



Bel Air School News

October 2018

Mrs. Andreasen's October News

It has been an amazing start to our 2018-2019 school year! Staff and students are into a great routine. The hard work and dedication of staff members and the wonderful students and parents we have at Bel Air will again make this a great year.

On September 7, we celebrated Grandparent's Day. We enjoyed having grandparents, aunts, uncles, moms and dads as special guests visiting our school. I am excited to report that we welcomed over 600 guests on this special day.

Grandparents visited classrooms and participated in fun activities. Please check out our website for pictures from this memorable day.

Conferences will be held October 15-18. On Monday and Tuesday we will have conferences from 4:00-7:00, and 1:00-4:00 on Thursday. Students will dismiss at 11:30 on Thursday the 18th and we will have no school on Friday the 19th. The communication and partnership that exists between school and home is crucial, so please mark your calendars. This is a partnership that we take seriously and will continue to build with you throughout the year. During parent-teacher conferences on Monday and Tuesday, we will have the Book Fair in the gym.

As always, the safety of everyone at Bel Air Elementary is a priority. Please take note of our crosswalks and the no parking signs. It is very important that students cross the street using the crosswalk. In addition, when dropping off and picking up children in the roundabouts, we ask that you stay in your vehicle to keep traffic moving. If you have to get out of your vehicle, please park along one of the side streets so we do not have traffic backed into the streets.

We take the safety of our students, your children, very seriously. Our school policy is to have visitors sign in at the front office before entering the building past the locked doors. At all times we need to know the number of visitors we have in the building, and who they are. Thank you for your help with this.

Also, thank you for your help in ensuring that our Bel Air students are at school ready to learn on time. Please remember that supervision and breakfast do not begin until 7:50 AM and supervision after school goes until 3:25 PM. Please have your child(ren) arrive or be picked up to coincide with these times. As stated in the Elementary Handbook, these are the times that govern the school day. As a reminder, we do have Y Kids Club available before and after school. Registration forms are available at the YMCA or you may visit with the YMCA supervisors before or after school. Rainy and cold days are not an exception. We do have students come into the building on these days, however we open the doors at 7:50 AM. As students enter the building, we ask that they walk to their classrooms on their own. There is always staff in the halls to help them find their rooms if they are still unsure. We are working to help build confidence and independence with all students.

We continue to value your efforts in sending your child(ren) to school ready to learn. The support and reinforcement you show will only boost the success your child(ren) will have at Bel Air this year and for years to come.

Educationally,

Trisha Andreasen, Principal

October Dates:

October 11th: Picture packets due

October 16th: Picture re-takes

October 15-18: Conferences

October 15-16: Book fair in gym 4-7

October 18: 11:30 early dismissal

Conferences 1-4

October 19 & 22: No School

Kindergarten News!

All About Miss Batenhorst

I am so excited to start another school year. This will be my 4th year teaching (all in kindergarten) and my 2nd year teaching at Bel Air!

Education:

I am originally from West Point, Nebraska where I grew up and graduated high school. I graduated in 2015 from Wayne State College with my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. I also recently completed my Master's degree (December 2017) through WSC in Curriculum and Instruction with a Reading Specialist endorsement.

My Family:

My mom, Lachelle, is a nurse at Dinklage Medical Clinic in West Point, NE. My dad, Jeff, is a parts salesman at Sid Dillon. My older brother, Josh, is in his 2nd year of teaching Agriculture in Allen, NE. My younger brother, Cole, is currently deployed overseas in Kuwait through the National Guard.

My Day to Day:

As for myself, I live on a farm with my boyfriend, Tyler. He is a farmer and has roughly 1,000 head of cattle and plenty of land for corn, beans, and winter wheat. We have a puppy, Ace who is almost 2 years old. He is a Border Collie/Australian Sheppard and the perfect cow herder. For fun I like to read, go shopping, watch Netflix, nap, get mani/pedi's and help on the farm! And... I almost always have an iced coffee in my hand!

Meeting Mrs. Leuthold

I am Bobbi Leuthold, one of the kindergarten teachers at Bel Air. This year marks my fifteenth year of teaching and my twelfth year of teaching kindergarten. I feel extremely blessed to be a part of the Bel Air family. I graduated with my Elementary Education degree from Wayne State College and my Master's degree from Doane College. My family is very important to me and I love spending time with them. My husband Garret and I have been married for 21 years. He is the store manager for Matheson Gas. We have four beautiful children. Hailey is a nursing student at UNMC. Sidney is a junior and Griffin is a sophomore at Norfolk Senior High. Jace is a third grader here at Bel Air.

My kids keep me very busy, but when I do have free time I enjoy reading, yoga, running, camping and playing games. My perfect evening would be spent eating pizza and playing a card game with my family. Stop by kindergarten and say “Hi”!

Greetings from Mrs. Ransen’s Kindergarten Classroom!

This year marks my tenth year of teaching and my seventh year with Norfolk Public Schools. I am very excited as I have a great group of kindergarten students!

I grew up in the small town of Cedar Rapids, Nebraska. I graduated from Cedar Rapids High School and went on to get my Bachelor’s degree from Wayne State College. Later, I added an ESL Endorsement. In 2016 I earned a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an Early Childhood Endorsement from Doane College.

My husband, Jeff, and I were married in 2002. He is a mechanic at the Nebraska Department of Roads. We have two children, Lucas and Cole. Lucas is in 8th grade and Cole is in 7th grade at Norfolk Jr. High. They keep me very busy, but when I have free time I enjoy reading, gardening, cooking, and traveling.

I feel very fortunate to be able to do something that I love each day, and I’m looking forward to a great school year at Bel Air Elementary!

First Grade News!

All About Mrs. Garder

Mrs. Garder’s first graders have been busy little monkeys! This year there are 21 first graders in my room. I can already tell we are going to have a fantastic school year. The students have done wonderful transitioning into first grade.

A little bit about myself, for the people that are new to Bel Air. This is my tenth year teaching at Bel Air. All of the years have been in first grade, except for my first year when I was the reading teacher at Bel Air. I love teaching first grade! It is the best job in the world! Especially with the incredible first graders I have this school year. I have three children. My youngest is a senior at the University

of Nebraska Kearney. My middle child lives here in Norfolk, and my oldest son lives in Kentucky.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact me. We are going to have an amazing school year!

Mrs. Garder

ALL ABOUT MRS. KERKMAN

Hi, my name is Terri Kerkman and I teach first grade. I have worked for Norfolk Public Schools for eighteen years and have been a teacher for nineteen years. I am married and have three kids. I am married to Kerry, who works for CenturyLink. I have two sons Shane, a student at UNL , and Karter, an eighth grader. I have one daughter Peyton who is a student at Benedictine College. I grew up in Atkinson, Nebraska on a farm. I went to country school from Kindergarten through eighth grade. I graduated from West Holt High School and went on to get my teaching degree from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska. I received my masters from UNK. Some of the things that I do in my spare time are watching my kids play sports, spending time at the lake, and reading. My favorite things are Mountain Dew, candy, Huskers, Atlanta Braves, and spending time with my family and friends.

First Grade with Mrs. Walker

Hello Bel Air families! My name is Mrs. Walker and I teach first grade along with Mrs. Garder and Mrs. Kerkman. I truly enjoy every minute of my day teaching first grade! First graders are so much fun at this age and have so many skills to show off that they learned in kindergarten.

I completed my elementary education degree at Wayne State College with an endorsement in early childhood in December of 2007. In December of 2014, I finished my masters degree in curriculum and instruction through Doane College. After that, I completed my student teaching at Bel Air, taught kindergarten at Jefferson Elementary for 7 years, and have been teaching first grade here since 2015. This position is extra special to me as I attended Bel Air as a child! My husband and I have four beautiful children. Blaine is 8 and he is a third grader at Bel Air, Kyler is 6 and in kindergarten at Bel Air, and my twin daughters, Ella and Paisley, are 3 and a half years old. We are very excited to be a part of the Bel Air family!

Second Grade News!

All About Me

My name is Miss Jenkins, and I am a second grade teacher. This is my first year at Bel Air Elementary School! I grew up on a farm by Carroll, Nebraska with my parents and older brother. On our farm, we have a dog, cats, horses, and cattle. I LOVE animals! I recently graduated from Wayne State College with a degree in Elementary Education and an endorsement in Early Childhood Education. I am excited for a FUN year of learning!

Getting to Know ...

Mrs. Shari Johnson

Hello from Shari Johnson! I am a second grade teacher at Bel Air. This is my 33rd year of teaching, and I have been blessed to have all those years here at Bel Air! I was hired to teach 1 st grade three days before school started due to high numbers. Since then, I have been teaching 2 nd grade. I received my bachelor's degree from Kearney State College and my Master's degree from Doane College. I played 4 years of volleyball and 2 years of softball while I attended college. My family consists of my husband, Steve (an accountant), Nicole (a third grade teacher at Harvey Oaks Elementary in Millard), Garrett (an Architectural Engineer with HDR in Omaha), and Chelsea (final year of nursing school at UNMC). Nicole married Will Engstrom 4 years ago, and we were blessed with our first grandchild, Joshua John on February 21!! Chelsea married Alex Busskohl on June 23 of this year and it was a beautiful wedding day! We also have an 12 year old Welsh Corgi dog named Tucker. We live west of town on a 6.5 acreage. My family enjoys living just outside the city limits where we have the best of both worlds: country living and city living. We are a very active family who loves sports. I have been a Norfolk native since I was about 6 months old. My mom and oldest sister live here in Norfolk, but my youngest sister and 2 brothers live elsewhere. In my free time I enjoy walking and watching all my recorded TV. Being with my grandson, family and friends, going to Husker football games, having coffee with my neighbors, and watching movies are among some of my hobbies. Some of my favorites include: Brogi's White Chocolate Mochas, collecting snowmen, chocolate, Mexican food, and playing on my iPad or laptop. Mr. Jim Marshall, my grade school teacher, inspired me to become a teacher and I am forever grateful!

Getting to Know Mrs. Myers

My name is Bobbi Myers. I am a 2nd grade teacher at Bel Air. This is my 23rd year teaching. All of those years have been at Bel Air! I taught 5th and 6th grades for one year each before moving to 2nd grade.

I grew up in Bassett, Nebraska. I graduated from Rock County High School. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Education from Wayne State College in 1995. In 2000, I received a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College.

My husband, Ted, and I were married in Costa Rica in 2008. Our daughter, Adlin, is 8. Our son, Jaxton, is 5. He loves to play and makes us laugh everyday! It is such a joy to watch them grow and learn new things!

My hobbies include reading, crocheting, and traveling. I have been fortunate enough to travel to many parts of the country and a few foreign countries. Costa Rica is the most beautiful place I have traveled to so far!

My favorite drink is Coke. My favorite food is my mom's prime rib. Math is my favorite subject. Cheesecake and chocolate are my favorite desserts!

I consider it a privilege to work with your children, and I'm looking forward to a great year!

3rd Grade News!

Mrs. Dodson's Bio

Hello! My name is Pat Dodson. I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska and received my entire K-12 education from District 66. I attended University of Nebraska –

Lincoln for my undergraduate and received my masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College.

This will be my 24th year of teaching. I taught 5th grade for 3 years in Millard Public Schools and the past 20 years I have been at Bel Air teaching third grade.

My husband Scott was in education for 41 years. He was an elementary principal at Woodland Park Elementary for 20 years for Norfolk Public Schools and retired two years ago. We have three adult children. All graduated from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, and all are married. We have four beautiful grandchildren and another one due this month!

My goal each school year is to have every child walk out of my classroom in May feeling confident, successful, and excited to continue to be life-long learners for the 21st Century. I love to motivate children to learn, set goals to challenge themselves and achieve at their highest level possible. I consider it an honor and privilege to work with your child, and I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Mr. Mora's Bio

I lived in California and Mexico when I was young. My family moved to Nebraska in 1999. I grew up in Madison, Nebraska and I went to college at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. My love for Husker football began in 2004 and has been a roller coaster ride since then.

After college, I taught in the Kansas City Public Schools district for five years. During those five years, I met my wife, got married and became a father. We decided to move to Nebraska this year so we could be closer to our families.

This is my first year at Bel Air. I am excited to getting to know our students and parents more and more everyday.

Mrs Haglund's Bio

M---Married to Stan for 38 years

R--Ready for road trips, love adventures

S--Soon to be a grandmother for the first time

C--Crafty, coffee drinker, cat lover
O--One of three daughters who grew up in Brunswick, Nebraska
N--Nuts about family and friends
N--Nature observer and explorer of the outdoors
I--Interested in reading, four-wheeling, walking, and improving myself
E--Encourager who strives to be positive

H--Hugger

A--Acquired my education at Plainview High School, Northeast College, Wayne State College, and Masters at Doane

G--Grateful to be part of Bel Air

L--Love Literature Time

U--United with the Bel Air staff to help students to be successful

N--Nebraska Husker fan

D--Daughters, Angela and Alicia, who live in Vermillion, South Dakota

4th Grade News

Mrs. Burkink

My name is Mrs. Burkink. I am one of the fourth grade teachers. I grew up in Norfolk where I attended school at Sacred Heart and Norfolk Catholic. I returned to Norfolk after I completed college at Wayne State. I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Wayne State. I have taught here at Bel Air since college. Bel Air is a great school with great families and staff.

My family includes my husband, Doug, the engineering manager at Associated Wholesale Grocers. We have two children. Our daughter, Chelsea, is an intern working with hoofstock at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Our son, Myles, is a junior at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. He is majoring in math education and working on a coaching endorsement as well as playing wide receiver on the Tiger football team.

We live on an acreage near Hadar. I love living in the "country". We also have a yellow lab, Remi, who is three years old. She is also enjoying life in the country, where she chases grasshoppers and eats my tomatoes out of the garden.

My interests include reading, music, movies, and sports. I enjoy watching the Panthers, Huskers, and many college and professional teams. We attend as many Panther and Husker games as possible. Our family loves to take in sporting events whenever we are on vacation as well. We particularly enjoy watching Sporting Kansas City, the MLS soccer team in Kansas City.

I am excited about the 2018-2019 school year and having another great fourth grade class.

The Ins and Outs of Mrs. Gray

Hello! My name is Mary Gray, and this is my third year teaching and my third year at Bel Air. I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska, and graduated from Gretna High School in 2005. I was a member of the Maine Air National Guard from June 2006 to March 2010, and a member of the Nebraska Air National Guard from April 2010 to May 2015. I completed my Clinical II in Bobbi's Leuthold's kindergarten classroom in the spring of 2014. I graduated from Wayne State College with my Bachelor's Degree and English as a Second Language endorsement in December of 2016. I started my Master's in Education this year, and I look forward to utilizing what I learn in the classroom.

My husband, Matt, and I have two awesome little boys named Kenny and David. Kenny is 7, and currently attending second grade at Bel Air in Mrs. Myers's class. David is 6, and is in kindergarten in Mrs. Leuthold's room. We also have a beautiful baby girl named Myla. She's nine months old. Matt is the Branch Manager for Chesterman Company. As a family, we like to read books, take walks, cook, watch sports, and play games. We have lived in Norfolk (Go Panthers!) for 8 years now, and are proud to call it home.

This has been an amazing year so far, and I love the new 29 additions to my heart. I can't wait to continue to grow and learn alongside my kiddos!

Mrs. Kalin

My name is Mrs. Kalin & I am one of the 4th grade teachers. I grew up in Wayne, NE and graduated from Wayne High School. I went to Wayne State College and received my Bachelors Degree in Education, and I am currently working on my

Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. This is my first year at Bel Air, and I love working with the staff and students!

My family includes my husband, Kiefer. Kiefer works at Nucor Steel in the mill. We also have a cat, Oliver. My parents, Kevin and Jody Hoffart, live in Schuyler, NE, & my sister, Megan Anderson, lives in Wayne, NE with her husband, Justin.

My interests include slow pitch softball, sand volleyball, & golf. We enjoy going to my parents lake and spending time with family. Kiefer and I, along with my family, enjoy going to concerts, sporting events, and traveling.

I am looking forward to the 2018-2019 school year and being a Panther!

Autism/LIFE

Mrs. Herley

Hi, My name is Kristine Herley. I have been teaching for 19 years and I am excited to be starting my second year at Bel Air Elementary. My husband and I have an 8 year old daughter and a 6 year old daughter. They are both a part of the YMCA Flairs gymnastics team, so when I am not at Bel Air, I am usually at the gymnastics building cheering them on.

We also have a "puppy" named Brewster. We have lots of exciting things going on in our classroom this year; including a new science area, a sensory bin (currently filled with corn), and some new things for our independent work station and building center. We have also started a new "work choice" system, are enjoying some new adapted books in our classroom library. It's an exciting time of year and we are off to another great school year!!

MEDIA/LIBRARY

Meet Mrs. Thelen

Hello! My name is Mrs. Thelen. I am so excited to be the Library-Media Specialist at Bel Air. This is my first year as the Media teacher. I previously taught 3rd grade for six years. The last three being at Westside Elementary. My husband Ted and I live in Randolph, NE. We have a daughter named Konner and a son named Cole.

Media class consists of two parts: Technology and Library. Throughout the year in library, students will be learning things like proper book care, how to pick out a good books, and an overall love of reading. In technology lab, students will be working with Chrome books and ipads. Students will also be practicing proper typing skills, digital citizenship, and being safe online.

RESOURCE

Getting to Know Mrs. Coffin

Hello Students and Families! My name is Abbey Coffin, and I am very excited to be the Resource teacher at Bel Air Elementary. I am loving being back in Pantherland, serving the community that I love and grew up in! As a Resource teacher, my goal is to support and advocate for Bel Air students. I partner with families, classroom teachers, and students to help ensure that students have a positive learning experience. Each new school years gets me excited, because there is new discovering, learning, playing, and growing to be done. I can't wait to embark on this learning adventure with all of you!

I grew up in Norfolk! I come from a family of four! My dad, Randall, is a pastor at First Christian Church. My mom, Lori, is a third grade teacher at Grant Elementary. Then, I have a younger sister, Elley, who is studying to be an art teacher at Wayne State! Along with my family, I have two dogs, Suede and Lucy!

My Favorites

FOOD: Ice Cream

BOOK: You Are Special

COLOR: Purple

DRINK: Lemonade or Coffee

SEASON: Fall

SPORTS: Football

TEAMS: Huskers or Wildcats

MUSIC: Country

HOBBY: Playing Games or Crafts

SUBJECT: English

SPEECH

Meeting Ms. Johnson

My name is Taylor Johnson, I am the Speech-Language Pathologist at Bel Air. This is my first year being in the schools. I graduated with my Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology in May 2018 from the University of Nebraska Kearney. I am originally from a small town in central Nebraska where I grew up on a farm. I love to play games, anything from cards to board games! I have a movie collection with a very wide variety, everything from Disney to suspense. My boyfriend and I enjoy watching baseball, especially the Colorado Rockies. I love painting and doing other types of art and crafts activities.

READING

A Note From Ms. Ziemba

Hi everyone!

My name is Abbie Ziemba and I am one of the reading teachers here at Bel Air. This is my fourth year of teaching and my fourth year at Bel Air. I've enjoyed being here and getting to know all of the staff and students so much!

I grew up on a small farm outside of Columbus with my parents and two sisters. Mom and Dad still live on the farm and they raise sheep and goats. Dad works on the canal crew for Loup Public Power and my mom works on customer complaints for B.D. in Columbus. My oldest sister is a nurse in Fremont and she is married to Ricardo and they have three kids. Her oldest, Elizjah, is four, and just started preschool this year. Then there is Ezra, who is two, and finally, Elianna, who is six months old. My younger sister is currently studying radiology here in Norfolk through Southeast. She will graduate with her degree this summer!

I attended Columbus High School and graduated in 2010. After graduating I attended Central Community College for two years and then transferred to Wayne State. I graduated Wayne State in 2015 with my teaching degree.

I currently live in Platte Center with my boyfriend, of eight years, Dylan. We have owned our house now for two years and we share it with Dylan's cousin, Jake, and our feline friend, Rebel. We like to spend a lot of our time at stock car races helping our friends in the pits. If it is the off season, we spend a lot time at the movies or enjoying time with friends and family.

Now that I've shared a little about me, I can't wait to learn more about all of you! I look forward to the upcoming year!

Miss Ziemba

Read about Mrs. Lewis

Hello families! My name is Megan Lewis and I am thrilled to be a reading teacher and P.E. teacher at Bel Air! This is my first year as a Norfolk Panther! I graduated from Wayne State College (Go Wildcats!) in 2015 and earned my bachelor degree in Elementary Education. This is my fourth year teaching. I previously taught second grade at Madison Public Schools. What I like most about teaching is being able to share my enthusiasm and passion about learning.

Physical Education

Mrs. Connot

Physical education is what I have taught for 11 years!

Exercise is an important part of having fun with my family. We love to go on walks!

Road trips to see family in Clarks, NE and Spencer, NE is what we do on weekends.

Often times you will find me out looking for antiques. I love to decorate!

Colorado is one of my favorite places to travel to.

Kids- We have 3- Jaycee (6), Collins (3) and Cooper (6 months)

Softball is my favorite sport. I played in college at Midland University.

MUSIC

Since we have been singing mnemonics about the treble clef in music. Here is one about me, Melora Hirschman.

M-Musical-besides teaching elementary music at BelAir and Jefferson elementary; I am playing

bassoon in the NECC band, giving music lessons in my home, and this summer I

played piano with my daughter's worship band.

E-Earthy- I love to garden. I have a tiny herd of sheep, four horses, dogs and cats.

L-Loving-Married to Bryon, and we have four children; Zaidya-music teacher in Columbus,

Caylan-attending Hastings College and graduating in December, Kitra-attending UNO,

Janea-junior at Norfolk High School.

O-Orchestra-Teaching Orchestra for the first time at Jefferson.

R-Running-Around the softball field. Playing Coed Fall League and this summer Women's

Church League with my family.

A-Attend- First Christian Church where I volunteer with VBS, lights, nursery and Sunday school.

H-Happy-I enjoy what I do.

I-Intentional- about teaching students as much music as possible.

R-Recorders- Third and fourth graders have started recorders!

S-School-Third generation teacher, and lived on school grounds almost half of my childhood.

C-Creative-I like to try new ideas and solve problems.

H-Home-I love spending time at home, especially when my children are home.

M-Manager-Rent the family farm log home out to vacation renters.

A-Accordion-Enjoy playing the accordion (novice) for the students during lunch when they have spaghetti.

N-Nails- I like to remodel and do construction projects, which involves nails.

P.S. The concert for the 2018-2019 school year is in the Spring, April 15, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at the Johnny Carson Theater!

Guidance

I am excited to be starting my eleventh year as a school counselor. I absolutely love assisting students with their academic, social, and emotional development. My school counseling experience includes grades Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. Prior to being a school counselor, I was an elementary teacher and a mental health therapist. School counseling allowed me to combine both of my passions.