



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Belle Valley School District 119 was established to promote educational excellence and to foster the growth and development of students in our community; and*

*WHEREAS, the district's mission, We AIM High, Achieving Important Milestones, embodies its core values:*

- *A: Academic Excellence – Fostering a love of learning and providing the necessary tools for students to achieve;*
- *I: Integrity and Kindness – Encouraging honesty, respect, and compassion everyday;*
- *M: Mindful Growth – Supporting emotional and social development of students while building confidence and resilience; and*

*WHEREAS, the first Belle Valley School was built in 1850 as a one-room red brick building on Green Mount Lane, serving students until 1896 when a cyclone damaged its roof and it was subsequently demolished in 1906; and*

*WHEREAS, a second Belle Valley School began around 1870 near the Belle Valley Coal Company on Mascoutah Road, also a one-room brick schoolhouse, heated by a potbelly stove, and remained in use until 1950; and*

*WHEREAS, a third school building was constructed in 1951 at 1901 Mascoutah Road, undergoing several expansions in 1959, 1961, 1967, and 1969 to meet the needs of a growing student population. In 1967, another campus was added at 100 Andora Drive in Belleville, Illinois; and*

*WHEREAS, on January 7, 2012, Belle Valley School District unveiled its newest campus at 2465 Amann Drive with an open house to welcome students, parents, staff, and community members. This modern facility was built to replace the previous campuses due to mine subsidence at Belle Valley North and structural concerns at Belle Valley South; and*

*WHEREAS, the 150th anniversary of Belle Valley School District 119 presents a meaningful opportunity to honor and reflect on the many generations of students, educators, administrators, and community members who have contributed to its proud legacy of educational excellence; and*

*WHEREAS, for a century and a half, Belle Valley School District has adapted to the evolving needs of its students and the world around it, while remaining steadfast in its mission to educate, grow, and inspire; and*

*WHEREAS, this milestone celebration is not only a tribute to the district's rich history but also an affirmation of its ongoing commitment to educational excellence.*

*Pride in the Past ... Promise for the Future*  
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor of the City of Belleville, Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 4, 2025, as a Day of Celebration in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Belle Valley School District 119, and encourage all citizens to join in recognizing and celebrating this historic occasion.**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Belleville to be affixed, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.**

Jenny Gain Meyer, Mayor  
Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025