



# **February 2026 Celebrations Update**

# DISTRICT

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All five **Blue Valley high schools** earned Advanced Placement (AP) School Honor Roll distinctions. The program recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access.



# DISTRICT

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## February Recognition Dates & Holidays

- Black History Month
- Career & Technical Education Month
- 2/2-6: National School Counseling Week
- 2/16: Presidents' Day
- 2/23-27: Public Schools Week



# STUDENT

Teams from **Cottonwood Point Elementary**, **Heartland Elementary** and **Oxford Middle** were named top 20 finalists of the 2025-26 Burns & McDonnell Battle of the Brains, a K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition.



**Cottonwood Point Elementary** finished second overall in the competition, earning \$25,000 in grant money.



# STUDENT

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**24 Blue Valley high school students** were selected to the 2025–26 Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) All-State High School 56A Band.

**1 Blue Valley high school student** was selected to the 2025–26 KMEA All-State High School Jazz Band.

**6 Blue Valley high school students** were selected as alternates for the 2025–26 KMEA All-State High School 56A Band.



# STUDENT

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**42 Blue Valley high school students** were selected to the 2025–26 Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) All-State High School Full Orchestra.

**27 Blue Valley high school students** were selected to the 2025–26 KMEA All-State High School String Orchestra.



# STUDENT

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**42 Blue Valley students** participated in the fourth annual Greater Kansas City Chinese speech contest, hosted by the Kansas City Chinese American Association, with several placing first, second or third in their respective groups.



# STUDENT

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Blue Valley West's **Drake Semchyshyn** earned first place in the 2025 Congressional App Challenge for Kansas' Third District.

Semchyshyn's app, Catalyst, was built to help improve education outcomes.



# STUDENT

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Pleasant Ridge Middle's **Purvik**

**Byregowda** was crowned co-champion

of the 2026 Johnson County Spelling

Bee.



USD 232

# STAFF

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Former Blue Valley District Athletic Director **Richard Bechard** was inducted into the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Hall of Fame Class of 2026 as an administrator.



KSHSAA

# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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**Blue Valley North Debate** won the 6A 2-Speaker Debate state championship, the team's third straight state title.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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## Blue Valley Southwest

**Debate** won the 5A 4-Speaker

Debate state championship,

the team's 11<sup>th</sup> straight state

title.



KSHSAA

# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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Blue Valley Schools hosted its first **middle school girls wrestling** meet in district history, with more than 40 student-athletes competing.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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Three teams from **Blue Valley high schools** qualified for the inaugural Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) Esports state championship tournament.



# ALUMNI

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**Mason Richman**, graduate of Blue Valley High, won Super Bowl LX with the Seattle Seahawks.



*Hawkeye Football*

# ALUMNI

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**Swetha Newcomb**, graduate of Blue Valley West, was named a 2026 James Beard Award semifinalist in the Best Chef: Midwest (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI) category.

