



[Home](#)


Friday, September 30, 2011

[Home](#)

- School Sites
- Superintendent
- School Board
- District Information
- Administrative Departments
- Special Needs
- Curriculum and Instruction
- 2010-11 Curriculum and Instruction
- Technology
- Board Policy & Procedure
- Calendar-District-Wide
- 11-12 Color Coded Calendar
- SBDM
- District Improvement Plan
- Drug Policies & Testing
- Forms - Handbooks
- School Closing Info
- Infinite Campus - Staff
- Campus Portal - Parents
- Web Mail (Live@EDU)
- Live@EDU Info
- Search
- Web Admin
- Reading Literacy
- Employment-Jobs



**Attention: Parents**  
**BELL COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**FALL BREAK**  
**(NO SCHOOL)**  
**will be**  
**OCTOBER 10th and 11th, 2011**



**It's Football Time in**  
**BELL COUNTY!!!**  
**Be sure to come out and support the**  
**BELL COUNTY BOBCATS**  
**as they face the**  
**CASEY COUNTY REBELS**  
**this Friday Night (8:00), September 30th**  
**@ Dudley Hilton Field!**  
**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**  
**GO BOBCATS!**

**District Response to Community Concerns regarding**

## Pregame Prayer

Many folks in the Bell County Community have communicated their concerns regarding the absence of the pregame prayer at our football game last Friday night. The pregame prayer has been a long standing Bell County tradition that we all are proud of. Over the years I have been aware of various court cases that ruled a prayer (even a student led prayer) before a school sponsored event was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. I have always taken the position that we will continue the prayer until someone makes us stop. We recently received a letter from an attorney with the Freedom From Religion Foundation. The letter stated they had received a complaint about the pregame prayer from concerned BCHS students. The letter also cited federal/supreme court cases that had ruled against any such activity associated with school sponsored activities. The attorney asked that we "commence an immediate investigation into the complaints alleged, and to stop any and all prayers occurring before any District athletic events". The letter further asked that we inform them promptly in writing of the steps our district takes to remedy "this serious and flagrant" violation of the First Amendment.

I immediately referred the letter to our board attorney, Shea Yoakum, who in turn submitted it to Amy Peabody, a Kentucky Department of Education attorney, to determine the legitimacy of the organization and the complaint. Ms. Peabody confirmed the legitimacy of the complaint and stated that she believed the pregame prayer did constitute an unconstitutional endorsement of religion by a school district. She recommended that we cease the activity immediately. She further implied that based on the previous court rulings we would lose any court action in defense of the pregame prayer.

As distressing as this is, we chose to follow her recommendation at this time. Our hard held Christian belief in Bell County is the fabric that makes our community special. Based on what we know at this point, a moment of silence may be our best pregame option. As a school district, we will always attempt to do everything ethically and legally possible to benefit our students. The challenges of our ever-changing society do not deter our efforts to do so as we adjust to court decisions that impact the experiences of students while in our care.

George



**BELL COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**DISTRICT ENERGY TEAM**

The Bell County District Energy Team meets monthly to update our District Energy Management Plan for lowering our overall Energy Consumption. Energy costs continue to be an increasing burden on all district budgets. So in our efforts to implement energy smart behaviors, we hope to better manage our energy consumption and redirect the savings to other educational needs.



## SCHOOL BREAKFAST/ LUNCH/SNACK MENUS

Attachments:

- [Bell\\_High\\_Breakfast\\_October\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Breakfast\\_September\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Breakfast\\_September\\_2011\\_BH.doc](#)
- [Breakfast\\_\\_October\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Fresh\\_Fruit\\_October\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Fresh\\_Fruit\\_September\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Lunch\\_October\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Lunch\\_September\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Pre-School\\_October\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Pre-School\\_September\\_2011\\_Menu.doc](#)
- [Tutoring\\_October\\_2011.doc](#)
- [Tutoring\\_September\\_2011.doc](#)

## 2011-2012 Bell County Schools Bus Route Information

(click on links to view information)



[\[Back to Top\]](#)

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**Counter: 1,321,265**