



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

Spring 2018
 Volume 41 Issue 3

BHS Winter Sports Wrap, Seniors sign Letters of Intent Page 2 Future Chefs compete at BCI Page 3
 District Employees retiring Page 4 BMS designated Ohio School To Watch for Third Time Page 5

Bellbrook High School

Class of 2018: Co-valedictorian



Joey
 Derrico

Class of 2018: Co-valedictorian



Abby
 Schultz

Class of 2018: Salutatorian



Andrew
 Haberlandt

Keep in Touch Alumni Dinner, HOF Induction

On June 2, 2018, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation (BSEF) will induct four members into the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame's 12th class (Dr. Keith St. Pierre, Sheila Woody, Jason Tincher and Athena Haus) during the annual Alumni Dinner. More information on Page 6.

Cozad Begins Duties July 1

Dr. Douglas A. Cozad will join Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools as Superintendent of Schools, beginning July 1, 2018. The Board of Education approved his contract during a special board meeting held on January 31.



Dr. Doug
 Cozad

Dr. Cozad takes the helm from Dr. Keith St.Pierre, who officially retired on January 16, after 24 years as superintendent.

Dr. Cozad seeks to continue the excellence already established by this district, while remaining fiscally responsible. "My vision is the school district's vision," he said. "We all need to work together and move in the same direction. Dr. St.Pierre and the Board of Education have done a great job establishing this district as one of the best."

Having served the Franklin City School District as Assistant Superintendent for the past four school years, Dr. Cozad's previous positions include Principal of Kettering Middle School (2009-14) and Central Unit Principal at Kettering Fairmont High School (2005-09). Dr Cozad began his educational career in 1997, as a Social-Studies Teacher at

Northmont High School. He then became Northmont's Supervisor of Technology for three years, beginning in 2002.

Dr. Cozad received his bachelor's degree in comprehensive secondary education from Wright State University in 1996, his master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Dayton in 2000, and his PhD in educational leadership from Northcentral University in 2011.

Dr. Cozad currently serves on the Bellbrook Strategic Planning Facilities subcommittee.

Born and raised in a small-town atmosphere, Dr. Cozad has a real sense of community and support for schools. He and his wife, Amy, have been married 23 years, living in Sugarcreek Township for the past eight. They have four children. Alison, 21, graduated from Bellbrook High School (BHS) in 2013, and from the University of Dayton in 2016; she is a legislative aide for Senator Peggy Lehner. Zach, 20, graduated from BHS in 2016; he is a sophomore at Sinclair Community College, studying business information systems. Daughter Chelsea, 18, will graduate from BHS this year and plans on attending Miami University, with a major in international business. Drew, 11, is a sixth-grade student at Bellbrook Middle School.

Continued on Page 3

District Honors Local Businesses

This year Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools nominated Nicholas Studios (photography), Sodexo (food service), Bellbrook Police (law enforcement) and Sugarcreek Township Police (law enforcement) for the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA's) Business Honor Roll program.

Businesses large and small play a key role in supporting the community and local schools. OSBA wants to help districts recognize and thank those businesses for their support and superior service.

OSBA sponsors the annual event, at which



Ohio school districts submit their selections to be featured in the OSBA Journal. The full list of honorees will be posted on the association's website.

2017-18 School Calendar

- May 22** – Greene County Career Center graduation (7 pm, Nutter Center)
- May 23** – Senior recognition (8:30 am, Bellbrook High School auditorium)
- May 26** – Bellbrook High School graduation (10 am, Kettering Trent Arena)
- May 28** – No school/Memorial Day
- June 1** – One-hour early dismissal K-12/last day for students
- June 2** – Alumni Dinner/HOF Induction at Bellbrook Middle School (6 p.m.)

BHS Senior Athletes Make College Commitments Official

Ten Bellbrook High School (BHS) students recently signed national letters of intent to play collegiate sports! The seniors signed their letters of intent in front of an energetic crowd during halftime at a varsity basketball game on February 10, 2018.

- Cassidy Bereda – women’s soccer at Tennessee Tech University (NCAA DI)
- Cody Bybee – men’s swimming at Arizona State University (NCAA DI)
- Gavin Ferrin – men’s soccer at Alderson Broaddus University (NCAA DII)
- Cole Huggard – men’s swimming at University of the Cumberland (NAIA)
- Megan Jauss – women’s lacrosse at Ohio Northern University (NCAA DIII)
- Christopher Ljungren – baseball at Wilmington College (NCAA DIII)
- Lauren Redfern – women’s lacrosse at Marietta College (NCAA DIII)
- John Sampson – men’s swimming at The Ohio State University (NCAA DI)
- Audrey Spirk – women’s soccer at Ohio Northern University (NCAA DIII)
- Bekah Vine – women’s soccer at Liberty University (NCAA DI)

“We are very proud to have 10 of our student athletes continue their athletic careers into the college ranks,” said BHS Athletic Director Tom Bean. “They will continue with a sport they love and will also be getting a great college education.”

By signing a letter of intent, student athletes agree to attend a college or university for one academic year. The college or university agrees to provide athletic financial aid for one academic year. It is a binding commitment to the school.

BHS Winter Sports Recap



This year’s girls’ basketball team stayed strong to become district and regional champions, which made them state bound! The Lady Golden Eagles varsity team made it to the Final Four at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus, in the Division II state championships. They played a great game, but lost in the final quarter to Gilmour Academy (47-40).

The cheerleading squads had another productive and successful season that finished in Columbus for the competition team. The girls qualified for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) state championships and continued to improve their placement at the state meet.

The boys’ and girls’ swim and dive teams once again had a record-breaking year. The boys won the Southwestern Buckeye League (SWBL) for the first time since 2005, while the girls placed third. The team sent five swimmers to the state championships, placing to tie a school record of fourth in Division II team standings. John Sampson (12th) defended his state-champion title in the 100-meter backstroke, and Cody Bybee (12th) finished the meet as state champion for a third year in both the 100-meter butterfly and the 200-meter freestyle. The 200-meter medley relay of Cody Bybee, Carter Caldwell (11th), Cole Huggard (12th) and John Sampson earned state runner-up.

Even though the wrestling team is very young, it had one state qualifier this year in Ben Sherrill (12th) and finished in sixth place at the OHSAA state championships.

The boys’ basketball team had a strong season, winning the SWBL! For the OHSAA tournament, the team entered one of the toughest Division II sectionals in the entire state. The Golden Eagles lost in the second round, versus Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School (CJ), but finished strong against a very talented team.

Congratulations to all of our student athletes on a stellar season!

Bellbrook High School Athletic Update/Info

Spring coaches:

- Baseball – head coach Rich Demko
- Softball – head coach Angela Cook
- Boys’ tennis – head coach Karen Haviland
- Boys’ and girls’ track and field – head coaches Blake Barnes and Charlie O’Dell
- Boys’ and girls’ lacrosse – head coaches Jeff Chew and Vince Molseed

Spring awards night: May 22, 2018 (7 pm, Bellbrook High School)

Athletic-office hours: 8:30 am-4 pm (school days only)

Athletic schedules: Now ALL ONLINE

Go to www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us

Click on one of the following:

- Athletics > BHS – Athletic Department > rSchoolToday
- Athletics > BHS – Athletic Department > Athletic Schedules (BHS)

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

District Numbers Where to Call

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

Bellbrook High School
 3737 Upper Bellbrook Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-3737

Bellbrook Middle School
 3600 Feedwire Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-2141

Bell Creek Intermediate
 3777 Upper Bellbrook Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-3777

Stephen Bell Elementary
 4122 N. Linda Dr., Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-7831

St. Pierre Education Center
 3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd, Bellbrook, OH 45305
 P: 848-3757

COZAD continued from Front Page

According to the Board of Education, Dr. Cozad is the best person to guide future district efforts. "Dr. Cozad's overall experience – and his track record as an assistant superintendent and a principal – made him a strong candidate from the beginning," said Mary Frantz, Board of Education President. "We believe he has the expertise to work collaboratively with the Board, the staff and the community, to help establish an exemplary vision and direction for the future."

Dr. Jeff Lewis, Interim Superintendent, said, "The interview process was part of a professionally executed plan on the part of school leadership to seek the best candidate to follow Superintendent Dr. Keith St.Pierre."

"I am extremely honored to have been selected as the next Superintendent of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools. We have a long tradition of excellence; and I am looking forward to the opportunity of working collaboratively, to take our already great school district to even higher levels," said Dr. Cozad.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School's 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



District Employees Retiring

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools will say goodbye to five employees when they retire at the end of this school year. Those retiring are Jennifer Baker, first-grade teacher at Stephen Bell Elementary; Brad Breese, Bellbrook High School math teacher; Jean Elting, special-needs assistant at Bell Creek Intermediate; Monica Gregg, bus driver; and Mrs. Cathy St.Pierre, seventh-grade science

and PE teacher at Bellbrook Middle School. Jack Hunt, Project Lead the Way instructor at Bellbrook High School, retired on March 1, 2018, after 22 years with the district.

The community, Board of Education and district personnel express their gratitude for the combined 140 years of dedication and service to the students in the district!

Future Chefs Culinary Competition at Bell Creek Intermediate

The Sixth Annual Sodexo Future Chefs competition was held on March 15, 2018, at Bell Creek Intermediate.

Future Chefs is a national program that encourages students to learn about good nutrition by creating their own fun, creative and healthy recipes. Sodexo, the district's food services provider, and Jennifer Hoehn, General Manager for Sodexo, sponsored the event, which included chef coats, hats and gift bags for all students, and a grand prize for the winner.

Judging was based on originality, kid friendliness, ease of preparation, healthy attributes, plate presentation and taste. The grand-prize winner was Cheyeanne Duhl, for her sweet and sour soup recipe. Cheyeanne received a medal, a basket full of professional cooking equipment, a camera, and a Fitbit® device.

Nick Falzerano of Nicholas Studios created a recipe book for the 2018 competition. Recipe books are available for \$5. To purchase yours, contact Ms. Hoehn at 848-5001, ext. 16105; or email her at Jennifer.Hoehn@bss.k12.oh.us.



Did You Know

BCI Wins Ohio Dept. of Education Award

Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) is an award-winning Purple Star school, thanks to the exemplary efforts of Counselor Kelley Anderson! The Purple Star Award for military-friendly schools recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition to display onsite.



The Ohio Department of Education presents this award to schools that have completed required and optional activities. Congratulations, BCI, for showing a major commitment to serving students and families connected to our nation's armed forces.

Stephen Bell Students Break Record!

Students at Stephen Bell Elementary participated in the school's Jump Rope for Heart fundraising program for the American Heart Association, raising a total of \$19,463.53 for the cause. They broke their own collection record by over \$5,000 this year!

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest, largest voluntary organization devoted to fighting cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

In their physical-education classes, students learned ways to keep their own hearts strong and healthy. They also worked together to raise money to help others with heart-related conditions.

Substitute Bus Driver and Aides Needed

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools is accepting applications for substitute school-bus drivers and bus aides for morning and afternoon routes. Transportation Supervisor Bev Wetzel said, "We are looking for conscientious, safe drivers and aides who care about kids to join our team of transportation professionals."

For more information contact Mrs. Wetzel at 848-5001, ext. 7101. Background checks, physical exam and on-board training are required.

BSEF Grant for Challenger Mission

Bellbrook Middle School seventh-grade students in Emily Cline's, Cathy St.Pierre's and Jennifer St.Pierre's science classes had a unique opportunity to visit the Challenger Learning Center of Dayton, where they participated in the mission Return to the Moon. The center engages students and teachers in dynamic, hands-on exploration and discovery opportunities that strengthen knowledge in Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). It strives to inspire students to pursue careers in these fields, and provides an outlet to learn and apply important life skills.



The three science teachers would like to thank the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation (BSEF) for the grant of \$5,330, which fully funded the trip and transportation to the Challenger Learning Center of Dayton.

BCI Fifth-Grade Choir to Fill Fifth Third Field With Song

The Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) fifth-grade choir was the first group to perform during the Dayton Daily News/Dayton Dragons national-anthem tryouts in February 2018. While there was an overwhelming response for the tryouts, the BCI choir was chosen to sing at the Dayton Dragons game on May 22!



Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools' United Way Campaign a Success!

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools has supported the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area by pledging almost \$3,000! The organization's mission is to create community-based and community-led solutions that strengthen the health, education and financial stability of the community.

Nick Edwards, United Way of the Greater Dayton Area board chair and Bellbrook resident, said, "The faculty and staff at Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools are the epitome of caring individuals who realize the value of giving to those in need and the benefits that their contributions can make in both the classroom and the community."

BHS Senior Receives All-Scholastic Honor for Greene County

On Wednesday, April 18, Eva Hanson, a senior at Bellbrook High School, traveled to Columbus to receive the 28th annual Franklin B. Walter All-Scholastic Award!

The award program was established by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) to promote and recognize outstanding academic achievement. Only one senior from each county in Ohio receives this \$500 award and honor each year.



Great Year for BCI Math Pentathlon

The fifth-grade Math Pentathlon team at Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) was a great success! The BCI team found itself competing at the tournament, with over 550 students; and 55 percent of the team members earned medals.

Math Pentathlon uses problem-solving games to make math enjoyable for all. It is a highly motivational way for students to gain math fluency and logical reasoning.

Teacher Accomplishes Four-Year Professional-License Project

Kayla Bruggeman has completed a four-year Ohio Resident Educator project. Her service-learning ideas and activities came to life at the Bellbrook Senior Center.

The Ohio Resident Educator program began in 2011. The comprehensive, four-year initiative assists beginning teachers with mentoring and professional development as they start their education careers.

BMS STEAM Night

Bellbrook Middle School recently held its annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) night, for students and their families to explore and interact with many STEAM-related activities.

STEAM is an educational approach to learning that uses access points for guiding student inquiry. STEAM completes the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) package, by integrating these principles in and through the arts. STEAM takes STEM to the next level: It allows students to connect their learning in these critical areas together with arts practices, elements, design principles and standards, to provide the whole pallet of learning at their disposal. STEAM removes limitations and replaces them with wonder, critique, inquiry and innovation.



Safety Planning at Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

Following the Sandy Hook tragedy in 2012, Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer challenged local first responders, mental-health experts and school officials to create active-shooter protocols in their respective areas. Leaders from across Greene County, led by Commander Mike Hild (Greene County Career Center instructor), met regularly to establish these response measures. The planning teams met as both a full group and separate entities over a two-year period, until these protocols were established. The group continues to meet to review these standards and discuss areas of improvement.

As work on Sheriff Fischer's initiative was concluded, the Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, required every Ohio school to complete a safety plan, comprising the actual plan, communication networks and a listing of key personnel. These are reviewed, discussed and updated annually.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools maintains a dedicated partnership with Greene County, Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township first responders. To that end, fire and police chiefs and officers meet in two formal meetings with school administrators every year. Meeting topics often include scheduling drills, as well as discussing new issues and challenges that have emerged. Both Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township police departments have worked diligently with school personnel on active-shooter response training, also known as ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training. Bellbrook High School Assistant Principal David Hann and members of Bellbrook and Sugarcreek Township police departments have been trained in ALICE, in turn training our teachers and classified personnel to counter threats. Continuous efforts are and will continue to be made, to review processes with trained staff members and to train others (new teachers and classified groups) in ALICE. Further

collaboration with both police departments has enhanced school security, with the assignment of resource officers to each school.

Student and staff safety are a primary responsibility of our schools. To that end, entry vestibules have been fortified with bulletproof glass; exterior doors are locked down during the school day; portable radios are utilized in all schools; and numerous, modern security cameras provide clear surveillance of buildings and grounds. Many of these upgrades were funded, in part, through an Ohio safety grant three years ago.

We take any reported threats very seriously. When reported and deemed appropriate, they are investigated thoroughly by school administrators and local law enforcement. We will continue to work with our local law-enforcement agencies to ensure a safe and productive learning environment for all Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools students and staff members.

BMS Continues to Be an Ohio School to Watch for Outstanding Achievement

Bellbrook Middle School (BMS) has been redesignated an Ohio School to Watch (OSTW) for the third time!

OSTW is a recognition and capacity-building program designed especially for middle-grades schools. OSTW is a partnership among the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Federation of Teachers, the Ohio Middle School Association and Otterbein University. OSTW is the state affiliate of the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform's National Schools to Watch program. As a "State to Watch," Ohio recreated the National Schools to Watch program, to address its unique context.

The National Forum is an alliance of educators, researchers, national associations and officers of professional associations and foundations committed to promoting the academic performance and healthy development of young adolescents. The National Forum, which developed the original Schools to Watch criteria, serves Ohio as a source of inspiration and expertise.

BMS's year-three OSTW redesignation is a reflection on the challenges and progress made over the last three years. As part of the redesignation process, BMS received a site visit, to verify the data in the school's redesignation application. A team spent a day visiting every classroom and looking at programs, curriculum and organization.

The OSTW program seeks to recognize a small number of diverse, high-performing, growth-oriented middle-grades schools, to demonstrate what all middle-grades schools are capable of achieving.

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Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame

Class of 2018 announced

On June 2, 2018, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation (BSEF) will induct four members into the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame's 12th class: Dr. Keith St. Pierre, Sheila Woody, Jason Tincher and Athena Haus.

Dr. Keith St. Pierre

Nominated for his exemplary leadership through much growth and change, Dr. Keith St. Pierre's legacy is achieving state and national recognition for educational excellence for Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools.

Dr. St. Pierre's career in education began in 1975. He first became Superintendent of Miami East Local School District in 1989.



Dr. Keith St. Pierre

He became Superintendent of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools in 1994.

An adjunct professor of graduate courses at the University of Dayton from 1998 to 2010, he has taught – and continues to teach – at Miami University in Oxford for the past 22 years.

During his tenure as Superintendent of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, Dr. St. Pierre led the district in the development and implementation of a dynamic strategic plan, whereby the school learning community has embraced the needs of all students.

Awards and recognitions include the Ohio Educational Service Center's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016, Ohio School Boards Association's Superintendent of the Year in 2015, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation Nomination for Ohio Superintendent Outstanding Performance Award in 2004, Buckeye Association of School Administrators' Region 9 Exemplary Leadership Award in 2001 and more.

Dr. St. Pierre has been a member of the Bellbrook Lions Club since 1995 and was the past president in 1998. He was also chair of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce by-laws and policy committee.

Sheila Woody

Sheila Woody is well-respected for the wealth of administrative experience that she brings to Bellbrook-Sugarcreek

Keep in Touch Alumni Dinner/Hall of Fame Induction

When: June 2 @ 6 pm at Bellbrook Middle School

Cost: Dinner \$20 a person, \$5 Child 6 and under

Reservations: Call 848-5001, ext. 6110, for more information or to make your reservation.

Schools. She is an administrative professional who is a valuable asset to the administrative team.

A 1976 Bellbrook High School graduate, Mrs. Woody has committed 40 years of dedicated service to the students and staff of her alma mater. Over those years she has served as secretary to the assistant superintendent, Central Office secretary, three years as the transportation coordinator and, for the past 24 years, assistant to the superintendent. She



Sheila Woody

attended the Sawyer School of Business in 1978, and Sinclair Community College.

Highlights of Mrs. Woody's affiliations are Bellbrook Music Boosters secretary; Educational Office Professionals of Ohio (EOPO) state membership chair (national) and student scholarship chair (statewide); and National Association of Educational Office Professionals (NAEOP), earning advanced certification in the Professional Standards program and Certified Educational Office Employee accreditation in 1998 (recertified in 2007). She served on the district-wide strategic-planning committees and Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local Professional Development Committee (since 1999), also spending four years on the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation Hall of Fame Committee.

Mrs. Woody is most proud of the establishment of the Michael E. Woody Scholarship through the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation, which offers a \$1,000 college scholarship each year to a local graduating senior entering the field of education, history or pre-law.

Jason Tincher

During his extensive coaching career, Jason Tincher has demonstrated a passion for seeing students excel on the field. He is

a true promoter of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, with an attitude of putting his students and athletes first. Mr. Tincher is known for going above and beyond, to build solid and successful programs that put students in a position to succeed.

A 1990 Bellbrook High School alumnus, Mr. Tincher began his teaching career in 1995, as a health and physical-education (PE) teacher at McClain High School in Greenfield, Ohio. He came to Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools as a health and PE teacher at Bell Creek Intermediate in 2000, and since 2006 has been the health and PE teacher for Bellbrook Middle and High schools.

Mr. Tincher attended Wilmington College, receiving his bachelor of science, health and physical education in 1995. He later attended Antioch University



Jason Tincher

McGregor, earning his master of education in 2009.

During his college career, he played basketball and football, earning the 1994 NCAA First Team All-American, 1994 NCAA Div. III Football Statistical Champion with 9.4 receptions per game, 1994 second in the nation with 144.2 receiving yards per game and 1994 Wilmington College and Mideast Colleges record: receptions (85) and receiving yards (1,298).

Mr. Tincher has coordinated and served in many community and school-related activities, such as coordinator of Bellbrook Girls' Basketball Summer Youth Camp; founder of the Gayle Lynn Joyner Foundation "pink" basketball game, donating up to \$3,000 per year to local organizations to help fight breast cancer; and more.

He is proud to have had the opportunity to be the head coach of the girls' basketball program for the past 14 years, especially getting the program back to the state Final Four.

Mr. Tincher said, "The most valuable aspect of my education from Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools is the teachers, principals and coaches whom I was fortunate to have in my life. I graduated wanting to pursue education and coaching because of my positive experiences at Bellbrook." He compliments teachers and coaches Joe Abbinante, Chris Baker, Iris Black, Ginny Greene, Bob Mayberry and Bob Reardon, who inspired him to be better – not just on the field or the court, but in life.

Continued on next page

Athena Haus

For Athena Haus it isn't all about applause; it is all about paws. A Bellbrook Fire Department retiree after 25 years, Mrs. Haus owns and operates K9 Karma, a compassionate and caring canine training program in Bellbrook, training working dogs, service animals and traditional pets.

A member of the Bellbrook High School Class of 1990, she attributes her success in life to two teachers who served as mentors: Kathy Kingston and Mike Woody. "The experiences I gained in their classes and because of the guidance that they both shared forever shaped my future," she said.

Her future came in the form of serving her community as a volunteer for the Bellbrook Fire Department in 1992. Mrs.

Haus served in that capacity until becoming a career firefighter and paramedic. She was the first woman to hold a Bellbrook Fire Department career position. In 2004, she was promoted to career lieutenant; and at the time of her retirement in January 2018, she wore the rank of captain, having earned over a dozen awards. She also served as a tactical medic on the



Athena Haus

Greene County Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and was a canine handler for the Urban Search and Rescue team with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), deploying

with her dogs to various disasters, both locally and across the nation.

For Mrs. Haus, community service is a family affair. Her husband, Tom, is a Los Angeles City fire captain. He commutes between California and Ohio and supports both communities. Her grandfather served in the U.S. Navy and as the Bellbrook police chief. Her parents both served in the Air Force and as members of the Bellbrook Fire Department, while her three brothers all served at one time with the Bellbrook Fire Department.

"So many opportunities have been afforded me by my service to others," said Mrs. Haus. "Outreach and prevention continue to be a part of my daily life, and it has been an honor to serve the community."

VanBrackel Wins The Big Hoopla STEM Teacher of the Year Award

The Big Hoopla, in conjunction with Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School (CJ), announced the first-ever winner of The Big Hoopla STEM Teacher of the Year Award in February 2018, naming Dee VanBrackel as the recipient. Ms. VanBrackel is the K-5 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teacher at Stephen Bell Elementary and Bell Creek Intermediate schools.

Ms. VanBrackel was chosen from more than 50 submissions for the award. She was selected for her enthusiasm for STEM in the classroom and the Dayton community. Ms. VanBrackel worked with retired engineers and the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Educational Outreach office to spearhead a STEM night for students. Additionally she spends many Saturdays volunteering at the Dayton Regional STEM Center for Science.

This award recognizes the great contributions of teachers in STEM fields in the Dayton region. The program honors teacher excellence.

As STEM Teacher of the Year, Ms. VanBrackel received a \$1,000 grant from the local organizing committee and CJ, to be used to improve STEM learning in the classroom; an official The Big Hoopla STEM Teacher of the Year plaque; 50 upper-arena tickets for all First Four March Madness games; and four Hoopla Central VIP passes.



Seniors Helping Seniors Group







Miranda Biedenarn, Realtor

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Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

BMS Science Fair, West District Science Day

Science teachers Cathy St.Pierre and Jennifer St.Pierre of Bellbrook Middle School (BMS) coordinated the 2017-18 Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools District Science Fair. As in years past, the event proved a huge success, with 68 students presenting their science projects to the judges. Forty-six students earned Superior ratings and qualified to participate in West District Science Day.

A total of 30 students participated in West District Science Day, hosted by Central State University in March 2018. West District Science Day, for grades five through 12, is the largest in Ohio.

Twenty-one students earned Superior judges' ratings at West District Science Day, nine earned Excellent ratings, and 21 qualified to advance to State Science Day, to be held at The Ohio State University in May. One student was selected for the Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair, and nine students won a total of 14 special awards.

Mrs. St.Pierre said, "I am very proud of our students. They bring great honor to BMS and the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community. Our young scientists have worked very hard, and it shows!"

Science Pictures



Sugar Maple Festival



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



www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us