



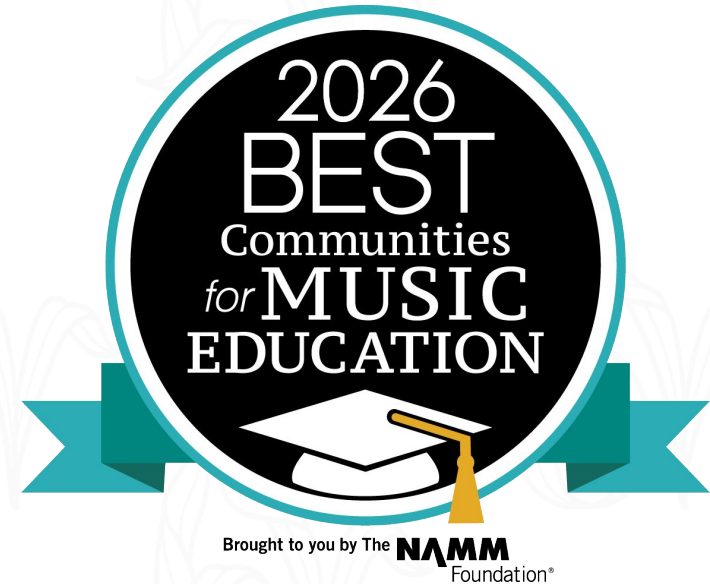
# **May 2026 Celebrations Update**

# DISTRICT

---

**Blue Valley Schools** received the 2026 Best Communities for Music Education Award from the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. The district is one of only five in Kansas to receive this honor.

The award program recognizes and celebrates districts and schools that demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment to and access to music education.

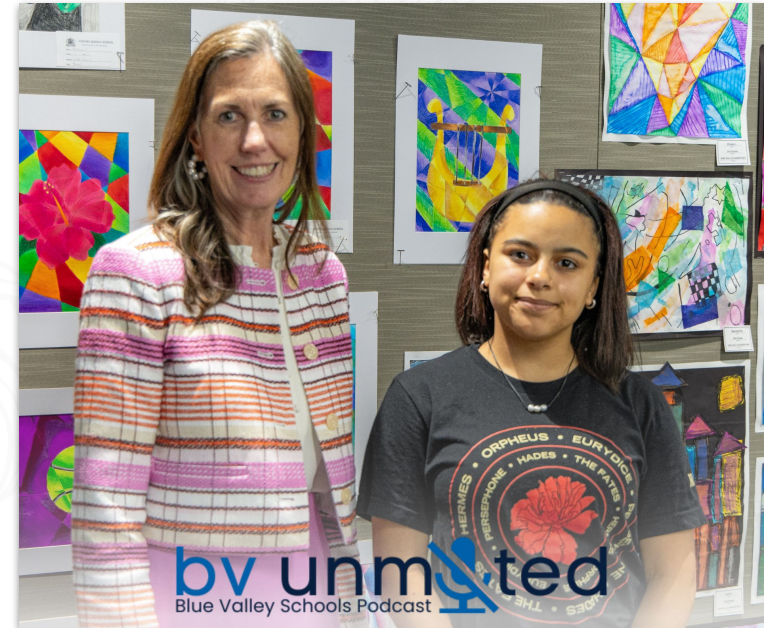


# DISTRICT

---

In the latest episode of BV Unmuted, Superintendent **Dr. Gillian Chapman** is joined by **Ash Jackson** (Blue Valley West freshman), **Swetha Newcomb** (Blue Valley West graduate and Of Course restaurant owner and chef) and **Bridget Howard** (Blue Valley High graduate and Kansas City Royals host and sideline reporter) to share how they are making history in their fields.

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



# DISTRICT

---

## May Recognition Dates & Holidays

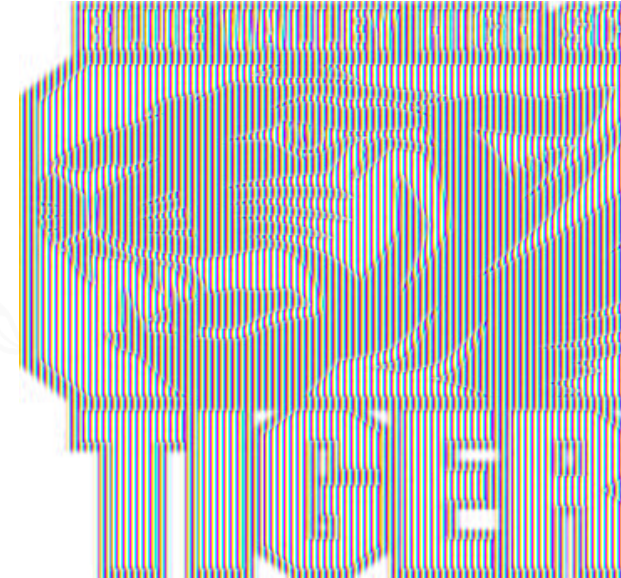
- AANHPI Heritage Month
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- 5/1: School Lunch Hero Day
- 5/1: National School Principals Day
- 5/4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/6: National School Nurse Day
- 5/18: National Speech-Language Pathologist Day
- 5/22: Last Day of School
- 5/25: Memorial Day



# STUDENT

---

Blue Valley High's **Olivia Wang** earned first place in the Congressional Art Competition for the second consecutive year. Her work will be on display at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. for a year.



# STUDENT

---

Two Blue Valley high school students were named 2026 Shooting Stars scholarship recipients by the Arts Council of Johnson County:

- 2D Art – Blue Valley Southwest’s **Devika Krishna**
- Literature – Blue Valley West’s **Hailey Tam**



# STUDENT

---

**Blue Valley Northwest** earned 2026 All-Kansas award honors from the Kansas Scholastic Press Association (KSPA) for their news website.

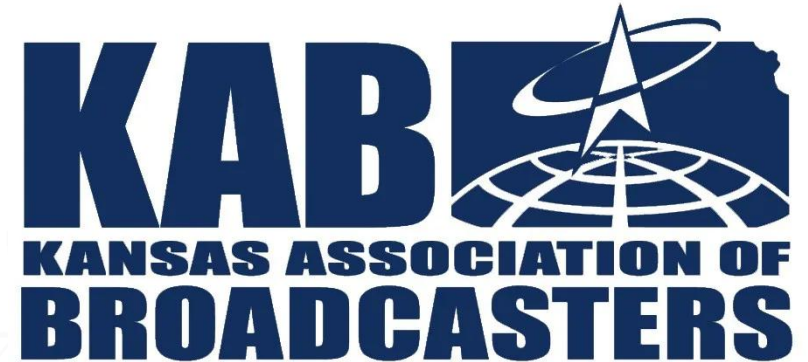
**Eight Blue Valley high school students** earned Class 5A/6A awards in the 2026 KSPA State Contest.



# STUDENT

---

In the 2026 Kansas Association of Broadcasters Student Awards, **Blue Valley Northwest** earned first place in the high school visual category.



# STUDENT

---

Blue Valley Southwest's **Devika Krishna** was selected as one of 150 local Kansas City artists to design a heart for the 2026 Parade of Hearts. Krishna's heart, *The Water Lilies*, is on display at Zona Rosa.



*Parade of Hearts*

# STUDENT

---

## **Seven Blue Valley middle school students**

earned top 20 honors at the Northeast Kansas qualifier for the 2026 National Civics Bee.



# STAFF

---

Blue Valley Northwest's **Evan Michaels** was named the 2025–26 District Coach of the Year for the Three Trails District of the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA).

Michaels was also named a NSDA Diamond Coach Award honoree.



# STAFF

---

Prairie Star Middle's **Erica Hammack** was named Blue Valley Schools' School Health Excellence Award honoree for the 2025-26 school year.



# STAFF

---

Blue Valley West's **Aaron Davidson** was named the Blue KC Coaches With Character for the month of May.



# STAFF

---

**Blue Valley Schools' Teacher of the Year and Master Teacher building nominees** were honored and recognized at the 2026 Staff Awards Recognition Reception.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

---

**Blue Valley West's ProStart restaurant management team** won the national title in the restaurant management division at the 2026 National ProStart Invitational, hosted by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation.



*National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation*

# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

---

Blue Valley High's **Grant Aschentrop** earned first place in the United States Extemporaneous Speaking event at the KSHSAA 6A State Speech and Drama Championship.



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

---

The Kansas State High School Activities Association announced three Blue Valley high school students as recipients of the KSHSAA and Capital Federal 2026 True Blue Scholarships:

- Boys Bowling – Blue Valley Northwest’s **Zachary Reeves**
- Boys Swimming & Diving – Blue Valley Southwest’s **Dane Weninger**
- Unified Bowling – Blue Valley West’s **Alexis Tull**



# ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

---

**Lakewood Middle, Pleasant Ridge**

**Middle and Blue Valley West Science**

**Olympiad teams** advanced to the

2026 national competition based on

their results at the state event.



*Exploring the World of Science*