

Key Design Features

- “One student at a time”
- **Small personalized environment** with 400 students 6th-12th grade
- Each student has an **advisor** who serves as the student’s primary teacher for multiple years.
- Authentic work using **project-based curriculum**
- **21st Century Skills** embedded in all coursework including critical thinking, collaboration, communication, problem solving, and creativity.
- **Internships** up to two days per week with adult mentors (high school only)
- **College/career readiness** through partnerships with local colleges, college counseling and support, job shadows and internships.
- Daily computer access and significant **technology integration**
- **Service learning** and career exploration
- Quarterly **exhibitions/** Presentations of student work
- Performance-based assessments including **digital portfolios**
- Personalized **learning plans** for all
- **Differentiated instruction**
- **Student-led conferences**
- Close **partnerships** with families and community



Bellevue Big Picture School

Building a Bridge to Your Future

Now Accepting Grades 6,7,9, & 10 for September 2012

Welcome to Bellevue Big Picture!

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the Bellevue Big Picture School. We are excited about our partnership with the **Big Picture (BP) Learning Network** and having a BP inspired school here in Bellevue. Five guiding principles provide the framework and foundation for the design of the school: *personalization, adult-world connection, common intellectual mission, supportive partnerships, and shared leadership and responsibility*. The school is uniquely structured to educate, support, and guide students from middle school through high school graduation, building bridges from the earlier grades that ultimately lead to college success.



What is Big Picture Learning?

The Big Picture Learning design is a dynamic approach to learning, doing, and thinking that has been changing the lives of students, educators, and entire communities since 1995. The design components are based on three foundation principles: first, learning must be based on the interests and goals of each student; second, a student’s curriculum must be relevant to the people and places that exist in the real world; and finally, a student’s abilities must be authentically measured by the quality of her or his work. For more information on the Big Picture model, go to www.bigpicture.org.

Why Big Picture Works

- **The Advisor** works with a small group of students to find what motivates and interests each student.
- **The Mentor**, a lawyer, engineer, merchant, etc., guides each student’s internship.
- **The Parent** is actively enrolled as a resource to the BP community.
- **The Student** (and peers) interact to reinforce each other’s passion for real work in the real world. The result is a self-teaching community of learners where no one feels left out, and each helps motivate the other.


What makes Bellevue Big Picture Unique:

A Diverse Community

We are committed to creating a diverse community of learners founded on the principles of multi-cultural awareness, social justice, and equity. Bellevue BP provides a safe, nurturing, and respectful environment where students can flourish and reach their dreams.

Family Engagement

Family involvement is an essential part of the learning process. At Bellevue BP, parents/guardians are “enrolled” as partners in their student’s education. Parents help develop the student’s personalized learning plan and are included in every step of the way from enrollment to graduation, to college selection and beyond.



Mission Statement:
To prepare every student for success in college, career, and citizenship through personalized, rigorous and relevant learning experiences.

Personalized Learning Environment

The school is highly personalized due to the unique **teacher -as- advisor** relationship. Each student has an advisor who will be the student’s primary teacher for multiple years, monitors the student’s personal and academic development and serves as the point of contact for the family. Advisors assist students with setting academic goals, preparing for exhibitions, internships, addressing school issues and individual needs, and conducting home visits, etc. Students actively work with advisors, parents, and mentors to create a **personalized learning plan** based on the individual needs of the student. These plans blend school-based learning with outside experiences to give the students a motivating and rewarding educational experience that prepares them for success in college and beyond.

Authentic and Relevant Instructional Program

The instructional program includes **coursework** and learning through **internships, (LTI)**, (high school only) aligned with each student’s passion. One to two days a week high school students collaborate with mentors in a field of the student’s interest, designing and completing projects that serve a real need at the internship site and challenge the student to develop new skills. LTI’s are not meant to track students into particular careers. Rather, students develop academic and personal skills, explore different careers, and develop skills needed for college and beyond.

Middle school students connect their coursework to their interests through **service learning opportunities, field trips, projects, and mentorships.**

The school is built around a thoughtfully designed problem-based and project-based curriculum that is aligned to state standards and college preparation with an emphasis on authentic work. The rigorous curriculum moves students from being collectors of knowledge to creators of solutions to real-world problems. Throughout their school career, students will learn how to take more responsibility for their own learning with their teachers as guides and mentors.



9th grade student working on climate change project through joint partnership with UW

Think it!
Dream it!
Live it!

What makes Bellevue Big Picture Unique—continued

College/Career Connection

We work to instill college awareness in every student beginning in 6th grade. As part of college preparation, students create an educational plan, explore college options, and receive support for admissions testing and the application process. 11th and 12th grade students will be able to enroll in Running Start and earn both high school and college credit at the same time. Career preparation is supported through internships (high school), career research, and partnerships with local businesses (middle and high school).

Authentic Assessment

Students are held to high standards and must demonstrate their progress in a variety of ways. All students complete a comprehensive digital portfolio, prepare quarterly exhibitions of their work, present their internship projects to audiences composed of community members, and complete all required state assessments.

Technology Integration

Students use technology on a daily basis to communicate, collaborate, research, analyze, and demonstrate their learning through projects and their digital portfolios. A variety of digital tools are integrated into the learning experiences for all students.



Course of Study

6th Grade

Humanities Block

(Communication and Social Reasoning), **Math/Science Block** (Quantitative and Empirical Reasoning), **Advisory** (*Personal, Career and College Exploration and Service Learning*)

Exploratory classes: *Digital Media/Art and Physical Fitness and Wellness*

7th and 8th grade

Humanities Block

(Communication and Social Reasoning), **Math/Science Block** (Quantitative and Empirical Reasoning), **Advisory** (*Personal, Career and College Exploration and Service Learning*)

Exploratory classes: Digital Media/Art, Drama, Physical Fitness and Wellness and/or Spanish

9th and 10th Grade

Advisory: Humanities Block

(Communication and Social Reasoning), **Math/Science Block** (Quantitative and Empirical Reasoning), **Personal, Career and College Exploration and Internship**

Exploratory classes: *Spanish or Physical Fitness and Wellness or Digital Media/Art*

11th and 12th grade

Advisory: Humanities Block

(Communication and Social Reasoning), **Math/Science Block** (Quantitative and Empirical Reasoning), **Personal, Career and College Exploration and Internship or Running Start Classes**

Exploratory classes: *PE and Media/Art or Spanish or Running Start Classes*

Big Picture Learning Goals

Five areas frame all learning: Quantitative Reasoning, Empirical Reasoning, Social Reasoning, Communication, and Personal Qualities

Extracurricular Programs

High school students may participate in athletics at their attendance area high school. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation to the high school practice locations. Other clubs and activities will be sponsored at BBP driven by the needs and interests of the students.

Application Process

We are currently recruiting students who will be in grades 6,7,9,and 10 for September 2012.

- Attend a required information meeting on:

January 12, 18, 31, or February 8, 2012 at 7:00 pm
Bellevue Big Picture School
14844 SE 22nd Street
Bellevue, WA 98007

- Additional information posted on the district website: www.bsd405.org
- Applications available at Bellevue Big Picture School, online, and at the information sessions
- Fill out and turn in a completed application to Bellevue Big Picture School by **February 10, 2012**.
- Lottery results will be posted by February 24, 2012.
- Questions: Contact Bethany Spinler, Principal, spinlerb@bsd405.org or 425-456-7800



School and District Staff, Community and College Partners, and Parents celebrating the opening of Bellevue Big Picture School, September 6, 2011

Additional Resources



For more information about Big Picture Learning Network please visit: www.bigpicture.org

Or read: *The Big Picture: Education is Everyone's Business* By Dennis Littky with Samantha Grabelle

One Kid at a Time: Big Lessons from a Small School By Eliot Levine

Bellevue Big Picture School does not discriminate against students based on race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability.