



Bartlesville Public School District's
THE BRUIN
Weekly Email Newsletter



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Bruins experience Europe

Band and choir students perform, take in sights as part of state contingency

Five Bruin students recently made their way to Europe as part of the Oklahoma Ambassadors of Music program.

While there, they were able to perform and take in the sights in several countries. The Bruin students included 2011 Bartlesville High School graduates Debbie McCullough, Jessica Russell and Shelby Swanson, 2010 BHS alum Susan Sattich and incoming BHS junior Ashley Young.

"The Oklahoma Ambassadors of Music trip gave me the opportunity to share with other students from

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Photos Special to The Bruin

Bartlesville Public School District supervisor of instrumental music Alex Claussen (pictured second from the left) and Bruins (from far left) Shelby Swanson, Jessica Russell, Debbie McCullough, Ashley Young and Susan Sattich take in the famed Eiffel Tower in Paris, France last month. Pictured left, Claussen conducts a band concert in Rothenburg, Germany.



BHS students can pick up 2011-12 class schedules next month

Students who will be juniors and seniors at Bartlesville High School during the upcoming 2011-12 academic year will be able to pick up their respective class schedules next month.

The schedules will be available in the Fine Arts Center on the BHS campus, which is located at 1700 SE

Hillcrest Drive.

Seniors can pick up their schedules on Tuesday, Aug. 9 from 8:30-11 a.m. and from 12:30-3 p.m. Juniors can claim their schedules during the same hours on Wednesday, Aug. 10.

Students who will be juniors and seniors during the 2011-12 academic year – and are new to the

Bartlesville Public School District – should contact BHS registrar April Seals via phone (918-336-3311, ext. 5000) to set up an enrollment appointment.

The 2011-12 academic year is due to begin throughout the Bartlesville Public School District on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

Mid-High School's fifth annual Bruin Camp slated for July 29

For the fifth consecutive year, the Bartlesville Mid-High School will play host to the special freshman orientation event known as Bruin Camp.

The Bruin Camp offers a fun way for ninth graders to familiarize themselves with the Mid-High School as the new academic year approaches. This year's Bruin Camp, which is free and open to all incoming freshman to the Mid-High School, is scheduled for Friday, July 29. The event will take place on the Mid-High School campus from 1-5 p.m.

The 2011-12 academic year is due to get underway throughout the Bartlesville Public School District on Wednesday, Aug. 17.

This year's Bruin Camp will feature a scavenger hunt, team building exercises, plenty of fun facts and traditions, a guest speaker, and several prize giveaways. Jared's Frozen Custard will provide complimentary

treats, also.

Last year's Bruin Camp drew approximately 215 students, around half of the Mid-High School's incoming ninth-grade class. Registration for this year's event will take place at the main entrance to the school, which is located at 5900 SE Baylor Dr., beginning at 1 p.m. Bruin Camp activities are due to get started at 1:30 p.m. As students register, they will receive a complimentary Bruin Camp T-shirt.

Free bus service to the Bruin Camp will be available at Oak Park Elementary School, Jane Phillips Elementary School, Central Middle School, and the Boys and Girls Club from 12:30-12:45 p.m. Students will be dropped off at those sites after the Bruin Camp as well.

Those who wish to learn more about this year's Bruin Camp can call the main number at the Mid-High School (918-333-4444).

Calendar for upcoming 2011-12 academic year available online

Though the summer is in full swing, those who wish to gain a little insight into the Bartlesville Public School District's upcoming 2011-12 academic year may do so online.

Listed on the front page of the BPSD's website – which is located at www.bps-ok.org – is a link to the calendar for 2011-12 as well as the ones for the two previous academic years. The links are located under the "Important Notices" subhead which is located just to the left of the BPSD Calendar of Events.

Through the links, the calendars can be opened in PDF form and

display important dates throughout the respective academic years. The 2011-12 academic year is due to begin on Wednesday, Aug. 17 throughout the BPSD.

The 2011-12 academic year calendar gives parents and students an opportunity to see how things will unfold within the BPSD. The first holiday of the new academic year – which will mean a day off of classes for the students – will be on Monday, Sept. 5, which is Labor Day. No classes will be in session from Wednesday, Oct. 19 (which is officially a professional in-service day for educators) through Friday, Oct.

21 due to the annual fall break. The Thanksgiving break will span from Wednesday, Nov. 23 through Friday, Nov. 25, while the winter break will stretch from Thursday, Dec. 22 through Monday, Jan. 2.

Spring break is scheduled from Monday, March 19 through Friday, March 23.

The Bartlesville High School Class of 2012 is slated to graduate on the evening of Friday, May 25 at Custer Stadium. On May 20 of this year, more than 400 members of the BHS Class of 2011 graduated during commencement ceremonies at Custer, which is located on the BHS campus.

BARTLESVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE MONTH: JULY

Darla Gardner has been named the Bartlesville Public School District's Teacher of the Month for July by Arvest Bank and Oakley Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac.

Now in her 11th year as an educator, Gardner serves as the remediation specialist at Richard Kane Elementary School. In recognition of her Teacher of the Month status, she was recently presented with a plaque as well as a check for \$300 by Stephen Colaw, the Arvest Bank senior vice president and trust officer, and David Oakley, Jr., the owner of Oakley Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac

RICHARD KANE

Friday afternoons are always special for Gardner. Dressed as Word Woman, she'll enter each first grade classroom at Kane and select three students. One by one, she'll lead them into the hallway, just outside of their respective classrooms, and have them read words to her from the school's high frequency list for first graders. The students always do their best, not wanting to disappoint Word Woman.

For their efforts, the students receive a warm smile and a fresh sticker, which they can show off to their classmates. Clad in a feathered and beaded black mask as well as a red cape, Word Woman has fast become a hero to the young students at Kane.

Having spent all 11 of her years in education at Kane, Gardner is in her second year as the school's remediation specialist. Word Woman was born at the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year as a way to help keep students excited about learning. Gardner came up with the idea for a super hero who would help emphasize the power of education at the school.

As the remediation specialist at Kane, Gardner is always looking to go the extra mile for students who generally need some additional help. She once wrote to officials with KJRH in Tulsa as part of their "Channel 2 Works for You" promotion. Through the promotion, those with a need could make it known and then hopefully be connected with an anonymous donor.

Gardner's need was for an expensive device which helped people who stuttered. One of her students suffered from the problem, and Gardner was looking to assist the child in any way she could. Though somewhat unorthodox, the move paid great dividends.

"They found an anonymous donor for the device," relates Gardner. "It was a great day to travel with the student to Tulsa to receive his new device and watch him read without stuttering.



The remediation specialist at Richard Kane Elementary School, Darla Gardner (pictured center), the Bartlesville Public School District's Teacher of the Month for July, is congratulated by Stephen Colaw (left), the Arvest Bank senior vice president and trust officer, and David Oakley, Jr. (right), owner of Oakley Chevrolet-Buick-Pontiac.

"It was a proud moment."

Gardner has much of which she can be proud herself. She boasts bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Northeastern State University. She is very active within her school, where she is Kane's secret pal coordinator, Title 1 representative, TRIBES coordinator and discipline committee member. In addition, she is one of the school's data team leaders, created the staff talent show, has been a sponsor of peer mediators and is a member of the Oklahoma Education Association.

Though spare time would seem to be a luxury for Gardner, she often spends it helping out in the community. She is a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake team and has been involved with Washington County Youth Baseball and Softball, the Junior Miss Pageant and Camp Invention.

Kane held a special school-wide function for the whole family on the evening of Jan. 27 – known as Math Mania – and Gardner served as the coordinator.

Growing up, Gardner needed a star in her life and she found one. Starr Meek was her high school coach and teacher, and is still a mentor and friend. Gardner was lucky enough to have a caring teacher serve as a positive role model in her life, and now she does everything she can to fill that need for the students in her care.

"It's all about the kids," says Gardner. "I chose this career to help children grow as students and individuals."

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Oklahoma the enjoyment of music,” said Russell. “It’s something I will remember always.”

The Oklahoma Ambassadors of Music takes a trip to Europe every two years. This year’s group featured 120 students from throughout the Sooner State as well as around 40 staff members and adult chaperones. Among the staff members was Alex Claussen, the supervisor of instrumental music for the Bartlesville Public School District.

This year’s trip spanned from June 6-25 and saw the group take in sights such as Buckingham Palace in London, the Eiffel Tower in Paris and Venice, Italy. In addition, the band students performed five full concerts as did the choir students. The choir showcased their talents in three other mini-concerts as well.

All five Bruin student representatives performed with the band. Russell sang with the choir as well. Claussen served as one of the conductors for the band concerts.

“It’s a very well-organized trip,” said Claussen, who was making his fifth trip to Europe as part of the OAM program. “It’s a great way to get a sampling of the European culture. It’s a great way for our students to use their talents and share them with European audiences.

“All of the concerts were very well received, and at times, I think the kids felt like rock stars.”

Students who had been nominated by their band and choir directors were eligible to be part of the OAM trip to Europe. Of this year’s group, around 90 of the youngsters were band students while approximately 30 represented the choir.

The group initially gathered on the East Central University campus in Ada for a three-day mini-camp before flying into London on June 6. While in London, the choir performed in Wesley’s Chapel, which was built by the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. The band played a concert on the Thames Embankment Gardens. Among the sights taken in were William Shakespeare’s famed Globe Theatre, Windsor Castle, Westminster Abbey and Piccadilly Circus. Several members of the contingency got to see the musical “Phantom of the Opera” as well.

From London, the group moved on to Paris. The band performed before a bustling crowd at Luxembourg Gardens while the choir sang in the strikingly gothic St. Severin Cathedral. Everyone was able to spend time in the Montmartre District and witnessed the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre Museum also.

After three days in Paris, the OAM party made its way to Switzerland. Both the band and the choir performed in a special tent in the dual city of Crans-Montana, a ski resort area located in the Swiss Alps. The group made

its way to Zermatt as well, a picturesque village which doesn’t allow gasoline-powered vehicles. Thus, two of the primary modes of transportation are bicycles and horses.

Next, it was off to the tiny country of Liechtenstein, where lunch was enjoyed in the capitol city of Vaduz, and then Austria. While in Austria, the choir performed at St. Oswald’s Church, known as the site of a holy miracle, and took in the Olympic village of Seefeld. The band played on the Olympic stage, where medals have been presented to prevailing athletes.

From Austria, the group took a day trip to Venice, Italy and saw St. Mark’s Basilica, the Rialto Bridge and the Bridge of Sighs, among other sights. On the return trip from Venice, the party passed over the Europa Bridge, which is the tallest bridge in Europe, and went through Brenner Pass.

From Austria, the group next went to Germany and stayed in the medieval walled city of Rothenburg, where the band and choir both performed their final concert. Options available to the students while in Rothenburg included exploring the medieval wall, several museums and some world famous Christmas stores.

On June 21, most of the OAM party flew home from Frankfurt, Germany. However, a small group of around 35, which included Swanson and Claussen, went on for a four-day excursion in Greece. They did a walking tour of the Acropolis and were able to see the famed Parthenon and Olympic stadium. They traveled to three of the Greek islands as well.

The next Oklahoma Ambassadors of Music tour of Europe is scheduled for the summer of 2013. Invitations are scheduled to go out to select band and choir students throughout the state next spring. Eligible youngsters will be those who have completed at least the eighth grade by the conclusion of the 2012-13 academic year and show good citizenship, maturity and musical talent. The students must be recommended by their band and/or choir director.

This summer, 22 states are scheduled to do Ambassadors of Music student tours through Europe. The parent organization of the Ambassadors of Music program is Voyagers International. During the tours, in each city in which the group stays, city coordinators are on hand to tend to their needs and assist with travel.

“Traveling with the OAM has been an eye-opening experience for me,” said Swanson. “Coming together with so many people across the state to play fun music in such spectacular locations across Europe – while also experiencing their culture and history – has made me appreciate my own country all the more.

“It’s also inspired me to continue traveling, learning and sharing those incredible experiences with others.”

Stellar Sites

The Bartlesville Public School District offers a wide array of useful tools for students as well as parents. For some extra educational insight, give these web sites a look:

PowerSchool

<http://www.bps-ok.org> Click on the PowerSchool link toward the top of the home page.

- Parents and legal guardians can check with office personnel at their student's school to find out how to access PowerSchool.
- Information on students - such as grades and attendance records available via PowerSchool.

Study Island

<http://www.studyisland.com> Use the "Member Login."

- Student login information must be obtained from teachers.

Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/BartlesvilleHighSchool#!/>

[BartlesvillePublicSchools](http://www.facebook.com/BartlesvillePublicSchools) or <http://www.facebook.com/BartlesvilleHighSchool>

- Everyone can keep up with what's going throughout the BPSD or at Bartlesville High School by becoming fans of these pages, which are updated regularly with news and events.

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Bartlesville Public School District Activities (July 7-13, 2011)

Thursday, July 7

Summer school classes in session (grades 9-12) (8 a.m. – noon) (Mid-High School)

Friday, July 8

Summer school classes in session (grades 9-12) (8 a.m. – noon) (Mid-High School)

Saturday, July 9

(No events scheduled)

Sunday, July 10

(No events scheduled)

Editing, writing, design and photography by
David Austin, Bartlesville Public School District's
community relations coordinator, unless
otherwise noted

Monday, July 11

Summer school classes in session (grades 9-12) (8 a.m. – noon) (Mid-High School)

Tuesday, July 12

Summer school classes in session (grades 9-12) (8 a.m. – noon) (Mid-High School)

Parent support group meeting in main office conference room (1 p.m.)

Wednesday, July 13

Summer school classes in session (grades 9-12) (8 a.m. – noon) (Mid-High School)

"So many shining moments"