

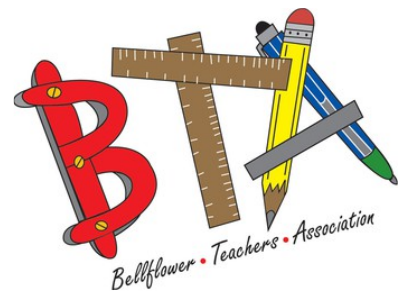
The Voice

Bellflower Teachers Association

From the President

Hello Members,

I hope that you are all doing well as we head into the last full month of school. I know it's been busy with testing and Open Houses and as we head into the end of the year, the dash to the end goes quickly.



I have been meeting regularly with Mrs. Azevedo, Mrs. Holguin, and Mrs. Stanley and we have been discussing topics that come up through your emails, from the site reps, and from conversations with teachers. While I don't always solve problems, I believe that good communication is important and they do respond to my concerns in a timely manner.

The last few board meetings have been discussing the move to By-Trustee District Elections. If you are interested in learning more click here: <https://www.busd.k12.ca.us/districting-2024>.

BTA Executive Elections will start on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 5pm and run through Friday, May 17, 2024 at 5pm. Please look for an email from Simply Vote.

Attached below is the 2024-2025 attendance calendar. We are still waiting for information on what the four dark blue PD days will look like. At our last Alliance meeting we discussed options, and I know the District is getting feedback from all the stakeholders.

BTA wants your pictures! Please send pictures of your teachers on campus. I use them in the newsletter and now the board presentation. School Spirit wear, Dress Up days, Special events. Teachers only please. Email them or text them voiceofBTA@gmail.com or (562) 525-4557.

Stronger Together,
Kari M.
BTA President

April Rep Council Raffle Winners

Tina Mansell - BHS
Kathryn Guernsey - Ramona
Colin Davis - ILC
Eugina Thomas - Ramona

School Board Meetings - Please send Teachers!

May 9-Las Flores, Pyle and Woodruff, Mayfair



12.1 Revised Calendar - BOE Meetings Board Item.pdf

[Download](#)
184.1 KB



2024-2025 Attendance Calendar FINAL.pdf

[Download](#)
559.4 KB



California Casualty

California Casualty Grant Opportunities

Music and Arts Grants for CTA Members

California Casualty's Music and Arts Grant program is back and will award individual members with a \$250 grant for their classroom or program. Applications are accepted through July 2.

<https://www.just4members.com/musicarts/>

Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant

Give your athletes a sporting chance with a Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant. Apply to receive \$1,000 for your middle/high school's team.

The California Casualty Thomas R. Brown Athletics Grant was established to provide support to public school sports programs impacted by reduced budgets.

As an employee of the school and a member of a participating education association, you can apply for a grant award for your school's sports program.

Did you know?

Schools First Summer Saver

Did you know that you can put up to \$2,000 in your summer saver? Schools First is currently offering 6.5% on their summer saver. The nice thing about it is that you can access the money if you need to at any time, but if you don't that interest can rack up!

Click the link below for more information

<https://www.schoolsfirstfcu.org/products/just-for-school-employees/savings/summer-saver/>

CTA Teacher Resources / Conferences

Classroom Resources

Inspiring our students and leading our profession. If you're looking for classroom resources for educators by educators, you came to the right place!

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/classroom-resources>

CTA Scholarships



23-24-Membership-Materials-071323-Info-Flyer-Scholarships_Final.pdf

Download
934.5 KB

Member Benefits



Member Benefits Poster 23-24 060723.pdf

Download
3.7 MB

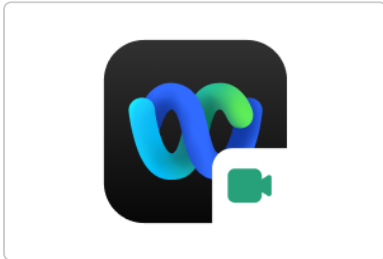
Thinking About Retirement?

BTA strongly encourages you to check your Cal STRS report each year for accuracy and contact the district office immediately if there are any discrepancies.

<https://www.calstrs.com/>

CTA Retirement Workshops

- It's always nice to find out how the system is working and to plan for our futures. Click on the link below to make an appointment and attend a retirement workshop.



Meet virtually with Cisco Webex. Anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Simple, modern video meetings for everyone on the world's most popular and trusted collaboration platform.

cta.webex.com

Below is the PDF explaining retirement benefits. Please note: for the insurance cash out option you must be enrolled in the district medical plan for at least your last year of teaching. If you are on the opt out plan you will continue to get what you are eligible for, but there is no cash out option.



**23 BGB Retirement Guide Certificated Revised 05.09.23 (busd)
(1) (1).pdf**

[Download](#)
644.5 KB

Things to Note

2023-2024 BTA Dues / Taxes Schedule

Please see the PDFs below for the dues and taxes information.



2023-24 dues schedule.pdf

[Download](#)
51.4 KB



BTA Dues for Taxes 2023 (1).pdf

[Download](#)
616.9 KB

Pay Scales

You can find the new pay scales on the Business Plus site and also on our website bellflowerteachers.com.

Know Your Executive Board



BTA Executive Board 2023-2024.pdf

[Download](#)

509.9 KB

Know Your Teacher Rights

CTA members have the legal right to a safe and healthy workplace. A mini-guide to teacher's rights was placed in your teacher mailbox for your reference and review, but if you missed it or didn't get one, the link is below for you to visit and bookmark.

<https://www.cta.org/for-educators/your-rights>

Know Your Ed Code

When can you suspend a student? What are your rights as a teacher? Check out this PDF!

<https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-education-code/title-2-elementary-and-secondary-education/division-4-instruction-and-services/part-27-pupils/chapter-6-pupil-rights-and-responsibilities/article-1-suspension-or-expulsion/section-48910-suspension-of-pupil-from-class-by-teacher>

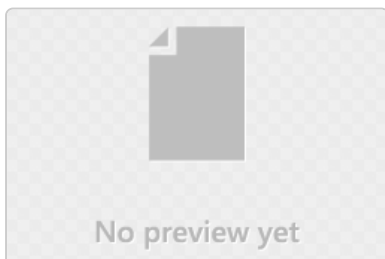
Contract Focus - Leave of Absence

If you have questions about Leave of Absence you can find - Article XI - Leaves of Absence on pages 33-44 of the contract.

Know Your Contract

www.bellflowerteachers.com has the most updated contract PDFs for your reference.

<https://bellflowerteachers.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2020-2022-BTA-Contract-FINAL-for-printing.pdf>



Searchable BTA Contract

Searchable BTA Contract

docs.google.com

Have you joined PTA?

Did you know that you can still join PTA and support your school? PTA does a lot of great things for our kids, and teachers too, so if you haven't joined, please do!



www.bellflowercouncilpta.org/p/join-our-ptas.html

Get the Calm App for Free with CTA!

Free subscription to CTA members. To access your free subscription, you will need to log into the CTA Member Benefits site, <https://www.ctamemberbenefits.org/en/Life-Events/Calm>. This link will take you to our Calm site and you will follow the instructions on the page to create your Calm account. You will need your CTA member ID, if you do not know your member ID, you can call Member Benefits at (650) 552-5200. They can also help create your Calm account. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Email your Board Members

Please reach out to the board members and let them know your concerns, invite them to your classrooms, share the exciting things going on at your site.

Brad Crihfield (President) bradcrihfield@busd.k12.ca.us

Amie Stewart (Vice President) amiestewart@busd.k12.ca.us

Mayra Garza (Clerk) mayragarza@busd.k12.ca.us

Renita Armstrong (Member) renitaarmstrong@busd.k12.ca.us

Sue ElHessen (Member) Selhessen@busd.k12.ca.us

Event Information

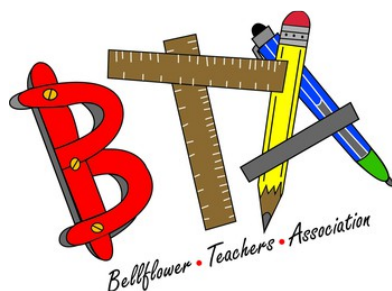
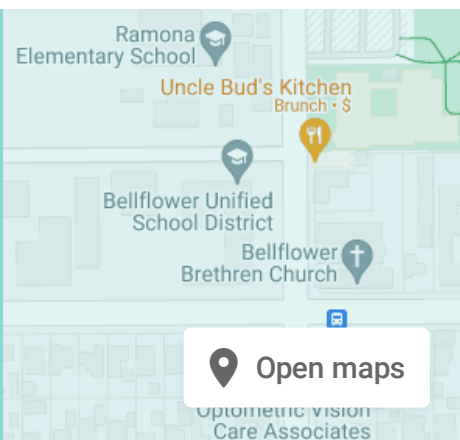
School Board Meeting

When?

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 06:00 PM

Where?

Bellflower Unified School District, Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA, USA



Bellflower Teachers Association

A CTA/ NEA Affiliate

Email: voiceofBTA@gmail.com

Website: www.bellflowerteachers.com

Location: [17434 Studebaker Road, Cerritos, CA, USA](http://17434StudebakerRoad,Cerritos,CA,USA)

Phone: (562) 525-4557

Facebook: Facebook.com/bellflowerteachers



Kari McDaniel

Kari is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

