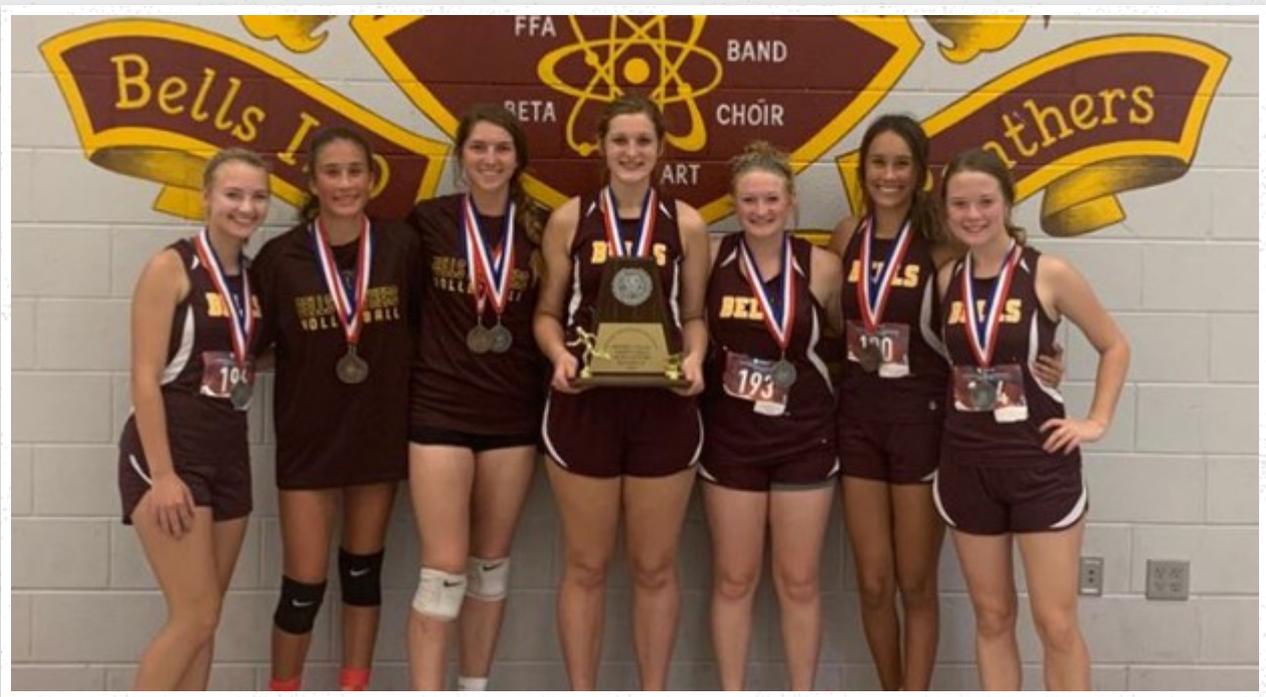


# Week in Review

BELLS ISD OCTOBER 25, 2019

BY TRICIA MEEK, SUPERINTENDENT



GOOD LUCK AT REGIONALS LADY PANTHERS XC!

## GOOD ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL FOR STUDENTS TO EXCEL IN SCHOOL

It's hard to believe that we have already wrapped up the first nine weeks of school and are zooming into fall, with the holidays rapidly approaching. While we generally love this time of year, with cooler temperatures and the changing colors of our landscape, it is also a time that allergies, stomach bugs, and even the flu bug begin to run their course, causing absentee rates across our campuses to rise. We do not want students to come to school sick and running a fever; however, we also want to encourage parents to use good judgement and consider the negative impact chronic absenteeism has on student learning. If a child simply has the sniffles but is not running fever, go ahead and try making it through the day at school. EVERY day a child misses school puts him or her behind in their school work. In addition, students perform

better in their extra-curricular activities when they attend practices and prepare for upcoming competitions. Research shows that attendance matters! A 2010 study found that "one in ten kindergarten and first grade students nationally are chronically absent." Findings also showed "[i]f children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers."

State law requires students to be in class 90% of the school days to gain credit for a grade or course. In addition, a district's attendance rate impacts state funding for schools, and state accountability ratings are also adversely affected by poor attendance. As previously stated, there are times when being absent is unavoidable; just be thoughtful in making the decision to keep your child at home, recognizing the adverse effects it may have on his or her success at school.

(2018, February) *Attendance in the Early Grades: Why it Matters for Reading* (Attendance Works Research Brief) Retrieved from <https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Attendance-in-the-Early-Grades.pdf>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 25th - Panther football at Blue Ridge and Volleyball at Blue Ridge

Oct. 28th - Regional Cross Country

Oct. 29th - Lady Panther Volleyball here against Bonham

Oct. 29th - Vaping Presentation at Secondary Campuses

Oct. 31st - JH and JV Football at Whitewright

Nov. 1st - Panther Football at home against Whitewright (Senior Night)

Nov. 7th - JH and JV Football here against Cooper

Nov. 8th - Panther Football at Cooper

**EDIE GIBSON VISITS BELLS HIGH SCHOOL FOR VAPING  
PRESENTATION ON OCTOBER 29TH -CLICK HERE FOR FLYER.**

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION LUNCHEON

Bells ISD will host a luncheon on November 18, 2019, for community members, businesses, and civic leaders. We want to share the great activities happening in Bells ISD as well as foster positive partnerships with individuals in this community who desire to get more involved with the school system. Please reach out to Tricia Meek if you are interested in receiving an invitation to this luncheon. We want all who are interested to be included. Contact Mrs. Meek via email at [tnmeek@bellsisd.net](mailto:tnmeek@bellsisd.net).



## PRE-K STUDENTS TAKE LEARNING OUTSIDE

As we approach the end of October, we can certainly look back over this month and agree that there have been several beautiful fall days. Mrs. Dane recently took advantage of the great weather and took her prekindergarten students outside to enjoy reading time. Students followed along as Mrs. Dane read *Spookly the Square Pumpkin*. It is hard to beat spending time outside on a beautiful fall afternoon reading a fun book with friends!



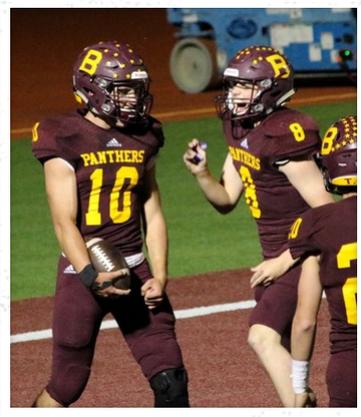
## PJH LADY PANTHERS END A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Both the 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams competed in the district tournament in Bonham on October 19th. The seventh grade team brought home the championship trophy, and the eighth grade team took 3rd place. Both teams played with intensity and definitely proved the future looks bright for Lady Panther athletics. Coach Jackie Sue High coaches the 8th grade team, and Coach Keven Kelly coaches the 7th graders.



## BELLS PANTHER BAND PERFORMS AT COMPETITION

On Saturday, October 19th, the Panther band performed at the UIL Marching contest in McKinney. The band received an Excellent rating of 2 for their outstanding performance. Band members have been working on this show since summer practices began in early August, and the group represented Bells High School very well at competition. The group had many supporters who came out to cheer them on, including members of the Panther football team and the BHS coaching staff. BISD appreciates the hard work Mrs. Sewell, Mr. Holmes, and all of the band members have put in to make this a memorable marching season for the band.



BELLS PANTHERS



BELLS LADY PANTHERS