Revenue and prices haven't been seen as the most important by the Svensons, but the key for them has been taking care of the employees and customers which has left a positive impact. It creates a space of opportunity and belonging, which is one of MOD's trademarks. By doing this, the business has taken care of itself.

Today, students make sure to take advantage of this fast pizza. No where else can make a pizza on demand in five minutes. Would you prefer the classic cheese at Pagliacci, or a pizza with bacon, peppers, and barbeque sauce? The possibilities are endless, and on a day where you feel the need to be healthy, they have very good salads as well. But don't focus too much on the pizzas. The community is what is most important about MOD. You're always embraced and greeted with positivity, one of the goals of the restaurant. So, for the future, think about What's your MOD?

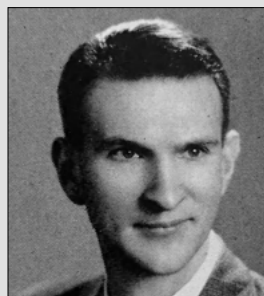
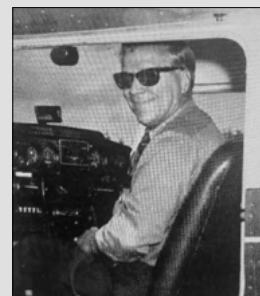
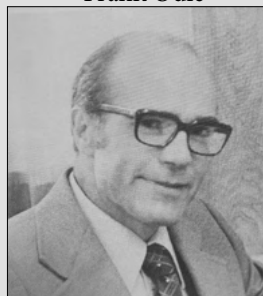
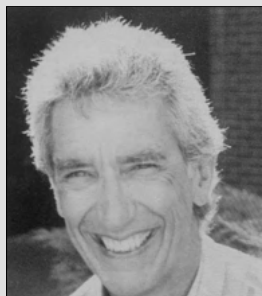
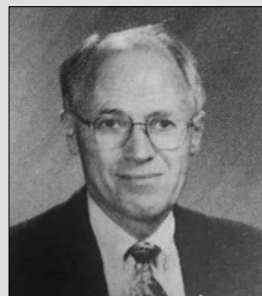
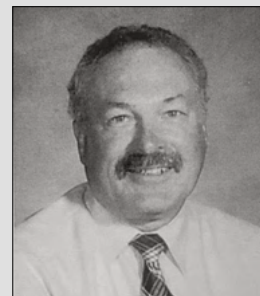
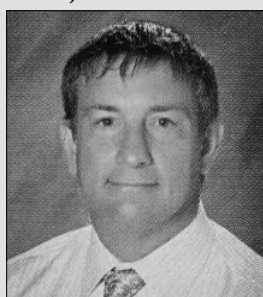


PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER

LUNCH BREAK: junior Griffin Peyovich digging into his personal pizza. MOD is a local lunch favorite for Bellevue's student body.



The History of Bellevue High Principals

ADYA MOHAN
Focus Editor1923-1943
Frank Odle1944-1947
Werner Dieckmann1950-1966
Harold Heidenreich1967-1969
Richard Clark1970-1972
Charles Henderson1973-1975
Joseph Watson1976-1985
John Price1986-1987
Louise Lowry1988- 1993
Bill Butler1997
Kevin Wulff1998-2007
Mike Bacigalupi2008-2011
David Wellington2011-2016
Scott Powers2016-Present
Dr. Vic Anderson

Not Pictured: O.L. Ordal (2nd Semester 1947), Frank Forstrom (1948-1949)

JJ PENDERGAST
Social Media Manager

From BHS to the NFL: Budda Baker



SOURCE: THE SEATTLE TIMES

BIG PLAY: Baker running downfield in a Bellevue football game. Before heading to the University of Washington, Baker was a star player here.

Budda Baker's football journey is nothing short of exceptional, filled with remarkable achievements that have solidified his status as one of the brightest talents in the sport. From his high school days to his standout performances at the University of Washington and his success in the NFL, Baker's football career has been marked by excellence, hard-work and a strong passion for the game. As a high school athlete for our very own Wolverines, Baker quickly made a name for himself as an electrifying force on the field. He excelled as a two-way player, making a significant impact as both a running back and a defensive back. His speed, agility and exceptional football IQ were evident from the start, making him a dominant force on both sides of the ball. During his high school career, he became a four-star recruit and was ranked the 54th football player in the nation. He amassed 14 D1 Power five offers. Power Five offers in college football refer to scholarship offers from universities that are part of the five major athletic conferences: the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, and SEC. These conferences are known for their competitive football programs and offer top-level opportunities for student-athletes. While having all the hype in the world, Baker would help lead Bellevue High School to three consecutive state championships from 2011 to 2013. His remarkable performances earned him numerous accolades such as being named the Gatorade State Player of the Year for Washington in 2013. That year, the Wolverines were also ranked the number one team in the nation. Baker's high school success laid the foundation for his future endeavors in football and caught the attention of college recruiters across the nation.

In 2014, Budda Baker committed to playing college football at the University of Washington. As a member of the Washington Huskies, Baker quickly became as a standout player in the Pac-12 Conference. Known for his versatility and playmaking ability, Baker made

an immediate impact on the field. He showcased his exceptional skills as a defensive back, making many crucial interceptions and delivering bone-crushing hits on opposing players. Throughout his college career, Baker had collected an impressive list of accolades and accomplishments. He was named to the All-Pac-12 First Team in 2016 and 2017, and he received the prestigious Pac-12 Defensive Player of the Year award in 2016. Baker's outstanding performances not only solidified his reputation as one of the best defensive backs in college football but also helped propel the Washington Huskies to new heights of success.

After three successful seasons at the University of Washington, Baker decided to forgo his senior year and declared for the 2017 NFL draft. The NFL is the National Football League, the top professional American football league. It's super hard to get to because it requires exceptional talent, hard work, and dedication. Only the best players make it to the NFL. His exceptional college career had caught the attention of NFL scouts, who recognized his immense potential and versatility as a defensive player. The Arizona Cardinals selected Baker in the second round of the NFL draft, making him the 36th overall pick. In his rookie season, Baker wasted no time showcasing his skills at the professional level. He quickly established himself as a force to be reckoned with, displaying incredible speed, agility and creating making impactful plays. Baker's versatility was on full display as he excelled in both pass coverage and run defense. Since entering the NFL, Baker has continued to build upon his early success. He has earned Pro Bowl honors multiple times, solidifying his status as one of the league's top tier safeties. His relentless work ethic, leadership qualities and undeniable talent have endeared him to teammates and fans.

ALL GRAPHICS / CHRISTINA LIU



Honoring CTE teacher Kathy Adams

KOSHA UPADHYAY & JONATHAN FENG
Inclusivity Manager & History Editor

A lot has changed at Bellevue High School: the campus, the curriculum, the culture and much more. Bellevue is currently unrecognizable when compared to its humble founding in 1923. Kathy Adams worked at Bellevue High School for 42 years. During her time here, she formed an intimate connection with the staff and students and witnessed how Bellevue became the school it is today.

Adams started working at Bellevue High School in September of 1979 and spent the rest of her teaching career here until she retired in June of 2020.

Interestingly, Adams was initially not interested in teaching. Before Adams began teaching, she attended Washington State University. There, she learned more about finance and management to earn her degree in business administration. Her mother insisted that Adams receive a teaching certificate in addition to her degree because she feared that Adams might get bored working an office job. Despite not wanting to teach, Adams' outlook changed after she taught for the first time as a college student.

"I had no intention of teaching, but I ended up loving it," Adams said.

During her time at Bellevue High School, she taught two generations of students – as in she taught students and their children as well.

"The first time it happened, I was like 'Oh my god, how is that possible,'" Adams said. "I'm teaching [my student's] son."

Over the two generations she taught, she witnessed a wide variety of changes in the Bellevue High community.

"When I first came to Bellevue High School, it was a three-year high school, and middle school was 'junior high,'" Adams said. She further added that there were several technological changes that Bellevue underwent.

Adams first taught at Tillicum Junior High, where she described using clunky manual typewriters. A few

years later when she started teaching Bellevue High, there were electric typewriters in her accounting classes. Shortly after, computers were being implemented into the daily life of every American. The district provided Adams four TRS-80 computers.

Adams wasn't just a passive witness to the changes at Bellevue. She also contributed to making major strides in the Bellevue High School community. One of her most major contributions to the Bellevue High community was the founding of the fundraiser "Soup 4 Simpson". Adams started Soup 4 Simpson in one of her Accounting 1 class. Adams was inspired after hearing how Hunter Simpson donated nearly \$1000 after he saved meal-plan money by only eating soup for lunch and dinner.

"I knew Hunter, but I never knew his story," Adams said. "A couple of weeks after he passed away, I thought, 'We should get soup donated from some of the grocery stores and have everybody give up their lunch money for a cup of soup.'"

Soup 4 Simpson has raised around \$115,000 since its start in 2006 and has since been featured in major local newspapers such as Seattle Times.

Aside from starting major initiatives, Adams has left lasting memories among her students as well.

"My best memory of her was when she gave me three bags of Starbursts after I graduated," alumnus Jacob Bright said. "She's the nicest teacher ever."

In the future, Adams would like to see finance classes given more priority in the school curriculum.

"Personal Finance [should be] a requirement for graduation," Adams said. "Students are usually well-prepared going into college from the classes they have taken in high school except they don't know how to manage their money."

Even though Adams has retired, the memories that she has created will remain for many years to come. Adams has touched the lives of alumni, teachers, and many students to come.



PHOTO / ROMAN GERON

SAY CHEESE: Adams posing with a group of volunteers during the annual Soup 4 Simpson fundraiser. For more information on the event, check out page 18 for the article.

The most spirited student ever: Steven Cho

COLE CAPRIOTTI
Business Manager

Bellevue High School has produced countless talented individuals over the years.

Among them, we must put the name Steven Cho, a remarkable alumni who graduated in 2020 and left a massive mark on the school's community.

Cho's infectious enthusiasm and dedication to his studies and extracurricular activities made him a fan favorite among his fellow students and teachers. Now, as he continues his education at Harvard, let's take a look at his time here at BHS.

During his time here, Cho was a force to be reckoned with. With his boundless energy and unwavering commitment, he served on ASB for an impressive three years.

Whether it was organizing pep rallies, planning memorable school events, or rallying support for various causes, Cho brought the energy everywhere he went. His leadership skills and ability to inspire others were instrumental in fostering a positive, inclusive school environment.

"My favorite part of Bellevue was the pleasure of seeing friends that I grew up with over the years, which includes the staff of course and the anticipation of new friendships I would forge. I believed and still believe that high school should be a place to come have fun and be part of a community, and I wanted to spread this sentiment with every single Wolverine. That's what inspired me," alumni Steven Cho said.

Outside the classroom, Cho's vibrant personality shone through his involvement in numerous extracurricular activities.

He was the founder of Bellevue's spirit club which continues to live on today.

Additionally, he played soccer all four years at Bellevue and was integral to the Boys Soccer Program.

"Steven was not only an amazing leader at Bellevue but he was a great brother too. If I was ever feeling down, he would crack a joke and lighten the mood. While Steven and I no longer live together, we

maintain a great bond. All the teachers at BHS loved and love Steven because of his infectious energy and his positivity among all of the students. He dedicated his high school years to boosting school spirit at BHS," Barque alumni Alex Cho said.

Cho's hard work and dedication ultimately paid off as he now attends Harvard University, cementing his place among the academic elite.

With his high school accomplishments as a solid foundation, he embarked on a new chapter in his life at one of the most prestigious institutions in the world.

Despite the distance that separates him from his Bellevue High School roots, Steven's impact on his Bellevue continues to be felt.

Steven started many of the traditions that we continue to follow now.

He began winter door decorating competition, jeopardy night, movie night, smash bros tournament, Boom Boom clap, morning greetings and graduation walks at elementary school.

These amazing traditions continue to brighten Bellevue and we must continue them for the many years to come.

His legacy serves as a reminder to current and future students that with determination and a genuine passion for learning, anything is possible. He exemplifies all the values of Bellevue.

As Bellevue High School fondly reminisces about the spirited and driven young man who once walked its hallways, it takes pride in knowing that Steven Cho, a true embodiment of the school's values, has gone on to achieve great things.

His journey from a Bellevue alumni shows the perfect example of a Bellevue Wolverine.

When we think of Bellevue alumni who have made it big like Budda Baker, Myles Jack, or Jojo Harbor, think about Steven as he is one of the Bellevue greats.

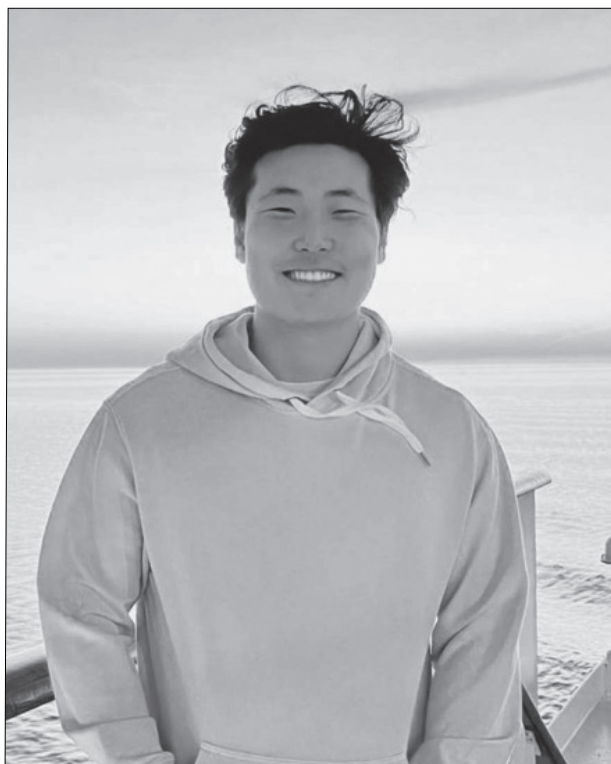


PHOTO / ROWAN GERON

BELLEVUE POWER: Alumni Steven Cho calmly smiles knowing he left an unforgettable impact on Bellevue High School's culture and community. Many students who hear of his achievements are inspired to create their own great legacy as well.



Remembrances of a former wolverine

ROWAN GERON
Photographer

Bellevue High School will be celebrating its 100th birthday this fall. If you do the math, BHS opened its doors in 1923. You might be wondering: what things were popular in the 1920s and life was definitely a bit different for students. The Model T car was still a top seller, frozen foods were just invented, listening to the radio was the thing to do and prohibition was still in effect. World War I had only ended a handful of years before the school opening. Americans wanted to celebrate, enjoy sporting events and watch movies which also brought us Disney in 1923. Life was different when the school opened; there were no cell phones, electric cars or artificial intelligence.

The Barque wanted to know more about what school life was like when the school opened. Unfortunately, no one could find anyone from the 1923 graduating



class, they would be 118 years old, but there was someone in the 1966 graduating class, my grandma, Cheryl Annette Luiten. Things had progressed from the 1920s to the 60s. For example, man took his first steps on the moon, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous speech and the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. Luiten loved her high school years and her fondest memories revolved around all the fall activities and football season. She said that everyone went to the football games, home and away.

ALWAYS BELLEVUE: Cheryl Annette Luiten poses for the camera for her grandson, a current Bellevue student. Families like Luiten's have been a part of generations of BHS spirit and excellence.

After home games, they usually had a dance with a live band.

"Homecoming was also a huge event, it was a major group project building a float and creating lots of lively fanfare," Luiten said.

She also favorably remembered basketball season having the same energy, everyone had a lot of school spirit.

Dances were big events at Bellevue, there was homecoming, sophomore hop, junior prom, and senior prom.

"All required a great community effort. We went all out on decorations. In my junior year, my dad helped me cut major tree limbs in the forest, we built stands to create our own trees, and a group of friends made colorful tissue paper flowers," Luiten said.

One of Luiten's other passions was being part of Honor Guard, a community service group that recognized honor students, drill team and Loyalty. She explained that Loyalty was a group of women who were nominated and then selected to focus on service directed on benefiting Bellevue High School. Luiten recalled a funny memory of the Honor Guard and Loyalty initiation week. She said that for the entire week, the seniors would give them tasks to do in order to finalize being part of the group. Some of the tasks were shining shoes, carrying books for the upperclassman and mopping floors. She said it was such an honor to be in these groups that she was more than happy to do a few chores; plus, it was all in good fun. Today, these activities might be considered hazing and probably wouldn't be allowed!

A younger Bellevue High School alum who graduated in 1991, Liz Schoen Quinn describes her best high school memories. The 90s was an interesting decade, OJ Simpson went on trial for murder, Titanic opened in the theaters and Princess Diana died in a car crash. Quinn still lives in Clyde Hill today and loved the community feel during high school. She spent a lot of time practicing drill team and competing in track. Quinn reminisced on the fun memories she had with her class.

"Senior sleep out. As a class we brought tents to the center field in the parking lot and spent the night. The next day we had senior skip," Quinn said.

Bellevue has come a long way since 1923, but one thing can be said about Bellevue High School, our school spirit is still strong. Sports, community, school pride are all still part of Bellevue High School's culture. Let's all do something this month to support BHS. Go to a sporting event, dress in blue and gold, or support the community that gives back to Bellevue High School. This is our community, and everyone needs to support each other in making sure this is a high school that we care about and value. GO WOLVERINES!

PHOTO / ROWAN GERON

W From student to teacher: Zachary Chen

KATE CHA
Alumni Editor

Zachary Chen never envisioned that he would return to the same halls he once traversed as a student when he graduated from Bellevue High School. However, that was precisely the scenario that unfolded when he assumed the role of a mathematics instructor at his former high school.

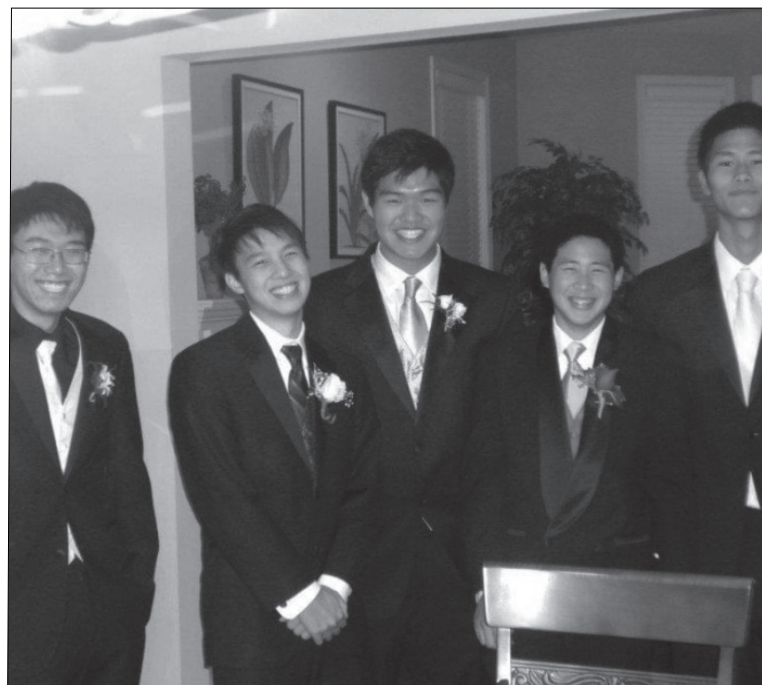
"I was ecstatic when I received the employment offer and learned that I would be able to impact a community I used to be a part of," Chen said.

Chen submitted his application for a teaching post at Bellevue School District after he attained his Masters in Education and Masters in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington. Chen developed an interest in pursuing a teaching career in his senior year of high school. He asserts that apart from a few facets, the school has remained largely unchanged. For example, when Chen enrolled in AP Physics in high school, he, like many current physics students, constructed a mouse trap car for Chuck Kralovich's annual racing contest.

"In my senior year, I had an Asian teacher who I could relate to. When she shared about her family dynamics or the cuisine she consumed, it resonated with me. Many of the teachers at Bellevue are White and many of the students at Bellevue are not. I hope I can leverage my identity to help students from diverse backgrounds feel acknowledged and comfortable," Chen stated.

One thing that got Chen into teaching was his former Asian teacher who inspired him. Chen values representation and he believes that the BHS Asian student population is significantly disproportionate to the Asian teaching staff. One of Chen's primary objectives as an Asian teacher is to embody the Asian community and contribute to the diverse culture of Bellevue Highschool.

"I started my teaching journey at Sammamish and got transferred to Bellevue. It was both a nostalgic and strange feeling teaching in the same building I studied in as a student. I really appreciate how Bellevue's student body has so quickly embraced and accepted me as a somewhat new teacher," Chen said.



FASHIONABLE WOLVERINE: High school student Zachary Chen smiles with his friends for a homecoming photo. Be kind to your teachers because they may be your colleagues one day!

Chen also enjoys working with his former teachers like Andrew McMaster, Bryona Golding, Valentina Craciunoiu, and Chuck Kralovich, who are now his coworkers. While it was a little strange for him at first, Chen appreciates how they respect his expertise and experience. They also like to reminisce about old times and share stories and jokes about their past classes. Chen enjoys these conversations with his former teachers who give him a lot of valuable advice on teaching.

Not only does Chen work with his former teachers, but he always works with his friend from college. Chemistry is the subject Daniel Yi instructs as a new teacher at Bellevue High. Chen admits that teaching is a lot more fun with friends.

"Mr. Yi and I also went to UW at the same time. We knew each other back then so it's nice to see and talk to him again after all these years," Chen said.

Chen's experience as a Bellevue High student has been a valuable resource for many students. They appreciate his guidance on college, career and course selection. Moreover, they enjoy listening to his stories about his high school and college life, which they find very relatable.

"Mr. Chen's advice is invaluable and relevant because he has taken some of the same classes as me. He is also knowledgeable in AP Physics, as my friends who are in that course have told me how he helped them during tutorial," junior Melissa Tran said.

"Chen's stories about his college experience are interesting. He told me how he and his wife, along with their friends, created a cool medical device for their senior project. The device is still being developed and making a difference today," junior Hosannah Choi said.

It is not often that we see a former Bellevue student come back as a teacher. We are grateful for alumni like Zachary Chen who show their dedication, spirit and contribution to the community. Chen is a role model for all of us and we hope that he has inspired students to consider teaching as a possible career path in the future!

PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER



Bob Birkeland: Alumni's experience at BHS

AVA RAMOS
Editor-in-Chief

For current students, it's hard to imagine what Bellevue High looked like in the '70s. Many of us have nothing but old, exaggerated stories from our relatives or stereotypical movies to base our ideas off of. But luckily, there are many alumni who keep their connections to the school alive by living near the Bellevue area or having family that still attend. An alumnus from the class of 1975, Bob Birkeland, has given us some insight on what the school looked like during his time here.

"BHS brings back a lot of good memories and good friends. There were 432 seniors in the class of '75, likely about the same for juniors and sophomores," Birkeland said.

"There were no freshmen then, they were at Bellevue Junior High where the park is in downtown Bellevue."

Many things seem to have changed at Bellevue since then: from the location of the school to the curriculum taught in classes. AP tests were not commonly taken then, but they had plenty of classes that we don't have now.

"My favorite class was Gordy Johnston's Post WWII Literature class. He was super hip with long hair and a moustache," Birkeland said.

It wasn't just the core classes that were specific to the time though, the electives offered were very different than ours now.

"An interesting elective was Media Poets, an English class where we studied Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, The Rolling Stones, Stevie Guitar Miller and Steely Dan. We had a class called Bachelor Survival, a home economics education class for boys to learn how to cook, take care of home finances, sew and shop for food. There was also a Home Economics class which was the same class but for girls. We had a Latin class and a class called Mechanical Drafting, where students learned how to perform engineering and architectural drawings," Birkeland said.

Despite the drastic variance in the electives then, there are a few staples that have stood the test of time and are still offered now.

"There was Auto Shop and Welding, a cool class where students built their own hot rods and other custom cars. The Barque was the class to put out the newspaper, and the class that put out the Beacon was called The Annual. Martha Hardy was the advisor then," Birkeland said.

As many of our electives have said the same, so has our reputation as being the districts 'sporty' school. In 1975, Bellevue was focused on rebuilding their teams following big successes in 1973 and 1974.

"Football was not to be missed on Friday nights especially under the lights at home in the bowl. Basketball was also huge and well attended. We also had many stellar athletes in cross country running, track, wrestling, gymnastics, tennis and

baseball. Soccer was just coming on and the great athletes who were more on the fringe and played it well. Girls basketball was undefeated! They took Kingco, Regionals and State without a loss. That year, boys golf also won Kingco," Birkeland said.

Although Bellevue sports now go hand in hand with our major rivalry with Mercer Island, there were a few other rivalries that led to mischief before games.

"Mercer Island was always our biggest rival, but Sammamish and Interlake

were also rivals at the time. For our homecoming game we stole the Sammamish Totem Pole from their school and paraded it in the flatbed truck through the football stadium before the game - which we then proceeded to lose," Birkeland said.

From the classes they took to the pranks they got away with, there's plenty about the class of 1975 that differs from Bellevue now.

Looking back at our past helps to inform our present, so the next time a relative tells you about their 'glory days' you should listen! We are so fortunate to have alumni involved in our community.



PHOTO / NATALIE BIRKELAND

GOOD TIMES: Bellevue High School student, Bob Birkeland, smiles in a photo taken in 1975. Many of the traditions he and his classmates enjoyed are still celebrated by Bellevue students today!

START of BHS ORCHESTRA

BELLEVUE & MERCER
ISLAND RIVALRY STARTS

BHS REMODEL &
EXPANSION

SE KILLAMOCK WAY
CHANGED TO
WOLVERINE WAY

SOUP 4 SIMPSON STARTS

1925

1949

1982

2000

2021

1923

1927

1938

1960'S

MAY 2000

2006

2023

FIRST
BEACON

BHS MOVED
PROPERTIES

1ST BHS JAZZ
FESTIVAL

SPIRIT BELL
CONSTRUCTED

BHS FOOTBALL WIN
STATE
TITLE

The BarqueStaff

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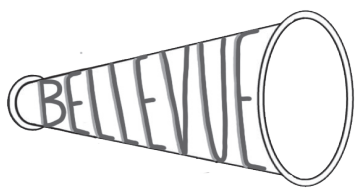
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Our Mission

To inform and entertain the community of Bellevue High School by providing relevant, interesting content while promoting informed discussion of important and controversial topics.

The LettersPolicy

The Barque reserves the right to edit for length and clarity. Decisions to run submitted material will be made on a space-available basis. Submissions do not reflect the opinions of The Barque. All material published will conform to current libel laws. No member of the staff will use the publication for personal gain. The editorial reflects the views of all staff members. Business and advertising interests will not influence content. We are supported by the Bellevue Schools Foundation. The Barque is a student-run publication and is subject to prior review from the administration. Students may drop off letters to room 0103.

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100 Years of Bellevue High School

The Barque has been producing papers for Bellevue High School students since 1926 with the goal of better educating students on the community they live in, and serving as markers of important times in our school's history. The Barque has observed changes in formatting, leadership positions and advisors through the years and continues to evolve to this day.

This year, The Barque welcomes a new advisor, Kimberly Richardson, to our team. This is Richardson's first year at Bellevue and we could not be more excited to work with her and introduce her to the BHS community.

While the goal of The Barque has remained the same through the years, the paper has not always looked how it does now. With the advancement of technology, while remaining a strenuous process, printing the paper has become fully digital through Adobe InDesign. If you look at old papers, you will see that the covers used to be hand drawn by students. While still designed by students, the art you see throughout our paper is now completed on computers as we have greatly modernized our design process.

While The Barque is widely known at Bellevue for its more satirical articles, it has won multiple prestigious awards from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association through the years, as well as multiple other organizations. While hoping to remain an entertaining publication, The Barque serves to educate students on important topics and hopes to establish ourselves further in the Bellevue community with new changes this year such as quarterly issues that include articles that are between 500 and 700 words in comparison to previous years where they produced monthly issues with 300-400 word articles.

The Barque is excited to share our work with you all this year, and we are proud to be a part of Bellevue's rich history.

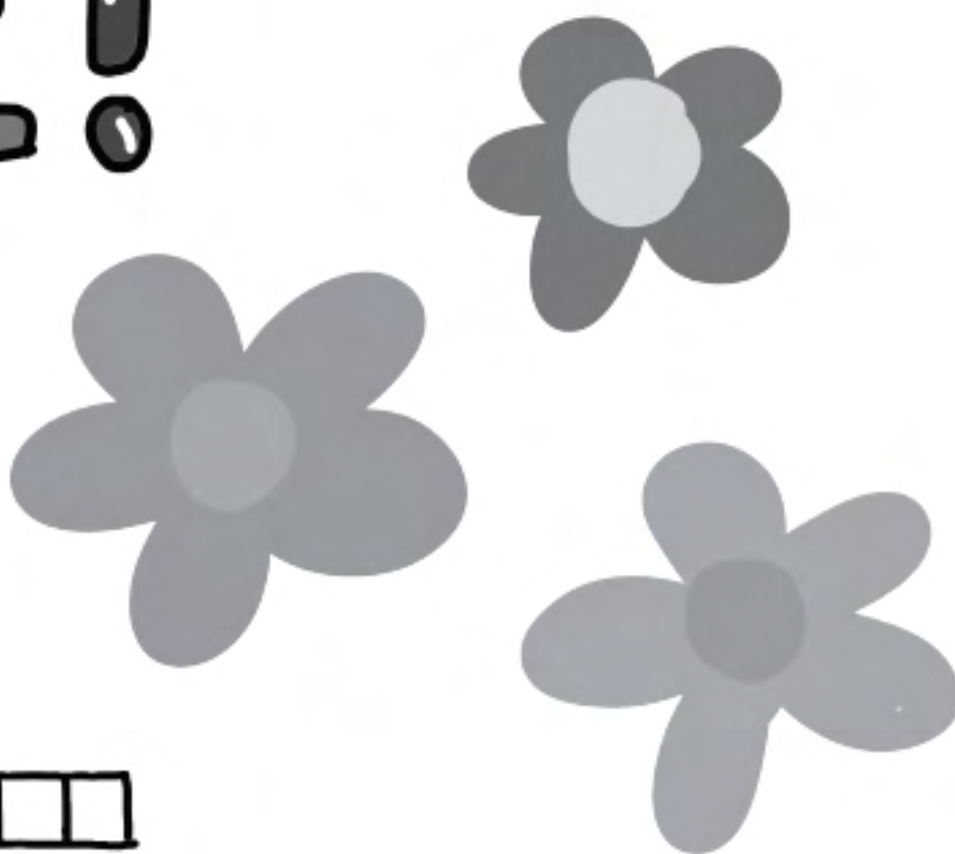
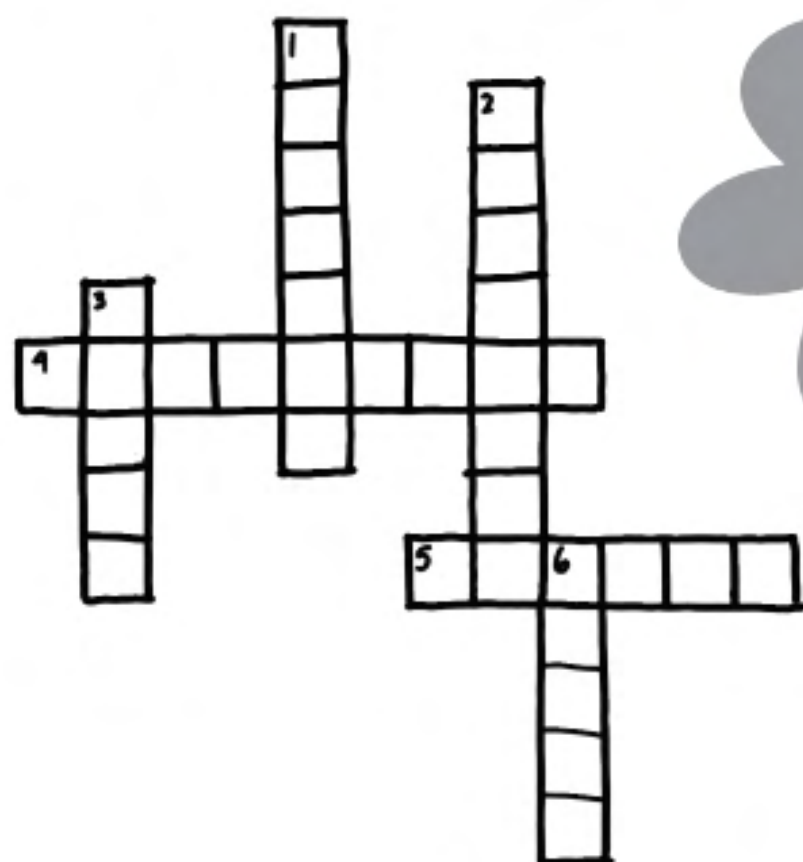
The Barque would like to thank our principal Dr. Anderson, the event planning committee and all others involved for their contributions in creating the 100 Year Celebration. We are proud to be a part of the Bellevue community and look forward to the rest of the school year. Go Wolverines!



Voice your comments, opinions and concerns by emailing us at s-birkelandn@bsd405.org

FUN PAGE!

celebrating
100
YEARS



Across

4. What restaurant chain in Bellevue is temporarily closed?
5. Which Bellevue organization is older (Barque or Beacon)?

Down

1. Which teacher sang the national anthem at an assembly last year?
2. What was Bellevue High School's original name?
3. How many people were in Bellevue High School's first class?
6. Which retired teacher founded Soup4Simpson?



Bellevue leadership throughout the years

PHILIP TANG
Chief Copy Editor

As we near the centennial of Bellevue High School, we must remember the traditions and events that made our high school experiences so memorable. Filled with the most spirited and dedicated students, leadership is a class combining class officers (elected by their grade) and ASB officers (elected school-wide). Leadership plans school dances, pep rallies, spirit weeks, fundraisers and many more key events, virtually running the school. Leadership has been instrumental to Bellevue's spirit and has fostered a community within our school. Class and ASB officers are elected by their peers and are a representation of their classmates. The student council has been the student voice and strived to make a more vibrant and inclusive school environment. Today, we will learn the origin, motives and behind-the-scenes work of our leadership class.

First, I decided to talk to Brianna Whiting, a student who has done leadership for four years now. Her commitment began in her freshman year when she joined as a class representative and steadily climbed the ranks. As a junior, she ran for ASB and has continued to lead the school ever since. Whiting's care for her classmates extended to countless hours spent organizing and working at school events, from pep rallies to charity drives. She was always the first to arrive and the last to leave, consistently going above and beyond to ensure the success of each endeavor.

"I first joined to cheer on my classmates and plan events for my class. My brother was also on ASB when he was in high school so I would always go to the events and learn how to lead everything," Whiting said.

Her leadership was characterized not only by her hard work but also by her ability to inspire her peers to get involved and give back to the school community.

"My favorite memories of leadership are setting up for homecoming, cheering at football games and host-



EMERGING LEADERS: 2022-2023 ASB members strike poses for the camera. Their work on school events and advocacy for student interests have been crucial.

ing rumble, the school carnival. Leadership became my family and I highly encourage everyone to join," Whiting said.

As Whiting heads into college next year, she is looking to continue the Bellevue pride and set an example for the underclassmen.

Next is our newest leadership advisor, and already one of the most dedicated, Leslie Farquhar. Originally a freshman English teacher, Farquhar has stepped up to take on the tough role as advisor and is ready for the challenge.

"I was a class advisor for eight years, prom advisor and I was pretty experienced with spirit and events so I was excited to lead the school. It just felt right to further my teaching into leadership. I know the power of extracurriculars so I wanted to spread that joy to all students," Farquhar said.

Aside from the tall task of teaching the emerging leaders of our school, Farquhar also looks forward to planning all the exciting events and community-building activities for the school. Farquhar recognizes the power of a strong and united community and she knows the need for all students to be comfortable in order to learn.

"I want for the school to feel like one cohesive unit and for everyone to have fun together. I want everyone to come to school and feel comfortable and safe to learn!" Farquhar said.

With ASB officers and advisors as spirited as Whiting and Farquhar, our school is in good hands.

Leadership has been run by the most dedicated and hard-working students in school and they will continue to make our school environment a safe and welcoming place to learn. As the traditions of the past have garnered much spirit, it is exciting to anticipate how BHS will evolve and continue to foster a welcoming environment.

SOURCE: @BELLEVUEASB

Bending the Arc: Bellevue's social visionaries

LILY MATHIS
Spirit Manager

If you've walked the halls of Bellevue, you've probably seen numerous posters highlighting important societal issues. Topics such as racism, sexism, LGBTQ+ rights, indigenous rights, mental health and many other issues are all important conversations Bending the Arc (BTA) has been facilitating over the past few years.

The club's goal is to raise awareness on topics such as racial equity and promote a safe environment to host these conversations. For nearly a decade, they have stimulated equitable change as well as important topics throughout Bellevue High.

In 2015, Bending the Arc was founded by a group of students and teachers Lukas Michener and Terry Jess. Both passionate about racial equity and anti-racist education, they have provided their resources to allow students to create a safe community to host important conversations about evoking change within the school system.

"Our goals were to connect youth to activists doing the work in the streets and organizations making systemic changes. Through those partnerships, students would develop the skills, relationships and capacity to impact BHS and their local community, as well as work in solidarity on bigger national and international issues," Jess said.

Despite making his exit from Bellevue High, Jess still thinks greatly about his time with BTA and has felt a lasting impact from the work they accomplished.

"Missing out on BTA is one of the things I mourn the most about leaving BHS, but the work of BTA, past and present, continue to impact me," Jess said.

Bending the Arc has focused on numerous different topics throughout its time.

"During my time on BTA, Bridget Conroy, Sofia Larrondo and I led the National School Walkout at BHS following the Parkland Florida shooting, planned the first Black Lives Matter Week of Action and the first Sexual Assault Awareness week at BHS. We also held a panel discussion on police violence and brought in multiple speakers," Cook said.

Current history teacher Lukas Michener is still advising BTA and is immensely proud of the progress they have made.

"We started in our early years specifically focusing on race in society at large but then later, how that also played out at school. We did student panels to

hear about student of colors experiences in the building and district navigating things from their point of view. Opportunities at the time that those students didn't otherwise feel like they had," Michener said.

Current Bending the Arc members are continuing the work that previous alumni began. BTA has provided a supportive and safe community which has allowed students to connect with others to spark change within our school and beyond.

"At my first meeting, Bending the Arc brought in speakers from the Common Power Future team to discuss voting rights. I remember seeing the way members engaged in that conversation and how they found ways to help apply that to make a positive change in the BHS community. I knew then that Bending the Arc was a club I wanted to be a part of," Lumala said.

Bending the Arc has had a lasting impact on its student leaders and alum, as well as its community. Many of BTA's current initiatives are derived from the club's original goals and actions.

"They are doing amazing work in spotlighting mental health, raising supplies for the women's center, leading BLM week and so much more. I'm immensely proud of the current generation of Bending the Arc leaders for continuing the amazing legacy that alumni have left for them," Jess said.

Not only has BTA created a safe haven for students and staff, but it has also kindled change

within the school system. Student involvement in district policy meetings have protected curriculum and classes geared towards racial education as well as important district policies.

"Bending the Arc from a student position advocated for the district equity policy at a school board meeting and we're really proud to have had a role in getting that policy passed. BTA has been really good at getting the school talking about things it otherwise might not be talking about, and I think that's the core of what we're trying to do," Michener said.

Looking back at everything they've achieved, Bending the Arc has greatly shaped the course of the Bellevue School District and continues to mold students into strong, confident activists capable of promoting change in society. Its change is apparent, and its future impact is immutable.



NATHAN KWON
Editor-in-Chief

The dedicated, united voices of debate



ALL GRAPHICS / SYDNEY TAM

Bellevue High School has long been synonymous with excellence in the speech and debate community. Bellevue's dominance is almost as impressive as their longevity with the debate team starting all the way back in 1923. Under the dedicated leadership of head coach Amy McCormick, the team continues to succeed shaping young minds and fostering a spirit of passion and conviction for the things they love.

Although McCormick has not always been the coach at Bellevue, her impact is already clear.

"When I first got here, I was assistant coaching with Terry Jess. This is my 5th year running this as head coach," McCormick said.

Her commitment to the team shines through in her tireless efforts to mold her students into accomplished debaters. To students at Bellevue, coaching from McCormick is all that they know.

One of the most cherished memories for the team came during an out-of-town tournament.

"Last year when we did our first traveling tournament in a while because of COVID, someone had to go to urgent care for four hours. At the end, it was not COVID, flu A or flu B but an allergic reaction to the Kentucky air," McCormick said.

These shared experiences on the road have not only strengthened the team's chemistry but created a family that keeps students coming back every year.

McCormick's journey with the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) has been nothing short of remarkable. She qualified twice as a student and 12 times as a teacher, 6 years at Tahoma and 6 years at Bellevue. This wealth of experience brings a depth of knowledge and wisdom to her coaching.

Out of the countless locations Nationals have been held, Dallas seems to have left an indelible mark on her memory. She fondly recalls her experiences in 2011, 2015 and 2019. Instead of having to travel, it was at one huge downtown Sheraton even having special elevators for judges. Although kids might not enjoy how crowded and crazy it was, it was a breath of fresh air for all the parent chaperones and coaches who put numerous hours into Speech and

Debate. These Nationals have been a mixed bag of excitement and challenges, making each visit memorable in its own right.

In a sea of talented debaters, there are always students who stood out for McCormick. She clarifies that not just one specific student comes to mind, but anyone who can speak with passion and conviction on what they love stands out. She emphasizes the importance of genuine enthusiasm in public speaking. McCormick's work behind the scenes is nothing short of heroic. She tirelessly manages every aspect of the program, from paperwork to chaperoning long trips. Not only that, but coordinating all the judges and parents and student forms to make sure the schedule is approved for the 16 trips a year. Her dedication ensures that her students can focus on their performances without the burden of logistical worries.

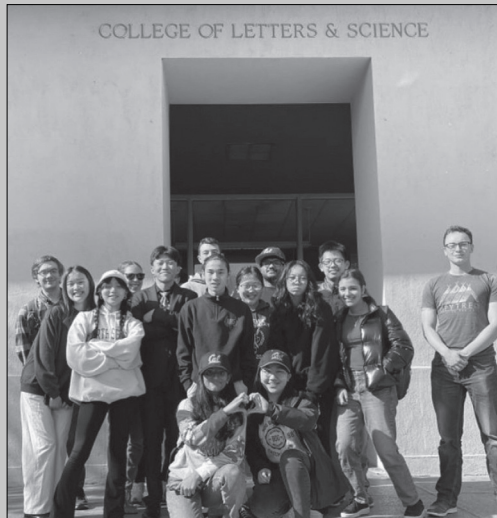
Reflecting on the evolution of speech and debate over the years, McCormick notes that embracing the digital world has transformed the landscape.

"Embracing the digital world, people are no longer carrying around big tubs of evidence," McCormick said.

To students who are new, this may seem weird but was always the norm up until the implementation of laptops. Additionally, she points out the importance of inclusivity, highlighting how gender pronoun tags are now the norm at nationals, a testament to the changing dynamics in the field.

McCormick's own journey as a debater in high school offers valuable insights. She acknowledges the positive aspects of the community but also recalls the challenges of an era where the top competitors were often affluent, aggressive white male students. Her hope is for a more inclusive and accessible space for all aspiring debaters, where everyone's voice is valued, regardless of their background.

Through her years of experience and unwavering commitment, McCormick has not only nurtured champions but also fostered a spirit of unity and equality that transcends the boundaries of competition. The Bellevue High School Speech and Debate Team is more than a team; it's a family where voices are heard and futures are shaped.



TEAM SPIRIT: The debate team poses for a group picture at UC Berkeley. They've traveled a long way to compete, showing their dedication to the craft.

SOURCE: @BELLEVUESPEECHANDDEBATE



Soup 4 Simpson: how Bellevue gives back

ASHLEY KWON
A&E Section Editor

Soup 4 Simpson is an annual fundraiser that honors, BHS alumni, Hunter Simpson and benefiting local teen homeless shelter, New Horizons. Simpson graduated from Bellevue High School in 2005 and during his time there he was involved in sailing, wrestling and lacrosse. He also earned the Brandy west award; this award is given to one student each year with exemplary character and leadership.

Simpson spent his last year of life and his first semester of college at Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C. spending as little as possible on his meal plan by eating soup for every meal, using the money left over to donate food items to New Horizons. Simpson spent only \$1.50 every day, with a cup of soup for lunch and dinner, he had a cup not a bowl of soup because it was the cheapest option. Simpson was able to have \$998 left over at the end of the semester to purchase nonperishable food items like chips, juice and water and delivered them to the teen shelter in Seattle.

"He was an amazing young man, and incredible young man with a heart for social justice for the poor and oppressed," executive director of New Horizons, Rita Nussli said.

In January 2005, Simpson was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. He went through six months of intense radiation and chemotherapy but unfortunately, on December 31, he passed away.

Simpson was given a wish by the Make-A-Wish Foundation while going through cancer treatment, his wish was to support the New Horizons homeless shelter. His wish allowed 1,500 homeless children to get clothing and furniture. Before his death, the week before Christmas, Simpson delivered the first couch the New Horizons.

"A lot of people wait until they grow up to do what they feel they need to. Hunter started when he was 13. In their lifetime, some people are blessed with a spiritual gift. There's no other way to explain it," mother of Hunter Simpson, Anne said.

Many described Simpson as having an old soul driven by Christian faith and described his short but meaningful life as simple and giving. Simpson had lots of family wealth, but he lived frugal and never wanted to seem like a rich kid. He never wanted his family spending too much money on him and hated to be loud or flashy.

"He wanted to earn all he had. He refused to take favors from anyone. And at a time when he should have really taken a break, he didn't," Simpson's girlfriend, Gwendolyn Rowland said.

In part of the event, students donate money that they would typically spend on a lunch to receive a cup of soup instead. All the money that is raised is given to New Horizons homeless shelter. The Soup 4 Simpson event is Bellevue's way of celebrating his life as a community and giving to the less fortunate. Annually, students and staff organize this event to fundraise as much money as possible. Since 2006, Bellevue has been able to raise over \$145,000 to give to New Horizons.

The current student board members of the 2024 fundraiser include seniors Lexi Thaut, Owen Lombardi, JJ Pendergast, and juniors Morgan Heintz and Charlie Miller. These students organize and plan the event, bringing in local sponsors to provide soup, recruiting student volunteers, and continue the tradition of Soup for Simpson every year.

"Organizing and planning Soup 4 Simpson takes a lot of time and effort from not only the student board but also BHS faculty. But we do this event every year to honor the selflessness that Hunter Simpson lived and we hope to embody the character and person that Simpson was in his life," sThaut said.

BHS students are looking forward to the 2024 event to remember Simpson's influence on the community. Bellevue hopes to continue this tradition and honor Simpson's selflessness each year. Although Simpson lived a short life, his impact was powerful and his generosity, kindness, and heart is why we hold the Soup 4 Simpson fundraiser.



HELPING HANDS: Soup 4 Simpson volunteers huddle together for a photograph. Time after time, students like them step up to organize and assist in running the event.

SOURCE: @SOUP4SIMPSON

Lunch spots that withstood the test of time

LAUREN PARK
Fun Page Editor

Many students at Bellevue High School are fortunate enough to go off-campus and eat out for lunch. As the city of Bellevue has evolved, the options for lunch have expanded vastly.

Here are a few of the classic favorites that are always a reliable go-to. Restaurants such as Chipotle, Chick-fil-A, Pagliacci and MOD are the first restaurants that come to mind when deciding where to eat lunch. Multiple factors play into the important decision of where to eat lunch. The most important factor is the quality of the food, but assuming all options are delicious, this is a great way to decide is by parking, price and speed.

1. **Parking:** Many spots with delicious food options miss out on business during lunch because of the parking situation. For example, a place like Pagliacci is always running with their crispy crust and fizzy soda machine. Despite their tempting food, Pagliacci may have one of the worst parking lots in Bellevue.

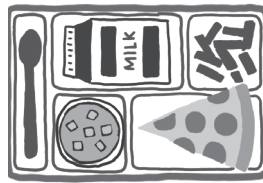
"I would eat at Pagliacci all the time, but the parking lot is the worst. The ten spots angled weirdly while construction trucks pull in from the plaza next door make it horrible. Yes, it's two minutes from BHS, but it is also two minutes from a car crash waiting to happen," junior Riley Lipon said.

The parking at Pagliacci is always a gamble. If you are looking to go somewhere with reliable parking, Chipotle is always safer with their overflow parking lot.

"I love eating at Chipotle. I just park in the big lot and pick up my online order. It never misses. I can always count on Chipotle to satisfy my lunch cravings," senior Henry Lewison said.

2. **Price:** If parking is not something you are concerned about, price is always a lurking issue you like it or not. Usually, lunch ranges from \$10.00 -15.00 depending on the location. A few places with reasonable prices include Jimmy John's, Chick-fil-A and Blazing Bagels. Many students will opt for a grocery store as a cheaper option as well.

"I love going to PCC for lunch. They have the best food options that are always delicious, and they also have



such a wide range of things because it's a grocery store," junior Savannah Anderson said.

Whole Foods and PCC have great hot bars, Safeway, is a great low-cost alternative as well. But with recent inflation, eating at a grocery store may not be worth giving up your favorite restaurant.

"At this point, everything is the same price. There is little to no difference between eating at different restaurants unless you are trying to save a dollar or two. If I am looking to save money, I'll usually just go home and eat," junior Charlie Miller said.

Lots of students choose to go home and eat what they have at home because it doesn't come out of your own pocket.

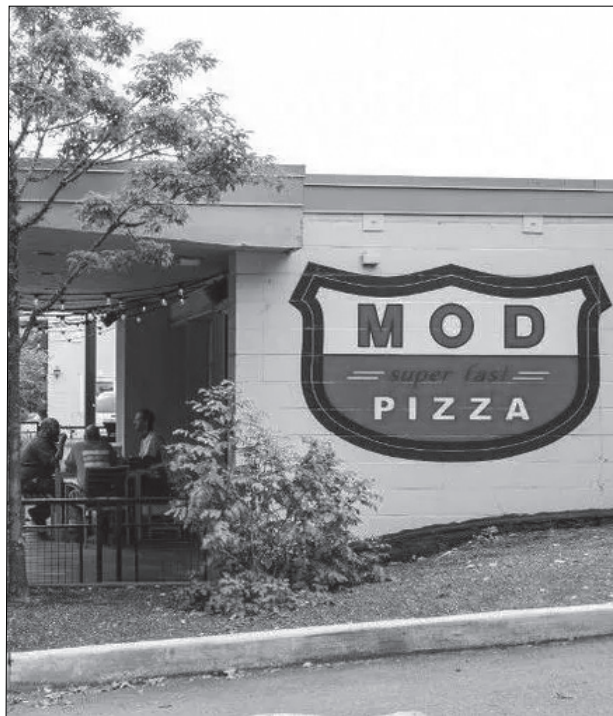
"Going home for lunch can be refreshing because most of the time it's only you going home, so it gives you a break from all the chaos at school," senior Gaby Bede said.

3. **Speed:** If you are in a pinch, the place you choose for lunch depends on speed. Despite the recent addition of online ordering, many restaurants have flawed systems of pre-ordering, and often you'll end up getting your online order after all your friends ordered at the restaurant. Places like MOD boast their speed since it takes around 5 minutes to get your pizza.

"MOD is great because it is so fast, but if I'm really in a rush, my go-to is Starbucks or Subway since they're both so close to the school," junior Tayne Oh said.

Starbucks has a robust online ordering system, and Subway is always empty and making orders rapidly.

Luckily, here at Bellevue, many of the students are fortunate enough to have the privilege to eat out for lunch. As we all acknowledge our privilege to eat out for lunch, keep in mind the pros and cons of the restaurants here in Bellevue when deciding where to eat!



PIZZA PALOOZA: Mod Pizza, founded by Bellevue alumni Jasper Svenson, sits as a hotspot for anyone in the Bellevue downtown area. Mod Pizza has often been a supporter of Bellevue High and helps host numerous fundraisers for our clubs and sports.

PHOTO: VAUGHN EDERER

The message behind our school memorials

HOJOON SUNG
Chief Copy Editor

Throughout its history, Bellevue High's student body has amassed a plethora of incredible achievements. However, in its 100 years, the school has also witnessed several devastating tragedies. Regardless of curse or blessing, these events have earned themselves a lasting spot in the school's history and the audience of generations of students to come. From the hallways to the football stadium, various monuments dot the school campus – here are some of our most memorable:

1. Spirit Bell

For BHS athletes, the Spirit Bell is an almost daily sight as they head to practice. Located above the stairs leading to the football field, the Spirit Bell was constructed in honor of Trygve Carl Skoglund, Class of 2000 and co-captain of the BHS football team. Skoglund was an energetic and outgoing student, always attending school football games both on the field and from the bleachers. Outside of school, Skoglund participated in various community service activities and was a loving son in his family of seven.

Sadly, Skoglund passed away a year after graduating at the age of 19. However, his memory has not been forgotten; Skoglund's parents, Paul and Susan Skoglund, established the Trygve Carl Skoglund Endowment Fund after his death, granting scholarships to first-generation college athletes. Likewise, the Spirit Bell was created to honor Skoglund's spirit and contributions to Bellevue athletics. Skoglund was a model for students and teachers alike, and truly deserves his spot on the bell, where he will forever be at the heart of BHS athletics.

2. 9/11 Memorial

Overlooking the commons is a painting of the wolverine, boldly illustrated in its forest habitat. Most, if not all, BHS students have seen the mural at least once as they eat lunch, enter the building or hang out with friends.

"I see the [mural] every day because I come in through the football field... I think it's a really good artwork for the school," junior Andrew Chen said.

However, few students know that the mural is also a tribute to the events of 9/11. On the morning of September 11, New York, two planes crashed into the World Trade Center, causing the towers to collapse and killing almost 3000 thousand people. As a fearless wolverine, the BHS 9/11 memorial seeks to not only remind students of the tragedy that occurred in 2001, but also to inspire hope and encouragement during difficult times.

3. Brandy West Courtyard

Brandon "Brandy" West was the quarterback and team co-captain of the 1998 BHS football team. Social and hardworking, West was dedicated to football and frequently visited the school gym, where he was a favorite amongst his peers. However, a car accident a year before graduation shocked the entire school.

The Brandy West Courtyard, located outside the commons, reminds us to be grateful for what we have and that a strong community can never truly die. Alongside West, the courtyard commemorates Tyler Stantus and Jason Edwards of the Class of 1993, Kimberly Wilson of 1995, Julia Wilson of 1997, Sarah Starling of 1999 and all BHS students who have died an early death as a reminder that their legacies continue to live on.

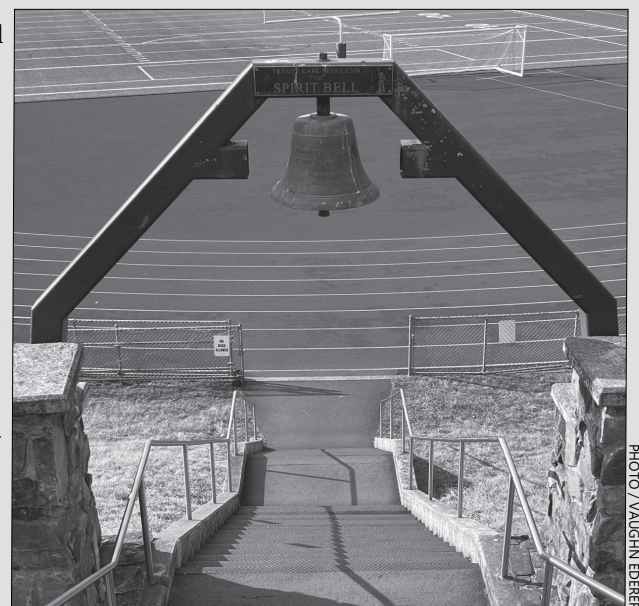
4. Class of 2020 Bench

Situated directly behind the Brandy West Courtyard is the newest of BHS's memorials, a stone bench constructed in honor of the Class of 2020. The first graduating class of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2020 experienced countless hardships and uncertainties in their journey to college and beyond.

However, despite quarantine and virtual classes, they managed to stay strong the whole way.

"During the pandemic, I wasn't able to hang out with friends or do anything productive... I think it's good that BHS [built the bench], because it must have been pretty difficult for [the Class of 2020]," junior Yago Avello said.

Whether it is outstanding students or national catastrophes, memorials help us never forget what the school has endured. What new memorials may be created is yet to be seen, but whatever they are, they will always be an important part of BHS.



SPIRIT BELL: In honor of class of 2000's Trygve Skoglund, this bell sits on the top of the stairs as a landmark of our community. Bellevue's football players keep the tradition alive by ringing the bronze bell every time they enter the field on game night.

PHOTO: VAUGHN EDERER

College destinations over our 100 year history

AVA RAMOS
Editor-in-Chief

The beginning of the school years means different things for students in different grades. For freshmen, the beginning of the year means starting a new chapter in life and avoiding intimidating upperclassmen in the halls. For sophomores, September is an introduction to the inevitable 'sophomore slump' that plagues tenth graders nationwide. For juniors, it's time to crack open the SAT prep guides and start cramming. But for seniors, September is the beginning of the long and stressful process of college applications. It's the beginning of everyone you know asking what schools you're looking at as a conversation starter instead of asking how you're doing.

Tracking everyone's college decisions can come in many forms. Whether you're constantly refreshing the senior destination Instagram page or looking through people's Instagram bios to see if Bellevue Class of '24 has been replaced with *Insert College here* Class of '28, there are plenty of ways to get creative. If you want to look back at student's most popular destinations, it turns out that flipping through old editions of The Barque is a great resource for spotting patterns and changes.

Annual senior issues list the college decisions of all seniors who choose to submit, and this tradition goes back decades. Going further back in time than most the current Barque staff has been alive, here are some of the biggest takeaways.

It's easy to see that the most popular senior destination in Bellevue's history has been the University of Washington.

Being only 20 minutes away from Bellevue High, University of Washington's location, historic buildings, and in-state tuition has made the school a favorite for students here. Although the Seattle campus gets the most applications, UW Bothell has been another popular choice. 1056 Bellevue students applied to the Seattle campus last year, with the Bothell campus receiving 381 applications. Clearly, UW has been a staple for seniors.

"When I decided to go to UW, I knew a ton of people going. I was a little worried about being so close to home, but the school is so big that you rarely run into people from your high school. Plenty of my

friends also go but we are all in different sororities, so we only see each other as much as we want to," alum Lily Ramos said.

Possibly the biggest trend in college destinations has been the University of California (UC) system in recent years. Looking back to the late 2000s, the amount of future UC students could be counted on one hand. Nowadays, the UCs are the most dominant university system for Bellevue students. This application rise could be partially due to their recently adopted test-blind admissions and their increasing prestige.

Aside from the UCs, there are a few other changes among the most common California decisions. Santa Clara University has become much more popular in recent years, with the number of Bellevue applicants rising from seven in 2010 to 179 in 2022.

Contrary to Santa Clara's rise in attendance, University of Southern California has seen a sharp decline in Bellevue students enrolling. In fact, the number of Bellevue students enrolled from the class of 2019 is three times the number of students enrolled from the class of 2023.

Shifting over toward the east, Northeastern University in Boston has seen a monumental increase in applications over the past decade. In 2013, six Bellevue students applied and later enrolled at Northeastern. In 2023, 263 Bellevue students applied, with 14 enrolling. Analogously, Northwestern University has seen an additional 100 applications from 2016 to 2023.

"I chose Northwestern because it had everything I wanted in a school with education, athletics, location and campus. I don't know of anyone else from Bellevue whose going," senior Camille Grieve said.

Looking back to the class of 2009, there were eight applicants to the University of Colorado, Boulder. All applicants were accepted and later enrolled. In the class of 2023, Boulder received 161 applications from Bellevue students, six of which enrolled.

Overall, the beginning of the school year is a time to start anew, not to stress out. And seniors, if you're feeling overwhelmed with college pressure, there's nothing more relaxing than meticulously reviewing acceptance statistics online.



GO DAWGS: The UW Quad stands as a point of appeal for any student thinking of going to this university. Even for high schoolers, the Quad sits as a popular photo spot in the spring.

PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER

Bellevue's treacherous climb: Wolverine Way

HOJOON SUNG
Chief Copy Editor

Every morning we drive to school and drive home. Tired from a long rigorous day of lectures, tests, and training our minds, we forget to consider how we are able to get to school every morning. Our very own Wolverine Way! Today, we will dig deep into the rich history of the pride of BHS.

Before we can talk about the road itself, let's dig into the origin of BHS and now the original was established. The establishment of BHS dates all the way back to 1923, when it was a two-room building and located at the corner of 100th Ave

After much advocating, legislation known as "Ordinance 5223" was passed. This ordinance stated that it would rename the public portion of SE Killamock to SE Wolverine Way. This legislation was passed by the city council on the 15th day of May 2000.

Wolverine Way's rich history is just a little overview of the culture and pride that Bellevue High School has created for the past 100 years. Wolverine Way is just a pathway into the rich culture of Bellevue, as it is developing every year and so



and Main Street. Between 1930 and 1949, Bellevue High was located on 103rd Ave NE (now part of Bellevue Downtown Park) and was known as Overlake High School. In 1949, BHS was moved to the location that we occupy today, and what we know as Wolverine Way in the present was named SE Killamock Street.

The movement to turn SE Killamock street into Wolverine Way, was first advocated in 2000 by the class of 2000.

is our ambition. With more students bringing innovative thoughts to the table there is much more to come of BHS.



KEEP ON CLIMBING: This multipurpose street holds the valuable history of numerous parades and walks to lunch. Known to be the worst climb we have on campus, walking up this street is never anyone's first choice of transportation when getting around.

PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER

Bellevue's Gatorade players of the year

PHILIP TANG
Chief Copy Editor

The Gatorade Player of the Year award is one of many prestigious awards able to be granted in one's high school athletic career.

This award is presented to not only outstanding athletic performances, but also academic achievement. Specifically, selection is based on three criteria: athletic distinction, academic excellence, and exemplary character (including sportsmanship, and participation in community and other activities).

Only one student athlete is selected by committee annually from each state and sport.

Bellevue, being the athletic and academic powerhouse we are, has had two student athletes that have earned the title.

First is Isaiah Ifanse, the former senior running back and defensive back, rushing for 2,485 yards and 44 touchdowns his senior year and leading the Wolverines to the 3A state semifinals. In three postseason games, Ifanse rushed for 604 yards and 11 scores.

Ifanse broke the 200-yard rushing barrier six times this fall and recorded 34 tackles on defense. Ifanse concluded his career with 4,158 rushing yards and 65 touchdowns.

Ifanse was also a member of the Young African American Men's Group at Bellevue High. Ifanse volunteered locally as a youth football coach.

"On the weekends I would ref flag football games on the weekend in Bellevue. In the club I was a part of, we talked about the current events that happened in our in the news and got to know everyone's experience and hear part of their story usually over lunch. I would love to get involved and join clubs this fall and find something like the group I was once a part of," Ifanse said.

The GPOY award meant a great deal to Ifanse but was not his priority.

"I remember going to the office and being told that I won and that made my day I

GATORADE
PLAYER
OF THE YEAR



CELEBRATING A WIN: Bellevue GPOY Isaiah Ifanse poses for a photo post-game. His career with Bellevue football was filled with incredible performances on the field.

was very happy. I think that there was a selection process for the GPOY, the coaches never told me that I was entered because we were focused on the season," Ifanse said.

Aside from being a star athlete on the field, Ifanse also enjoyed many of the traditions and perks of Bellevue High that are still prominent to many of our students today.

"I'll always remember the snack store that was open, I spent a lot of time there in between periods, also the pep rallies we had during state for the sports. In football I'll always remember going to Fort Worden for team camps and how close the team got in that week when we were prepping for the season, I have lifelong friends from it," Ifanse said.

As we celebrate the 100 years of Bellevue High, it is great to hear about the keen memories that BHS has fostered for students for a century.

Now, Ifanse looks to play as long as he can.

His impact on Bellevue football will remain for many classes to come. He will be remembered as a legend in school sports history.

After playing for Montana State University for five years, Ifanse is looking to continue his collegiate career at the University of Berkeley, California in 2023.

He will also be completing a graduate certificate program for Global Business Administration.

Bellevue High has had its fair share of extraordinary student athletes in its century of existence.

Ifanse is just one of multiple GPOY award recipients and has succeeded

Whether it is the academic excellence or the proactive civic engagement of Isaiah Ifanse, Bellevue High School has and will continue to produce the selfless and hardworking young adults of our community!

PHOTO / ANA RAMOS

History Of our school's dance team

LILLY ROBILLARD
Editor-in-Chief

From their half time performances, iconic national anthem march and creative assembly routine, the dance team has always been the team to watch. This team has been a part of our school since it was re-named from Overlake to Bellevue High, and much like our school, they did not start out with the same title as they have today.

"I have always loved watching the dance team do their national anthem introduction and half time routines. I feel like our drill team really sticks out from the others I've seen and they definitely have the most creative routines I have seen in a long time," senior Kaiden Ambrey said.

The dance team was originally a drill team, but this changed in their 2022-2023 season. Many have a specific and outdated view of what drill is. The Rockettes and kick lines are often associations that come with the term, and don't put into perspective how diverse the sport really is. Drill consists of many different styles of dance, and to better represent this the shift from drill to dance was made.

"For the name change of drill to dance that occurred last year, it was mostly just a change of accuracy. Drill is quite a traditional term mostly originating from the South, it really only encompasses the dance styles of Pom and Military. Dance is simply more reflective of our team as we do all kinds of dance now such as jazz, hiphop and kick. Despite the name change, it didn't really bring many changes in what we did," senior Michelle Ma said.

This decision was also a product of multiple leadership changes on the team.



"For a period of time at the end of my sophomore season in 2019 we didn't have a coach, but we all worked together to attend events and practice and we even won the breakout dance award at Elite Performance Dance Camp," Bellevue Drill alumni Sophia Robillard said.

A new coach was soon hired for the 2019-2020 season, and it was under this leadership

when the change was made. This year, assistant coach Kiara Wilson stepped up to lead as head coach, and Caleigh Van Slambrook joined the team as assistant coach. They are looking forward to a successful season and cannot wait for what is to come.

"We have had a lot of changes in the last couple of years but all the changes have great. We miss our old staff but are excited for the coaches we have now! Coming into this year, coach Kiara became our head coach; we hope with her expertise coming from a high school dance team herself, we can make this year really special. All in all, this year feels like a new beginning of sorts, we really want to focus on becoming more involved in school spirit and creating a even more positive environment for all this year," Ma said.

Through all these changes, the dance team has remained a huge part of our school, and they have definitely established themselves here at



TEAM PIC: Members of the Bellevue Dance/Drill team pose for a group photo. The team has been a stable within our school's activities and continue to grow in ability and size every year.

Bellevue despite their change of name.

We continue to see this team evolve as time goes on, and we wish them the best of luck this season!

ALL GRAPHICS / LAUREN YIM

ALL GRAPHICS / LAUREN YIM

M Bellevue's lasting rivalry with MI

JONATHAN FENG
History Editor

Every home football game at Bellevue High School is attended by loyal fans, cheering for their favorite players, enjoying food from the food trucks and demonstrating their spirit for the school. It's no doubt that Bellevue football games are the place to be. However, every year, one game always seems more spirited and fiery than the rest. When the blue and gold jerseys of Bellevue meet the maroon jerseys of Mercer Island (MI), it's sure to be an intense game.

What many diehard football fans might not know is that this rivalry spans over 60 years. The origin of the rivalry between Mercer Island and Bellevue dates to the 1960s when high school sports become a more integral part of the community. New communication technology such as television further fed into this era of excitement. During this time, two athletic powerhouses emerged in Washington: Mercer Island and Bellevue.

Both schools experienced a lot of success during this time. Under the guidance of Bob Richards, Bellevue's football team became very successful, and consistently won games. George Duenkel's leadership at Mercer Island developed the football team into a formidable opponent. Their rivalry began because the two schools were some similar in producing stellar athletes.

Throughout the decades since then, both schools have continued their successes. Mercer Island had grown to be more than just an underdog, exemplified by their success including their 1982 State Championship Victory and many deep playoffs runs since then. Since 2001, Bellevue's legendary football team won 11 state championships, gaining much notoriety, especially for coach Butch Goncharoff.

Bellevue's football team fell from grace around 2016, when the investigation regarding poaching players was underway. The slinging of accusations and insults further added to the animosity. That brings us to today, with Bellevue's return to football excellency and Mercer Island's resistance against Bellevue's success. Both schools continue to create top athletes in the state.

Today, even the coaches themselves have long been a part of the rivalry.

"I still played football and basketball in the Bellevue system. I first found out about the rivalry in the second grade when we first played MI," Michael Kneip, head football coach of Bellevue High School, said.

This rivalry is deeply engrained part of Bellevue's culture, but it can lead to some questionable activities as well.

"I'm a part of the marching band, and during the half-time performance one game, Mercer Island fans threw things and yelled at us," senior Hana Okubo said.

This is not a one-way affair. Bellevue fans have also had a long history of talking trash, cussing MI students and players out, and even getting in physical altercations. As a result, there is a significantly higher police presence in Bellevue v. MI games than any other.

Although Kneip thinks competition is great, he disapproves some aspects of the rivalry.

"The rivalry is fun until it's not. It can bring hate and bad behavior that no one should enjoy. We need to live in excellence and love," Kneip said.

Although football is what started the Bellevue and Mercer Island, this adversarial culture spreads in other sports, academics, and activities.

This culture has permeated to other sports such as soccer, swive, lacrosse and baseball. However, some aspects are less adversarial than others.

"In robotics, it's much less of a rivalry and is based far more on cooperation. We worked with the MI robotics teams many times this year and helped each other succeed in competition," junior Matthew Chin said.

It's suffice to say that Bellevue without Mercer Island would not be the same. The long-standing rivalry has produced some of the most intense games to witness, inspired some of the best athletes in the nation and ignited school spirit within the community.

Next time you are at a MI game, cheering while the score grows close, be sure to appreciate all the great competition that the rivalry brings, and avoid the nasty behavior that it might inspire.



HEAD TO HEAD: Bellevue Boy's Basketball takes shots at big-time rival Mercer Island. One of the most popular matchups in school history has remained as Mercer Island.

PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER



How Bellevue became a sports school

MADELYNE MASTERS
Graphics Designer

When contemplating Bellevue High School's renowned reputation, one item that immediately stands out is its exceptional success in sports. This journey towards establishing itself as a sports powerhouse commenced in the early 2000s, and over 17 years (from 1998 to 2015), the school's remarkable athletes clinched 26 state titles in just four sports. This remarkable achievement began with the success of the girls' swim and dive team, which secured seven state championships between 1998 and 2007. Subsequently, the Bellevue High School football team embarked on an extraordinary journey, capturing eleven state championships from 2001 to 2013. These victories adorned the school's trophy case and garnered widespread recognition and acclaim for Bellevue High School and its exceptional sports programs.

Soon after the football team started winning titles, other teams followed suit. The boys' water polo team won four consecutive state titles from 2011-2014. The boy's track and field team also succeeded at states between 2012 and 2015, winning four straight championships. These are just four of the numerous sports teams Bellevue High offers that won state titles during the early 2000s.

Winning titles or placing high in the state is not just something of the past; Bellevue High proves to be strong in all sports year after year. In the 2022/2023 season, the girls' soccer and golf teams won state; girls' swim and dive, girls' track and field, and boys' lacrosse all placed second; boys basketball, boys' swim and dive, and girls' water polo all received fourth at state; while volleyball and football both ranked sixth in state.

"The Bellevue community has a strong desire to excel in everything they" sophomore golfer Tatum Otto said.

Otto was integral in the girls' golf team winning state in 2023. The Bellevue team set the state record for boys and girls golf by winning the state title by 68 strokes over the next team. This was quite an impressive feat for the team. They are hoping to repeat it again in the spring.

"[Bellevue] maintains [their] position as a sports school through consistency and grit," junior Bob Frazer said.

Frazer is a returning captain of the boys' water polo team and a swim and dive team member. In 2022, he was a member of the All King-Co Team for water polo and placed fourth in boys state in the 100 fly and ninth in the 200 free.

Girls' soccer placed first in the state last year with hard-fought games to the bitter end. They, too, hope to repeat as State champions again this season.

"The girls' soccer has so much success because we never give up," senior captain Gaby Bede said.

"Bellevue High became known as a sports school due to its dominance in all sports, not just football," sophomore Justin Lee said.

Lee, a boys' lacrosse team member, placed second in 3A state last year and is hoping to take back the championship this year. Lee also received King County's second team.

Success couldn't have been achieved in any of these sports without the tireless efforts of many outstanding coaches. Exceptional coaching staff can make a significant difference in the performance of student-athletes. Skilled and dedicated coaches can help to develop talent and create winning strategies across all sports at Bellevue. Bellevue has been extremely lucky to have so many great coaches over the years.

Bellevue also has strong community support, including passionate parents, fans and volunteers. These dedicated followers also help boost Bellevue's sports programs through their continued support by attending games and sports fundraisers. Without the entire community's support, these sports programs wouldn't be as successful as they are.

Parent volunteers are instrumental in the success of the teams as well. Some sports require so many parents to help ensure the competition can occur.

As Bellevue is celebrating its 100th anniversary, it will be exciting to see how the sports programs fare this year and what championships they can add to their impressive repertoire. If you haven't already done so, go out and cheer on your classmates at one of their upcoming games and share the Wolverine spirit.



FOOTBALL TIME: The Bellevue Boy's varsity football team takes on a tough opponent in Lake Stevens. The team has a rich history of playing some of the best teams in the state.

PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER



History of the football program

VAUGHN EDERER
Photographer

As Bellevue High School celebrates its 100th anniversary, the spotlight shines on its football team: The Wolverines have been powerhouse in Washington football for decades.

The dynasty started with head coach Butch Goncharoff from 2001-2015, where they not only clinched 11 state championships during that era but also achieved a remarkable 67-game winning streak, the longest in Washington state history. A main factor to this greatness, was the iconic Wing - T offense, a run dominant playbook and a big part of history.

Over the years, Bellevue's football has produced elite talent and has had many players continue their football careers at college and the NFL too. Some of these players are: strong safety Budda Baker, who is with the Arizona Cardinals and a 5x pro bowler; linebacker Myles Jack, who has played for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Pittsburgh Steelers and most recently the Philadelphia Eagles; also retired guard David DeCastro who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers as well; lastly, Bill Cahill, who made a name for himself with the Buffalo Bills in the 1970s.

Bellevue football passes the torch to head coach Michael Kneip in 2019 to continue its greatness of Bellevue football, Kneip is a Bellevue alumni and former player at the University of Washington, where he has played a huge role in Bellevue's recent successes. As the head coach, his leadership and motivation has been a big part in maintaining the Wolverines' status as a dominant force in high school football. The 2021 State Championship won under Coach Kneip was particularly special as they completed an undefeated season.

From the early days and to where they are at now, the Wolverines have experienced a journey with some challenging losses, but for the most part it's been dominant wins and moments that will forever be remembered by passionate fans at BHS. The brilliant fans play

a huge role in Bellevue success as the always bring the energy to support the team.

In the competitive world of high school football, many teams focus on their top-tier talent, often relying on their Division 1 prospects. However, Coach Kneip takes a different approach, one rooted in community, collective work ethic and great passion.

For Coach Kneip, the foundation of Bellevue football's success lies in its homegrown talent. These are the kids who, from a young age, have been part of the junior Wolverine football program, learning the ropes, understanding the program's values and gradually progressing to the high school team. The players might not always have the size of a D1 athlete, but they bring something equally valuable to the table: a deep-seated commitment to their team and community.

"That's the key: homegrown kids ... who are over-achieving - kids who are overachieving because they believe in each other, believe in the coaching staff and work really hard." Kneip said in 2021 after winning the State Championship against Kennewick High School.

This philosophy underscores a broader perspective that Coach Kneip holds dear. It's not just about individual talent or accolades; it's about building a cohesive unit where every player, regardless of their background or future prospects, plays a crucial role.

It's about creating an environment where players push beyond their limits, not for personal glory, but for the collective success of the team.

As the glory days for Bellevue High School continue, the football team's legacy stands as a beacon of excellence. The Wolverines' journey is a reflection not just of their on-field accomplishments but also to what it brings off the field: a wonderful community!



BIG WIN: The players pose for a picture after a historic win over Kennewick to bring back the state title.

ALL GRAPHICS / LAUREN YIM

PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER

The longest standing school records

PONY PENDERGAST
A&E Editor

As each year goes by, Bellevue students continue to break school records. At Bellevue we have 20 varsity teams and 45 other teams that include individual and team sports. Overseeing 100 years of athletic prowess, Bellevue High continues to dominate and create unmatched success. Records serve to inspire and motivate an athlete while reflecting their discipline, dedication and hard work. In honor of 100 years of Bellevue High School, the only right thing to do is commemorate these athletes and their achievements.

Dan Elkins 10.4 seconds (1971) in the men's 100-meter race, Alex Buck 11.91 seconds (2022) in the women's 100-meter race. You may be wondering what these times are? These times are a Bellevue High alumni and current student's standing record in men and women's Track and Field.

Track and Field

Men's 100-meter race;	Dan Elkins 10.4 seconds (1971)
Men's 200-meter race;	Budda Baker 21.66 seconds (2013)
Men's 400-meter race;	Myles Jack 49.05 seconds (2013)
Women's 100-meter race;	Alex Buck 11.91 seconds (2022)
Women's 800-meter race;	Kalea Hill 2:13.75 minutes (2023)
Women's 3200-meter race;	Kalea Hill 10:31.47 minutes (2023)
Men's 1500-meter race;	Will Fields 4:38.26 minutes (2010)
Men's 300-meter hurdles;	Sam Richmond 40.37 seconds (2014)
Women's Shot Put;	Chris Van Pelt 46'5" (1983)
Men's Discus;	Allan Dykes 174'1 (1983)
Football	
Scott Whiting;	Longest Punt Return- 80 yards (2011)
Gavin Smith;	Longest Run/TD- 96 yards (2001)
Swim and Dive	
Erik Gordon;	200 freestyle 1:40.18 minutes (1999)
Brett Garr;	100 Freestyle 45.82 seconds (1988)
Jonathan Wilcox;	1 Meter Diving 530.53 (2004)

As we look at individual records above, we can also look back on team records. Bellevue football holds the most consecutive wins which is 67 in 2008-2014. In Track and Field Kaitlyn Cody, Riana Tiff, Alex Buck and Savannah Wyatt have just broken the 4x1 relay race record at 49.31 seconds, this time has put them at second in state for the 2023 Track and Field season going into the state meet.

"We worked hard every day to cut down our time, each second and milli-second count in Track so it was super important for us to stay consistent and

determined in our races. You are there to compete against the clock and not focus on others, that is how you win," sophomore Kaitlyn Cody said.

In the 4x4 relay race, the records made by Woody Butler, Will Sheeran, Myles Jack and Budda Baker have held its place since 2012 at a record time of 3:19.71 minutes. Jack and Baker have since continued their football careers out of high school and played in the NFL. Chris O'Connor, the boys' basketball coach from 2007-2018, coached the team when it was at its prime. During this period of time, the basketball team had its highest state rank, ranging from number three to thirty. The 2013-2014 boys basketball team was ranked number three in state, the highest we have seen so far.

Now that 100 years have passed, we can look to the future and hope to continue on Bellevue's strong athletic diligence and beat these standing records with hard work and determination. Commemorating these athlete's is significant in preserving our history in particular sports. The legacy these athletes have left will never be forgotten as we recognize their contributions to their sports and celebrate the years to come.

BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD OUTDOOR RECORDS

100m DASH	
200m DASH	
400m DASH	
800m RUN	
1000m RUN	
4x100 RELAY	
4x200 RELAY	
4x400 RELAY	



THE BEST: The record boards and trophy displays showcasing the accolades of Bellevue High Athletes for decades.

PHOTO / VAUGHN EDERER

JJ PENDERGAST AND COLIN MILLER
Social Media Manager and Photo Manager

Drip or Drown: 100 year edition



ALL GRAPHICS / LAUREN YIM

Over the years, Bellevue sports have had major success. Multiple people have gone on to play professionally, and many teams have won state championships. But we often overlook one of the most important factors of our sports history: the uniforms. One of the most famous sayings within the sports realm is “look good, play good,” and here we will find out whether that is true or not. We will highlight the Bellevue teams over the past with not only the best uniforms, but also the worst. Did it relate to the team’s success? Many still wonder about this today, so it is important to debunk the truth once and for all.

2012 Girls Soccer: Drown

This is one of the worst Bellevue uniforms I have ever seen. I am truly sorry to the players who had to wear these. At first glance, I got these confused with a rec league shirt but then, I saw the print below in the frame. I didn’t believe it. This team could have played as any team with a blue color in the state. For all we know, the people pictured aren’t even the Bellevue soccer team! Bellevue also has other colors than blue. What about some yellow? I’ve never seen a jersey so bland yet so unbearable. I think we should start a petition to take this picture down from the hallway.

2014 Boys Basketball: Drown

I was at McDonald’s the other day, and to my surprise I saw the 2014 Boys Basketball Uniforms! Or so I thought. It was just a bottle of mustard, something you don’t want your uniforms to be compared to. At least they all coordinated the things outside the uniforms! But at further inspection, we noticed that wasn’t true. There’s a yellow undershirt, a black undershirt, and a slightly lighter “sunflower” undershirt. Also, were the long shorts



NEW LOOK: A look at Bellevue Footballs new black Jordan jerseys from the 2022 season. Along with the Classic navy, this is a great look new look for our wolverines!

still in play in 2014? The AND1 tour was 10 years before this. Hopefully, not rolling the shorts was just a coach’s requirement. Compared to the former soccer team although, it’s obvious that this is a Bellevue team.

1993 Girls Softball: Drip

When you think of classical softball uniforms, you would think back to the days of the pinstripes. This is exactly what the 1993-1994 Bellevue High Varsity Softball team managed to pull off. They have a grey base with the blue pinstripes to represent the softball heritage. The lettering of “Bellevue” is blue as well, but they also have the yellow lining to further the spirit of the Wolverines. You know what they say, look good play good. This definitely was the case with this team. They had unreal drip. The only thing that we have to address that isn’t drip is the coaches. I don’t know what they were thinking when they planned to wear completely different outfits but it just isn’t it. The Bellevue throwback jacket is pretty dope but when your partner in crime is wearing a blue and white jacket it just can’t work. Otherwise, the fit is tremendous and this is definitely deemed drippy.

2013 Boys Lacrosse: Drip

When you think of alternate jerseys, you think of an out of the ordinary color combo and that’s what we have here. The 2013-2014 Bellevue Varsity Lacrosse team mastered that. They have a sleek yellow jersey that has enlarged blue numbers paired beautifully with the grey shorts. The coaches are drip as well, wearing blue jackets that go with anything. The one knock I have on these is that they better have worn the grey helmets with them because the blue helmet with that would this drip into a major drown like the titanic. They played even better than they looked, going on to win state for 3A Washington in the public school tournament. This just adds on to the drip and swag of the team.

PHOTO: VAUGHN EDERER



TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN BHS...

BHS supports and allows you to make your own club!

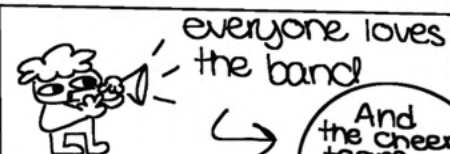
This allows everyone the opportunity to connect w/ more people!



1# Go to the games



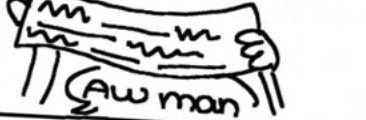
Every wolverine loves attending the sports games



2# Join a club!



3# Get a parking ticket...



As more students gain a license they think they can park wherever they want



But they can't



4# Attend a musical



Musicals showcase wolverine talent and are very entertaining



5# Take a zero period

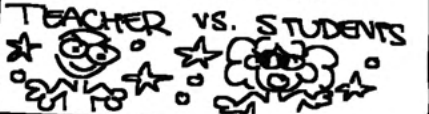


Wake up early to attend classes such as Jazz or Bellairs!



6# participate in assembly

BHS is always better when students participate in all assemblies like



7# Go to Rumble!



The Leadership class hosts a end of the year event filled w/ powderpuff, tie dye, hotdogs, + more!

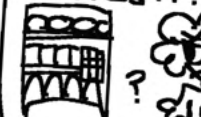


8# Stop by the vending machine

It's always nice to stop for a little snack!



But only when it works...



9#

Visit the DECA DEN!



When the vending machine doesn't work, the Deca Den is a perfect place to visit!



10#

check out the Barque



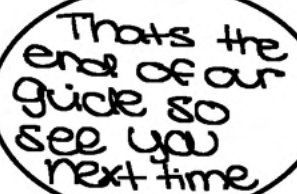
The Barque is BHS's newspaper that contains a variety of eye catching articles



As you can see there is always something to do in BHS. Believe High is a very special community!



That's the end of our guide so see you next time



XOXO, The Barque



ACROSS:

4. CHICK FILA

5. BEACON

DOWN:

1. VANDYKE

2. OVERLAKE

3. THREE

6. ADAMS

THE - CENTENNIAL - ISSUE

The Barque has been proud to serve the Bellevue community since 1926.

