

BEC-TV: Half a Century of Bloomington Programming

For as long as most can remember, Bloomington Educational Community Television (BEC-TV) has been the place to go for live and on demand sports, concerts, plays, graduations and school board meetings. The student-driven video production team is celebrating a monumental milestone of 50 years, boasting an impressive 30,000+ shows since 1975.

BEC-TV began when Northern Cable assigned a local channel for education. With no funding, BEC-TV programming was limited to the school day when students at Lincoln, Kennedy and Jefferson high schools could run the controls, literally hitting the 'play' button for each piece of content. Advancements came in 1982 when the Bloomington Cable Commission provided BEC-TV with a starting annual budget of \$12,000 for equipment and staff.

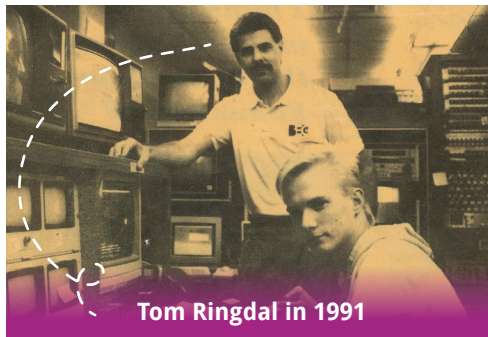
The first dedicated staffer was **Tom Ringdal**, who has led BEC-TV for the majority of its existence. Since then, Ringdal has expanded BEC-TV to play content daily and on demand in the current digital age. He and his team created an automated playback system that's grown into the most popular system for community channels in the U.S.

"It's been a real journey from the days of bulky black and white gear to the latest technology, but one thing has been consistent: our students and staff have always had a passion to serve the community by creating the very best video programming we can," said Ringdal.

Ringdal recruits and teaches middle and high school students about the technical aspects of broadcasting and how to work together as a team to bring productions to air. Ringdal has also had the privilege of guiding several students to careers in print and broadcast journalism and mass communication fields.

Under Ringdal's leadership, BEC-TV students have earned numerous awards over the years. Recently, BEC-TV earned its first national award, the Hometown Media Award from Alliance for Community Media, for a 2024 Kennedy vs Jefferson boys hockey broadcast; and Jefferson senior **Lucas Krieg** earned an AV All-Star award from the Midwest Emmy Foundation for his leadership during live football and weekly "Inside Football" coaches programs.

Watch BEC-TV on bectv.org, Roku, Apple TV, and Bloomington Comcast Cable Ch. 15 (SD) / 799 (HD).



Tom Ringdal in 1991



Back-to-School Calendar

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL:



Grades 6-9



Grades K-5, 10-12

SCHOOL BREAKS:



MEA Break



Thanksgiving Break



Winter Break



Spring Break

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:



Grades K-12



See the full calendar at bit.ly/bps-calendar

Volunteer Connection Celebrates 30 Years

This year marks a milestone for Volunteer Connection: 30 years of partnering with our community to support students and staff through meaningful service. What began as a small volunteer initiative has grown into a robust program that now includes student tutoring, classroom and lunchroom assistance, and, new this year, coordinating BPS student teachers from several Minnesota colleges and universities.

We are deeply grateful to the many family and community members who generously give their time and talents to help strengthen our schools. Your support makes a lasting difference. Learn how to volunteer at bit.ly/bps-volunteer.

Connect With Us

Follow us on social media or subscribe to our Chalk Talk e-newsletter to always stay in the know about what's happening in our schools.

- @bloomingtonpublicschools
- @bloomingtonpublicschools
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We're happy to help



CALL FOR ASSISTANCE:

Community Education	681-6100
Early Learning Services	681-5500
Enrollment	681-6400
Educational Services Center/ District Offices	681-6400
Food Services	681-6570
Metro South Adult Education	681-6170
Transportation	681-6300

Teacher Tips for a Good School Year

School success starts with attendance. It's easy to fall behind by missing only a few days of school. Aim for no more than five days absent during the school year.



Beth Kiene
Jefferson High School
Science Teacher

Help your elementary child learn their classroom number and teacher's name, which is helpful in their first days of school. Also, don't hesitate to share the needs and interests of your child with us. This helps us get to know your students more so we can help them have a successful year.

Make a plan for where, when and how long you will study and work. If your daily schedule varies, make a calendar to help you stay focused on forming good study habits.



Matt Delfs
Oak Grove Middle School
Language Arts Teacher



Erin Hanson
Poplar Bridge
Kindergarten Teacher