



BHS principal Dave Hann addresses the Class of 2024 at graduation.

THE BRIDGE

Summer 2024

Volume 47

Issue 4

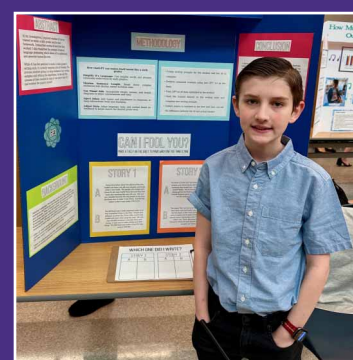
Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community since 1976

Graduation

The Bellbrook High School Class of 2024, which numbered 221, graduated on May 18. Ceremonies were held at David L. Holmes Field. **More on Page 4.**



INSIDE



Middle School Earns High Marks at State Science Days

Stephen Bell Gets First Assistant Principal



HS Drone Teams Win Third Straight National Championship

BSEF and Bell Creek Intermediate Partnership Pays Educational Dividends

Better Today than Yesterday,
Better Tomorrow than Today



SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the final edition of the Bridge for the 2023-24 school year. As we wrap up this academic year, I would like to extend a hearty congratulations to the Class of 2024. These 221 graduates have had quite the high school experience. They began their journey at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, navigating a hybrid schedule where they attended classes part-time in person and part-time virtually. Entering high school is challenging enough, but this unique situation added an extra layer of difficulty. Despite these hurdles, we are incredibly proud of the young adults they have become. Good luck to them as they embark on their next adventures, whether that be further education, the military, trade school, or entering the workforce.

We also bid farewell to our educators and staff members who are retiring this year. These 10 individuals have collectively dedicated an impressive 286 years of service to our school district. Their roles have been diverse: greeting students as bus drivers, teaching in the classroom, supporting students as an athletic director, suggesting great books in the library, and leading as principals. We extend our sincere gratitude for their dedication and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

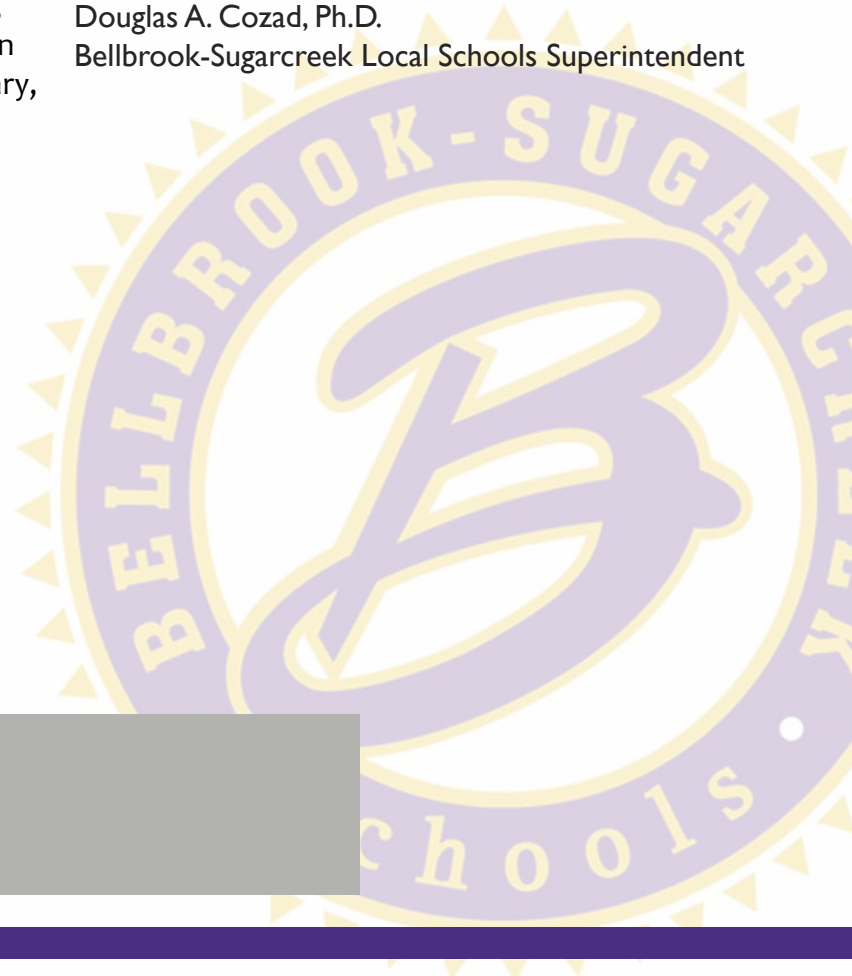
As you dive into this edition of the Bridge, summer is already in full swing. Be sure to explore the rest of the articles to learn more about the exciting happenings in our schools. We invite you to join us next year at the numerous events our students will be involved in — you WILL be impressed! I hope you take this time to reconnect with family and friends before summer slips away.



Remember, school starts on August 14, and that will be here before you know it!

Douglas A. Cozad

Douglas A. Cozad, Ph.D.
Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local Schools Superintendent



Fond Farewell

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



Tom Bean
MS Physical Education,
Former Athletic Director
28 Years



Claudia Fahrenholz
Bus Driver
26 Years



Shari Geis
Bell Creek
5th Grade Teacher
24 Years



Eileen Malas
Bell Creek
School Nurse
17 Years



Lori Metzler
Stephen Bell
2nd Grade Teacher
37 Years



Laurie Sadler
Middle School
6th Grade Teacher
25 Years



Cathi Sargent
Bell Creek
4th Grade Teacher
30 Years



Jenness Sigman
Manager of Business,
Former MS Principal
40 Years



Nancy Sumner
High School
Librarian
25 Years



Peggy Williams
Bell Creek
5th Grade Teacher
34 Years

Graduation: Class of 2024

Principal's Speech Celebrates Resiliency of Class of 2024

On May 18, 2024, Bellbrook High School gave diplomas to 221 deserving seniors during a beautiful ceremony at David L. Holmes Field.

The ceremony had several speakers including the Superintendent, Valedictorian and Salutatorian, as well as the class president.

Principal Mr. David Hann, gave his final remarks to the graduation class to kick off the ceremony, and here is a portion of his speech.

"The diplomas our seniors are about to receive symbolize years of effort, commitment, resilience and unwavering dedication. These students, alongside their teachers, have achieved so much, and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them. Seated before us are not just graduates, but leaders who have left a mark on our hallways, classrooms, ensembles, sports teams, and community and it is an honor to commemorate their accomplishments today.

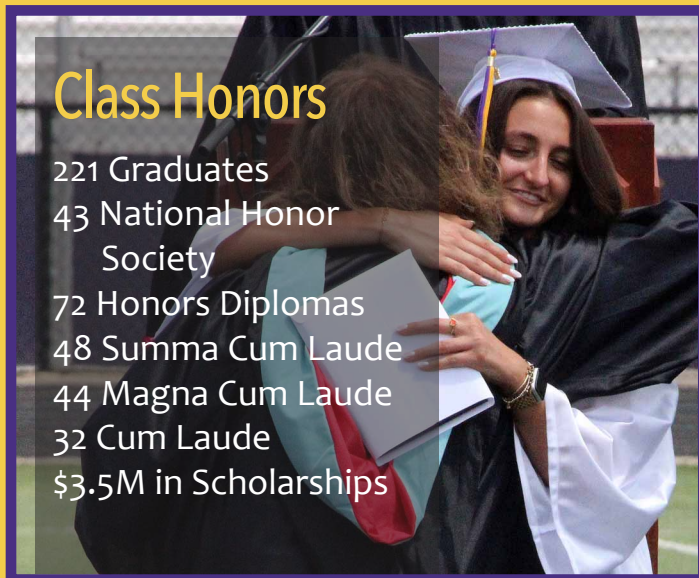
"I'd like to express my gratitude to the outstanding faculty of Bellbrook High School. Their relentless dedication to our students goes above and beyond, shaping minds and futures every day. To all our teachers, aides, counselors, administrative staff, custodians, kitchen staff, and bus drivers — from Stephen Bell to Bell Creek, from the Middle School to BHS — thank you for another exceptional year. It's the collaborative effort between our schools, students, families, and community that makes Bellbrook an extraordinary place to learn, work, and live.

"To all members of the Bellbrook High School faculty and the wider Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools community here today, I thank you. Your contributions make BHS and all our schools the vibrant educational and community hubs they are.

"Class of 2024: Every step you've taken on this journey has been supported by many — teachers, coaches, advisors, mentors and friends. But above all, it's been your families who've been your bedrock. Parents and

Class Honors

221 Graduates
43 National Honor Society
72 Honors Diplomas
48 Summa Cum Laude
44 Magna Cum Laude
32 Cum Laude
\$3.5M in Scholarships



families of our graduates, please stand and accept our heartfelt recognition for your unwavering support and encouragement.

"Class of 2024, you've conquered every obstacle that came your way — in the classroom, in competition, in our community, and within yourselves. Your resilience, positivity, and hard work serve as inspiration for us all. Take pride in your accomplishments, cherish your roots, and continue to uphold the spirit of Bellbrook wherever life takes you. It's been an absolute pleasure to watch you grow, and on behalf of our entire staff, I can say that you will be dearly missed.

"As you embark on this new chapter, know that you carry with you the hopes and dreams of a community that believes in you. May your journey be filled with endless opportunities, and may you continue to make Bellbrook proud. Remember that you are not just graduates of a school, but ambassadors of a legacy. The values you've cultivated here will serve as your compass as you navigate the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead. Embrace every experience, learn from every setback, and always strive to make a positive difference wherever you go.

"Congratulations Class of 2024! I am proud of each and every one of you."

Bellbrook High School 2024 Graduates

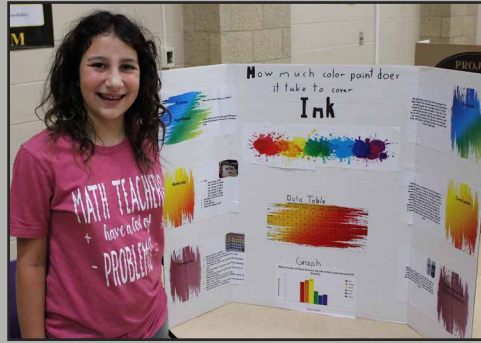
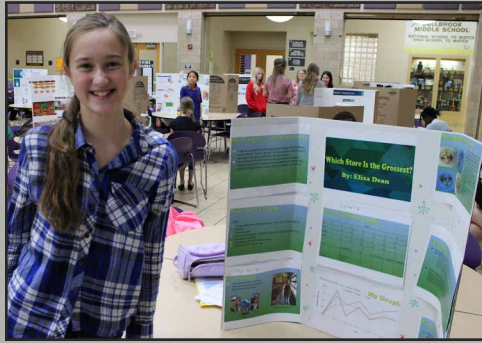
Kamil Hassan Abdalla
Kofi Domoah Aboagye
Eva Sophia Aguila
August Aiello
Addison McKenzie Alexander
Mohammad Osama Al-Halawat
Jacob Tyler Anderson
Grace Theresa Atchison
Lincon Arthur Bailey
Jack Gregory Bamford
Calissa Grace Barker
Mason Lee Bauerbach
Benjamin Matthew Bayer
Isabella Marie Bean
Adam David Beane
Garrett James Becker
Cassandra Nicole Beidelschies
Luke James Benetis
Addison Sariah Bernkopf
Daniel Robert Betts
Makayla Lynn Bickel
Emma Victoria Bilen
Audrey Nicole Blackburn
Dylan Michael Blanken
Ten Rhian Bottemiller
Paige Elizabeth Bourquin
Maya Jaymes Brink
Anyah Lynette Brooks
Sydney Elizabeth Burchfield
Walter Jefferson CJ Cain V
Rylan Scott Carper
Andrew John Chiasson
Carter Alan Colfack
Michaela Patricia Ann Cook
Andrew Allen Cozad
Daryn Alexander Lee Cross
Savannah Rose Cruea
Dillon Matthew Dabe
Sophie Michelle Dagnall
Evelyn Lenora Dahlinghaus
Reagan Marie Dailey
Yaa Pokuah Danquah
Hunter Valentine Dean
Clayton Matthew Denton
John Bernard Deszcz V
Nathan Michael Doré
Lindsay Kay Dowty
Victoria Elise Dreischarf
Isabella Maria Dyer
Nolan William Ebel
Ava Paige Eldridge
Zainab Imad Elgihani
Nicholas Maxwell Ernst
Sophia Nichole Falzerano
Avery Elizabeth Filburn

Jacqueline Deonna Finch
Conner Jared Flippo
Alexander Scott Florea
Lyangie Marie Fontanet Zayas
Mikuya Arthur Ford
Reid Benjamin Forshee
Cortney Janell Frank
Layla Jo Fugate
Brealyn Emily Fuls
Carson Joseph Gaines
Courtney Ann Gaines
Leonardo Andres Garcia
Ethan Henry Garrett
Seth Benjamin Gedeon
Ella Marie Glover
Connor Kelly Gohmann
C. Zachary Goodrich
Sofie Isabel Goodrich
Erianna La'Nae Graham
Rylee Marie Gregory
Sunil Rai Gupta
Jayden Allen Gurton-Russell
Natalia Ann Hairston
Isabella Marie Hall
Ella Grace Hamilton
Reagan Alyssa Hammond
Mason Theodore Hanner
Maya Grace Haught
Hunter Gary Heflin
Kameron Kyra Heft
Madeline Nicole Heidler
Entegra Alexandra Heiner
Evan Ryan Henderson
Samuel James Henderson
Mackenzie Marie Holton
Mallory Marie Horvath
Sonya Kittrell Horvath
Demitra Fiore Violet Hotz
Ella Rose Howard
Emma Elizabeth Howard
Charlotte Claire Howell
Safa Kazi Islam
Kylie Renae Jennings
Cloe Nicole Keeton
Grace Ann Kelly
Jasmine Sky Kennedy
Kylie Jane Kenny
Emma Loren Koogler
Addison Nicole Kosins
Emma Lee Kosins
Cody William Koverman
Matteo Henry Krivitzky
Arthur Brian Kronenberger
Dhevin Mohan Kundu
Kaitlyn Nicole Kwik

Isabella Marie Lacy
Jonathan Caleb Larson
John Thomas Lefeld
Emma Marie Littleton
James F Liu
Jake Alan Lopez
Declan Michael Maloney
Simon Peter Marasco
Katherine Lorelei Martin
Brennan Michael McClurg
Jordan Olivia Meadows
Leonora Kathleen Melton
Colin Everett Metzler II
Alayna Lynn Meyer
Nelly Jatxiry Millan Villarreal
Ava Lynn Miller
Brayden Mitchel Moore
Matthew Dixon Moore
Reagan Marie Morrow
Brandon Michael Moses
Logan Chayce Mazingo
Imani Mugisha
Ethan Barry Newell
Gary Joseph Nicholson
Logan Michael Nugent
Landon James O'Brien
Reagen Kathleen O'Brien
Sophia Gabriella Ocampo
Angel Chimaobi Okechukwu-Ozor
Charles Ryan Olds
Humphrey Chibuike Ozoude
Griffin Walker Palcic
Harrison Timothy Panstingel
Justinian Thomas Paul
Samantha Marie Pavlak
Alyssa Jade Peh
Alyssa Michelle Pernush
Jake Diesel Perraut
Corey David Peters
Wesley Brice Peters
Zachary James Piel
Alexander Clay Pittman
Raenna Elizabeth Place
Megan Renee Pollack
Scott Thomas Porter
Harmony Raquel Poteet
Melody Gabrielle Poteet
Kaylor Mae Price
Connor Douglas Puckett
Halle Paige Pugh
Benjamin Linwood Pursel
Rachel Raber
Nicholas Andrew Rado
Aaron Dean Rice
Kayla Grace Richards

Benjamin Charles Roach
Parker Edward Samborsky
Micah Lucas Sanders-Johnson
Ayden Lee Sanford
Lily Anne Schindler
Anyia Katrina Schrumpf
Taylor Alexis Scohy
Olivia Carolyn Prema Selvaraj
Sarah Nicole Sendelbach
Morgan Elizabeth Sessler
Maryann Elizabeth Shanks
Patrick Michael Shannon
Zachary Tobe Shore
Khalid Mohammad Shraim
Ethan William Sickels
Logan James Siler
Ethan James Acain Silva
Cole Edward Sisco
Amelia Brynn Smith
Ethan Colton Smith
Paul William Smith
Kellen Bernard Solomon
Ava Louise Spirk
Cameron Ray Stacy
Alexander Allyn Stapleton
Haley Marie Steffe
Isabella Leigh Stone
Maddix Taylor Stotts
Johnathon Aiden Stubbs
Annaleese Emma Theodor
Jacob Scott Umina
Camryn Elizabeth Valley
Bella Raine Vaughn
Joshua Thomas Vawter
Ellie Rose Warner
Max Geoffrey Warner
Jared Alvin Warren
Lincoln Edward Warren
Landen Elek Weiss
Alivea Beverly West
Jaeden Micah Wheatley
Karsen Amelia White
Liv Josephine Whitlock
Allie Lennea Wildenhaus
Luke Gabriel Wilson
Adasyn Cate Windsor
Spencer Louis Winkler
Lorelai Rose Wolverton
Lauren Glenn Wysong
Hanqi Ye
Dakota Michael Yeagley
Carter James Yount





Bellbrook Middle School Earns High Marks at State Science Days

Four students represented Bellbrook Middle School at this year's Ohio Academy of Science Days held in April.

Kelsey Bisignani, Eliza Dean, Cristian Schrock and Carter Walters shared their projects at the District level while Dean and Schrock went on to earn high marks at the state Science Days.

The middle school, which has won the Governor's Award for 27 consecutive years for its work in STEM, was primed for the competition this year as three of the four participants had projects they created for their Science and Engineering Showcase, held in late October.

Schrock's project had a personal interest flare, as he explored his passion for angling ... and angles. The question he tried to solve was, "What's the best angle to cast a fishing rod for distance?"

Part of Schrock's project was to create a prototype that used the same fishing pole to find the different release angles to see which one would help him cast his bait the farthest distance.

Schrock earned a Superior Rating at

both the District and State Science days.

"Participating in state science day was a full experience, from developing my project and presentation in the fall to participating in district and state science days later in the year," Schrock said. "State science day was a day I won't forget. Touring the university campus and seeing archeological exhibits, as well as seeing what other students came up with. Science is life!"

Dean (7th grade) put together her project entitled: "Which Store is the Cleanest?" She swabbed shopping cart handles from local stores to see which one grew the most bacteria.

She received a Superior rating for her project at the District level, and went on to state where she received an Excellent rating.

"It was a fun experience because I was able to see projects from other schools," Dean said. "I really enjoy science, and it was interesting getting to use the science I learned in school outside of the classroom."

"As a science teacher, we encourage

our students to ask questions and find solutions and to fail forward," Bellbrook Middle School teacher Emily Cline said. "It's inspiring to see them come up with these questions and then come up with the process to find the solutions."

Bisignani's project was entitled "How much color paint does it take to cover ink," which received an Excellent Rating.

"We are always so impressed with how well our students do at our BMS showcase and beyond," Bellbrook Middle School principal Jenna Hil said. "Their success speaks to the continued collaboration between parents and teachers and our community's support for our schools. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science teachers always do a great job with inquiry and project-based learning to make science come alive!"

Walters, a sixth grader, didn't present during the October Science and Engineering Showcase. Instead, he created his project specifically for the competition. His project was titled, "Can AI be trained to mimic a sixth grader to do a sixth grader's homework."

BSEF's Strong Partnership With Bell Creek Intermediate Pays Educational Dividends

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation has done wonderful work over the years supporting district students and staff in their educational endeavors.

During the 2023-24 school year, Bell Creek was the beneficiary of at least four contributions that brought joy and big educational experiences to the students at the district's intermediate school.

Several of those events brought visitors to the district including author Sarah Weeks and scientist Bill Richey. Other grants helped build gardens in the courtyard and fund a well-attended chess club.

"Educators everywhere are generous people," BCI principal Donnie Phelps said. "They reach into their own pockets to support kids. But some efforts are bigger than that. We are fortunate we have a foundation we can turn to for more elaborate learning experiences that helps stretch learning beyond Chromebooks and classrooms."

In total, the BSEF contributed more than \$3,200 to Bell Creek Intermediate alone, and helped with funding of more than \$11K in projects district-wide.

The chess club at Bell Creek was brought back after a nearly decade-long hiatus as Scott Anderson, Keaton Ott and Patrick Barker invited fourth and fifth graders to join the club.



While the trio expected some interest, 64 students showed up to join the Wednesday morning chess coterie.

The interest was so great, the club didn't have enough chess boards, chess sets or clocks to run the club effectively. So the club turned to the BSEF for help through a grant

"Through the generosity of BSEF, we were able to secure funding to purchase enough boards/sets/clocks to run a club of nearly 100 students," Anderson said. "It was a great blessing to BCI and its chess club and will allow us to continue to help our students learn more about the wonderful game of chess for many years to come!"

Bill Richey came and wowed the crowd with science experiments during the school year as well. Richey, a former Xenia school teacher, works

with students to show them the fun side of science with an impressive show.

"He makes learning about science FUN," assembly organizer and fourth grade teacher Shelley Smith said. "I applied for the grant through BSEF because I know they want to use funds to provide learning opportunities to as many kids as possible. By having an assembly for the entire school, it allowed every BCI student to see science experiments in a creative way. I sincerely appreciate BSEF providing these funds that allow for such engaging learning experiences."

Author Sarah Weeks also visited with the entire school, but in a different way. In an effort for students to ask more questions and have a more intimate setting with Weeks, it was broken up by grade level as a virtual visit.

BCI Librarian Kim Hanson said she spent hours on the phone with Weeks setting up the talks. Each grade level grabbed a spot on the floor in the gym and Weeks was projected on the screen for an interactive talk with the students. She showed off some of her many books and spoke to them about the process of being an author and what she goes through to write a book.

They chose Weeks to present to the

Continued on Page 15

Stephen Bell gets its First Assistant Principal

Heather Hebrank is not unfamiliar with a position of leadership. She was the coach of the Bellbrook High School softball team for a number of years before stepping away this season.

Stepping into next school year, she'll slide her feet back into a leadership position, but she'll do it without the cleats – and hopefully a lot less dirt. Hebrank will become the first-ever assistant principal in the history of Stephen Bell Elementary this fall, filling a much-needed role in the building while assisting principal Ginger Keeton.

"She is naturally fitting in already," Keeton said. "What I love the most about Heather is that she is full of action. She works as hard as anyone. She shows up. I don't even have to ask her, she's already doing it. That means a lot.

"She's already assuming the assistant principal role. She's volunteering her time and learning side-by-side with me all of June so she's ready to be that dynamic duo partner with me. She's had a front-row seat to what it's like to be a leader at Stephen Bell."

Hebrank earned her Educational



Leadership Masters Degree in 2010 and since then has been biding her time waiting for a role that didn't mean she had to leave a place she's grown to love.

This will be Hebrank's 8th year in the district. The new administrator has been in the classroom all 17 years of her career, teaching kindergarten through third grade. She lives in Bellbrook with her husband and two children.

"When I came to Bellbrook Schools, I fell in love with this place. Stephen Bell – Wow. I can't begin to tell you how special this place is," Hebrank said. "I had my administration license, but I didn't want to leave, so when this position popped up, it was so attractive. I'm so excited to even be considered for such a great assignment."

One of the reasons Hebrank didn't want to leave Stephen Bell –

besides familiarity and family – is the way the staff interacts with one another.

"We work together so well, we are a true family," Hebrank said. "I mean, truly, when Ginger says we are a staff family, that's really how we carry ourselves and what it means. We really take care of people and do a great job here."

While Keeton has led Stephen Bell for 17 years, it now becomes led by two women – the only school in the district with that distinction.

Women have led various schools in the district as principals. Currently, Jenna Hill is the Middle School principal and several years before her it was Jenness Sigman, with Jeff Eckley serving as assistant principal. Jill Adams led Bell Creek Intermediate for four years, but she never had an assistant

Continued on Page 15



High School Drones Teams Claim Third Consecutive National Title

The Hog Flyers swept almost all the subcategories to win the Drones in Schools National Championship in May during a trip to San Diego, California.

The Hog Flyers won head-to-head racing, the Capture the Flag event, the high school marketing video, high school portfolio and display, and design and engineering. The only category they didn't win was the Judges' Choice Award.

The team was much the same as last year with Rylan Carper, Garrett Becker, Mikuya Ford, Seth Gedeon, Zach Goodrich, Charlie Olds, Ben Roach and John Lefeld returning.

While it was the third-straight National Championship for Bellbrook High School, it was the second consecutive National Title for the Hog Flyers. All of the Hog Flyers will be attending various universities next year in engineering and STEM-related fields.

"One of the most intense moments of the competition was when the Hog Flyers (pilots Rylan Carper and Garrett Becker) tied with Full Throttle (pilots Darius Gainer and Connor Spriggs) in the capture-the-flag competition," coach Dave Lambright said. "These two Bellbrook teams engaged in a sudden death tiebreaker and the Hog Flyers were able to outfly Full Throttle by mere fractions of a second."

Full Throttle earned second in all of the subcategories except head-to-head flying, where they earned third. Members of that team included Gainer, Spriggs, Zachary



"One of the most intense moments of the competition was when the Hog Flyers (pilots Rylan Carper and Garrett Becker) tied with Full Throttle (pilots Darius Gainer and Connor Spriggs) in the capture-the-flag competition. These two Bellbrook teams engaged in a sudden death tiebreaker and the Hog Flyers were able to outfly Full Throttle by mere fractions of a second."

Coach Dave Lambright

Hansen, Andrew Bruckart, Hayden Fisher, Connor Payne and Olin Eppers.

A third team, the Speed Demonz, also had an impressive showing at Nationals.

Lambright said one of their highlights was a tortoise vs. hare head-to-head competition between the Speed

Continued on Page 14

District News in *B*riefs

BHS Climbs to 43rd Best High School in State

Bellbrook High School was once again awarded for its high academic achievement by U.S. News and World Report, climbing 10 spots from last year's ranking, all the way to 43rd.

BHS climbed more than 400 spots in the national rankings, making its way to 1,040th.



The overall score awarded to the high school from the prestigious magazine and website, was a 94.11. It also ranked Bellbrook High School as the second best in the Dayton metro area.

Bellbrook High School was ranked as the 53rd best public high school in the state out of the 741 that were ranked last year, and also finished in the top 6 percent in the nation, ranking 1,463 out of nearly 25,000 high schools.

BCI Earns Purple Star Qualification

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce announced that 171 Ohio schools received Purple Star designations in the class of 2024, with Bell Creek Intermediate being one of them.

While some schools on the list are first-time recipients, Bell Creek received a renewal of the designation. Schools are considered for renewal every three years and each of the District's buildings have held the designation for quite some time.



The Purple Star Award recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Schools that earn the award receive a special Purple Star recognition to display on site.

High School Gets New Assistant Principal

With the departure of Todd Whalen as one of the assistant principals at Bellbrook High School, the board approved

Barry Limon as his replacement during the April 24 Board of Education meeting.

Limon has spent five years in administration, most recently as the principal at New Miami High School.



"I am excited and humbled to be joining Bellbrook High School administration team and being part of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek school district," Limon said. "I am really looking forward to working with the students and staff and getting to know people in the community."

Culler Named Sugar Maple Festival Teacher of the Year

Third grade teacher Mrs. Jill Culler was named the Sugar Maple Festival teacher of the year in April, as voted by a large number of Bellbrook families.



Culler has been heavily involved with making EagleLand 2 become a reality, starting with a group of children finding a problem and presenting a solution. Culler was presented the award during her class by Bell Creek Intermediate Principal Donnie Phelps as the announcement was broadcast to the entire school.

Geis Given Hometown Hero Award

Bellbrook Middle School art teacher Allyson Geis was awarded with the Hometown Hero award during the Sugar Maple Festival in April.



Geis grew up in Bellbrook, married her high school sweetheart and has made a life teaching here, too. She is active in her church, where she serves in the marriage ministry, the parenting ministry, within the children's program and is a member of the High School and Middle School theater departments. Geis received the award during the presentation at the Sugar Maple Festival

Middle School Debuts 2 New Songs

The Bellbrook Middle School 7th and 8th grade bands debuted two new songs in May, thanks to a consortium agreement.

Because of the agreement, Bellbrook bands have access to music that hasn't yet been played in public, and the middle school was part of a world premiere for the songs

"Scream" and "Stay," both of which deal with mental health. Both songs are part of the unBroken project.

According to composer Randall Standridge, "the unBroken project began with the composition of unBroken. The work was my first to deal with mental health struggles, and inspired by its reception, I have created a series of works ... to use as conversational starting points for these issues."



Seventh grade band director Andy Soloman said that "Scream" is "about living in the moment and when you do, finding that the moment passes and there is a brighter side on the other end of it."

AFJROTC Receives Distinguished Unit Award



The Bellbrook High School AFJROTC received a Distinguished Unit Award for its community service work this past year.

The BHS unit was one of 244 units across the country to earn the award as they racked up nearly 1,600 community service hours between April of 2023 and 2024.

All cadets will receive a ribbon for the accomplishment and the program will receive a streamer to put in its display case.

Across the country, more than 1.3 million community service hours were put in from all the JROTC organizations.

The award requires 12 service hours per cadet to be worked, but the BHS squad worked an average of 21.31 hours each.

Two Middle Schoolers Break Track and Field Records

Two Bellbrook Middle Schoolers broke track records this season, one of them longstanding, and one who broke her own record from last year.

Jemia Wheaton broke the shot put record with a throw of 35-foot-2.25 inches, besting the old record of 33-feet, 9-inches, set in 1976 by Brenda Bargo. Wheaton broke the record during a dual meet with Valley View on May 2.

Raegan Arndt broke her own record in the pole vault, topping the one she set last year as a seventh grader. Arndt cleared 9-feet 6-inches this year at the Southwestern Buckeye League championship on May 4. That topped where she set the bar at 9-feet as a seventh grader.

Raegan went on to place eighth at the OHSAA 7th and 8th grade championships on May 11. The top 24 in the state are invited to compete. Teammate Bella Jiovani joined her at the state meet and finished 12th.

Two Lax Players Set Single-Game Goals Records

While the OHSAA recognized varsity girls lacrosse program is only a few years old at Bellbrook, junior Ava Praeter already wrote her name into the record books.



The midfielder scored an impressive nine goals in a single game against Miamisburg when the Eagles decimated the Vikings, 18-8 on March 21. That nine bested the total set by Bella Vaughn last year when she netted eight.

The junior is already committed to play for the UMass-Lowell Riverhawks.



On the boys side, Junior Gavin McConnell scored 10 goals in a game in early April, besting the record of current assistant coach Zach Chew. That record lasted 10 years.

The 10 goals came in an 18-2 win over Summit Country Day.

BHS Spring Sports Recap



Boys Lacrosse Wins Regional Championship

Boys Lacrosse

The state competition was a great final stop for the Eagles this season, as Bellbrook took a tough loss against eventual state champion St. Francis DeSales in the Division II state semifinals.

But the season as a whole was nothing short of successful, as the Eagles finished 13-4.

Logan Mozingo was the team's leader in goals with 45. Gavin McConnell was second with 42. McConnell set the single-game record with 10 goals in a game earlier this season. Carter Colfack was next on the team with 34.

"The story of the season was really what we did in the last few weeks," Bellbrook coach Vince Molseed said. "The kids really came together. It was our last loss at Mariemont. We didn't play well. They made us look bad. The kids were frustrated. The coaches were frustrated. No one was taking personal accountability for how we were playing. We had a lot of conversations about picking each other up.

"If someone makes a mistake, we don't yell at them. We have to just dig in and do a bit more. Everyone gives a bit more. One of the things I told them is that if we have 25 guys working together, we can't lose. That gave us a sense of togetherness and we dialed it in. We worked together and that's what's gotten us through some games – they've been tough."

Baseball

The Eagles (19-10, 4-4 in the SWBL) had a strong season, ending in the district finals with a 5-0 loss to Indian Hill.

Tyler Raker led the team offensively with a .372 batting average, a .456 on base percentage, three triples, three doubles, two homers and 23 RBI. Luke Benetis led the team on the hill with a 7-2 record and 57 innings pitched. He struck out 62 batters and had a 1.59 earned run average.

Paul Smith (Otterbein University), Ben Bayer (Ohio Wesleyan University), and Dakota Yeagley (Clark State CC) will be playing baseball at the next level. Luke Benetis is going to University of the Cumberlands to play football, but may also try to play baseball.

Benetis was first team SWBL and all-area and Raker was second team SWBL and all-area. Johnny Deszcz was first team SWBL and honorable mention all area and Yeagley was second team SWBL. Will Dreisbach was honorable mention SWBL.

"We were a young team that had success due to the strong leadership of our senior class (Benetis, Deszcz, Smith, Yeagley and Bayer)," coach Jon Venters said. "We had multiple freshmen and sophomores play significant innings on varsity that will set us up for future success. We won our first sectional title since 2015. We played an extremely difficult schedule against bigger schools with eight of our 10 losses coming to DI opponents."

Girls Lacrosse

With a 15-3 overall record, including a win in the tournament, the Eagles had a spectacular season that included a bevy of career and personal milestones.

Ava Praeter and Bella Vaughn each scored their 100th goal this season while Kaitlyn Kwik reached the 100 point plateau.

Praeter and Lily Westwood were named all-Region first team and Ashley Filburn was honorable mention. Coach Sarah Woll was the co-Coach of the Year.

"Overall this season was a true team effort," Woll said. "My assistant Tyler Stewart is an invaluable piece of our team."

Softball

The softball team finished a tough season with a few bright spots, being led by some younger talent and setting the team up for the future.

Freshman Kelsey Kenney led the team in hitting with a .427 batting average, collecting 23 hits and scoring 18 runs. Heidi Pummell had a .322 batting average with seven doubles, a triple and a homer, while driving in 18. Mallory Horvath had 15 hits and scored 14 runs. She also drove in nine with a .319 batting average.

Junior Chasidy Stewart was one of the leaders at the plate and on the slab, throwing 119 innings for a 4.34 ERA. She struck out 65 batters. At the plate she hit .339 with 12 RBI, five doubles and a homer.

Tennis

The boys tennis team was led by first singles player Jonah Grismer. Grismer was the second seed in the sectional and qualified for the district tournament. He also was named the SWBL Player of the Year.

Coach Mili Layrisse said that all of her singles players were phenomenal throughout the year, winning all their league matches. Alexander Howell and Luke Williams were the other singles players.

The team finished second in the Southwestern Buckeye League.

“It was a great season,” Layrisse said. “Everyone did their best all season long. We played 14 matches because of the rain. We are looking forward to next year. We have a lot of youth coming back.”

Track and Field

The boys track team came home as SWBL champions by four points at the end of the season with the 3,200 relay and the 1,600 relay teams taking the titles. Connor Spriggs won the pole vault, Ben Roach won the shot put, Lincoln Warren won the discus, Zac Hanson won the 110 hurdles and Josiah Hamilton won the 300 hurdles.

Roach and Spriggs both qualified for the regional competition and Spriggs finished sixth.

During the season, the boys 1,600 relay team and the shuttle hurdles team each set school records.

The girls team finished second in the SWBL this season by a single point as the 3,200 relay and the 400 relay teams won titles as did Tori Dreischarf in the discus. Lorelai Wolverton qualified for the regional in the high jump and Allison High made it to regional in the 3,200.

Grace Atchison broke the school record in the hammer throw.

“We had a fun season,” coach Chad Beck said. “Our kids were incredibly close-knit. It was great to watch our team culture really improve the last two seasons. More kids stayed for the meet, supported each other, rode the bus home, and belted out the Fight Song when arriving back to the school.”



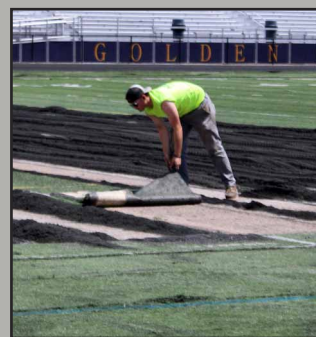
Sign of the Times

Bellbrook was one of the first stadiums in the area to have turf 16 years ago. And thanks to our wonderful maintenance staff, the field has outlived its predicted 10-12 years and survived 50% longer than expected.

Now it's time for a replacement. Using permanent improvement funds, the stadium is getting a major upgrade with a new turf and a new track, installed by the MOTZ group, who is one of the leaders in field turf installation.

Construction began on the stadium May 28 and is slated to be done soon. **The district will host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to open the track from 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

August 5. Bring your dinner out to the stadium, kick or throw the ball around, or walk or run a few laps! Look out for more details and get a chance to come out and have some fun on the field.



DRONES Continued from Page 9

Demonz and a highly-skilled team who had to land several times during the race to fix their drone.

Pilot Xander Howell was able to fly slow and steady and beat the quicker Burrito Bandits. The Speed Demonz team consisted of Katherine Pryor, Erin Secody, Tyler Feix, Rithik Mall and Howell.

Next year, Bellbrook will have four Drones in Schools teams, including the return of Full Throttle and the Speed Demonz and the formation of two new teams.

To watch the marketing video by the Hog Flyers, go here, <https://bit.ly/BHSdronemkt24> or scan the QR Code.



Scan me

EAGLELAND 2



AUGUST 10, 2024
THE LIONS CLUB
5K TO PLAY

5K RUN/WALK

\$30



8 AM: REGISTRATION | 8:45: ROLL & STROLL FUN RUN | 9: START

START/ENDS AT BELL CREEK INTERMEDIATE

Come support our playground project to make EagleLand 2 accessible for all. Started by a group of third graders, your donation to run will bring us closer to completing this awe-inspiring project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://bit.ly/5k2play>

Cost is \$30 before July 28, and \$35 after.
 Price includes race, T-shirt and awards.
 After July 28, T-shirts are not guaranteed.



BELLBROOK MUSIC

We hope you enjoyed the shows!

Save the date for next school year's performances:

*The Middle School Musical will be Nov. 7-9
 and the play will be March 7-8.*

*The High School fall play will be Nov. 21-23
 and the musical will be May 1-3.*



BSEF/BCI Continued from Page 7

school because Hanson, Smith and Debbie Bobick, as part of the BCI Book Committee, picked her book, "Save Me a Seat" for the entire school to read together as a read-aloud project the year prior. That made Hanson research more activities they could do as part of the read-aloud and ultimately brought her to the BSEF where the foundation split the cost of Weeks' visit.

"The rest of the year students talked about her visit," Hanson said. "I couldn't keep any of her books on the shelf after that. Overall, it was an amazing experience. To take a book they love and see the author behind it – creatively, it inspired them to read more books from her."

Another of the projects was building sensory gardens in the courtyard. Greene County Career Center students from the Natural Resource Technology classes came to BCI to speak with third graders about the different steps it takes to build a garden.

The GCCC students tested soil, discussed light and the five

senses, the water cycle, and more.

"We went over the summer to look at gardens, then it was a matter of putting things together," third grade teacher Julia Jones said. "We asked for raised beds, a composter, tools and soil. We didn't get to hit the ground running, though. We got pushed back because of the ducks."

Each year, beyond anyone's control, the Bell Creek Intermediate courtyard is commandeered by a family of ducks. Once they hatch and make their way out of the courtyard, then the beds could be built and set up.

"It's open to any grade level that can contribute to it," Jones said. "There are so many science standards that can be taught to what's going on out there. It's such a nice space. Third grade has a plant-life cycle so it's perfect for them."

Thanks to the BSEF's partnership with BCI, the educational standards can keep growing at the intermediate level.

HEBRANK Continued from Page 8

principal.

"I'm so used to having to do the job myself, it's just shocking I have help," Keeton said with a laugh. "I was jumping up and down with joy – 'the cavalry has come.' Just to have another pair of hands to help is huge. Heather is a full participant and I'm reenergized and incredibly grateful and so passionate that we are going to be able to take Stephen Bell to greater success and help students with their growth.

"I'm just elated to be able to teach someone else who

wants to be a principal. The thought of retirement is on the table so I can pass on the knowledge to someone I know who loves Stephen Bell just as much as I do."

Hebrank said the two have been collaborating closely already thanks to an Internship project the new assistant principal has been working on.

"Something specifically we've been looking at are some behavior strategies to help our building," Hebrank said. "But we are also looking ahead at Kindergarten orientation next year. Just some exciting new things we can bring to our building, and just learning ways I can help (Keeton) and I can help the families in this building."



Follow Us on Social Media

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local School District

Want to get the news straight from us?



on X and Threads @BellbrookSchool



on Spotify: The Eagle Eggs Podcast



on Instagram @bellbrookschools



on Facebook @Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools



BELLBROOK-SUGARCREEK LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 3757 UPPER BELLBROOK ROAD, BELLBROOK OH 45305



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

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 28 Board of Education Meeting
July 8-10 Softball Camp
July 11 Board of Education Meeting
July 15-17 Soccer Camp
July 22-24 Volleyball Camp
July 22-23 Cheerleading Camp
July 29-Aug. 1 Cross Country Camp
Aug. 8 Board of Education Meeting
Aug. 10 5K to Play
Aug. 12 BHS Open House
Aug. 13 Stephen Bell Meet and Greet
Aug. 14 First Day for Students
Aug. 19 Middle School Open House
Aug. 21 Athletic Boosters Meeting
Aug. 22 Board of Education Meeting
Sept. 2 No School, Labor Day
Sept. 9 Music Boosters Meeting
Sept. 10 PTO Meeting
Sept. 12 Board of Education Meeting
Sept. 13 No School, Teacher PD
Sept. 18 Athletic Boosters Meeting
Oct. 7 Music Boosters Meeting
Oct. 8 PTO Meeting

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

Bellbrook Football Alumni Association
Kick-Off Dinner and Golden Eagle
Gridiron Greats Induction
July 27 - SVGC @ 6 p.m.

Contact Brad Combs (Combs106@gmail.com) or Jeff Jenkins (jeff.jenkins@bss.k12.oh.us) for sponsorship opportunities & tickets

 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.

