

Bellevue
Public
Schools
Alumni



Spotlight



Bryce Bares

Bellevue East, 1995

Welcome to our new Alumni Spotlight column where we shine a light on some of the amazing alumni that have graduated from Bellevue Public Schools!

Bryce graduated from Bellevue East in 1995. Bryce is a hard working family man who spent some time as a bank teller, a lawyer and now owns and operates 11 Dunkin Donuts in Nebraska!

Bryce recently took some time to answer a few of our questions.

What schools did you attend in Bellevue?

My entire education was Bellevue! Welcome School, Wake Robin, Logan, and Bellevue East - Class of 1995



Bryce (middle) with some of the boys of the band

Name one of your favorite teachers

I had so many amazing teachers at all levels. David Young at Bellevue East was my band teacher for 4 years, and he stands out as an important influence. In those days, Bellevue East's marching band was dominant, and Mr. Young had this incredible ability to get one hundred hormonal, nerdy teenagers to be passionate about marching band and to pursue excellence day in and day out. The dedication to detail and the inability to settle for anything less than perfection were both wonderful life lessons that carried over into my personal and professional life.

Share something you remember from your time in BPS.

My memories of musicals with Mr. Hanon stick out as some of the most fun moments of high school. I remember going to the old market with the entire cast, standing outside a radio station, and singing some of the songs live on the radio (I think it was music from "George M" with now-famous Billy McGuigan in the lead). Really fun times with great people.

Did you have a favorite place to hang out - either at school or in town?

Oh, the Taco Bell on Galvin was our hang-out. Why? I have no idea! But if we weren't there, we were at friends' houses. Village Inn was another popular spot.

What was your favorite class?

I had biology class with Jim Sutfin, who is now the superintendent of Millard Public Schools. He was a great



Bryce during his senior year

teacher who made class a lot of fun. It's easy to see why he's gone on to do great things.

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Fighter pilot for the Air Force



(left to right)
Bill, Bryce and Brian Bares

Did you have other family that graduated from BPS?

Both of my brothers, Bill '90 and Brian '91, graduated from East

Do you still have family in the area?

Both of my brothers live out of town, but my parents still live in Bellevue.

Could you share a little about your family?

My wife, Sara, was born in Mexico and grew up in the Bronx in New York City. She went to college with me and attended medical school at Mt. Sinai in New York City. She is currently an Infectious Disease physician on the faculty at UNMC. We have two sons, Elian (8) and Xavier (6), who attend elementary school in Gretna.

Tell us a little about how you went from being a student in Bellevue to the owner of (several) Dunkin Donuts.

After graduating high school, I briefly attended UNL before dropping out and working as a bank teller for the remainder of the academic year. I then started fresh as freshman at Amherst College in Massachusetts, where I studied music theory and composition. With that incredibly marketable degree, I decided to go to law school at Boston College. I worked as an attorney at a large law firm in Ohio and then worked for the City of Chicago's Law Department while my wife was in training at the University of Chicago. Entrepreneurial aspirations were always present, so as my



wife came close to finishing her training, I started looking at various franchises as potential avenues to business ownership. Dunkin' Donuts was very familiar to me because they are all over Massachusetts and Chicago, and I thought the brand would do well in Nebraska. I put together a business plan and convinced Dunkin' Brands to roll the dice on this inexperienced musician-lawyer from Bellevue. It was a wonderful opportunity to move my young family closer to relatives too (my parents). Fortunately, my wife found a great job that she loves as well. I was very lucky the stars aligned, and I opened the first Dunkin' in Nebraska back in 2013.

What is your favorite donut?

We don't even make it anymore unfortunately, but it was the "marble frosted" which is a chocolate frosted donut with some vanilla frosting swirled on top.

Which of your accomplishments in life are you most proud of?

Marrying Sara and having two awesome sons.

What message would you like to give to current students in Bellevue Public Schools students?

The most important lessons aren't learned in the classroom (sorry teachers!), they're learned in extracurricular activities like band, sports, drama, etc. Focus on being (1) reliable, (2) hardworking, (3) kind, and (4) a team player. If you do those 4 things consistently, you'll be successful in whatever you do.

And last question, we have to ask it: Can we look forward to a Dunkin Donuts in Bellevue any time soon?

Yes!



Bryce with his parents (Harold & Jane Bares), wife (Sara) and children (Elia & Xavier)

About Us

We hope you enjoyed our Alumni Spotlight! This is a recurring column on the Alumni Association Facebook Page. If you know of a Bellevue graduate that we should shine the spotlight on, please reach out to us and they will be considered for a future column. Continue to invite your friends and family to Like and Follow our Alumni Association page: <https://www.facebook.com/BPSAlumni>