



March 2026 Celebrations Update

DISTRICT

51 Blue Valley seniors were named finalists in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program, the most of any district in Kansas.



DISTRICT

In the latest BV Unmuted episode, Superintendent **Dr. Gillian Chapman** was joined by Blue Valley High senior **Kennedy Zellers**, Blue Valley alum and business owner **Ethan Kushnir** and Director of Career Ready Programs **Adam Wessel** to discuss the rapid growth of Blue Valley's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

www.tinyurl.com/BVUnmutedCTE



DISTRICT

The **Blue Valley Today: Spring 2026** issue was delivered to district mailboxes:

- *School Funding 101: How Blue Valley Schools is funded*
- *Serving the school community: Valley Park's student support jobs build confidence, responsibility*
- *Big ideas, big results: Blue Valley students shine at Battle of the Brains*
- *Game on: Blue Valley esports builds community through competition*

www.tinyurl.com/BVTodaySpring2026



DISTRICT

March Recognition Dates & Holidays

- National Athletic Training Month
- Music in Our Schools Month
- Theatre in Our Schools Month
- Youth Art Month
- 3/1-7: School Social Work Week
- 3/16-20: Spring Break
- 3/30-4/3: Paraprofessional Appreciation Week



STUDENT

Blue Valley High's **Miriam Mantara** took first place in the Kansas Poetry Out Loud contest, a National Endowment for the Arts program.



STUDENT

Blue Valley North's **Joshua Lobert** earned a Gold Award in the 22nd National Chinese Essay Writing Contest, a National Chinese Honor Society competition.



STUDENT

Pleasant Ridge Middle's **Ethan Suen** was named a 2026 Vincent Legacy Scholarship recipient by Starlight Theatre's Community Engagement Department.



Starlight Theatre

STAFF

Blue Valley West's **Dr. Heather Hall** was named a 2026 Kansas Master Teacher. The award program, established by Emporia State University in 1954, recognizes excellence in Kansas educators each year.



STAFF

Blue Valley Northwest's **Michael**

Richards was selected as a 2026 Art

Newcomer "Promising New Athletic

Director" Award recipient by the Kansas

Interscholastic Athletic Administrators

Association (KIAAA).



STAFF

Blue Valley Schools' **Matt Ortman** was selected as a 2026 National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Kansas Award of Merit recipient by the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA).



ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

Blue Valley High's Business

Professionals of America (BPA)

team won the 2026 state championship, the team's sixth straight state title.



ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

At the Wrestling State Championships, two Blue Valley students won their second straight state titles:

- **Tad Forsyth**, Blue Valley Southwest – Boys 5A, 190 lbs.
- **Henry White**, Blue Valley West – Boys 6A, 132 lbs.



ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

At the Boys Swim & Dive State Championships, several Blue Valley students won state titles:

- **Colton Poe**, Blue Valley West – 200 Individual Medley, 500 Freestyle
- **Nathan Weiner**, Blue Valley West – 100 Backstroke
- **Eddy Le, Colton Poe, Ben Scott & Nathan Weiner**, Blue Valley West – 200 Medley Relay
- **Brandon Bracco, Colton Poe, Ben Scott & Nathan Weiner**, Blue Valley West – 400 Freestyle Relay



ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

Seven Blue Valley high school students

earned I ratings at the KSHSAA State Piano

Festival.



ALUMNI

Bridget Howard, graduate of Blue Valley High, was hired as a host and sideline reporter for Royals.TV. Howard will be the first woman to appear consistently on the Kansas City Royals broadcast in franchise history.

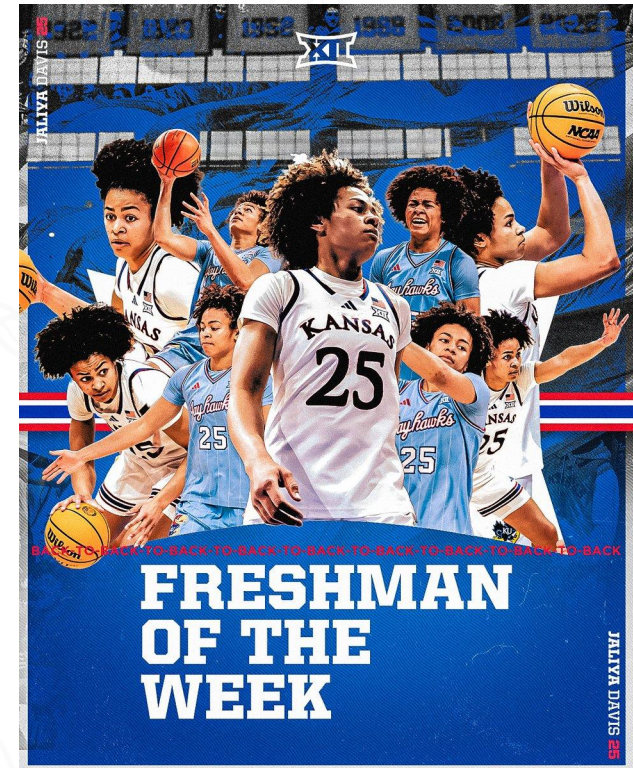


Kansas City Royals

ALUMNI

Jaliya Davis, graduate of Blue Valley North, earned a record-setting ninth consecutive Big 12 Freshman of the Week award. The nine straight awards are the most consecutive weekly freshman titles by any power conference player all-time.

Davis was also unanimously named the Big 12 Freshman of the Year, an All-Freshman Team selection and First Team All-Big 12.



Kansas Women's Basketball