



# 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 2018

Volume 41 Issue 2

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## Bellbrook High School

### BHS Students Achieve National Merit Honors

Congratulations to Bellbrook High School (BHS) students who received commendations for their academic efforts by the National Merit® Scholarship Program!

National Merit Finalists include Eva Hanson and Andrew Haberlandt. Abby Schultz achieved National Merit Commended status.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High-school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) – which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.6 million entrants each year – and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

## Saying Goodbye to a Great Leader, Superintendent retires

Superintendent Dr. Keith St. Pierre retired last month after 43 years in public education, the last 24 in

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools.

His career in education began in 1975. He first became Superintendent of Miami East Local School District in 1989, and accepted the role of Superintendent of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools in 1994.

He served as adjunct professor of graduate courses at the University of Dayton from 1998 to 2010. He has also taught at Miami University in Oxford for the past 22 years.

According to Dr. Jeff Lewis, Manager of Business and Interim Superintendent, Dr.



Keith St. Pierre

St. Pierre always had a clear vision for the district. “He was a great instructional leader. He set and achieved district goals and, most important, made sure our students were learning and achieving at high levels,” said Lewis.

Dr. St. Pierre and his wife, Mrs. Cathy St. Pierre, a seventh-grade science and PE teacher in the district, have gone above and beyond in their service to the schools. In appreciation and respect for their service, leadership, and contributions to students, staff and the community, the Board of Education voted to honor them by renaming the Sugarcreek Education Center (SEC) the St. Pierre Education Center.

The Board of Education conducted a thorough process to find its new superintendent and has employed Dr. Doug Cozad as our new leader. Dr. Cozad is a Bellbrook resident and is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Franklin City Schools. Cozad will begin duties on July 1st.

## BHS Student Headed to Washington

Bellbrook High School (BHS) student Joseph Derrico has been selected as one of only two students to represent Ohio as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP), to be held in Washington, DC, March 3-10, 2018. This program, called Washington Week, is an intensive week of unparalleled educational activities in the nation’s capital. Joseph has earned all-expenses paid travel and accommodations. He will also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship!

USSYP was founded in 1962, through Senate resolution. Each year two of the highest-achieving students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense education system overseas are selected through an

extremely competitive merit-based selection process held at the state departments of education nationwide.

The mission of USSYP is to provide a yearly opportunity for selected students to gain an in-depth view of the Senate and the federal government overall, as well as a deeper understanding of the interrelationship of the legislative, judicial and executive branches.

Congratulations, Joseph!



Joey Derrico

## 2017-18 School Calendar

Feb. 16 No school  
 Feb. 19 No school/Presidents' Day  
 Mar. 14 Two-hour early dismissal K/12  
 Mar. 30 No school/spring break begins  
 Apr. 6 No school/last day of spring break  
 Apr. 9 School resumes  
 Apr. 25 Two-hour early dismissal K/12

### 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 notify registered users in a timely manner. The "One Call Now" system will 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.



## BHS Air Force JROTC Annual Can Drive

In fall 2017, Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) decided to kick off the holiday season by giving back to the community with a canned food drive. Bellbrook High School (BHS) cadets collected a record-setting 13,543 canned goods during their 12th Annual Food Drive.

BHS teachers Tony Chitwood and Gene Longo and the JROTC cadets were commended by the Fairborn Lions, Fairborn Food Pantry, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center and Ministerial Food Pantry for their amazing act of "serving others" through their canned food drive.

Through JROTC, cadets learn discipline, how to make good decisions, how to get connected in the community, and other life skills that they will need in both college and the workforce.



## Partnerships for Success Still Going Strong!

In its 15th year, Partnerships for Success (PFS) at Bellbrook High School (BHS) is a club with a strong and growing core of students who give back to the community. PFS allows students to consider the endless possibilities for their lives by participating in activities that enhance their educational experience and help them develop leadership skills.

The BHS PFS began in 2003, as an initiative through Greene County Family & Children First, of which the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center was a division. It is the only PFS program still existing in Greene County.

From December 2004 until May 2013, Susan Lopez, currently the director of the Family Resource Center, was the head advisor of PFS. Chris Ewing, Nancy Sumner, Alison Pifer and Tammy Phillipson have since joined her as advisors.

During that time the youth-led group created and installed the frisbee-golf course behind Bellbrook Middle School (BMS); held a hunger walk, to increase awareness for food insecurity; and made a cardboard city, in which students spent the night outside in cardboard boxes, to raise awareness of issues surrounding home-

lessness.

Each year PFS students make and take food to the Greene County Housing Program's emergency-residency facility. In addition, they volunteer during the Sugar Maple Festival, numerous park-district activities, Halloween in the Park and Christmas in the Park. Other community-service activities include shopping for two adopted families at Christmas, planting spring bulbs around the school, cleaning a service-dog facility and more. It was PFS that took the initiative to resurrect and lead Christmas in the Park.

Advising the students are true leaders themselves. Mrs. Lopez is a former employee of Greene County Family & Children First, the



current director of the now community-run Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Family Resource Center and a certified life coach working as The Life Tailor. She was the 2017 Bellbrook Citizen of the Year. Chris Ewing is a long-time community member and director of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce. Nancy Sumner has lived in Sugarcreek Township for 32 years and is the library specialist at BHS. Alison Pifer has been with the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District for seven years and Tammy Phillipson inspired Bellbrook Middle School to implement Challenge Day which has become an annual event.

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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



Sugarcreek PTO held its Fourth Annual Direct Donation Campaign in fall 2017, raising \$38,000 district wide! These funds are 100 percent dedicated to supporting and enhancing the educational environment for all Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools facilities. Items such as touch boards, school entrance benches, 3D pens, project tables and playground balls are just a few examples of what will be purchased for the schools. The Direct Donation Campaign is the PTO's largest fundraiser of the year.

## Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School's Honors

**The Washington Post**  
 — THE HIGH SCHOOL CHALLENGE —

**2011-2017**

Ranked 39<sup>th</sup> in Ohio and  
 in the top 10% in the USA!



**2007, 2008, 2012-2017**

**Newsweek**  
 AMERICA'S BEST  
**HIGH SCHOOLS**



## BMS Kids 'N Science Learn about Space Race

Bellbrook Middle School (BMS) eighth-grade Kids 'N Science members traveled to the National Museum of the United States Air Force to attend the free daytime screening of the movie "Hidden Figures," a Living History Film hosted by the Air Force Museum Foundation.

The film tells the untold true story of the female African-American mathematicians behind NASA in the race against Russia to send a man to space. These women, known as "human computers," quickly climbed the ranks of NASA, alongside many of history's greatest minds. They were specifically tasked with calculating the momentous launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit and guaranteeing his safe return. Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson and Dorothy Vaughan crossed all gender, race and professional lines, while their brilliance and desire to dream big – beyond anything ever accomplished before by the human race – firmly cemented them in U.S. history as true American heroes.

The guest speaker was former NASA administrator and astronaut Colonel Gregory, U.S. Air Force Retired. Colonel Gregory has logged more than 6,976 hours of flight time in over 50 types of aircraft, including 550 combat missions in Vietnam. He became an astronaut in 1978, and has logged over 455 hours in space.

Kids 'N Science advisors Mrs. Cathy St.Pierre and Jennifer St.Pierre said that their students were inspired with the messages of determination and success.

# Bellbrook High School Fall Sports Recap

At the conclusion of the 2017 fall season, the Golden Eagles finished with four league championships (girls' soccer, girls' cross-country, boys' soccer and volleyball); two district championships (girls' soccer and girls' cross-country); and the girls' cross-country teams qualifying for the state team championships for the second year running.

The other teams finished with the following league placements: second (tied) – football, cheerleading and girls' tennis; third – boys' cross-country; and seventh – golf.

With all-league standings combined, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools has a narrow lead in the Southwestern Buckeye League (SWBL) All-Sports Championship race, with a 1.5-point lead over rival Oakwood.

The cross-country team finished 12th in Division II at the 2017 Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) state championships.



**Division II District Champions Girls Cross Country**



**Division II District Champions Girls Soccer**

## We've Moved!

The  
**Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Chamber of Commerce**  
is now located at  
**51 S. East Street**  
**Bellbrook 45305**  
(Former Sugarcreek Elementary)

**Call 848-4930**  
(To make an appointment)

**[bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com](http://bellbrooksugarcreekchamber.com)**

## BCI PE Teacher Honored

Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) Physical-Education Teacher **Sasha Taylor** has been selected as the 2018 Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) Midwest Teacher of the Year.



**Sasha Taylor**

SHAPE is the nation's largest membership organization of health and physical-education professionals. SHAPE America has 50 state affiliates and is a founding partner of national initiatives such as the Presidential Youth Fitness Program, Let's Move! Active Schools and the Jump Rope For Heart/Hoops For Heart programs.

BCI Principal Jill Adams said, "The staff and students at Bell Creek Intermediate know what a treasure Sasha Taylor is! It is exciting to see her receive recognition at a higher level. Congratulations, Mrs. Taylor!"

## Did You Know



\*Bellbrook High School (BHS) senior Katie Giffin (trombone) has been accepted to the most prestigious honor-band ensemble in the state: the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) All-State Band! This is a great honor for both Katie and the community. She was a trombone soloist in the marching band and is one of the drum majors. Congratulations for a job well done!

\*Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) Music Teacher Julie Wellbaum's sister, Emily Morgan, recently received quite an honor. Her book *Next Time You See a Sunset* was read aloud by astronaut Mark Vande Hei on the International Space Station. You can view the video at <http://storytime-fromspace.com>. This opportunity was part of the Story Time From Space Library.

# Stephen Bell Elementary Writing Program Featured at Ohio Student Achievement Fair

In November 2017, Stephen Bell Elementary sent four students to show off their writing talents at the Ohio Student Achievement Fair in Columbus. During the 2016-17 school year, Stephen Bell Elementary adopted a new writing curriculum, "Being a Writer," in an effort to improve writing skills from kindergarten through second grade. During this event, the students demonstrated their writing ability and talked about why they loved being a writer. The new program has seen outstanding results, and students love writing more than ever.

The students who attended the conference included Cody Wong (first grade, Tarah Stephens), Esh'char Harel (second grade, Kyle Phelps), Abigail Hebrank (second grade,



Jill Culler) and Olivia Culler (third grade, Lindsey Seaman). Mrs. Culler and Mr. Phelps attended the conference with these students, to answer any questions from other school districts about our implementation of the program and successes with the new curriculum.

## A SPIRITED AFFAIR NETS \$9,640

A Spirited Affair is Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation's (BSEF's) primary fundraiser every year. Thanks to the leadership and commitment of Sharon Baker (chair), Pam Cook and Courtney Strauser, this year's 13th annual event earned \$9,640. BSEF supports Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools with teacher grants, high-school scholarships and capital purchases, such as voice-enhance-

ment systems. Major sponsors for the 2017 festival were the Linda Black-Kurek Living Trust; Cornerstone Developers, LTD; William C. Dahling, DDS; Greene Memorial Hospital; Burton L. Hagler, DDS; Rieck Services Group; Laura and Jeffrey Stahl; Subashi & Wildermuth; United Business Services, Inc.; and Waste Management. Thank you to all of our sponsors!

## BCI Pumpkin Auction raises \$4,175 for Dayton Special Wish Foundation

New last fall to Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) was the Great Pumpkin Auction. Fifth-grade students, their families and many BCI



staff members bought and decorated pumpkins to auction off, with all proceeds going to the Dayton A Special Wish Foundation. The auction raised \$4,175 – enough to grant an entire wish to a family: one week in Disney World! A big thank you goes to those who purchased/donated pumpkins; Beaver Creek Party Supply and the Kosins family for chairs; Sheridan and Associates for live auctioneer services; and Pa's Pork Food Truck and Funnel Vision Food Truck for their donations of 10 percent of sales from the evening.

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# Seventh-Graders Learn Environmental-Science Concepts

Chief Naturalist of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Park District Kendra Schide recently gave a show-and-tell-type presentation about Ohio animals for Bellbrook Middle School (BMS) seventh-grade science classes.

Students had been studying about threatened and endangered species, preservation, conservation, pollution and hunting vs. poaching.

Ms. Schide brought a variety of animal skins for the students to see and touch. She informed students that the American black bear is endangered in Ohio, with numbers as low as 175; and the timber wolf, cougar and lynx are animals that are extirpated from Ohio. Ms. Schide concluded that the mosquito may be the most dangerous creature in Ohio, because it can carry so many diseases and transfer them to different animals.

Mike Vaughn, Environmental Scientist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (Wright-Patt), spoke to BMS science students, to inspire them about biodiversity, invasive species in Ohio and habitat loss. He shared his enthusiasm about the outdoors with the



young scientists.

Mr. Vaughn serves on the Wright-Patt Hazardous Materials Emergency Response team. He is a Bellbrook High School graduate, lives in Bellbrook and is a member of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame.

## BSEF Funds Teacher Grants

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation (BSEF) supports teachers with grants for innovation in the classroom. Grants are awarded in December and March. Last fall 2017, \$23,615.07 was awarded to first-round applicants. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) requests dominated the submitted and approved grants. They included paper circuit lessons for Bellbrook High School (BHS) and Bellbrook Middle School (BMS) students; 3D-structure planning/design lessons for BHS and BMS students; a STEAM night for K-12 teachers; and supporting a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) trip to Annapolis, Maryland, and the United States Military Academy (West Point), as well as assisting them in purchasing aerospace materials.

## Kindergarten Transition Meeting and Registration

If you have a child entering kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year, please consider joining us for a question-and-answer kindergarten transition meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, from 5:30-6:30 pm, in the Stephen Bell Elementary cafeteria. (Snow date will be Thursday, March 8.) Our panel – comprised of a principal, teacher, psychologist and special-education director – will present information and answer questions. This evening is for parents only. Please RSVP to Marjorie Horvath at Marjorie.Horvath@bss.k12.oh.us if you would like to attend.

Kindergarten registration will be held March 12, 14, 19 and 21. Please go to [www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us](http://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us) and click on Stephen Bell Elementary to view the times, which vary.



Come for one week or all summer long—whatever works for your family!

Give your child the opportunity to spend summer break learning new skills, making new friends, and having fun.

### ENROLLMENT BEGINS!

January 2, 2018 @ [www.discoverchampions.com](http://www.discoverchampions.com)  
Site Director: [Zakiyah Liggins](mailto:Zakiyah.Liggins@discoverchampions.com) (937)267-1844

### DATES

June 4 2018- August 3 2018  
7:00am to 6:00 pm

### RATES

- Tuition Rate \$35/day per student (no multi-child discounts)
- Registration Fee \$50/student (charged at the time of enrollment)
- Activity Fee \$75/student (charged at the start of Summer Camp)

[DiscoverChampions.com](http://DiscoverChampions.com)

**CHAMPIONS**  
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

# First Annual BCI Veterans Day Breakfast a Huge Success!



Fifth-graders at Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI) studied what Veterans Day was all about in their social-studies classes. Veterans Day annually falls on November 11. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans are thanked for their services to the United States on Veterans Day.

BCI students wrote letters of praise to

veterans, and veterans came to speak in their classrooms; but BCI fifth-graders went a step further. With the help of Principal Jill Adams, Bellbrook Sugar Maple Festival officials and General Manager for Sodexo, Jennifer Hoehn (food services provider), BCI presented its First Annual Veterans Day Breakfast in November 2017. The Bellbrook High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) presented the colors, and

the BCI fifth-grade choir provided entertainment.

According to Mrs. Adams, the event was a great success! "It was wonderful to see our students interacting with the veterans at the breakfast," she said. "Students also made placemats for each table setting that included wonderful messages of gratitude. This event made what the students were studying in class especially meaningful to them."

## Schedule for Bellbrook District Science Fair

Grades 6-12 – February 14, 2018

\*2:40-3:10 pm – Student setup of projects in the cafetorium

\*3:00 – Judges' meeting in the large group room

\*3:15-4:40 – Judging of projects (At this time only student presenters and judges are permitted in the cafetorium.

Family and friends need to remain outside the cafetorium.)

\*4:40-5:00 – Open house for family, friends and community

\*5:00 (estimated time) – Awards presentation in main gym



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Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools



## **Bellbrook Lions Club Trifecta Pancake Breakfast Feb. 24**

The Bellbrook Lions Club will hold its annual "trifecta" pancake breakfast, blood drive and youth basketball league games on Saturday, February 24, 2018, at Stephen Bell Elementary.

The pancake breakfast will take place from 7:30-11:30 am. This annual fundraiser helps the organization serve the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community.

Blood-drive donors can sign up for a specific appointment time on the Dayton Community Blood Center website or walk in and wait for an open position.

Everyone is welcome to watch the Lions-sponsored youth basketball games being played in the school gymnasium.

Stephen Bell Elementary is located at 4122 N. Linda Dr. in Bellbrook. For more information contact Kirk Barrett at 239-0581.



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[www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us](http://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us)