



# THE BRIDGE

Spring 2023

Volume 46

Issue 3

Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community since 1976



## BHS Graduation

The Class of 2023 graduated from Bellbrook High School on May 20. The Class earned \$3.5 million in college scholarships and grants.

## INSIDE

Principal Hann Salutes the Class of 2023

Winterguard, Indoor Percussion Ensemble Celebrate Success

Drone Team Earns Second National Title



District Recognizes Retiring Staff

Athletic Year in Review

Stephen Bell and BCI Continue Community Service Projects

Bellbrook Middle School Piles Up Awards



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.



# SUPERINTENDENT

## Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools Impact Dayton Region and Beyond

The 2022-23 school year is over, but the impact our students, staff, and parents have had on others will last much longer. Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools is the heart of our community and each year our schools go above and beyond in order to help support not only the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek area but the greater Dayton region and beyond. President Ronald Reagan stated “We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone,” and we worked hard to live by those words!

Bellbrook High School is the tone setter when it comes to supporting the community. Over the past year, our students have put in more than 8,000 service hours to worthy causes such as Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Resource Center, peer tutoring, Supportive Peers, the Lions Club Festival, Sugar Maple Festival, canned food drives, and sports camps – just to name a few. In the fall, the Class of 2026 coordinated the yearly Teacher Turkey contest and donated the proceeds to the Unverferth House on the Ohio State campus. The Kindness Club collected food for the Bellbrook Community Resource Center, pulling in over 250 items. The club also created holiday cards for local retirement communities. Our HOSA (Future Health Professionals, formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America) chapter held its Winter Blood Drive and BHS students and staff donated 52 units of blood.

At the middle school, Eagle Outreach is a trimester-long class in which students create their own project that focuses on community service – whether it be donations or giving of their time and talents to those in need. From crocheting blankets for senior citizens, to donation drives for Shoes for the Shoeless, to working with 4 Paws for Ability. Additionally in the fall, BMS students raised nearly \$800 to benefit Pink Ribbon Girls, an organization that assists families enduring cancer treatment.

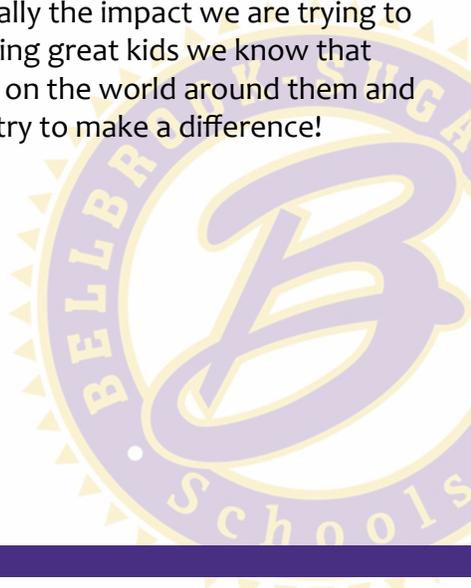
At Bell Creek Intermediate (BCI), students are learning to give in a BIG way. While the Great Pumpkin Auction raised nearly \$13,000 for A Special Wish Dayton, the students had their sights set on something a little closer to home. When third-grade students noticed some of their friends who were exceptional weren’t able to spend time with them on the playground, they sprang into action. They solicited donations from The Lions Club for some items that would benefit their friends with mobility and sensory needs as additions to their playground. The Lions Club responded with a big answer and a pledge to help raise even more. All so everyone could be equal on the playground. You can read more on page 13.

Our youngest learners at Stephen Bell Elementary are not to be outdone. Physical Education teacher Stacy Tincher – with the help of her students – raised over \$23K during their Kids Heart Challenge /American Heart Challenge program. This year isn’t an aberration, either. In her 23 years at Stephen Bell, students have raised just over \$300,000. The first annual Fun Run was held in May and donations were in excess of \$21,000 to help fund field trips for each of the grades, PBIS Rewards system, and dry-erase student tables for our STEM classes.

We are so proud of our students, staff, parents and community for thinking about and supporting others. Not just in Bellbrook, but in the region and world around us. And that’s really the impact we are trying to make. Raising and teaching great kids we know that they will have an impact on the world around them and trying to do so much to try to make a difference!

*Douglas A. Cozad*

Superintendent



## Graduation: Class of 2023

# A Sendoff from Bellbrook High School Principal, Mr. Hann:

The Class of 2023 has made it through some very interesting times. These students and their teachers have accomplished so much, and we are extremely proud of each and every one of them. The diplomas our seniors received represent many years of hard work, commitment, perseverance and dedication.

These students were my first freshmen class as principal, and it has been a joy to watch them grow into such fine young adults. The seniors have been leaders in our hallways, in our classrooms, in ensembles and on teams, and in our community – it is a privilege to celebrate their accomplishments with them.

Every step these graduates have taken along the path toward this special day has involved the

efforts of many people ... teachers, coaches, advisors, mentors, and friends, but most importantly, their families.

Class of 2023: You have met every challenge thrown at you. In the classroom. In competition. In our community. And sometimes, even within yourself.

Your positive attitude, hard work, and perseverance are fine examples for our entire community. Be proud of yourselves. Be proud of where you come from. Be your best self and continue to make Bellbrook proud. Class of 2023, you have been wonderful to work with, I know I speak for our entire staff when I say that we will miss you.

Congratulations and good luck!



### Co-Valedictorians

Daphne Le, Julia Wahl

### Salutatorian

Josh Sahlbom

### Class President

Sam Vine

### Class Honors

\$3.5 Million in Scholarships and Grants  
 42 Summa Cum Laude  
 27 Magna Cum Laude  
 53 Cum Laude  
 34 National Honor Society Members  
 49 With Honors  
 17 Red cord (blood donations)



Photo by Nick Falzerano/Nicholas Studios

## Graduation: Class of 2023

## Bellbrook High School Graduates

Elena Gabrielle Aguila	Hector Esteban De La Garza	Tristan Anthony Hanks
Caleb Patrick Anderson	Nadya Cathryn Diana Dear	Grace Elizabeth Heckler
Mackenzie Marie Angel	William Richard Dearmond	Alyssa Lynn Heebsh
Jake Michael Antil	Nicholas Sean DeVol	Keegan Karl Heft
Alexis Rene Arndt	Emma Irene DeWeese	Ryan Jacob Herbst
Samuel Joseph Barhorst	Ieva Diaz	Aidan Lee Hess
Joseph Andrew Barlow	Grace Natalie Diederich	Allison Nicole Hess
Jaden Anthony Bean	Kiana Lynn Downing	Monica Renee Hodges
Marissa Lauren Behr	Luke Aiden Driskell	Aaron Cole Hodson
Connor John Benevich	Ashton Kurtis Duhl	Lillian Theresa Hodson
Scott Wiley Benson	Bennett James Dwenger	Rachel Sarah Holbrook
Jacob Samuel Morrill Bent	Cole Alexander Ernst	Alexandra Lee Hornyak
Dominik Anthony Bizzarro	Acey Brooke Faulkner	Anastasia Marie Hornyak
Kendall Grace Blakely	Jayla Mya-Devyne Fields	Brayden Lee Hubbell
Kaden Tyler Bogue	Connor Nicholas Flanagan	Vincent Anthony Hummel
Nathan Matthew Bourquin	Braleigh Michael Flynn	Alexander Drew Jackson
Kate Bethany Bowers	Willow Raine Forsha	Eve Isabella Jamilkowski
Azalea Symone Boyd	Emma Grace Forshee	Abigail Marie Janus
Leia Marie Boyd	Karsyn Elizabeth Fortkamp	Aidan Michael Jones
Eliana Marie Bozzuto	August Bruno Franke	Brooks Wallace Judd
Madison Kay Bretland	Ashley Marie Frantz	Raynah Susan Kalloor
Elijah Mandwell Brooks	Adrienne Claire Gerbic	Gage Ryder Kennedy
Luke Van Owen Browning	Joseph Andrew Gerbic	Benjamin Jordan Kiley
Ethan Kien Bui	William Gary Gergely	Tanner Eugene Killen
Hayley Jane Bullock	John Alva Goffinett	Lauren Ann Kinzeler
Tyler Ray Caldwell	Samantha Grace Goodwin	Elden James Korber
Collin Thomas Campbell	Kelley Anne Griffin	Eli Robert Kosins
John Austin Chain	Piper Kate Griggs	Luke Michael Kosins
Elizabeth Christine Chiasson	Jacob Wallace Grismer	Mason James Kozee
Julia Gabrielle Clementz	Braeden Matthew Grissom	Grace Carole Krane
Alyssa Carolyn Clewley	Colten Jared Grove	Riley Kai Kravitz
Evan Wayne Crabtree	Molly Sue Hagler	Peter William Senkiw Krebs
Emily Anna Crane	Andrew William Hahn	Leanna Hope Krile
Jake Allan Cunningham	Breanna Taylor Hammel	Lakshmi Claire Kundu
Ava Belle Dalton	Olivia Mae Hangen	Carson Bradley Labensky

# Graduation: Class of 2023



## Graduation: Class of 2023

Avery Maelen Lacey  
 Bridgette Alanna Landry  
 Bennett James LaPalm  
 Keegan Ditonto Laughlin  
 Emma McKenzie Lawson  
 Dong-Han Daphne Le  
 Isaac William Lees  
 Caitlyn Grace Lensch  
 Fiona Lin  
 Laura Elizabeth Lipnitz  
 Mary Jane Zianna Little  
 Keegan Jacob Locker  
 Jay William Lockwood  
 Rianne Lynn Lopez  
 Julian Creswell Lunay  
 Simon Battese Lunay  
 Jacob John Magee  
 Camden Mitchell Maggart  
 Andrew James Magill  
 Nikhil Mall  
 Elizabeth Xian Chun Mancuso  
 Damien Jarrod Maxwell Jr.  
 Dominic Michael-Alan McAvin  
 Kaleem Cortez McDaniel  
 Rayne Aaron McKinney  
 Samuel Richard McNeely  
 Grant Michael McWilliams  
 McKenna Grace Melton  
 Teagan Joy Melton  
 Matilyn Grace Meyer  
 Alyssa Carroll Miller  
 Carson Blake Miller  
 Madilyn Rose Miller  
 Makya Lashaun Moses  
 Grace Nicole Neal  
 Blake Robert Oberding  
 Juliana Rose Packard  
 Charlize Anna Reese Painter

Kayla Marie Payne  
 Karin Adele Peterson  
 Cary Thomas Phillipson  
 Naruephorn Phueakthong  
 Dylan David Plemen  
 Eduardo Yahir Ponce-Medina  
 Luna Lawrence Post  
 Kaitlyn Elizabeth Poston  
 Rylan Jaeli Price  
 Tristan Sean Michael Price  
 Jonothan Miller Pryor  
 Rylan Gage Pugh  
 Connor Douglas Pund  
 Blair McKinley Rammel  
 James Robert Rammel  
 Madalyn Jamie Razics  
 Nathaniel Mark Richmond  
 Carl Phillip Riggs  
 Chloe Marie Ringler  
 Natalie Maria Rodenroth  
 Andrew Nicholas Rogers  
 Carmen Makayla Roland  
 Justin Daniel Roquemore  
 Erven Alexander Rucker  
 Benjamin David Russell  
 Joshua Luke Sahlbom  
 William David Sauer  
 Nathan Patrick Schulz  
 Rachel Yebin Secody  
 Amber Rose Seger  
 Sophia Irene Severit  
 Addison Maria Shahan  
 Devin Lawrence Shockley  
 Elissa Joy Shumaker  
 Kaden Christian Acain Silva  
 Brooklynn Kate Simpson  
 Aiden James Smith  
 Conor Aiden Solstice

Daniel George Songer  
 Alyssa Florence Spriggs  
 Evan Michael Steele  
 Jada Lashae Stephens  
 Mia Hien Stevens  
 Natalya Piotrowska Sutarto  
 Karin Jordan Sutterlin  
 Cherry Elizabeth Swan  
 Zane Osborne Alonzo Tarr  
 Chloe May Terrell  
 Kirsten Gene Thomas  
 Olivia Marie Trusty  
 Daniel Ray Van Schaik  
 Alexander Vincent VanScoy  
 Alanna Grace Vavao  
 Ryan Christopher Vermillion  
 Frances Alyxa Viernes  
 Samuel Caleb Vine  
 Tairyn Laneigh Vroman  
 Julia Wahl  
 Gretchen Elizabeth Pauline Waller  
 Caleb Andrew Warner  
 Reagan Deanne Webb  
 Samuel James Wellbaum  
 Gunnar Andresen West  
 Juno Sophia West  
 Keragen Justine White  
 Kinley Alexis White  
 Chase Glen Williams  
 Ayden Elijah Wise  
 Alexander Daniel Womble  
 Olivia Shayna Woods  
 Sydney Olivia Wren  
 Benton Lincoln Yoxtheimer  
 Jakob Aaron Zacharias  
 Adam Matthew Ziehler

# Graduation: Class of 2023



# Winterguard, Indoor Percussion Ensemble Celebrate Amazing Success of Winter Season

When your season ends at the University of Dayton in the world of Winterguard, you can call it a successful year.

And that's exactly what the Bellbrook Winterguard would call it.

Winterguard is a different world from other competitive endeavors. While

advanced – than what is required in the Scholastic Open class. Apo and his team were exhibiting some of the skills necessary – thus the move. And while the move was difficult, the team stepped up in a big way.

“When we were moved up, there were kids that couldn't do half the skills we were asking them to,” Apo

said. He recalled the best performance of the season coming at the Indianapolis Regional prelims, saying he was “crying his eyes out,” seeing his team perform. He also called the final performance of the season at the Dayton World Class semifinals “simply breathtaking.”

The Bellbrook IPE faced a similar road. Competing in the Mid-East Performance Association, the team also was moved up shortly after its first performance of the season.

The Bellbrook World Guard is hosting a camp for upcoming K-5 students from 6 to 8 p.m. July 10-12 at Bellbrook High School. Camp is \$60 and includes a T-shirt, as well as personalized instruction in movement, flag and weapon skills. Registration is open in Final Forms.



Bellbrook started the year in the Scholastic Open Division, the team was moved up early in the competition season to World Class – the highest competitive class – despite objection from director Sheldon Apo.

“As designers and instructors, we made the show a Scholastic Open show. We didn't think we created a World Class show,” Apo said.

In simple terms, the skills needed for World Class are different – more

said. “But they did. And they did because they had to.”

“Being amongst the Top 25 in the world is an amazing honor,” Apo said. “And we are one of the smallest teams.”

Apo said the season could be seen as nothing less than successful. And even though the team finished in the semifinals on the nation's biggest stage, it wasn't about placement.

“It's all about the experience,” Apo

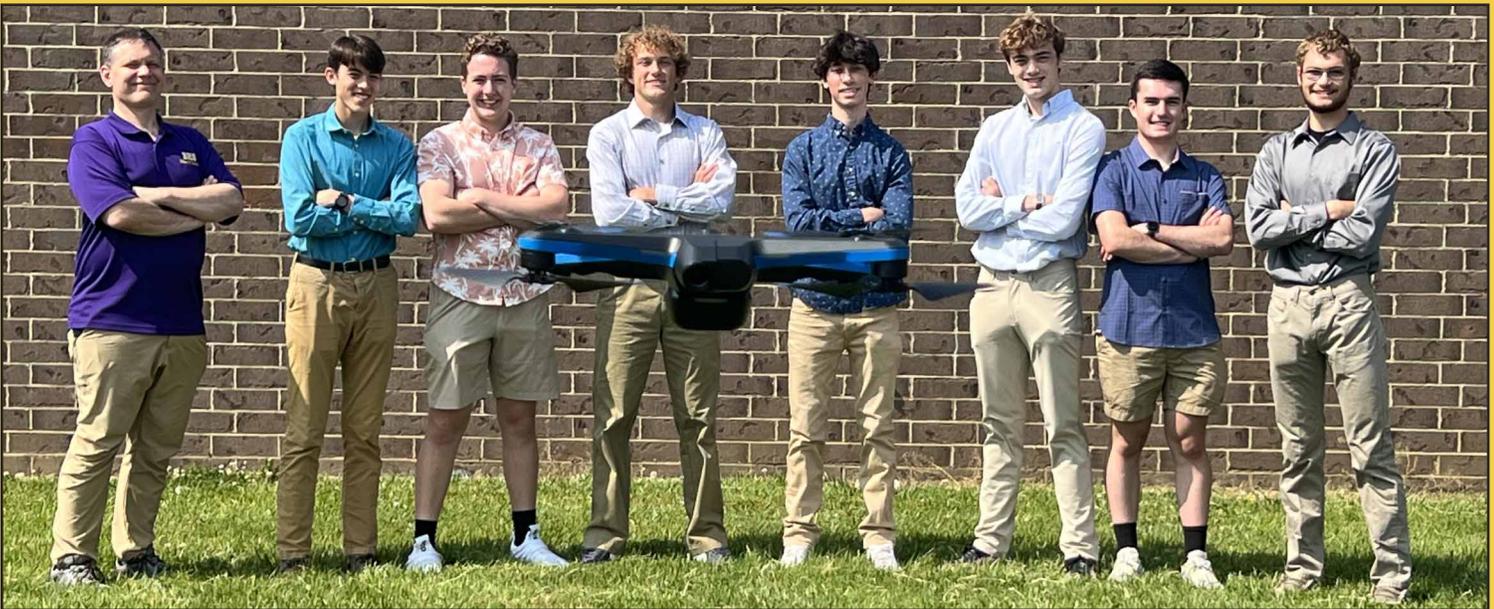
The team started the season at Scholastic A but was moved to Scholastic Open.

Andy Soloman said the first big moment of the season for the team came at the Dayton Regional when their show, entitled “The Dark Forest” won the regional.

“In that show, we received the highest score in the Nation in our class,” Solomon said. The team was performing more advanced skills and after feedback from the judges, it was clear the team needed to move up.

While that wasn't a surprise to Soloman – who gives all the credit for

**Continued on Page 15**



## Drone Team Gives Bellbrook Second National Title

For the second time in as many years, the Drones team at Bellbrook High School came away with a National Title.

This time it was the Hog Flyers who were crowned champions, extinguishing the hopes of eight other high school teams who went to compete in Denver, Colorado, the weekend of May 13-14.

And frankly, it wasn't close. The Hog Flyers were dominant, sweeping the high school division in all the subcategories (Video presentation, Portfolio and Display, Design and Engineering (tied for first), Capture-the-flag and Head-to-head), as well as the overall award.

"There is a whole other side to this, other than flying a drone," Seth Gedeon said. "There are so many different aspects."

While flying is a major part, it's just the end result of hours of work. The team doesn't scroll through Amazon for the best drone. They build it themselves, then work together to continually modify it for the best results. Some of the team members are working on videos and trying to collaborate with sponsors to get the funding they need to purchase better parts, remake their drones and go on trips to tournaments. "It's like one-third racing, and two-thirds design

process and marketing," Lead Pilot and Technician Garrett Becker said.

The real-world application of how the drone team needs to come together as a unit for success is what made being a part of the team exciting for Rylan Carper, the Project Manager, who made sure all the parts came together to make success attainable.

Zach Goodrich, the Manufacturing Engineer, spoke in high-level terms about how he was able to 3D print the drone, and even under the best of circumstances, it was still a difficult task. He also served as spotter during the races.

Of course, there were creative differences, too. Ben Roach mentioned the difference between design and functionality and doing what was best for the team.

It was a dream season from the start, following up on Monkey Brains' National Title win in 2022.

Throughout the season, they competed in three simulator races, two virtual races, and three live races. Going into the national competition, the team ranked fifth in the Nation in simulator races, first in virtual races and fourth in live races.

**Continued on Page 15**

# Fond Farewell

Thank you to the following Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools teachers and staff members who retired this year.



Susan M. Campbell, Middle School Special Education (23 yrs)



Jeffery T. Eckley, Middle School Principal (26 yrs)



Sarah E. Henderson, Stephen Bell Kindergarten (34 yrs)



Susan K. Seela, Bell Creek Intermediate 5th Grade (gifted) (25 yrs)



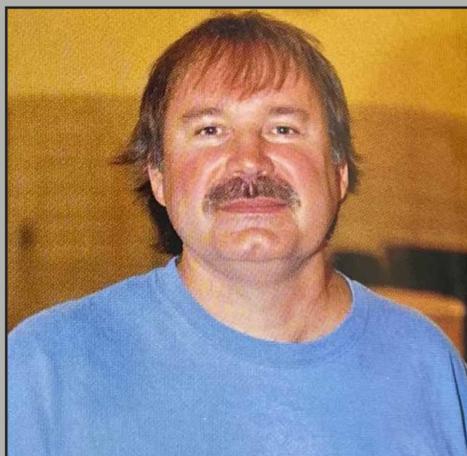
Deborah S. Sharrett, Stephen Bell Reading (33 yrs)



Alisa R. Tackett, Middle School Family/Life (29 yrs in district) (GCCC)



Lisa M. Dorn, Middle School Special Education (16 yrs)



Johnnie R. Roberts, Stephen Bell Custodian (30 yrs)



Eva L. Woeste, Stephen Bell Special Needs Assistant (22 yrs)

# Financial Facts

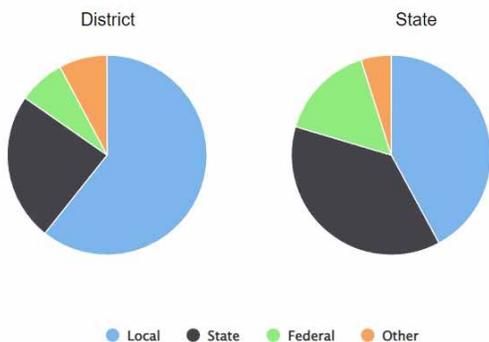
Think you know all about school finance? Well, it's confusing. So, we compiled a little list of things you might not know about the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local School District. From how we are funded, to how much we spend on each student (on average) to how many lunches we've served and how many bus routes we run. Find it all below!

- ~ In the 2021-22 school year, we received only 26% of our funding from the state. The remaining revenues are made up mostly of local property taxes, with a very small portion from federal funding and other local resources. Only two other school districts in Greene County receive less than 50% of their funding from state sources.
- ~ We are one of only two districts in Greene County that does not have an income tax for school funding purposes.
- ~ We are among the 20% of public districts with the highest student academic performance index scores, yet we are below the state average in expenditures per pupil for 2021-22 according to the Ohio Department of Education District Profile Report. (See the graph.)
- ~ Bellbrook-Sugarcreek expense per pupil – \$12,480
- ~ State district average – \$14,686
- ~ Our schools served 246,146 lunches in 2021-22.
- ~ We had 30 bus routes, which transported 1,244 students in 2021-22.

## Takeaways:

We receive a much lower-than-average portion of revenue from the state because our community's property values are higher than average. The academic performance of our students is very high while the district is very efficient with the money it spends.

Source of Funds	District		State Total	
Local	\$22,129,248	60.7%	\$10,966,307,000	42.1%
State	\$8,745,924	24.0%	\$9,772,501,000	37.5%
Federal	\$2,714,755	7.5%	\$4,036,547,300	15.5%
Other ⓘ	\$2,840,600	7.8%	\$1,275,783,700	4.9%
Total	\$36,430,527	100%	\$26,051,139,000	100.0%



# Athletics Update

## Highlights from the 2022-2023 School Year

- ~ Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Volleyball, Football, Girls Basketball and Baseball were all SWBL East Champions.
- ~ Girls Golf competed as a team for the first time in school history.
- ~ Mikuya Ford qualified for the OHSAA state cross country meet. He finished 110th.
- ~ Boys Golf was Sectional champions. CJ Scohy was the individual District tournament champion and qualified for the OHSAA state golf tournament. He finished 49th.
- ~ The Volleyball team was District runner-up.
- ~ Competition Cheerleading placed third in the OASSA State Championships.
- ~ Vincent Hummel and Landon Weiss qualified for the OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament.
- ~ Cate Lensch finished 12th at the OATCCC Indoor Track & Field State Championships in pole vault.
- ~ Mia Nazarens (finished 20th), Teagan Melton (26th and 30th) and Peter Guthrie (20th) qualified for the OHSAA State Swimming and Diving Meet.
- ~ Cary Phillipson finished 8th at the OHSAA Track & Field Championships in pole vault.
- ~ 17 Student-Athletes from the Class of 2023 have committed to play a sport in college.

## Ticket & Sports Passes for the 2023-2024 School Year (MS & HS)

- ~ Tickets & Passes will again only be available online or in the HTT Fan App.
- ~ Tickets at the gate can only be purchased with a credit card ... NO CASH
- ~ Tickets and passes will be the same price as the last couple of school years.
- ~ Passes will go on sale in the first week of August.

## Stadium Naming Rights

If your family or your business is interested in the naming rights for the stadium, please contact Superintendent, Dr. Doug Cozad or the Athletic Director, Charlie O'Dell.

## New SWBL Alignments for 2023-2024

- ~ Southwestern Division: Bellbrook, Edgewood, Franklin, Monroe, Ross
- ~ Buckeye Division: Brookville, Carlisle, Oakwood, Eaton, Valley View, Waynesville and Madison



# Middle School Piles up Awards as Changes Near

Middle school is a time of change, there's no doubt about it.

At the end of this year, there'll be a lot of change when Mr. Jeff Eckley ends his career with Bellbrook. Eckley has been the principal for the last four years after spending the previous 21 as the assistant principal.

That familiar face will no longer be associated with the school as new leadership is ushered in in the form of current assistant principal Jenna Hill and current fifth-grade teacher Scott Killen.

Hill will take the step up in leadership and Killen will as well, taking over as assistant principal.

"I think it's going to be a time of transition for everyone," Hill said. "(Eckley is one of the) staples of the school community. You'd be hard-pressed to find someone in the last 20 years who came through the school who hasn't been affected positively by Jeff. Whether he was their teacher, principal, coach, there's going to be a hole.

"But, we have an amazing staff and we will adapt to the change. Jeff leaves such an amazing legacy, as hard as it will be to go on without him in the building, he's taught us well. He is the driving force behind always doing what's best for kids and he's instilled that in all of us. We hope we will make him proud and continue to pave the way forward."

The middle school, under Eckley and Hill's leadership, proved time and time again what a positive culture the school has built, once again being awarded as an Ohio School to Watch – One of just two middle schools in the state to receive the honor in the 2022-23 school year.

"It is really nice to get that recognition for all the work the staff and the students do," BMS assistant principal Jenna Hill said.

But that wasn't the only honor the Middle School has hanging from its walls. The school once again earned the Purple Star Award. The Purple Star award signifies the willingness of the staff at Bellbrook Middle School – and the district as a whole – to do whatever it takes to make sure students of military families overcome obstacles when transitioning between school settings. Ohio's military-connected youth require supports to ensure their unique social, emotional and academic needs are met.

"The Bellbrook community has enjoyed an outstanding relationship with the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and our military personnel," Eckley said. "Being a part of the

**Continued on Page 15**

# Dominoes of Kindness Continue to Fall at Bell Creek Intermediate

It started with a few cereal boxes. They all fell over.

On a whim, as a part of Kindness Week at Bell Creek Intermediate School, staff members Sasha Taylor and Kathy Barlow decided to organize a cereal box donation.

That garnered more than 500 boxes of cereal – and an award-winning video. In the video, the boxes of cereal were lined up through Bell Creek Intermediate and Principal Donnie Phelps gave them a little push

That kindness stretches and goes farther than most can imagine. While it was a fun activity, it also fed hundreds of children in need.

It was spotting a need that led to several third graders realizing a trend on their playground; not all of their friends were able to participate.

Those students who were exceptional had a hard time getting much of anywhere, and could only really play in one place.

Day after day – that’s not the most fun way to enjoy recess for 7- to 11-year-olds.

“It was really amazing, these kids realizing they were doing

everything with their peers who have obstacles – except having recess,” Phelps said.

As part of Mrs. Cullers’ class while working through Project-Based Learning, they put together a proposal to improve their playground, making it more accessible for all. The project wasn’t just “find a problem,” but they needed to actively work to fix it. So the next step was to write a friendly letter asking for a change. That letter went to Phelps, who responded that while the project was worthwhile, the district simply couldn’t afford to



fix it. So the students would have to take it a step further.

And so they did, heading to the Lions Club Pancake Breakfast in February, and presenting an idea to the Lions Club to solicit funds to build a more inclusive playground space.

“It was amazing to see them with a seed of hope, to see that turn into something beyond their wildest dreams,” Phelps said.

They showed up, gave a presentation and showed a video pleading their case while also holding signs and speaking eloquently on behalf of their friends.

Thankfully, the Lions Club has responded with a big pledge. On May 19, a pair of Lions Club members (Gregg Sparks and Ernie Havens) showed up to share the good news that they were indeed intending on making a new playground a reality at Bell Creek. Not only for the school, but for the community as a whole.

But it was also going to take more than what the Lions Club has to offer. So the Lions will partner with the school to raise funds for the project.

A seed of hope planted by caring third graders could someday turn into enjoyment for an entire community.

Watch our social media channels and website for announcements on fundraisers regarding the Bell Creek Intermediate playground project.

to begin the domino-effect. Barlow raced through the hall with the children cheering as the boxes fell and celebration reverberated off the cream-colored block and tile walls and purple metal lockers.

Fitting Phelps push was the first domino. Because maybe it didn’t start with cereal. Maybe it started with a book. Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed. A children’s book that shows how one small good deed can lead to another, and then another. It was the book Phelps read to students to kick off Kindness Week.

# Stephen Bell Combining Kindness and Exercise with Big Results

Want healthy kids? Stephen Bell is taking plenty of steps – and jumping rope – in the right direction.

Physical Education teacher Stacy Tincher – with the help of her students – raised over \$23,000 during their Kids Heart Challenge /American Heart Challenge program. This year isn't an aberration, either. In her 23 years at Stephen Bell, students have raised just over \$300,000.

Tincher was introduced to the Kids Heart Challenge, formerly Jump Rope for Heart, while doing her student teaching at Cox Elementary in Xenia. She lost her grandmother a few years prior to a heart-related illness, so she was happy to find a way to honor the memory of her loved one.

"I have had so many family, friends and students impacted by heart-related issues during the time I've been involved with the Kids Heart Challenge, it compels me to keep supporting the American Heart Association and their efforts to save lives," Tincher said.

This year's event came with a bit of a real-world reality check, too.

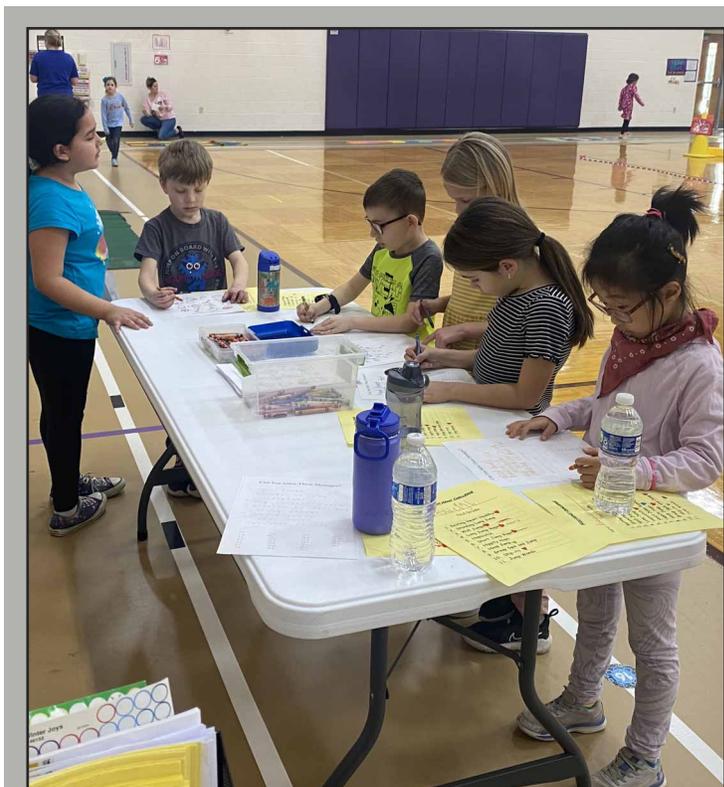
"We literally kicked off this year's event the same week (Buffalo Bills defensive back) Damar Hamlin went down on the football field (against the Bengals in January)," Tincher said. "So, we had some great discussions concerning CPR and saving a life."

And speaking of kicking off new events, thanks to the Stephen Bell Eagle Fun Run this year, the students added an extra \$21,500+ for the building's PBIS program and field trips. This will directly impact Stephen Bell students and staff in helping to keep great programs at the school.

Donations came from parents, community members and families from all over.

"We are very proud of our staff family for always coming together to support the children," Principal Ginger Keeton said. "In addition, we are so grateful to the community for continuing to contribute to such worthy causes. Our students learn valuable lessons about the giving spirit of our community and what we can accomplish by simply doing a little bit to help others. When we combine it with fun, physical activities, it's even more impactful!"

"It's events like these, and people in our district like Stacy that make a huge impact," Superintendent Doug Cozad said. "Not just in Bellbrook, but in the world around us, too. And that's really the impact we are trying to make. Raising and teaching great kids that will have an impact on the world around them."



**"We are very proud of our staff family for always coming together to support the children."**

**- Ginger Keeton, Stephen Bell Principal**



### DRONES Continued from Page 9

When they got to Nationals, none of those previous rankings mattered, because the Hog Flyers were the best of the best.

“I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of both the Hog Flyers and the Speed Demonz (Bellbrook’s other drone team),” Drones coach Dave Lambright said. “At the beginning of the school year, both teams consisted of rookies with no experience in Drones in School competitions. The students did most of their work outside of school hours. Their relentless devotion and commitment took them from rookies to national champions in a matter of months.”

Mikuya Ford, who doesn’t take engineering classes like some of his teammates, said he joined the team because he enjoyed building things. His forte, though, was in the details. Making sure everything was properly documented.

John Lefeld, whose brother Isaac was on the national title team last year, said he was the swing-man for this year’s team. Having matched his brother’s feat of winning a national title, he was sure his family could make a little space on the mantle for another trophy.

And with the entire team being comprised of juniors, it’s safe to say they might all need to do some rearranging in the trophy case.

“They are already looking forward to next year,” Lambright said. “The Hog Flyers will all be seniors during the 2023-2024 school year and are already making plans for their summer practices and possible changes in their drone design for the next season.”



## Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local School District

Follow  
Us on  
Social  
Media



Want to get the news straight from the district?



on Twitter [@BellbrookSchool](https://twitter.com/BellbrookSchool)



on Facebook [@Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools](https://www.facebook.com/Bellbrook-Sugarcreek-Schools)



on Instagram [@bellbrookschools](https://www.instagram.com/bellbrookschools)



<http://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us>



BELLBROOK-SUGARCREEK  
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

3757 UPPER BELLBROOK ROAD,  
BELLBROOK OH 45305

### MIDDLE SCHOOL Continued from Page 12

Purple Star School program helps us assist our students from military families and make the challenges of deployment and relocation more manageable. We are very proud of this designation and it is reflective of the hard work of our staff.”

While middle school is a time of change, some things, like excellence at the middle school, seem to be constant.

### GUARD/PERCUSSION Continued from Page 8

the season to Cameron Halls, who he says “makes the season happen” – he said the best part was that at the beginning of the season, up to 40% of the team is learning percussion for the first time.

“We always start with a lot of training,” Soloman said.

In the end, the team finished 23rd Nationwide in the world championship.

“I definitely thought it was a very successful season. I would guess it’s the highest we’ve finished,” Solomon said. “It was a more theatrical show and just hearing and seeing people’s reactions to it – we are really proud of the students. We feel it was a tremendously successful season.”

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools  
3757 Upper Bellbrook Road  
Bellbrook, Ohio 45305

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Dayton, OH  
Permit No. 620

**ECRWSS**  
**Postal Customer**  
**Bellbrook, Ohio 45305**

## UPCOMING DATES

- June 8** Board of Education Meeting
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 18** Father's Day
- June 19** Juneteenth
- June 30** Board of Education Meeting
- July 4** Independence Day
- July 13** Board of Education Meeting
- August 10** Board of Education Meeting
- August 14** First Day for Staff
- August 17** First Day for Students (Grades 1-12)
- August 24** Board of Education Meeting
- September 4** Labor Day (No School)
- September 14** Board of Education meeting
- September 15** No School (Teacher Professional Development)

## SIGN UP FOR SENIOR PASSES

Show your Golden Eagle Pride and show up at some games. It's FREE!

Come to the Athletic Department at the high school from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. any weekday in August with proof of address to obtain your pass

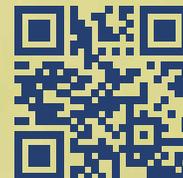


 Premier Health



## 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](https://PremierHealth.com/NewDoctor).



**REALTOR**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**THE Biedenharn GROUP**

**Comey & Shepherd**  
REALTORS

**Miranda Biedenharn**  
937-689-1013  
[mb@comey.com](mailto:mb@comey.com)