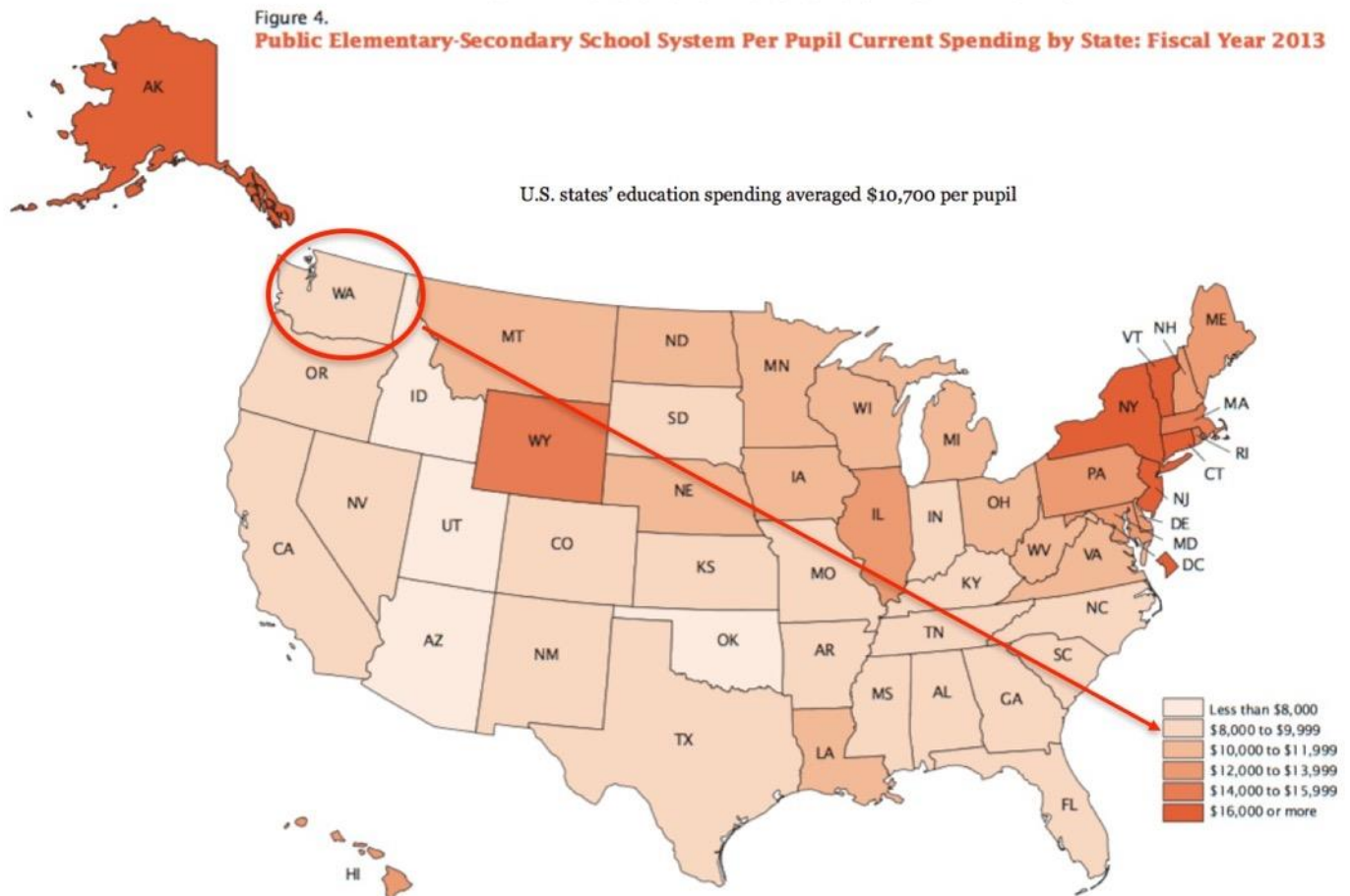


As a newly arrived family to Bellevue High School and the state of Washington, we were very confused by the constant appeals for donations from every direction. Wasn't public education free? Why are all these extra donations needed? We managed to piece together bits of information here and there, but wished that there was a big picture explanation that made sense and a step by step guide for average parents like us who were not "in the know", and didn't speak or understand any professional lingo that the "experts" can spout. Below is an attempt by an average Mom to explain why our participation is so critical to the health of Bellevue High School today and in the future.

When you take a look at the last census data taken back in 2010, you can get an idea of how important education is to each state by looking at how much money that state allocates to each student's education:

From last census taken 2010



To our dismay, the state of Washington did not do so well. It fell in the second to last category in terms of money spent on each student's education. I was curious to see how EXACTLY it stacked up compared to the other states, so I dug up this chart:

1. New York (\$19,818 per student)
2. Alaska (\$18,175)
3. District of Columbia (\$17,953)
4. New Jersey (\$17,572)
5. Connecticut (\$16,631)

Bottom spenders among states:

1. Utah (\$6,555)
2. Idaho (\$6,791)
3. Arizona (\$7,208)
4. Oklahoma (\$7,672)
5. Mississippi (\$8,130)

United States	10,700		
Alabama	8,755		
Alaska	18,175		
Arizona	7,208		
Arkansas	9,394		
California	9,220		
Colorado	8,647		
Connecticut	16,631		
Delaware	13,833		
District of Columbia	17,953		
Florida	8,433		
Georgia	9,099		
Hawaii	11,823		
Idaho	6,791		
Illinois	12,288		
Indiana	9,566		
Iowa	10,313		
Kansas	9,828		
Kentucky	9,316		
Louisiana	10,490		
Maine	12,147		
Maryland	13,829		
Massachusetts	14,515		
Michigan	10,948		
Minnesota	11,089		
Mississippi	8,130		
Missouri	9,597		
Montana	10,625		
Nebraska	11,579		
Nevada	8,339		
New Hampshire	13,721		
New Jersey	17,572		
New Mexico	9,012		
New York	19,818		
North Carolina	8,390		
North Dakota	11,980		
Ohio	11,197		
Oklahoma	7,672		
Oregon	9,543		
Pennsylvania	13,864		
Rhode Island	14,415		
South Carolina	9,514		
South Dakota	8,470		
Tennessee	8,208		
Texas	8,299		
Utah	6,555		
Vermont	16,377		
Virginia	10,960		
Washington	9,672		
West Virginia	11,132		
Wisconsin	11,071		
Wyoming	15,700		

Vermont	16,377
Virginia	10,960
Washington	9,672
West Virginia	11,132
Wisconsin	11,071
Wyoming	15,700

The good news was that we were not the bottom five states. The bad news is that we did not escape that list by much. Washington state spent \$9,672 per student on education, only \$1,542 more than the 5th from last state of Mississippi. Compared to #1 ranked New York State which spent \$19,818 per student, it was rather embarrassing. No wonder [the courts ruled in 2012](#) that the state of Washington had violated its own constitution by underfunding K-12 schools!

As a new resident, we did our due diligence by examining the data on which school would provide our son with the best education. One major source was the U.S. News and World which has been in the ranking business for many decades. We were surprised to find that Washington state ranked #6 for education:

Best States for Education

Education Rank	State	Higher Education	Pre-K-12
#1	Massachusetts	29	1
#2	New Jersey	28	3
#3	Utah	2	20
#4	New Hampshire	44	2
#5	Iowa	8	8
#6	Washington	3	26
#7	Florida	1	40
#8	Vermont	36	4
#9	Nebraska	7	15
#10	North Dakota	6	28

Unfortunately the good feeling did not linger long, because we discovered that the ranking was due to higher education. For PreK-12, we ranked in the bottom half, coming in at #26!

But wait, what about the rumor that Bellevue High School was ranked among the best high schools in the nation?

Indeed, the same U.S. News & World confirmed this rumor as fact by ranking Bellevue High School as #6 in the state of Washington and awarding it a gold medal status among the 20,500 schools ranked:

Worthy of note is that the other three high schools in the Bellevue School District that did not make the top 10, one ranked #12, another one, Newport High, was not ranked but all the stats were pretty much equal to those of Bellevue High School. It was clear that all 6 high schools in the Bellevue School District made a sweep of the gold medal status.

How does this happen in a state that spends so dismally little on education?

When we first landed in Bellevue, we were so happy that Washington State does not collect personal income tax. Instead, it makes the rich guys, the property owners, pay taxes for the services for the rest of the poor public. This sounded great until we were the property owners with the big mortgage, and some of those taxes went to other school districts that did not collect as much in property taxes. These facts didn't add up for us – with tax revenue so low and the state allocating so little to K-12 education that our public schools were trailing behind in the rankings, how do public schools in the Bellevue School District rank so high nationally? There has GOT to be other sources of funding to make public high schools in BSD so great. Now all the calls for donations from every direction made sense. But is there a way to make sense of all these appeals that came at every direction, at different times? In fact, there is. Besides government funding, there are four additional means of making Bellevue High excellent:

Schools

Bellevue Schools Ranked Among Best In Nation: U.S. News

U.S. News & World Report released its annual list of best high schools in the country. See how Washington schools ranked.

By Neal McNamara, Patch Staff | May 9, 2018 11:31 am ET

The 2018 best high school rankings were released on Wednesday and evaluate over 20,500 public high schools. U.S. News identified schools that best serve all students and assessed how prepared students are for college-level work. Schools are also recognized with gold, silver and bronze medals with gold indicating the greatest level of college readiness.

In total, nine Washington schools received a gold medal, 38 received a silver medal and 41 schools received a bronze medal. The Bellevue School District dominated the "gold" rankings with three out of nine schools.

"Top-ranked schools succeed in three main areas: exceeding expectations on state proficiency tests, offering challenging coursework and graduating their students," Anita Narayan, managing editor of Education at U.S. News, said in a press release.

1. International School, Bellevue School District
2. International Community School, Kirkland, Lake Washington School District
3. Harrison Preparatory School, Lakewood, Clover Park School District
4. Aviation High School, Tukwila
5. Interlake Senior High School, Bellevue School District
6. Bellevue High School, Bellevue School District
7. Roosevelt High School, Seattle School District
8. Bainbridge High School, Bainbridge Island School District
9. Mercer Island High School, Mercer Island School District
10. Garfield High School, Seattle School District
11. Bridgeport High School, Bridgeport School District
12. Sammamish Senior High, Bellevue School District
13. Orcas Island High School, Orcas Island School District
14. Pullman High School, Pullman School District
15. Ballard High School, Seattle Public Schools
16. Liberty Bell Jr Sr High, Methow Valley School District
17. Henry M. Jackson High School, Everett School District
18. Mount Si High School, Snoqualmie Valley School District
19. Camas High School, Camas School District
20. Vancouver Tech Preparatory, Vancouver School District

Who Contributes to BHS's Funds?



☐ Bellevue School District: WA State Funding



☐ PTSA Membership: Your Membership \$\$



☐ PTSA Make an Impact Funds Raised:

Target:

\$80K, 100% participation rate!!!



☐ Bellevue School Foundation: Click-a-thon, Spring for Schools



☐ Bellevue Quality Schools

At the most basic level is your PTSA membership. You might ask why this is important when you don't go to any PTSA sponsored activities or meetings, or need any of their discounts at events. Well, before we even talk about what's in it for us individually, let's talk about how your membership impacts BHS. The direct correlation between school success and community involvement is well documented and backed up by a wealth of research.

Any time we want to apply for foundation grants or funding, these organizations will first look at the level of involvement of our parents in the community. Every organization wants to maximize the chance for its grant money to result in success, and the biggest factor to ensure that outcome is high community involvement. How do people gauge the level of community involvement? The number they look at first is often the percentage of parents in the school community who are PTSA members. This is the clearest indication of how much parents care about their children's education. PTSAs exist to give parents a voice and a way to be involved in their child's school. If a parent can't even bother to sign up for membership, it is a clear indication that s/he is not involved. One decision for membership might not count for much in a school of 1700 students – or so you think. The problem comes when everyone else thinks that way, pointing the finger to the next person. As of today (November 14th, 2018), we currently have 418 members signed up. That's less than a quarter of our student body. This equals a failing grade for our school in community involvement. One membership may not mean much, but it pushes the needle up on community involvement. What else does your membership buy you?

PTSA® PTSA Membership: Your Membership \$\$

- ☐ Give voice to your opinions
- ☐ Volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Voting privileges on important decisions
- ☐ Latest updates on school
- ☐ Part of a vibrant community
- ☐ Change the world through your child's school

As a PTSA member, your voice on how the school is run is heard. Last year a group of parents were concerned about how the flipped classroom model was impacting some of our math students. They were able to arrange a series of meetings with our principal with the help of PTSA officers, addressing an issue that had a direct impact on these students' academic success. PTSA members have a voice and a channel to be heard, as well as to affect change.

Our school's many extracurricular activities are run by parent volunteers – another sure indicator of community involvement. PTSA Membership gives you access to many of those opportunities, as well as voting rights to affect many important decisions that impact our school. The School Directory that you get with your membership will allow you to contact anyone else in the BHS community. This is particularly critical when you find yourself coordinating an event to bring together parents in the community that might not otherwise be accessible any other way. You will also get the latest updates via our weekly Blast, which is funded by your donations. Most important of all, you will be part of one of the most vibrant communities of parents who really care about their kids and their school. It feels good to walk down the hallways in your child's school and see familiar faces of people that you have worked alongside for some fun event or worthwhile cause. Your involvement in PTSA makes your child proud, because it's the best way for a high school student to concretely see that his/her parents know what is going on in his/her school.

Next factor in BHS's excellence is your PTSA's annual Make An Impact donation, which funds most of our kids' extracurricular activities and even some academic activities. Here is just a very tiny sample of what these donations fund:



PTSA Make an Impact Funds Raised:
Target:
\$80K, 100% participation rate!!!



BHS Orchestra sweeps major awards at the Vancouver Festival 2018



FOR THE LOVE OF THEATRE

BHS has been invited back to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival!

Bellevue High School is tremendously honored to be one of the 30 out of 2300 American high schools to be invited BACK by the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe AHSTF (American High School Theatre

Festival) in Scotland to participate in this event.



When we see news that the BHS Orchestra swept major awards at a big music festival, or our theater students were one of 30 high schools out of 2300 schools that applied to be selected to showcase their performance at the prestigious Fringe Theater Festival in Scotland, we are often proud to call them our own. But did we ever consider the fact that these activities would not be possible without your donations? When our children need help with homework, they can go to extended tutorial for help, or book an appointment with a Youth Eastside Services counselor at our school if they are feeling stressed, depressed, or anxious, but did you know that without our donations, they would have nowhere to go? Or that as parents that are trying to learn more about better parenting, that your donations go towards inviting guest speakers to speak at our Parent Education events? If your son or daughter's sports team needs new equipment, the guitar class needs new guitars, or the freshman history class wants to go attend a special museum exhibition, that the PTSA Grants Committee helps with these requests with your donation? The list goes on. If you want to know the exact numbers, click [HERE](#). And oh yes, if you want to be a part of the decision making process on how these funds are allocated, there is always a seat at the table for you as a volunteer!

We need to take time to talk about sports, because that is truly what makes people drop their jaws in awe when we talk about BHS. Just to make a point, here are a few screenshots taken from last fall's Blast: Lest you think that football was the rare exception, take another look at the fall sports wrap up:

Just about every single sport achieved amazing results on the STATE level! And this is not just for fall sports, but also winter, spring, and year-round sports as well! Our kids are not just amazing scholars but also amazing athletes! To further break this down, take a look that the end of season posts for the various sports in the Blast:

FALL SPORTS WRAP UP

There are a lot of talented student athletes at Bellevue! Please take a look below and congratulate your student athletes on another tremendous Fall Season! Teams and individuals will be recognized during our fall recognition assembly on **Friday, December 9th.**



Boys Water Polo (Team GPA 3.31)

Finished **2nd in State** with a season record of 23-3

Boys Tennis (Team GPA 3.621)

Finished **second in Conference** with a record of 6-1

* **Cameron Yang** finished 2nd in the KingCo Boys Singles Tournament and will be moving onto Districts this Spring

* **Elliot Boss** and **Ethan Zou** finished 4th in the KingCo Boys Doubles Tournament

Boys Golf (Team GPA 3.694)

Finished **2nd in Kingco Conference**

3 golfers qualified for Districts and **Ian Siebers** will play in the **State Tournament** this Spring

Cross Country (Boys team GPA 3.513/Girls team GPA 3.473)

Ian Van De Kamp qualified for his **3rd State Cross Country meet**

Football (Team GPA 3.068)

Finished **first in Conference** with a record of 5-0

Volleyball (Team GPA 3.429)

Finished **2nd in Conference**, 5th in Districts, and 6th in State (**historical finish for the Volleyball Program**)

Girls Swim (Team GPA 3.563)

Finished first in Conference, 4th in Districts, and 2nd in STATE

* State Champion in the 200-yard Medley Relay with a time 1:46.48 **Janelle Rudolph, Katherine Duff, Delora Li, Aneta Wyzga**

* **Janelle Rudolph** was the State Champion in the 50 Free 23.59

* **Sarah Walsh** finished 3rd in the State for Diving!

* **Janelle Rudolph** was the State Champion in the 100 Back 56.34

* State Champions in the 400 Free Relay with a time 3:32.04 **Rachel Jin, Delora Li, Aneta Wyzga** and **Janelle Rudolph**

Girls Soccer (team GPA 3.689)

UNDEFEATED STATE CHAMPS!

GIRLS WATER POLO - DIVISION TITLE CHAMPS!

On 5/1, the girls took the Division Title defeating rival Newport in an exciting Senior Night nailbiter! After goals by **Morgan Baker**, (2), **Tati Pasewark**, **Jenna Frazer** & **Sophia Schmid**, Bellevue found themselves down 5-6 in the 4th quarter when **Natasha Schmid**'s successful 5-meter penalty shot tied the game up 6-6. With just over a minute to go, Natasha hurled another one in to make the final score 7-6 **Bellevue!**

On 5/5, **Bellevue** crushed Roosevelt 20-2. In JV League action on 5/6, the JV squad was victorious against rival Mercer Island 10-7.

*Come cheer on our girls this week!
You can't buy entertainment like this!*

5/9 **Bellevue vs Mercer Island @ Mercerwood Shore Club @ 8:15pm.**
5/11 **Bellevue vs Stadium @ Stadium HS in Tacoma @ 6:15pm.**

Stay tuned for Girls Water Polo Fundraisers in June!

For a detailed recap of the games, please see Featured Stories at www.bellevuewaterpolo.com.

VARSITY BASEBALL - MUST WIN GAME TODAY

The Varsity team is playing today, **TUESDAY, May 9 at Bannerwood Park @ 4pm vs Lake Washington**. The teams have met three times this season and the winner of this match up moves on in the quest for a **state championship**.

Come out to Bannerwood and show your support and cheer on the team.

The sun will be out, concessions will be open and there are a limited number of t-shirts to be given away so get there early to claim yours!

The tournament bracket can be found **HERE**.

Updated schedule and game times can be found at bellevuehsbaseball.com or kingcoathletics.com



BHS DRILL TEAM - CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the BHS Drill Team, including Seniors **Adrienne Jacobsen, Deborah Kim, and Erica Solid**, for participating in the **WIAA State Dance/Drill Championship** in Yakima on March 24th. They participated in three categories in the 3A Division and came home as Academic State **Champions** with a 3.650 GPA. **Way to go, ladies!**



BHS SOPHOMORE QUALIFIES FOR NORTH AMERICAN FREERIDE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to **Race Bingham**, a BHS sophomore with NW Freeride for qualifying for the North American Freeride ski Championships in Kirkwood Mountain resort CA. **April 5th-8th**

These athletes consist of top National and Regional finishers based on current finishes to date.

Also congratulations to Race for finishing 2nd overall in the the PNW Overall 15-18 yr old IFSA Jr. Regional rankings.



THREE BHS STUDENTS ARE STATE HOCKEY CHAMPS!



Congratulations to three BHS students whose teams won the Pacific Northwest TierII State Hockey Championship over St. Patricks Day weekend! **AP Tremblay** and **JP Tremblay**, who play for the SnoKing 18U Jr Thunderbirds wrapped up an amazing 2017-18 season sweeping the State 18U championships held in Spokane. AP and JP are now preparing to attend the USA 18U Tier II National tournament in Lansing, Michigan April 6-10.

Daniel Anderson, who plays for the 14U Jr. Thunderbirds, earned a spot at the USA 14U Tier II National Championships in Coral Springs, Florida with a dramatic 3rd period comeback. Down 4-2 in the State Championship game, Daniel's team came back to win 5-4

in overtime! **Good luck at Nationals boys!**



BHS GYMNASTICS

Congratulations to the BHS Varsity Gymnastics team for finishing 2A/3A Districts with a season **high** team score of 169.2! The following gymnasts will compete in the 2A/3A **State Championship** this **Thursday, Feb 16th 12:00 pm** at the **Tacoma Dome** (Listed by Qualifying Event):

Grace Cheng (All Around - all 4 events)
Madi George (All Around - all 4 events)
Anna Littrell (Floor, Vault)
Elaine Liu (Beam and Floor)
Stella Pratt (Beam and Floor)



BHS BOYS & GIRLS HOOPS - KINGCO CHAMPS!



Congratulations to both the boys and girls varsity basketball teams on winning the Kingco Tournament Championships. Both teams now advance to SeaKing playoffs. The girls play Seattle Prep on **Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 6:30pm** and boys play Seattle Prep on **Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 8:15pm**. Games are at **Bellevue College**. Follow the tournament here: **Girls 3A Bracket** **Boys 3A Bracket**



WOLVERINE WRESTLING

Congratulations to **Helen Zhou, Amy Liu** and **Henry Hawblitzel**!! These three wrestlers will be competing in the regional tournament this weekend at **Juanita High School**.

Zach England is the KingCo 3A 2016-17 Outstanding Wrestler of the Year!!

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY AT BHS - CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following 15 student athletes! Way to represent Bellevue HS at the next level!



Colin Suter	Baseball	Gonzaga University
Jack Enger	Baseball	University of Washington
Kate Parrish	Basketball	Claremont McKenna
Ann-Marie Jacobs	Basketball	Lehigh University
Tea Federspiel	Crew	University of Washington
Justin Angelel	Lacrosse	Lehigh University
Angie Fratt	Lacrosse	Navy
Mac Mowat	Lacrosse	Babson College
Jojo Harber	Soccer	Stanford
Ellie Bryant	Soccer	University of Pennsylvania
Sophia Butterfield	Soccer	Western Washington University
Kei Tomozawa	Soccer	Stanford
Salim Khan	Squash	George Washington University
Morgan Baker	Water Polo	California Baptist University in Riverside, CA.
Zach England	Wrestling	Washington & Lee University

So it is any wonder that when schools come to BHS to recruit scholar athletes to award scholarships on National Signing Day, that you see pictures like these in the Blast?

Lest you think that only academics will land you a good job, think again! Take a look at why more athletes end up in the C-Suite than academics:

www.olastromberg.com

9 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD HIRE ATHLETES

01 ACHIEVE GOALS

Athletes set a plan, execute it and and achieve goals

02 DETERMINATION

When facing obstacles - they still keep going and have a strong desire to reach their goals and want to win.

03 AGILE LEADERS

Athletes need to adapt and always improve to be able to be competitive.

04 PUT STRATEGY INTO ACTION

Vision and goals are converted into sub-goals and execution happens every single day. And it's measured.

05 TEAMWORK

Athletes understand the importance of the team, even in individual sports.

06 HUGE SACRIFICES

There really is no such thing as a free lunch, you have to put in the work to get the result you want.

07 NEVER-GIVE-UP-ATTITUDE

Athletes know it will not always be a smooth ride - but they will not give up.

08 PERFORM UNDER PRESSURE

You need to perform at your best at a certain point - athletes can cope with the stress and pressure.

09 MOTIVATION AND COMMITMENT

Athletes know they need to put both brain and body into the quest for success.

95%

of Fortune 500 CEOs played college sports

DOES PLAYING SPORTS HELP YOU GET THE JOB?

Three out of four C-suite Executives in an EY study believe candidates with sports background will do better professionally.

Before we move onto the next contributing factor for BHS's excellence, I'm sure you have a lot of questions about how confusing it is to donate money to anything in BHS or BSD. We will explain that at the end of this document about the different avenues and mechanisms for donating, as well as provide a central place where you can take care of all your donations with a click on a link.

Now, let's go to the next area where our donations are needed, and that's at the school district level. If Bellevue High School was the only high performing school in the Bellevue School District, companies that want to be located here would hesitate, because it means that their employees would not have a lot of options when considering housing and education. When the entire school district does well, more and bigger companies want to be headquartered here, because it means that there is plenty of room for them to grow and plenty of options for their employees at all levels to consider. While your BHS PTSA takes care of your child's day to day education needs, Bellevue School Foundation is looking ahead at future innovations in education to bring the best programs here. In the words of a Chinese proverb, when the water rises, all boats float higher. While we are busy making BHS the tallest boat on the pond, BSF is busy raising the water level so that all the boats in the pond can be tall together. Here are some of the innovations that they are bringing to our school district:



☐ Bellevue School Foundation:
Click-a-thon, Spring for Schools



They include one of the few K-12 computer science curriculums in the world, AP classes such as AP Capstone, mentoring programs such as Volunteers in Bellevue's Education System (VIBES), AVID for motivated students who want to receive coaching and encouragement in learning study skills, National Board Certification for teachers in our school district so that they are better and more motivated teachers, and Naviance, which has helped thousands of our high school seniors with all aspects of their college application process. More details can be found [HERE](#). This is the reason that more and more companies are making Bellevue their HQ, and why high schools in the Bellevue School District made a sweep of gold medals in the U.S. News & World high school rankings!

The last factor in making BHS great is the Bellevue Quality Schools, which seeks to put levies up for your vote each year to fund infrastructure related projects at the schools, laptops, buses, etc. All you need to do is to be sure you are registered to vote and that you vote YES on these initiatives for levies.

Parents of graduating senior all know how complicated the college application process can be. Here is a visual checklist of what all goes into the college application process:

Factors Considered in College Admission

THE COMMON APPLICATION

CollegeBoard
Advanced Placement Program

International Baccalaureate

Grade	Regular	Honors	College
A	4.00	4.50	5.00
B	3.00	3.50	4.00
C	2.00	2.50	3.00
D	1.00	1.50	2.00
F	0.00	0.50	1.00

- ☐ Transcript
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Recommendation Letters
- ☐ Extracurricular Activities
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Internship
- ☐ Work experience
- ☐ Family responsibilities
- ☐ Portfolio
- ☐ Supplemental Info

NAVIANCE
College Connection for High School Students

NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ACT
SAT

SAT II

The items in the black are the required components to apply. However, if your child wants to apply to a dream school that is more competitive in nature, it is often impossible without the items on the bottom in green.

The sad part of the fact about Washington public schools is that with only enough funds to give high school students 6 periods each semester, if there be a scheduling conflict or an F grade, even the black part will be very difficult. If BHS were only funded by state funding, we might as well say goodbye to the items in green, because there would

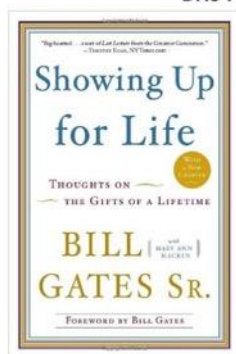
not be enough options for extracurricular activities or companies that offer internship opportunities or work experience within driving distance. Without additional funding, Seniors will not be able to access Naviance to help them discover colleges and majors that would be a good fit for them, or to narrow down a list of schools to apply to based upon their profile.

So it is here that we need to pause to break this myth: public school can theoretically be free but **good public schools are NOT free!**

While our children at BHS are under our watch, what do we as a community of parents need to do to keep it excellent and leave a legacy of excellence for future BHS families? Please allow us to offer you a Parent ScoreCard:

Maintaining BHS's Standard of Excellence

BHS Parent Score Card



"80% of **SUCCESS**
is Showing Up"



—By Woody Allen

- ☐ PTSA Membership
- ☐ Make an Impact Donation
- ☐ Volunteer & participation
- ☐ BSF Donation
- ☐ Vote for BQS levies

The father of a famous Medina resident who lives just a few miles north of BHS, said in the title of his book referencing Woody Allen's famous quote: "80% of success is showing up". How do we show up for our kids?

1. Sign up to be a PTSA member [HERE](#). Even if you have nothing to say, being a member shows the world that you are part of the community that is involved.
2. Make a donation to Make An Impact. We are aiming for a goal of \$80K, which will be the equivalent of a meal out for the family if every BHS family contributes. Don't wait for a rich uncle to show up to rescue the day. You ARE that uncle/aunt!

And the more important thing is our goal of **100% involvement**. Why? We want the hard number to show the world that EVERYONE in our community is involved. Even if you can't afford a big donation, even \$1 will register you as a participant! Just [CLICK HERE](#) to donate.

3. Show up by volunteering. Go to those games, concerts and performances. Bring those dishes and deserts to those social events or Staff Appreciation Lunches. Help balance the books for a club or activity. There are a million ways to be involved. If you want ideas, just ask any one of us parent volunteers running around the school.
4. Donate to Bellevue School Foundation to make the entire district excellent. If you're not sure how to allocate your donation funds, use a simple 1:1 ratio or 60/40 ratio. This means that for every dollar donated to BHS PTSA, you also donate another dollar to the BSF. To donate to BSF, [CLICK HERE](#).
5. Finally, be sure to register to vote and check "YES" for the levies on your ballot so that our schools will benefit from the infrastructure upgrades.

NOTE:

- If you work for a company that MATCHES your donation, please be sure to activate the matching mechanism. Some companies such as GE or Boeing require recipients to return certain links or emails to confirm receipt. Please contact your PTSA officer as soon as you activate your matching donation, so that they can respond within the narrow window of time. If they miss this window of time, the matching funds will regretfully return to the company.
- Many companies will also match the volunteer hours employees give to BHS with a donation of their own. For example, Microsoft will donate \$25 for every hour of volunteer time we give to BHS. If you work for one of these companies, please be sure to maximize your volunteer hours with additional corporate donations.
- Amazon Smile will donate a small percentage of each of your purchase to the designated organization of your choice when you shop through their website which usually begins with smile.amazon.com instead of the usual amazon.com. Unfortunately, the funds can only be directed to one organization, so if your child is in choir and orchestra and a sport, you will need to decide which organization to designate all your amazon purchase donations to go to.

Our family's goal is to leave this place better than when we got here. For the BHS community, that's a very tall order. Please join us in rolling up our sleeves and getting involved!

Rossana Lin

Mother of 12th grader Stephen Lin

BHS Donation Mechanics Explained

1. Many sports and clubs have parent booster clubs to help raise additional funds to cover expenses. With the exception of very large activities/clubs such as Football Booster, Girls Soccer Booster, and Boys Basketball Booster, donation to booster clubs usually need to be made to the umbrella booster, which then re-directs the donation to the appropriate booster under that umbrella booster. This way only one entity is needed to file papers and taxes each year instead of several dozens of individual boosters which are already busy enough with other volunteer activities. Furthermore, not every booster club needs to apply to be a 501c3 organization for the tax benefits. If you are involved in your child's booster club, please be sure to ask about what category the activity falls under and the best mechanism for donations to reach them. Many clubs and activities have their own website collecting their own donations, or their own amazon smile URLs. It would be good for parents to find out which ones work best for which activities that their children are involved in. Any undesignated donations to PTSA Booster Club will automatically go towards the umbrella booster's general budget, not your child's booster, so please be sure to designate and track your donations correctly.
2. There are very strict rules governing fundraising. If a student is involved in the fundraising activity, the money raised cannot go to the booster club, but must go to the ASB instead. Parents have full say in how booster club funds are allocated, but there are stricter rules governing ASB fund allocation. For example, booster money can fund individual students for trip scholarships but ASB funds must be distributed evenly to all students. Before planning any fundraising, it is best to decide what is the best channel and who should be involved. Any non-designated donations to an activity will automatically go to the ASB and not the booster.