



# **June 2026 Celebrations Update**

# DISTRICT

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Blue Valley Schools celebrated 1,719 graduates from the **Class of 2026** with graduation ceremonies and celebrations.



# DISTRICT

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In the latest episode of BV Unmuted, Superintendent **Dr. Gillian Chapman** is joined by **Dr. Libby Milkovich** (Children's Mercy pediatrician and Blue Valley parent), **Amy Farthing** (Blue Valley executive director of school administration) and **Kelly June** (Blue Valley executive director of academic services) to discuss how to help children and teenagers build healthy screen time habits and find balance in an evolving digital world.

[www.tinyurl.com/BVUnmutedScreenTime](http://www.tinyurl.com/BVUnmutedScreenTime)



# DISTRICT

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**Blue Valley staff members and administrators** came together during summer leadership to collaborate and learn.



# DISTRICT

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## June Recognition Dates & Holidays

- 6/19: Juneteenth

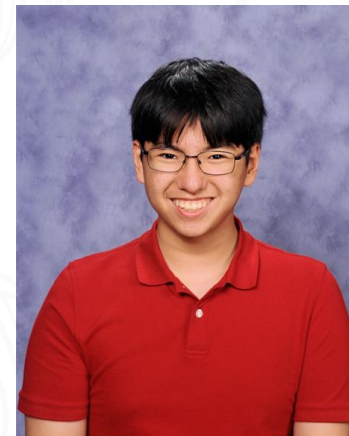


# STUDENT

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Blue Valley North's **Matthew Chen** and Blue Valley Southwest's **Zayna Ahmed** and **Dane Weninger** were named semifinalists in the 2026 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

The three graduates are among just six Kansas students named semifinalists. Blue Valley Schools is the only district in Kansas with multiple semifinalists.



# STUDENT

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**Eight Blue Valley seniors** were named this year's National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

**Eleven Blue Valley seniors** were named this year's National Merit College-Sponsored Merit Scholarship winners by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



**NATIONAL MERIT  
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

# STUDENT

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Two Blue Valley high school students received 2026 Blue Star Awards from the Starlight Theatre:

- Junior Rising Star Scholarship – Blue Valley Southwest’s **Aliyah Lawrence**
- Outstanding Performer in a Featured Role – Blue Valley Northwest’s **Ryan Peterson**



# STUDENT

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The 2026 yearbook from **Blue Valley Northwest** was inducted into Walsworth Yearbooks' Gallery of Excellence. The distinction honors yearbooks that consistently demonstrate superior quality.



# STUDENT

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**Pleasant Ridge Middle** students qualified for national-level competitions in MATHCOUNTS, National Science Bowl and Science Olympiad during the same year — an achievement accomplished only by a handful of middle schools nationwide.



# STAFF

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Mission Trail Elementary's **Debbie Bond** was recognized by the Kansas House of Representatives for her 38 years of service to public education in Blue Valley Schools.



# STAFF

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Blue Valley North's **Myles Wilcox** was named a recipient of the 2026 Athletic Training Preceptor Award by the University of Kansas Medical Center's Department of Physical Therapy, Rehabilitation Science and Athletic Training.



# STAFF

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Blue Valley West's **Dr. Laura Restivo** was named a recipient of the 2026 Wolfe Teaching Excellence Award by the University of Kansas.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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**Blue Valley West Girls Swim & Dive** won the 6A state championship.



*Andy Brown/KSHSAA Covered*

# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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## Blue Valley West Boys Tennis

won the 6A state  
championship, the team's  
fourth straight state title.



*Andy Brown/KSHSAA Covered*

# STUDENT

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**125 Blue Valley high school solos and small ensembles** earned I ratings at the KSHSAA State Solos & Small Ensembles Music Festival.

**10 Blue Valley high school groups** earned I ratings at the KSHSAA State Large Groups Music Festival.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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At the 6A Girls Swim & Dive State Championship, several Blue Valley students won state titles:

- **Maggie Dahl**, Blue Valley Northwest – 50 Free, 100 Free
- **Amber Stringer**, Blue Valley West – 500 Free
- **Caitlyn Chopra, Avery Johnson, Anya Pivonka** and **Sasha Weiner**, Blue Valley West – 200 Medley Relay
- **Hayden Benbow, Anya Pivonka, Amber Stringer** and **Sasha Weiner**, Blue Valley West – 400 Free Relay



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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At the 5A Girls Swim & Dive State Championship, several Blue Valley students won state titles:

- **Willow Weninger**, Blue Valley Southwest – 100 Breaststroke, 200 Individual Medley
- **Molly Hartweger, Kameryn Ross, Sophia Sponseller** and **Willow Weninger**, Blue Valley Southwest – 400 Free Relay



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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At the 6A Boys Tennis State Championship, Blue Valley West's **Ishaan Musti** and **Ganesh Srikanth** won the doubles state title.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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At the 6A Boys Golf State Championship,  
Blue Valley North's **Drew Krystyn** won the  
individual state title.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

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At the State Track and Field Championship, several Blue Valley students

won individual and team state titles:

- **Lexi Franks**, Blue Valley Southwest – Girls Javelin
- **Dylan Cross**, Blue Valley Southwest – Boys Pole Vault (back-to-back champion)
- **Jacob D'souza**, Blue Valley Northwest – Boys 3200m
- **Logan Nelson**, Blue Valley Northwest – Boys Discus
- **Paige Faulkner**, Blue Valley High – Girls 800m
- **Hyland Wright**, Blue Valley High – Boys 800m
- **Hyland Wright, Carter Moser, Drew Howell, Brayden Troutman**, Blue Valley High – 4x800 Relay
- **Maria Portela**, Blue Valley High – 100m, 200m and 400m (100m and 200m state record and 200m national record in Spain for under 20 years old)



# ALUMNI

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The University of Kansas selected three  
Blue Valley Schools graduates as 2026

University Award recipients:

- **Katherine Goodwin**, Blue Valley North
- **Emmanuel Saama**, Blue Valley West
- **Nathan Binshtok**, Blue Valley West



# ALUMNI

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Blue Valley High alumna **Mo Abualnadi**  
has been named to the Jordan National  
Soccer team for the 2026 FIFA World  
Cup.

