



The **Bridge**

Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek communities since 1976

Bellbrook High School
 Bellbrook Middle School
 Bell Creek Intermediate
 Stephen Bell Elementary
 St. Pierre Education Center

Our Mission: Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools empowers our learning community to: Be responsible decision-makers and effective problem-solvers; Persevere in the achievement of life goals; Contribute to communities locally and beyond; and Embrace learning as a lifelong process

Winter 2019 Bell Creek students honor those who served **Page 3** Kindergarten Registration information **Page 4**
 Volume 42 Issue 2 BHS Fall Sports recap and awards **Page 4** BHS National Honor Society inducts newest class **Page 5**

Feel The 

Dr. Doug Cozad, Superintendent of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local Schools said he believes schools, parents and the community should work together to promote the health, well-being and learning of all students. Many parents say this district is doing just that.



Dr. Doug Cozad

“When people talk to me as I’m out in the district and I often hear ‘I love our schools’ or ‘I love my teachers, they are awesome’ or ‘I love all of the activities my kids can get involved in’ and ‘I love homework,’ (okay, maybe not the homework one!),”

stated Cozad. He believes it is important to foster partnerships between the district’s dedicated teachers, staff, parents, and the community as it provides a strong network of people and resources to encourage and engage a well rounded student in their educational success.

“We would like to hear why you love Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools and this community,” said Cozad. “You can share your reasons on our social media platforms by using the hashtag #ilovebellbrookschools.”

What are Mandates? How Do They Affect Schools?

A mandate is a statute or regulation that requires a state, school or local government to perform certain actions. An unfunded mandate provides no money for fulfilling the required action. An underfunded mandate is when only a portion of the necessary funding is provided. Doesn’t sound fair, does it? Yet, that is what the state and federal government have done to school districts in Ohio.

According to the State of Ohio Associations of Superintendents, Business Officials, and School Boards, schools in Ohio have over 61 of these unfunded and underfunded mandates.

It’s not that these mandates are necessarily bad, actually some are very good and necessary. The problem comes when there is no money, or not enough, attached to fully pay for them. So who makes up the difference? YOU, the local taxpayer.

Some examples that have had the biggest financial impact on Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools are special education, preschool special education, English as a Second Language, Gifted Services, and College Credit Plus. We were underfunded or not funded for over \$3,000,000 for these programs during just the 2017-18 school-year! We have no choice and

are mandated to fund these programs. For example, we lost over \$200,000 to charter schools this past year. Combine these unfunded and underfunded mandates with the percentage of per-pupil funding that we get from the state of only 27% and the burden continues to get passed onto the local taxpayer.

HB 216 was recently passed and this reduced the number of mandates for schools but there are still many mandates, especially the more costly ones that are still unfunded or underfunded. What can be done to decrease these more costly mandates? Contact your local legislator to either decrease the number of unfunded and underfunded mandates or fully provide the funding for them.

Because of the burdensome unfunded and underfunded mandates, the inadequacy of the state funding system, and rising costs for Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, our school board voted unanimously to place a levy on the May 7th ballot. The 7.5 mill replacement Operating Levy will provide necessary funds for current and increasing operating expenses. This levy was originally passed in 1981. More information will be provided in the next issue of the Bridge.

2018-19 School Calendar

Feb. 15 - No school/teacher in-service
 Feb. 18 - No school/Presidents' Day
 Mar. 25 - No school/spring break begins
 Apr. 1 - School resumes
 Apr. 19 - No school
 Apr. 26 - Two-hour early dismissal
 May 15 - Senior Awards
 May 18 - Graduation 5 pm - Trent Arena
 May 23 - 1-hour early dismissal K-12
 May 23 - Last Day for Students

New Deadline Approaching for Hall of Fame Nominations

Nominations for the 2019 Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame induction are now due March 1st. The induction ceremony has been moved from June to October 12. The Hall of Fame committee restructured their timeframes to align with Homecoming weekend. Nomination submissions were changed from a November 1 due date to March 1st.

Substitute Support-Staff Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for building custodians, special-needs assistants, substitute bus drivers and transportation assistants (aides) for the 2018-19 school year. Individuals who qualify will receive all necessary onboard training, as applicable.

Download a support-staff application from www.sugarcreek.oh.us/Employment.aspx and submit the following to Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, Attn: Human Resources, 3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH 45305-8750:

1. District support-staff application
2. Resume
3. Cover letter

Following a review, qualified individuals will be contacted to initiate additional employment procedures.

Check Us Out on Social Media!

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools are increasing their use of social media to help tell their story of all the great things going on in our classrooms, schools and beyond. Whether it is highlighting fun STEM activities, service learning projects, science experiments, big wins on the field, debates or pep rallies, our social media accounts allow you to take a "peek" into the great things our students and staff are doing. Check out our new website at <http://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us> and click on the social media icons at the top (right) of the page or scroll down and check out the social media hub. Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools is definitely a story worth telling and seeing!



7th Graders Experience Mission to the Moon

Seventh graders at Bellbrook Middle School (BMS) experienced a "once in a lifetime" opportunity as they interacted in simulators at The Challenger Learning Center teaching space science education.

The Challenger Learning Center is a hands-on experience in which students learn to work collaboratively, think critically and develop math and science skills that are critical to their future success.

Miss Jennifer St.Pierre and Mrs. Emily Cline, 7th grade science teachers at BMS are proud to be able to offer their students such an excellent STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) program.

These teachers were able to extend learning from the confines of the classroom by participating in the Mission to the Moon program at The Challenger Learning Center.

This trip was made possible by a grant from the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation (BSEF). These grants are a way of recognizing, encouraging and supporting educator's efforts to innovate and excel. BSEF believes the grants are also a means to improve students' educational experiences.



Author of "Big Chickens Go to Town" Visits Stephen Bell



Stephen Bell Elementary was proud to host author and illustrator Henry Cole in November. Henry Cole is a self-taught artist and author. His books teach student readers lessons of language and life and always keep the kids entertained.

Mr. Cole delivered a lively presentation about his creative process, informing students that it can take dozens of attempts to achieve their goals.

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 Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools
 3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd.
 Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

District Contract Info

District Super Number

848-5001 (to reach any school)

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools' Board of Education Office

3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-6251/848-4800 Twitter: @Bellbrookschool

Bellbrook High School

3737 Upper Bellbrook Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-3737 Twitter: @Bellbrook_HS

Bellbrook Middle School

3600 Feedwire Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-2141 Twitter: @Bellbrook_MS

Bell Creek Intermediate

3777 Upper Bellbrook Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-3777 Twitter: @BellbrookBCI

Stephen Bell Elementary

4122 N. Linda Dr., Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-7831 Twitter: @BellbrookSBE

St. Pierre Education Center

3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-3757

Inclement Weather: What to Do

From time to time during the school year, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools may close, experience delays or make changes in school schedules and activities. We will make every attempt to update the website and use social media to notify you of changes in a timely manner.

The Instant Connect call out system will also be used to notify parents of school cancellations, early dismissals and late openings. Local TV and radio stations will carry announcements and updates, as well.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools' Honors

The Washington Post

— THE HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE —

2011-2017

Ranked 39th in Ohio and
 in the top 10% in the USA!



**2007, 2008,
 2012-2018**



BCI 2018

Newsweek
 AMERICA'S BEST
HIGH SCHOOLS



**Bellbrook
 Middle School**

Reaching for the Stars
**Ohio
 Schools
 to
 Watch**

BCI Honored Those Who Serve

Fifth grade students at Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) hosted its 2nd annual Veterans Day breakfast to recognize veterans and active-duty military members for their service and provide them with a complimentary meal.

Entertainment activities included the Bellbrook High School JROTC Color Guard who presented the colors and the Bell Creek Choir who sang the National Anthem.

The Veterans Day Breakfast was sponsored by the Sugar Maple



Festival Committee in partnership with BCI staff, volunteers and Sodexo School Services.



Did You Know

BMS 7th Grade Eagle Outreach Helping Others

At Bellbrook Middle School (BMS), Emily Cline's Eagle Outreach class dedicated approximately eight weeks to service learning in the school and community.

According to Mrs. Cline some of the amazing projects the students participated in were spending time with the elderly at a local nursing home, collected hats and gloves for the needy, volunteered at SICSA, recycling at BMS, tutored students at Bell Creek Intermediate and created an outdoor classroom at BMS.

Laser Cutter New Addition to BMS STEM!

Due to the generosity of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation, the Bellbrook Lions Club and the Sugar Maple Festival Committee, a new laser cutter is in use in the 8th grade STEM classes at Bellbrook Middle School! All three groups donated \$2,000 towards the purchase.

The Glowforge Pro is the most powerful of the Glowforge products. Students can use their creativity with hundreds of laser cut ideas. They have been using the cutter to make awards for the local park district that were designed by last year's STEM students.

Big Victory for PTO Direct Donation Campaign

The results are in and PTO raised a total of \$30,600 during their 2018 Direct Donation Campaign! Bellbrook High School raised \$6,000; Bellbrook Middle School raised \$6,800; Bell Creek Intermediate raised \$8,200, Stephen Bell Elementary raised \$9,000 and preschool raised \$600. The PTO would like to thank everyone who contributed.

Time for the Annual District Science Fair!

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools District Science Fair will be held Wednesday, February 13 from 3-5:30 pm. The science fair will be held at Bellbrook Middle School in the cafeteria.

Long Time Local School Employee Retires

After dedicating more than 39 years working for the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local School District, Sharon Cost officially retired December 1. During her 39 years Sharon worked for Central Office and most recently as Assistant to the Treasurer. Manager of Business, Dr. Jeff Lewis said, "We will miss her vast knowledge and thank her for all she has done to contribute to our schools. We wish her the best in retirement."



Sharon Cost

Kindergarten Registration

When: March 19, 20, 21 from 5-8 pm

Where: Stephen Bell Elementary
4122 N. Linda Drive, Bellbrook
(Kindergarten Commons)

Call: (937) 848-7831 for more information

Bellbrook Sports

Bellbrook HS Athletic Results - Fall 2018

Team	Overall Record	League Record
Girls Soccer	14-5-1 SW District Champs (3 in a row)	10-1 (2nd Place)
Boys Soccer	9-6-4	7-1-4 (2nd Place)
Volleyball	23-3 & No. 2 in State Coaches Poll - SW District Runner-Up	12-0 SWBL Champs
Football	10-1 & No. 2 in State AP Poll Lost First Round Playoff Game	6-0 SWBL Champs
Girls XC	SWBL Champs, SW District Champs & Regional Champs (3 in a row for all)	3rd in State
Boys XC	5th in DI SW District, 11th in DI Regional	SWBL Runner-Up
Golf	9-5 (3rd at Sect & qualified for regionals)	3-3 SWBL 3rd
Girls Tennis	4-2...Andrea Szep won the SW District & Qualified for the Regional. She was the No. 1 overall seed in the district tour. & was player of the year (MV Coaches)	10-6 3rd SWBL

Fall Sports Awards

Football

Jeff Jenkins - SWBL & SW District Coach of the Year
All-State - Ethan Knisley 1st Team & Justin Sloan 3rd Team
SWBL - Offensive Player of the Year - Justin Sloan

Girls Tennis

Andrea Szep won the SW District & Qualified for the Regional. She was the #1 overall seed in the district tournament & was player of the year

Volleyball

Lynzee Allen - SWBL Coach of the Year
Kira Merkle - SWBL Player of the Year & Selected to Play in State All Star Game

Girls Soccer

Bailey Sedlack - SWBL Player of the Year

Athletic Schedules can be found at



BHS National Honor Society Inductions

The Bel-Hi Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) inducted 44 new members on December 5. The new inductees were: Anika Arora, Cali Benetis, Camden Bettencourt, Kaden Boreman, Hannah Bridges, Mitchell Brittain, Alexis Cable, Cloe Caldwell, Holly Conklin, Nicole Cordonnier, Lexi Crockett, Ryan



Mark Carreira, Jeanne Johnson, Tony Chitwood, Katie Bills-Tenney, Laurie Sadler, Ben Trick, Jeff Sampson, Cindy Hasler, Julie Giles, Paulette Hensley, Lynzee Allen, Aimee Klepacz, Chip Will, Kim Lord, Kyle Ferguson, David Kapka, Ellen Guthrie and Nicole Otting.

These new inductees join the 36

Cross, Lydia Derrico, Emma Diorio, Grace Edwards, Lucas Flanagan, Mara Fleck, Sean Ford, Addie Hahn, Jorin Hanson, Sydney Hollingsworth, Josh Hypes, Caden Kooken, Connor Laughlin, Cole McCrae, Laura Motil, Jada Murphy, Caleb Newlon, Katie Okolowitz, Kassie Panson, Kayla Paul, Mackenzie Pittman, Abbey Raison, Andy Russell, Sara Schatzel, Collin Schofield, Katie Schultz, Zach Schultz, Megan Solomon, Kayla Stephensen, Kyle VanPelt, Emily Weslow, Ryan Williams, Mira Wilson.

rising members of the NHS. They are: President-Drew Ward, Vice President-Andrea Szep, Secretary-Minami Ford and Treasurer-Sara Rogers. Members include: Carter Caldwell, Tyler Dreischarf, Amira Faulkner, Mason Grey, Abigail Judge, Ally Keefer, Sydney Krane, Alex Merrill, Delaney Smith, Clay Cavanaugh, Anjali Edwards, Nate Feix, Adam Galle, Cassie Hennen, Sallie Jurs, Elise Kemper, Jenna Luthman, Jade Midtlien, John Petric, Caleb Stone, Lance Weston, Emily Doyon, Bergen Eppers, Ellie

Ferraro, Olivia Greathouse, Jonathan Hyman, Rachel Kahler, Kalli Kramer, Emily McNamara, Kenzie Pelfrey, Ethan Schieb and Sara Wolf.

The NHS advisors are Leslie Christofano and Donnie Phelps.

Each new inductee had the opportunity to honor an influential educator in the district that has positively impacted his/her education experience. Staff members recognized were: Rob Schultz, Barb Siler, Craig Reinhart, Blake Barnes,



Bellbrook High School Art Students Swing Into the Future



Bellbrook High School's Art 3 and 4 students visited contemporary artist Mark de Jong's Swing House located in Cincinnati's Camp Washington neighborhood.

According to www.trendland.com the 1880's three-story brick building, with a narrow interior width of 15 feet, is representative of much of

Cincinnati's 19th century traditional residential architecture.

Mark de Jong spent more than three years removing the interior walls and upper floors and built a swing right in the middle of the opened-up interior. The artist says the swing represents freedom from architectural convention – it's a radical departure from our

expectations of everyday domesticity. He turned the basement into a gallery for smaller pieces of art.

BHS students were inspired by de Jong's accomplishments and enjoyed speaking to him about the themes in his work, his inspiration, the method and process in which he works and his plans for the future.



2nd Annual Great Pumpkin Auction held at BCI

Bell Creek hosted its second annual Great Pumpkin Auction in October. There were approximately 70 pumpkins that were auctioned off by a live auctioneer raising over \$4,200. Young's Jersey Dairy food truck, and the Funnel Vision food truck were on site. All proceeds from the event were donated to A Special Wish, Dayton Chapter.

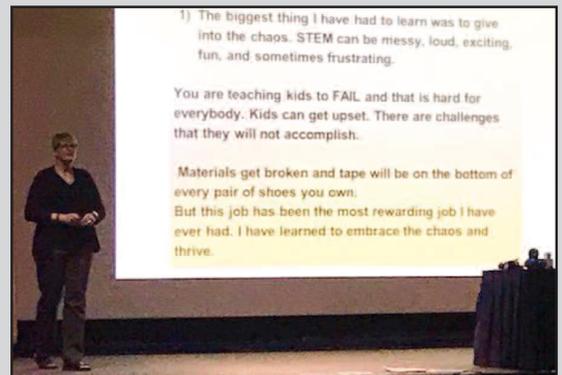
BSEF music grant at BCI

Julie Wellbaum received a grant funded by the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Education Foundation to help purchase Ukuleles for the 5th grade music program! Mrs. Wellbaum teaches classroom music at Bell Creek Intermediate. This is her 17th year in Bellbrook and 25th year in music education.



Dee VanBrackel speaks at the Air Force Museum

Dee VanBrackel, K-5 STEM teacher was the featured speaker during Educator's Night held at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in October. She spoke about the dynamic and innovative methods for STEM education.



4 Paws presentation held at Stephen Bell

Stephen Bell Students attended a presentation by 4Paws For Ability from Xenia about how service dogs are trained and the different purposes they might be used.

Stephen Bell kids get visit from Chick-fil-A



BCI 5th Graders playing recorders



Drop The Mic, LLC
Christine Dieruf
Piano Studio Owner & Instructor



New students! With a 12 week sign up get 2 free lessons! Just mention this ad!

937.901.2971
drophemicluc@gmail.com



EMPOWERING OTHERS FOR SUCCESS

BSEF's A Spirited Affair a Great Success



The 14th Annual A Spirited Affair was, once again, a great event. Thanks to the leadership of Sharon Baker, Pam Cook and Courtney Strausser, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation's (BSEF's) festival raised \$9,000. These dollars support innovative teacher mini-grants, voice enhancement systems in classrooms and college scholarships for graduates of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District. Because of the generosity of many sponsors the event was a huge success. BSEF thanks major sponsors Dr. William Dahling, Dr. Burt Hagler, Laura and Jeff Stahl, Greene Medical Foundation, Subashi and Wildermuth, Energy Optimizers, Rieck Mechanical, CINTAS, ComDoc, Waste Management, Kohl's, Larrick's and Tom's Mulch!

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation, in cooperation with the Greene County Community Foundation, is a non-profit fund established to promote quality education and provides support not available from public funds.

BCI Students Welcome Home an Honor Flight



BCI families participated in the Welcome Home Celebration for an Honor Flight at the Dayton International Airport!



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Miranda Biedenharn, Realtor

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Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

Lions holding annual Pancake Breakfast at Stephen Bell

The annual Lions Club Pancake Breakfast and Blood Drive will be held Saturday, February 23rd in the Stephen Bell Cafeteria. Pancakes, sausage coffee, juice and milk will be served from 7:30 to 11:30 am. The Lions youth basketball teams will be playing in the gym. The Blood Drive will take place from 8:00 am to Noon.



WHAT: Bellbrook Lions Club Pancake Breakfast & Blood Drive

WHEN: Saturday, February 23rd – Breakfast 7:30 – 11 am; Blood Drive 8 am to Noon.

WHERE: Stephen Bell Elementary School Cafeteria – 4122 N. Linda Dr.

Donut Day for Dads at Stephen Bell



BONUS BRIDGE ARTICLES!

Click on this QR Code (download a QR code reader app) to go to The Bridge webpage (or search Bridge on the BSS website) for articles about the OSBA Student Achievement Fair, Partnerships for Success Club and more!



Spirit Wear Women's, Professional, Vintage,
Children's and More...
BellbrookEagles.com



Check out our Social Media Hub at www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us



BHS Blood Drive a Success!

The Bellbrook High School annual blood drive in December resulted in 72 units of blood being collected from students. Blood donation is a community responsibility. It is a simple thing to do, but it can make a big difference in the lives of others.

Statistics say blood is needed every two seconds and

about one in seven people entering a hospital needs blood.

A total of 96 donors registered to donate with 64 being first time donors. Donors must be at least 17 years old (students who are 16 may donate with a consent form signed by their parent.)

BHS Music Update

Bellbrook Marching Eagles - The band did extremely well in their performance at the 2018 Grand National Championships. They had a very successful season, with the show "a-RHYTHM-etic". The Eagles performed at local and national competitions earning multiple 1st place awards in music, general effect, marching, guard, and percussion! They would like to thank the band boosters and the entire Bellbrook community for their support. Without them, none of the success of the Bellbrook Band

would be possible.

Solo and Ensemble - The students are beginning to prepare chamber music for the OMEA District 12 Festival in January at Stebbins High School. Bellbrook High School has a long-held tradition of performing solos and small groups for judges and audience members. The local small ensemble concert will be held in January with a special preview performance for all 7th-12th grade students at Bellbrook High School.

IPE and WG - The Indoor

Percussion Ensemble and Winter Color Guard have begun their seasons. The IPE is working hard with over 30 students under the direction of Andy Soloman. The winter guard had some fantastic success in the WGI circuit, and have been advanced to Scholastic World Class.

This is a great accomplishment. We also have a junior high color guard, and an elementary 3rd-5th grade guard called the "Little Bells". All the guard programs are under the direction of Sheldon Apo.

Future Chefs featured at OSBA Student Achievement Fair

Bell Creek Future Chef contest participants were featured at the Ohio School Boards Association's Student Achievement Fair in November. Sodexo General Manager Jennifer Hoehn has

turned the "once in a lifetime" competition into a culinary club. The program helps students make healthy food choices as they honed their skill in recipe development and culinary talent.



BHS Partnerships for Success Club Giving Back to the Community

The high school club Partnerships for Success is a student led group that keeps busy doing community service projects.

Community service can have a lot of positive effects on students, such as helping them develop skills, making contacts and help improve the quality of life for others.

Some of their service projects include working at Halloween in the Park, cooking for 12 families at the Greene County Emergency Housing Program, cleaning the 4 Paws for Ability facility, planting Spring bulbs around the school and adopting two families at Christmas time. They played a major role in putting on Christmas in the Park in December.

