



The Purple and White teams tied 14-14 during this year's annual Homecoming powder puff football game.

THE BRIDGE

Fall 2024

Volume 48

Issue 1

Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community since 1976



School Pride

The Bellbrook student section cheers during "USA" night at the football game on Sept. 20 against Archbishop Alter. Bellbrook beat the Knights 17-7.

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Team Building at
Camp Kern Important
Part of the Journey

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek
Schools Quality Profile



Kindergarten Kickoff
Starts School Right for
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EagleLand 2 Completion
a Dream Come True for
Students and Staff



**Better Today than Yesterday,
Better Tomorrow than Today**



SUPERINTENDENT

A big welcome to the 2024-25 school-year! We have had a very successful and smooth start. Our teachers, staff, and administrators have worked very hard in preparation for the year. We want to especially welcome our new students and families to the district. We recognize and want to thank all our families for doing your critical part in ensuring your student is ready to learn. Additionally, we would like to welcome our almost 40 new staff members to the district. Welcome, everyone, to the Golden Eagle family.

I am proud to point out that Bellbrook-Sugarcreek



Schools earned a five-star rating on the State of Ohio School Report Card for the second consecutive year! Five stars is the highest rating given out from the state and signifies that our district “Significantly exceeds state standards.” Additionally, we

received five stars in four subcategories and four stars in one. Scan the QR code to check out our entire report card. This is quite an accomplishment that is only possible through a team effort between the schools, students, and our families.

Our Quality Profile, an infographic on pages 8 and 9 of this edition of the Bridge, highlights the great things going on in our district starting with our strong base of top-notch academic programs that our students are receiving in addition to the many more experiences that round-out their education! Whether it’s the math pentathlon club at BCI and BMS, the 390 students participating in band and choir in grades 6-12, an award-winning Winterguard program at the high school, athletics at BMS and BHS, an impressive 10,692 hours of community service by the National Honor Society, 1,796 middle and high school students in an extracurricular

activity or sport, or the \$29,600 raised by Stephen Bell students to donate to Kids Heart Challenge (No. 3 in Ohio), we strive to provide the most positive learning environment supported by our extraordinary staff. We have so many clubs, activities, and sports for our students to be involved in.

To publicly celebrate our five-star accomplishment and to highlight the great things going on in our schools, we will be holding a “State of the Schools” celebration during our November 14 Board meeting at 7 p.m. at Bellbrook Middle School. We plan on intertwining areas from the Report Card and Quality Profile with live performances or presentations highlighting these areas. We hope this will take around 45-60 minutes and we cordially invite you to join us to celebrate our 5-star schools, students, families, staff and community and see what our wonderful students and staff are accomplishing!

Douglas A. Cozad

Douglas A. Cozad, Ph.D.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local Schools Superintendent



Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools Welcomes New Staff for 2024-2025



Barry Limon
Asst Principal
BHS



Ann Hazelton
Psychologist
BHS



Jacob Page
Music
BHS/BMS



Martin Venegas
JROTC
BHS



Samantha Bennett
Spec. Needs Asst.
BMS



Chad Davis
Spec. Edu.
BMS



Olivia Khalife
ELA
BMS



Kara Sands
Spec. Needs Asst.
BMS



Karl Stanbery
Math/Science
BMS



Emma Stedron
Spec. Needs Asst.
BMS



Donald Whyte
Spec. Needs Asst.
BMS



Terress Monroe
Principal
BCI



Ari Babcock
4th grade
BCI



Sarah Baker
Spec. Edu.
BCI



Carol Chan
Nurse
BCI



Crystal Harnish
Admin. Asst.
BCI



Anna Hivner
3rd grad
BCI



Natalie Kirby
Psych Intern
BCI



Logan Kissel
5th grade
BCI



Rachel Martin
5th grade
BCI



Alyssa Orth
4th grade
BCI



Ashlie Steel
5th grade
BCI



Dawn Stinson
LR Asst.
BCI



Melissa Andras
Spec. Needs Asst.
SB



Stefanie Barker
Kindergarten
SB



Kayce Brown
1st grade
SB



Stephanie Burton
Spec. Edu.
SB



Kaley Clark
1st grade
SB



Hannah Denlinger
2nd grade
SB



Ashley Duffy
Spec. Needs Asst.
SB



Rebecca Evans
Spec. Edu.
SB



Lisa McDermott
Spec. Needs Asst.
SB



Jonathan Newsome
Counselor
SB



Rachel Olson
2nd grade
SB



Soloman Bassaw
Transportation Asst.



Christian Alvarez
Sodexo Services



Jeff Eckley
Mgr. of Business

Hall of Fame, Football Game, King and Queen Crowning Highlight Homecoming Week

It's one of the biggest weeks of the year for the high school, and for good reason.

Homecoming week at Bellbrook High School celebrates the accomplishments not only of the students who attend the high school now, but also of those who came before.

The Hall of Fame induction happens homecoming week as does the football game, the dance, the crowning of the king and queen and more.

The Hall of Fame

Three new members were inducted into the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation Hall of Fame on Friday morning, bringing the total inductees up to 58.

The ceremony honored Christine Hawker (class of 1987), Lori Neus (class of 1992) and Jim Pugh (class of 1979).

Hawker was an outstanding athlete, educator and first responder. She earned 12 varsity letters (four in soccer, four in basketball and four in softball) and at the time of her graduation held 12 school records. Some of those included single-season marks such as most goals (soccer), most assists (basketball) and highest batting average (softball). While in high school, Christine also was involved in the marching band, concert band, yearbook and Eaglettes as a baton and rifle twirler.

Neus played basketball and soccer, and ran track in addition to being a member of the National Honor Society. While at Bellbrook, she was named First Team All-Ohio in Basketball, setting records for most points in a game (53), most points

in a season (557) and career points (1,449) which currently ranks second all-time. During her varsity career, her teams finished with a 65-6 record. In soccer, Neus was named to the All-District team her sophomore, junior and senior seasons.

Growing up, Pugh attended Bellbrook schools and developed a great love for all sports and the Bellbrook Golden Eagles. While in high school, Jim began his service to the Bellbrook community and schools by serving as the manager of the Boys Basketball team and track teams. For Pugh, his love of sports and Bellbrook never ceased as he put his time and energy back into the school, and 42 years later, he is still at it. During that time, he has been the scoreboard operator for football, volleyball, boys and girls basketball and in recent years has added lacrosse. On January 6, 2024, Pugh worked his 1,000th Bellbrook High School Girls Basketball game as a scoreboard operator. All told, he has worked thousands of games. Pugh has also been nominated for the OHSAA Respect the Game award as well as the OHSAA Friends of Athletics Award for Volunteers who have more than 35 years of service to their schools.

The Game

The Eagles dominated on the gridiron Friday evening, taking down Southwestern Buckeye League foe Franklin, 31-0.

Vincent Epifano nearly returned the opening kickoff for a score and the Eagles soared from there.

The offense was led by a steady running game mixed with a few passes, and a

suffocating defense held Franklin to 74 total yards and just three first downs all game. The Eagles took a 31-0 lead into the half, prompting a running clock in the second half.

The win moved the Eagles to 6-1 and 2-0 in the league when the game finished.

The Crowning

The homecoming king and queen were announced at halftime with an on-field ceremony. The JROTC provided the saber arch as a group of attendants from the freshman, sophomore and junior classes came first and then four groups from the senior class.

King Johnnie Brown and Queen Ashtyn Praeter were the 2024 honorees.

Praeter is the child of Emily and Jason Praeter. She volunteers her time by coaching at Colin's Lodge. She plays for the Bellbrook and You First lacrosse teams. Ashtyn's peers nominated her for her positive, generous personality. She will attend Malone University where she will continue her lacrosse career and pursue a degree in nursing.

Brown is the child of Tonyelle Rutledge and Johnnie Brown Senior. Johnnie is a senior varsity football captain. Johnnie's peers note that he exemplifies the Eagle Spirit and was a great help for the Powder Puff squad. Tentatively, he plans to attend the University of Cincinnati to major in business and he would like to get his barber's license.

Special Presentation

Between the third and fourth quarter of the game, the district celebrated three young ladies, and the Lions Club, which

Homecoming 2024

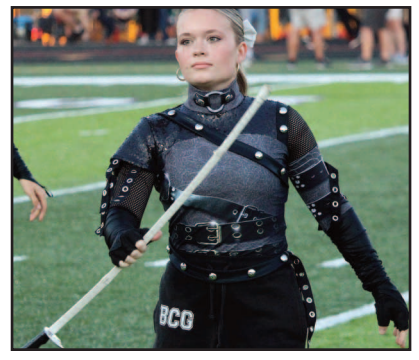
gave their efforts and their spare time to help raise money for the recently completed accessible playground, EagleLand 2.

Seniors Emme Volmer and Lexie Holding, as well as alumnus Alyssa Pernush, organized the 5K to Play, went into the community and sought sponsorships and donations and in the end, were able to contribute nearly \$15 thousand dollars to the project.

They also were part of a team that organized a Groundbreaking ceremony held in May. That event was covered by the Dayton Daily News, and thanks to the publicity it received, elicited a donation of \$125,000, which completed the funding for the project.

The district also presented a plaque to Lions Club members Gregg Sparks, Ernie Havens, Dave Lauresh and Jim Common for their leadership and hard work in getting the playground built.

The Plaque reads in part: The District Recognizes and appreciates the financial contribution, sacrifice, dedication, project management and hard work of the Bellbrook Lions Club in the creation of the district's new accessible playground, EagleLand 2 on the grounds of Bell Creek Intermediate.





Team Building at Camp Kern is Important Part of Journey

While Camp Kern is well known to most in the area as a staple of middle school, each year sixth graders get to experience it for the first time.

For those who don't know, located near Lebanon, Ohio, Camp Kern is a YMCA-owned site that houses cabins and many different adventure activities. From learning survival skills to teamwork skills, Camp Kern is a fundamental part of the work Bellbrook Middle School does to make their building as cohesive a unit as possible.

Students and teachers alike value the experiences from their two days in the woods, even if they can't participate 100 percent.

Lena Manley, who went on the trip with her foot in a boot, said despite that she was enjoying the entire experience.

"I went canoeing and all we did was splash each other and had so much fun on the water," Manley said. "I also went to survival and it was fun working on the fire to get that going. But we all worked together to make it happen. I also did Escape and we had to work

together to get to the top of the wall."

Manley said she's been working with both friends and others she's known for years, but doesn't typically spend a lot of time with. She said that will pay dividends in the end.

"For that wall, we couldn't have done it with just one person," she said. "I feel like people will be working together to get school work done and help people with their homework. I feel like since we've been together, they'll be more comfortable asking anyone for help."

While Manley has been in the area most of her life, Easton Stadem-Heinemann moved in this year from South Dakota.

He said he appreciates the different format and exposure to others in his grade, mentioning he's become fast friends with another 10-12 kids.

"This is really good for team building and helping kids meet new kids for school purposes," Stadem-Heinemann said. "I've made a lot of new friends.

"I really liked the campfire by the lake.

It was really funny, everyone was able to talk and interact with one another. Anything could happen here. You can meet a lot of new people. You don't have to write a worksheet about it. It's just fun."

It was a little extra fun for Stadem-Heinemann, too, as it was his birthday on September 19. He was knighted and sung to by the entire 6th grade class. "I love that kids get to bond together as a class outside of the traditional classroom walls," BMS principal Jenna Hill said. "Students get to see teachers differently as they get to have different experiences with one another and teachers get to see students differently as they all experience activities you wouldn't see inside the classroom."

And Hill said the learning doesn't stop at Camp Kern. Indeed the lessons the 6th graders learned over two days in the woods will be brought back throughout the year as the school continues to build its culture of soaring together.

Students from the middle school have been going to Camp Kern for about 10 years, but to various other camps since the 1970s.

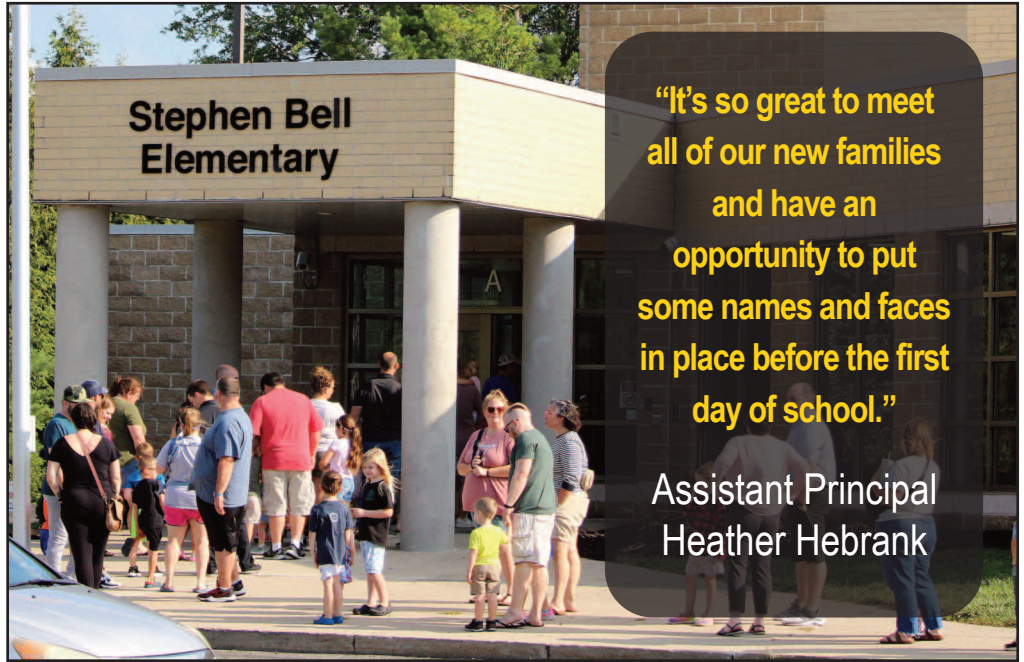
Kindergarten Kickoff Starts School Right For Youngest Learners

Stephen Bell Elementary is well known for its beginning of year events. From the Food Truck Festival for first and second graders to the Scavenger Hunt for Kindergarten. While these events have been successful, Administration still found something missing.

So the leadership at Stephen Bell decided this year would be a good time to start something new for their incoming Kindergarten families.

While in the past, families were welcomed in during their introductory meeting with the teachers and then during the Kindergarten Scavenger hunt, held in mid-September, this year they added an opportunity to get into the school to meet some very important people.

"I created this event for our youngest learners to establish a bond with the office staff (principal, assistant principal, counselor, secretaries, and nurse) in a fun, interactive way so they could see our big school with their own family," Principal Ginger Keeton said.



"It's so great to meet all of our new families and have an opportunity to put some names and faces in place before the first day of school."

Assistant Principal Heather Hebrank

Keeton, in her 32nd year of education, saw a problem she could fix with the event, noting how nervous new students can be during their first days of school.

"For years, our Kindergarten students experience their orientation event with their Kindergarten Teacher," she said. "On Day 1, when the Kindergarten

Teacher needs help from the office staff, one of us shows up and we are a stranger to this child."

Keeton thought about how that might affect a 5- or 6-year-old student and decided a good idea to meet Assistant Principal Heather Hebrank, Nurse Laura Guess, Counselor Jonathan Newsome and office staff Marjorie Horvath and Kelly Newlon, as well as herself, was to create a time when students and their families could get into the building before the year began.

And of course in a way only Stephen Bell Elementary can, they made it a fun event people are still talking about.

"It's so great to meet all of our new families and have an opportunity to put some names and faces in place before the first day of school," Hebrank said.

Students picked up their Purple cursive B bags, signed their letters of intent, took photos at various booths, got their first golden ticket, checked out the SOAR shop and more.

"It's more important now than ever before, that we connect with our Kindergarten students before they even enter the classroom so they recognize our faces," Keeton said. "We want to build a relationship with our youngest learners immediately to decrease or possibly eliminate unexpected behaviors so our students are available to learn at Stephen Bell. The goal is always students first!"



Student Experiences & District Accolades

1074 Middle and high school students participated in an extracurricular sport

Bellbrook is included in the Best High Schools U.S. News Rankings as is the Middle School and Bell Creek Intermediate



100%

of all district schools recognized as Purple Star Schools (military friendly)



BELLBROOK-SUGARCREEK
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Overall Rating

-Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

Five Stars in four Component Areas, 4 Stars in the other

722 Middle Schoolers who participated in an extracurricular activity

24 VARSITY SPORTS



28

Consecutive years BMS has earned the Gov.'s Thomas Edison Awards for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research

BMS named a National School To Watch and Ohio School To Watch



390

Students participated in band/choir in grades 6-12

Four new school buses purchased and put into service for the 2023-24 school year

29

SWBL All-Sports titles Bellbrook has won, including nine straight

Bellbrook Winterguard advanced to the 2024 Winterguard International Scholastic World Class Finals & placed 11th overall in the country



PLTW High School Distinguished School

The NAMM (National Association of Music Merchandisers) Foundation recognized Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools as one of 738 school districts that are among the Best Communities in the nation for music education.

BHS Drone team wins 3rd National Championship

65% District teachers with 10+ Years Experience

21% District teachers with 4-10 Years Experience



38 Languages spoken in district homes



The Air Force Junior ROTC instructors and cadets of Bellbrook High School earned an overall unit assessment score of "Exceeds Standards"... the highest rating attainable

Indoor Percussion Ensemble qualified for the Scholastic A World Competiton

12%

of students in the district are served in a special needs capacity

Academic Life

221

Graduates in 2024



82%

of the Class of 2024 is attending college or joined the military

13 - AP Courses Offered



1338

College credits earned by BHS students

\$3.5+ Million

Scholarships offered to the Class of 2024

72

Students graduated with an Honors Diploma

4

National Merit Scholarship Finalists

20

Students committed to play college sports with 10 receiving athletic financial aid

6

Students earned a 12-pt Industry Credential in Law/Public Safety

71%

of certified staff hold a Master's degree

5

College Credit Plus (CCP) courses offered at BHS, giving students the opportunity to earn college credit without leaving BHS

67

High school credits earned by middle school students

30

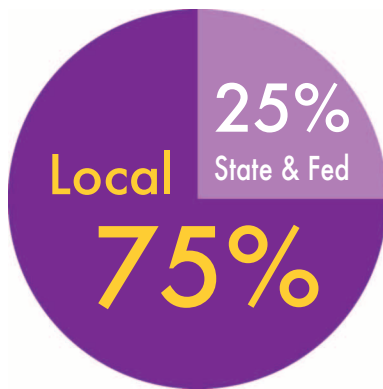
Students that participated in BMS Science Fair

2,338

Combined Years of Teaching Experience

Fiscal Responsibility

District Revenue



Expenditures

57%	Employee salaries and wages
18%	Employee Retirement and Insurance
17%	Purchased Services
3%	Other Objects (Debt services, due, etc.)
3%	Supplies and materials
2%	Capital Outlay

\$13,633

Cost per pupil in the district, which is about \$1,800 below the state average

Giving Back

\$22,000

Money raised and/or donated by the PTO to support classroom and school activities

\$29,600

SB students donated to Kids Heart Challenge (#3 in Ohio)

\$13,877

BSEF funded for classroom grants

\$13,700

Raised by BCI staff and students through health.moves.minds and donated to the American Heart Association

10,684

Hours of community service by the National Honor Society

1,684

Hours logged in community service by JROTC

60%

of 7th grade students participated in service-learning projects

\$9,000

Raised at BCI Pumpkin Auction for A Special Wish Foundation



EagleLand 2 Completion a Dream Come True for Students and Staff

The moment all the kids were waiting for was even better than they imagined. And the adults there were a little misty eyed, too.

Less than two years ago, a group of third graders noticed some of their friends couldn't play with them on the playground at Bell Creek Intermediate. One student in a wheelchair, in particular, was relegated to just one place he could play and it was hard for him to get there through the rubber mulch.

As part of a project-based learning initiative in Mrs. Culler's class, they presented the problem to their then principal, Donnie Phelps, who assured them the project was worthwhile, but the district didn't have the funds. The group looked further and asked the Lions Club for funding during a shark-tank like event and the Lions' Club came through.

Pledging \$200K of their own money and a promise to help raise another \$200K, the Lions Club, led by project manager Gregg Sparks, went to work researching accessible playground equipment, finding the best material possible to help students get to various places on the playground and making sure all the things that can't be seen but matter – like proper drainage – were taken care of so the playground is

usable whenever possible.

Less than two years later, on September 4, 2024, they finally got to try out the new playground as members of the class – now fifth graders – were the first to play on the officially opened equipment.

There were people working behind the scenes, too. A group of Bellbrook High School students with no ties to

the project organized a 5K held in August which raised nearly \$15K. A groundbreaking ceremony held in May – organized by the same trio of students – elicited a large donation when a local philanthropist saw an article written in the Dayton Daily News about the playground.

"I saw the article on a Sunday and I put it aside," Diane Tobey said. "I looked at it again the next day and I kind of thought that was something I could do. We moved here five years ago and we really love it. I have two grandchildren in the district and

I've brought them there to play on it a few times."

The aforementioned trio of students, Alyssa Pernush, Emme Volmer and Lexie Holding were honored during the homecoming football game for their work in raising the funds.



BHS Fall Sports Update



Eagle Athletes Earn Hardware

Seven Varsity Sports Win SWBL Titles

Volleyball clinched its 5th straight SWBL divisional title and earned the No. 2 seed in the tournament. The team opens with Belmont on October 19. The Eagles are 53-1 in the SWBL since 2020. The team held a 16-6, 8-0 record at the end of the regular season. Sophie Davis leads the team in kills with 400 (single-season school record) and is second on the team in assists with 241 and digs with 238. Luci Mescher leads the team with 388 assists and 44 aces and Miranda Lobberecht leads the team with 310 digs.

Boys Soccer tied for the SWBL championship with Monroe, finishing the league season 6-1-1. The boys got the No. 4 seed and earned a first-round bye in the tournament. The team hosts Tecumseh or Belmont in the second round on October 19. Carter Sorrell leads the team with nine goals while Noah Kosins has eight assists as of Oct. 11.

The **Girls Soccer** team clinched an outright SWBL championship, with a league record of 7-0-1, finished the regular season 13-1-3 and are the No. 1 seed in the tournament. The girls host Piqua or Bellefontaine in the second round on October 21. Caitlyn Hansen leads the SWBL with 19 assists, while goalie Jordan Frantz leads the SWBL with 10 shutouts and has 141 saves. Ella Stillings leads the team with 18 goals and 45 points.

On Homecoming weekend, the **Cross Country** teams had a good showing at the Anna Invitational, with the girls coming away with the win and the boys placing third. Both teams won the Southwestern Division of the SWBL at the conference meet on October 12. Andrew Bruckhart was the boys top finisher in second place while Allison High

won the girls race in 18:45.9. The postseason opens with the district meet on October 19 at Cedarville University.

The **Football** Team is 7-1 with big wins over Bellefontaine, Valley View and Alter this season. With a high ranking in the points after their homecoming and Oct. 11 win over Monroe, the team expects to play at least one home game in the playoffs, should they continue posting victories. Vincent Epifano leads the team in rushing with Tanner Stewart close behind. Defensively, Preston Pettit and Gavin Thobe lead the team in tackles.

The **Girls Golf** team won back-to-back SWBL championships, and advanced to the district tournament where they finished eighth place, overall. Ainsley Gregory finished 10th with an impressive 80 while Alexi Knight carded a 90, Alina Shroyer hit a 97 and Sara Knee scored a 111.

The Boys Golf team won back-to-back SWBL championships and the entire team advanced to the district tournament, where they finished sixth overall with a 316, nine strokes from the top spot. CJ Scohy advanced to the state tournament, carding a 73 to earn one of the three individual spots, placing him third overall. In the final match of the season, David Gregory shot 77, Brody Miller hit 81, Brody Seitz carded an 85 and Jackson Hunt scored 87.

Girls Tennis finished as SWBL runner-ups. At the sectional tournament, Lola Brown won her first two matches before bowing out while Chloe Hangen and Tori Brown each won their first match. The doubles teams also posted wins as Becca Cyphers and Anna Howard won their first two matches and the team of Venus Aggarwal and Kaylynn Chain won their first match before their seasons came to an end.



BELLBROOK MUSIC SCHEDULE

It's no surprise that music furthers education. At Bellbrook Schools, we place a large importance in the fine arts because we know they further academics by teaching our students life skills like the importance of practice and time management. We'd love if the community turned out to support the students in all their endeavors. Please find a date to come out to a concert, musical, play or performance. We promise you'll be impressed. Mark your calendars!

Theater

Middle School Musical, Nov. 7-9, Oz
High School Play, Nov. 21-23, Clue
Middle School Play, March 7-9, (TBA)
High School Musical, May 1-3, (TBA)

Middle School & High School Choirs

Winter MS/HS Choir Concert, Dec. 16
6th Grade Choir Concert, Dec. 18
6th Grade Choir, March 5
Mid-Season MS/HS Choir, March 12
Spring MS/HS Choir, May 7
6th Grade Choir, May 13

Marching Band/Guards

Fall Marching Band Invitational, Oct. 19
Command Performance, Nov. 11
Winter Command Performance, March 21

Middle School & High School Bands

Fall Band SPOOKTACULAR!, Oct. 15
Middle School Band, Dec. 9
High School Band, Dec. 10
6th Grade Band, Dec. 11
6th Grade Band, March 5
Mid-Season High School Band, March 6
Mid-Season Middle School Band, March 10
Spring Middle School Band, May 5
Spring High School Band, May 6
6th Grade Band, May 15



District News in *B*riefs

2 Named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Oliver Alban and Connor Payne achieved high scores on the PSAT/NMSQT, putting them in the top 1% of test takers in the country. Their success shows their hard work and commitment to learning.

These students are great examples of the academic talent at Bellbrook High School and the strong education and support they receive from the dedicated teachers and staff in the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek school system.



Oliver Alban

Connor Payne

We are proud to congratulate our National Merit Semifinalists and look forward to their future achievements.

6th Grade Student Wins National Recognition

Brighton Conde, now a sixth grader at Bellbrook Middle School, thought one day about how putting trash in the large trash can outside was a challenging task for someone like herself who is currently, let's say, not as tall as her peers.

At the time of her invention, she said she thought it would help, "disabled people and short people like me."

The Bin Buddy is a hidden step on the larger residential rolling trash cans. The step would come out when needed so those who have trouble lifting the lid would be able to step up and easily deposit their refuse.

Brighton actually started the invention when she was in the Kettering school district – her family having relocated with the military. She went through several steps in the invention process, including surveying her community and talking to trash companies to see if anything like the Bin Buddy was in



use. Brighton won in the category of Industry Innovator Home Organization/Household Technology for grades K-5 for the Ohio Inventors League. That win came during the Honda State Finals Invention Convention, held at Ohio University.

Dr. Monroe Takes Reins at Bell Creek Intermediate

With the departure of Donnie Phelps as the principal at Bell Creek Intermediate, Dr. Terress Monroe took on the top spot at the grade 3-5 building to begin the 2024-25 school year.

Monroe came to the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District with eight years of experience as a principal in the Dayton Public School District, spending the last four years as the principal at Edison Elementary and the four years prior to that as the assistant principal at Belle Haven Elementary.



Terress Monroe

Dr. Monroe was approved by the Board of Education at the August 8 meeting.

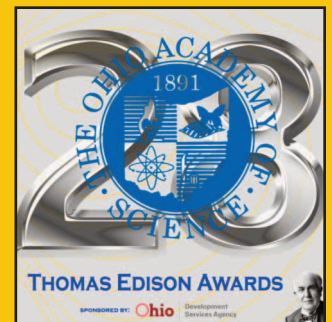
"I am excited for the opportunity to be in the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District – to be part of a Five-Star District that is still focused on making gains," Dr. Monroe said. "I am honored to be here."

Middle School Earns 28th Consecutive Governor's Award

The Ohio Academy of Science selected 40 Ohio schools and 436 teachers to receive The Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for their accomplishments during the 2023-2024 school year recently, and Bellbrook Middle School was once again among the winners

There are several criteria for the Thomas Edison Award for Excellence. The first is to conduct a local science fair with 12 or more students and have two or more of those students participate in the District Science Day. The Middle School accomplishes that on a yearly basis by holding the Science & Engineering Showcase, which will be held on Oct. 24 this year.

The second is that students must participate in at least one more youth science opportunity beyond the classroom. That is accomplished with the visit to the Challenger Space Center in downtown Dayton each year. There also is an annual STEAM night held at the middle school. Each school receives a special Governor's Award certificate, and each teacher will receive a complimentary membership to



The Ohio Academy of Science.

The middle school teachers who were honored are: Kayla Guess, Jennifer Julian, Debi Schwieterman, Lynzee Allen, Shelby Herlihy, Emily Cline, Lauren Duhan, Crystal Lohn, Kyle Ferguson, Janice Cook and Allyson Geis.

New Treasurer Approved By Board of Education

With Kevin Liming's retirement at the end of this calendar year, the Board of Education approved a new treasurer at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 10.

Amit Gautam took the position of Treasurer, thanks to his 23 years of experience in Ohio public finances. He currently serves as Assistant Treasurer of Dayton City School District, a position he has held for more than three years.

Gautam received his bachelor's in accounting, Summa Cum Laude, and a Masters in Accountancy from Wright State University.

"We know our district needs an individual with successful school treasurer experience and who is a skilled leader and communicator," Superintendent Dr. Doug Cozad said. "I feel confident Amit will be a great fit here and look forward to working with him to move the district forward."

Gautam will begin his work with the district officially on Jan. 1, 2025.

"I am incredibly pleased and honored to have been chosen as the district's next Treasurer/CFO," Gautam said. "I want to thank the Board of Education and Superintendent for the trust they have placed in me. The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local School District stands out as a beacon of academic and financial excellence, and I am excited to serve as the district's treasurer and ensure that I carry on the tradition of financial excellence. I am looking forward to serving the board of education, community, students, and parents of the School District."



Amit Gautam

FOCUS 3 CORNER

Welcome to the Focus 3 Corner. If you were unaware, a few years ago, the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District adopted a new concept when it came to school culture, known as The R Factor, which is a portion of Focus 3. While we don't have the time and space necessary to put you through all the paces of the R Factor and Focus 3 here, we plan to give a brief overview on what Focus 3 and the R Factor are and what the students are being taught. Keep in mind, these are grade-level appropriate teachings and they all center around having a growth mindset.

The most important thing to know about the Focus 3 program is that

it builds mental resilience. Things in life are going to get tough. Bad or negative things will happen. But it is not those things that matter, it is your Response to them.

If you are an Ohio State football fan, in years past, you might have noticed players with a seemingly random equation on their helmets, eye black or elsewhere. That equation, $E+R=O$ is what the R factor is about. It means Event +

$$E + R = O$$

Event + Response = Outcome

Response = Outcome.

The way we talk to our staff and students about $E+R=O$ is this. When an Event comes your way – and it can be positive or negative – an unfriendly email, a winning lottery ticket, or a box of cereal that falls to the ground, you must think of the Outcome you want

first, and then figure out the Response you must give to get you to that Outcome.

For a student, if they don't do as well as they'd like on a test, that's the Event. The student must then consider the Outcome they desire. It's probably a better grade the next time. So their Response can be a number of things. They can study harder, they can seek outside help, or a number of other options. But only a positive Response will get them to the Outcome they desire.



That's the view from 30,000 feet and we will get more indepth in the future. If you are interested, you can check out more at <https://bit.ly/BSSculture>, or scan our QR code.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools
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UPCOMING DATES

October 19: Supportive Peers Halloween Event
October 19: Marching Band Invitational
October 21: No School, Professional Development
October 24: Science & Engineering Showcase
October 24: Board of Education meeting
November 2: Holiday at Home Craft Show at BHS
November 4: Music Boosters Meeting
November 5: Election Day
November 7-9: Middle School Musical
November 8: Veterans Day Celebration
November 11: No School, Veterans Day
November 11: Marching Band Command Performance
November 12: PTO Meeting
November 14: Board of Education meeting
(State of the Schools)
November 20: Athletic Boosters Meeting
November 21-23: High School Play
November 25: No School
November 26-29: Thanksgiving Break

Inclement Weather Policy

During the school year, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools may be forced to close, have a delayed start or dismiss early due to inclement weather or other situation. In an effort to disseminate announcements in a timely and cost-effective manner, the first step will be to send notifications via the Remind app. We highly encourage our district families to install the app and regularly check that notifications are setup to receive announcements in the way they prefer. Our next step is to post the information on our social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Threads) as well as our website. The next step will be to notify local media outlets.

Child Find Policy

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek School District is participating in an effort to identify and locate all children ages 3-21 years of age who may have disabilities. For more information, contact Bridgett Pritchard, Special Education Supervisor, at 937-848-5001 extension 6013 or bridgett.pritchard@bss.k12.oh.us



Find Your New Doctor Fast

Choose your new doctor –
in as little as three minutes.
An easy search, customized
to you. Go directly to our
Find a Doctor tool by visiting
PremierHealth.com/NewDoctor.

