

Bellevue
Public
Schools



Alumni
Spotlight



Chelsie Brown

Bellevue East, 2011

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!

Chelsie Brown graduated from Bellevue East in 2011. While attending the University of Iowa, she double majored in journalism and sports studies. She now works full time as a sports reporter and weekend anchor. Even though her career is in the early stages, she has a list of events she's covered that would make any sports fan jealous.

Chelsie recently took some time to answer a few questions.



Chelsie (right) playing while on a field trip in elementary school.

What school(s) did you attend in Bellevue?

I attended Peter Sarpy Elementary, Fairview Elementary, Mission Middle School and Bellevue East High School.

Could you name one of your favorite teachers and share why they were your favorite?

I had so many fabulous teachers growing up, that it's hard to just name one. I remember really liking Mrs. Roddy and Mrs. Johnson in elementary school. I had the two of them right after I moved from Central America to Nebraska; they made the transition super easy. Plus, they really liked Arthur and I was a huge fan at the time. In high school, Mr. Gehring and Mrs. Flahive were two of my favorites. Flahive was hilarious, loud, and I spent a lot of time in her classroom working on the yearbook. Mr. Gehring was very relatable and always made his classroom a fun environment.

What is a good memory you could share from your time in school?

Beating West in football junior year of high school. They were aiming for their 10th straight victory against us, but our football team was able to break the streak on the road. It also just help set the tone for a good year.

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

I don't know if I have a favorite place, but I frequented the school store through high school. Whether it was getting muffins at breakfast in the morning, or racing to grab cookies after third period, I was a frequent customer at the school store. I ended up being the person who restocked it my senior year, so in reality it made sense.



Chelsie during her senior year. She was a cheerleader all four years she attended East.



Did you have a favorite class?

I would probably say Yearbook. I spent a lot of time in that classroom trying to make deadlines.

When you were younger what did you want to be when you grew up?

For the longest time I thought about being a forensic scientist. I was obsessed with the Nancy Drew computer games and loved solving mysteries. I quickly learned a lot of math was involved in their jobs and that was never my best subject in school.

Do you have other family that graduated from BPS?

Yes! My younger brother is a 2018 graduate of Bellevue East High School.

Do you still have family in the area?

I do. My parents both still live in Bellevue. We originally moved there because my dad was in the military. He is now retired military, but works as a civilian. My mom is a long time educator with Bellevue Public Schools; she teaches 2nd grade at Fairview Elementary.



When did you start your internship for the Big 10 Network?

I got involved with the Big 10 Network my sophomore year in college. I mostly did behind-the-scenes work and operated cameras. It wasn't until my junior year that I decided to get in front of the camera.

Tell us about your favorite memory of being a sideline reporter for the Big 10 Network.

If anyone has ever been to Carver Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City during a wrestling match, you know exactly what I'm talking about when I say you cannot beat that environment.





The Iowa wrestling team is a very decorated program and anytime I worked those matches the environment was so loud. Everyone there is super passionate about the team and the sport. Having the opportunity to work with the Big Ten Network helped me realize just how fun it is to cover the sport.

Where did you end up after you graduated from the University of Iowa?

After graduating from Iowa, I moved to northern Minnesota where I took my very first on-air job out of college. I ended up in Brainerd, Minnesota working as a news/sports reporter in a bureau for Lakeland News.

After working for Lakeland Public Television, how did you end up at WDIO/WIRT-TV? What is your job there?

My experience in Brainerd, Minnesota really helped me land my next job in Duluth, Minnesota. With both of those cities being in northern Minnesota, my knowledge for area teams as well as the culture helped ease the transition not only for myself, but WDIO as well. With my station now, I work as a Sports Reporter and Weekend Sports Anchor.

Could you share about a memorable moment or two working as a sports reporter?

I realize that not many people can say they've covered a Super Bowl before which one of the coolest opportunities I've had on the job. I've been spoiled when it comes to covering things like Super Bowl 52, multiple NCAA Men's Hockey National Championships, traveling to cover bowl games, and so much more. I've even covered a dog sled race from start to finish, something I knew nothing about until moving to Minnesota.

With that, one of my favorite moments involves covering a Minnesota Vikings game. Ever heard of the Minneapolis



Chelsie out in the cold covering the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, longest of its kind in the lower 48.



Miracle? Well, I was there when Case Kenum launched a long ball to Stefon Diggs who ran it into the end zone with seconds left on the clock to win their playoff game against the New Orleans Saints. It was nuts! It was one of those plays that will forever go down in history. However, I was in the bathroom when it all happened. Yep. I was sitting in the press box, had to use the restroom really bad, and was relieved to hear that there was a TV timeout. I was washing my hands when I heard the stadium erupt with loud cheers. Then, I heard Prince's song 'Let's Go Crazy' and realized that a touchdown had been scored. I bolted out of the bathroom only to watch the replay on the TV screens in the press box. I couldn't believe it! I couldn't believe they pulled off a victory in that way and I also couldn't believe I had missed the entire thing.

The stadium employees next to me were jumping up and down and ended up hugging me they were so elated. So, I was present when that moment all happened, but clearly made one of the worst decisions to use the restroom at such a turning point during the game.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

In 5 years, I hope to potentially be working with a sports network. I would love to cover hockey full-time if I could. Minnesota is known as the state of hockey and it truly has gotten me hooked to the game.

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

It's not so much an accomplishment, but what really makes me appreciate my job. Working in local TV we rely on local viewers and nothing is more satisfying than someone coming up to you or emailing you that they grabbed their remote and turned your station on because they like you. It's the fact that they like you; what you do and how you deliver the news on their TV. It makes you feel appreciated and relevant,





Cheslie with Olympic Gold Medalist Maddie Rooney who was the goalkeeper for the US Women's Hockey Team that beat Canada in the Pyeongchang Olympics

especially since we live in a time where media platforms are heavily criticized.

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

Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way and make connections. I can't tell you how many times growing up I was told it's not what you know, it's who you know.

Links

Facebook page with links to many of her news clips:

https://www.facebook.com/pg/ChelsieTBrown/videos/?ref=page_internal

WDIO's bio page on Chelsie:

<https://www.wdio.com/about-us/chelsie-brown-wdio/4285363/>

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>



Cheslie covering Grandma's Marathon in Duluth, Minnesota.