



# THE SUMMIT

ELEVATING EDUCATION AT BLAINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES - Bellevue Elementary



*"When the student archers are teaching parents how to work the bow, it gives them amazing pride and a sense of strength."*

*- Gary Grose, Bellevue Elementary teacher*

### Bullseye! Drawing Bows and Building Minds

Where in Blaine County can 4th and 5th graders learn a lifetime sport that also teaches spatial awareness, math skills and the importance of rules, discipline, and

safety? The answer is...the lunchtime archery classes at [Bellevue Elementary](#).

Several years ago, physical education teacher [Gary Grose](#) gained approval for the program and attained certification to teach archery at the school from the [National Archery in the Schools Program](#) (NASP). Since that time, he has worked with a range of organizations to secure more than \$25,000 in grants and equipment, at no cost to the district.

In 2021, the program started with 34 students. Today, there are 80 students who each take 12 classes that cover a range of archery skills and safety protocols. Grose mixes up the sessions—recently the students aimed at apples, and they have also shot at tic tac toe targets. With parental



approval, some fifth graders are allowed to shoot at 3D animal targets, where they also learn from [Idaho Fish and Game](#) about animal anatomy and responsible hunting. Students also learn practical skills such as how to work on the bow press to add accessories or fix bows.

Each year, parents and grandparents are also invited to shoot with the archers.

"When the student archers are teaching parents how to work the bow, it gives them amazing pride and a sense of strength," said Grose.

A few years ago, Pudge Nilsen joined his fifth-grade granddaughter for an archery lesson—and he enjoyed it so much that he immediately offered to volunteer. Now, every Thursday, you'll find him at Bellevue Elementary, sharing the skills he first learned at just seven years old.



"You can't put a value on this program," Nilsen says. "The kids are eager to learn not just archery, but important life lessons—like responsibility, safety, and respect for the rules."

His passion and dedication have made a lasting impact, inspiring students to aim high both on and off the range.

As part of safety protocols, students learn how to use a whistle to communicate. The focus on safety is working—with more than 50,000 arrows shot, there has never been an incident.

"I'm proud that I can teach these archers a lifetime activity. They can use these skills down the road in tournaments, as family time, or for sports or hunting. It's a great pastime," Grose added.

