



Picture from 2019-20 Quality Profile

THE BRIDGE

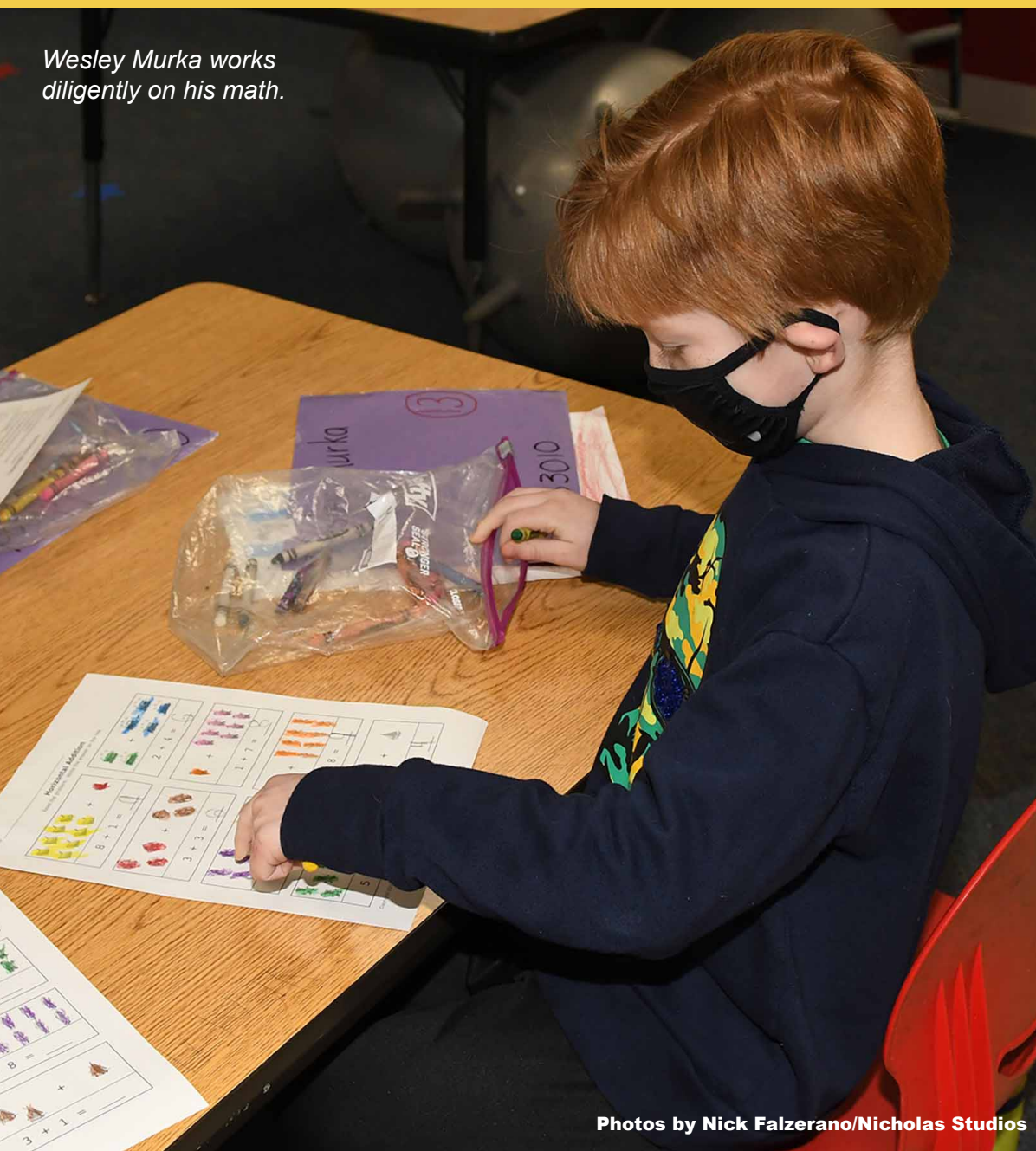
Spring 2021

Volume 44

Issue 3

Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek communities since 1976

*Wesley Murka works
diligently on his math.*



Photos by Nick Falzerano/Nicholas Studios

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Picture from 2019-20 Quality Profile

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

Dear District Residents,

Can you believe that we have three quarters down and are heading to the end of the school year? As I have talked with parents and staff, many have had similar thoughts as me...it seems like this year has gone so fast, yet seems like it has been going on forever! Highlighted on the front page of this Bridge is Wesley Murka working on math in his classroom at Stephen Bell. We have been extremely pleased that we have held in-person classes this entire school year. I know that has not been the case in many schools around the area, state, and nation. I am also very pleased with our students academic success this year. We give an in-district standardized test called MAP for grades K-10 in math and reading. Overall our students' scores are similar to our past scores. We will continue to work, as we have always done in the past, with those needing extra support and intervention. Thanks to our staff, students, families, and community for pulling together and everyone doing their part to keep our students on track!

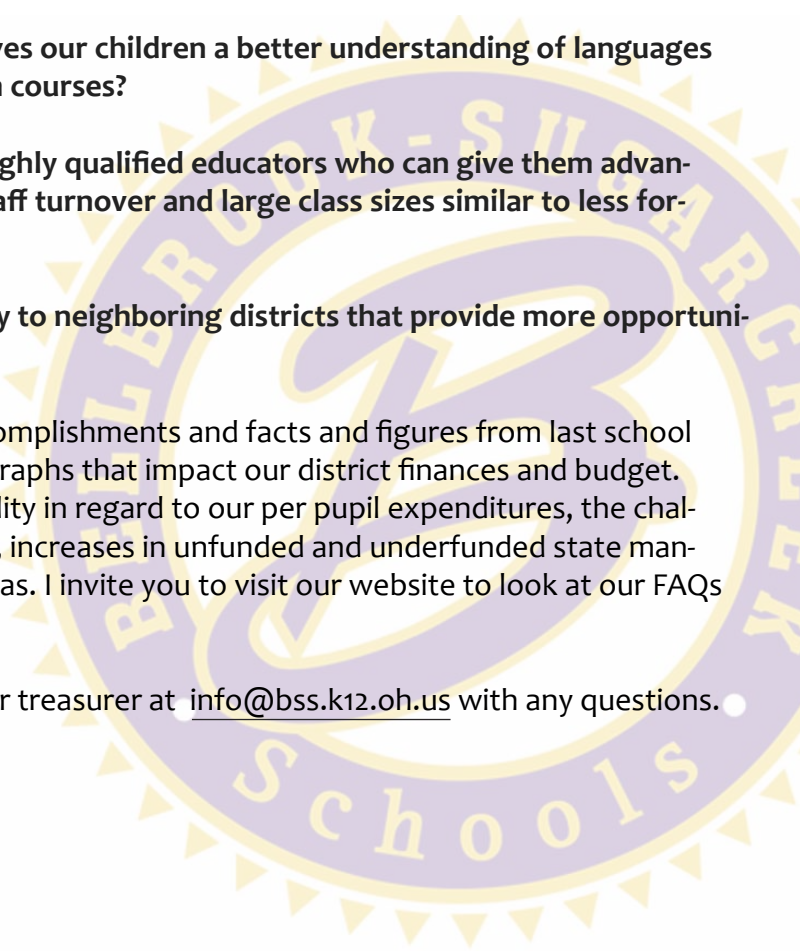
In Ohio, for better or worse, public school districts are funded through local tax levies. As you may know, the school district has placed a 7-year limited term Emergency Operating levy to yield \$3,220,000 (4.9 mills) on the May 4 ballot. This means that you decide at the ballot box, what kind of school system you want and every member of our community must ask themselves tough questions like the following:

- Do we want to have a nationally ranked school district that gives our children the best chance of getting into top colleges and provides the tools for responsible decision-making and problem solving or do we want to have a district that simply meets the minimum state standards?**
- Do we want to have culturally rich programming that gives our children a better understanding of languages and arts or do we simply want to provide core curriculum courses?**
- Do we want to ensure that our children have the most highly qualified educators who can give them advantages in science and math or do we simply accept high staff turnover and large class sizes similar to less fortunate districts?**
- Do we want families with children fleeing the community to neighboring districts that provide more opportunities, both in and out of the classroom, for their children?**

In this edition of the Bridge, we highlight some of our accomplishments and facts and figures from last school year, 2019-2020. We have also provided some charts and graphs that impact our district finances and budget. These charts and graphs clearly show our fiscal responsibility in regard to our per pupil expenditures, the challenges we have had with declining support from the state, increases in unfunded and underfunded state mandates, and our low tax costs compared to surrounding areas. I invite you to visit our website to look at our FAQs at <https://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/LevyFAQ.aspx>

As always don't hesitate to contact me or Kevin Liming our treasurer at info@bss.k12.oh.us with any questions.

Douglas A. Cozad
Superintendent



What if the May 4 Levy Passes?

WE WILL BRING BACK ...

- K-5 STEM program
- thirty-one (31) supplemental positions for clubs/activities/athletics
- two (2) librarian positions

AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO...

- let our budget guide our decision making
- seek other ways for cost savings
- be fiscally responsible

What if the May 4 Levy Doesn't Pass?

WE WILL...

- reduce up to three (3) K-12 staff positions
- examine other open positions to see if they can also remain unfilled. It will be increasingly difficult to be able to fill open positions, making it challenging to keep class sizes down and/or continue all of the same course offerings for our students.

AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO...

- let our budget guide our decision making
- seek other ways for cost savings
- be fiscally responsible

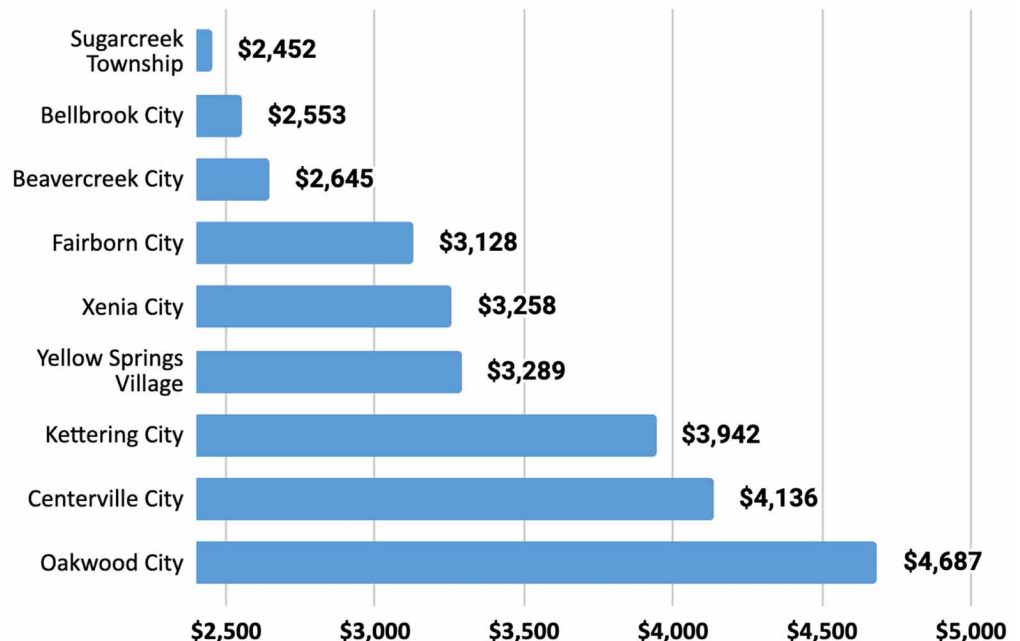
BSS and GCCC Announce Proposed Partnership To Save District Over \$750,000

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools (BSS) and Greene County Career Center (GCCC) announce the proposed expansion of a long existing partnership that will benefit Bellbrook-Sugarcreek students in grades 7-12 interested in STEM instruction. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, all seventh and eighth graders will be experiencing engineering classes at Bellbrook Middle School taught by a GCCC teacher. Through this partnership, the GCCC will be providing the instructors who will deliver curriculum, equipment and necessary furnishings in the expanded engineering pathway. The Career Center will also assume responsibility for the engineering classes at the high school beginning in 2022-2023 allowing additional savings for the BSS. The middle school programming offered to start next fall would allow BSS to save more than \$200,000 in the first year and Dr. Cozad predicts the district will save more than \$750,000 over the next few years due to this partnership. Jeff Eckley, principal at Bellbrook Middle School, agreed that the partnership will be a great addition for the district. "We're very excited to partner with the career center," said Eckley.

2020 Area Tax Costs

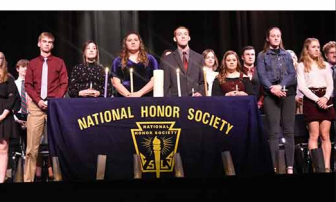
If you take into account real estate taxes, city income tax, and the school district income tax, and you base that on a \$100,000 home and \$50,000 income, we are the lowest in the area. This is based upon the 2020 property tax rate paid in 2021 and this information was pulled from the Montgomery County and the Greene County auditors' websites. Have you ever thought about what your taxes would be if you picked up your house and moved it to another community? The chart below highlights the fact that Sugarcreek Township and Bellbrook City have the lowest tax costs compared to surrounding areas.

2020 Area Tax Costs
How do the costs of real estate taxes, school district income taxes, and city income tax compare in surrounding districts?





Quality Profile
2019-20



Student Experiences

40% of high school students participated in an extracurricular sport, music or arts program.



Supporting Military Families

4 district schools recognized as Purple Star Schools (military friendly)

24 

languages spoken in district homes

70% of 7th and 8th grade students participated in an extracurricular activity

46 Students that participated in Science Fair

23 VARSITY SPORTS



22% of high school students participated in music or arts or visual arts programs

#1

Academic Team won the SWBL Championship

37 students involved in BMS Musical

24

consecutive years BMS has earned Governor's Science Award

7 episodes created of The Egg Podcast, the district's student-run podcast

100% of students in grades K-12 have access to 1:1 technology



68 High school credits earned by middle school students

Academic Life

1 National Merit Scholar

15 - AP Courses Offered **AP**

95% of the Class of 2020 is attending college or joined the military

2,261

College credits earned by BHS students



\$3 Million

Scholarships offered to the Class of 2019

18

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

79%

of certified staff hold a Master's degree

Fiscal Responsibility

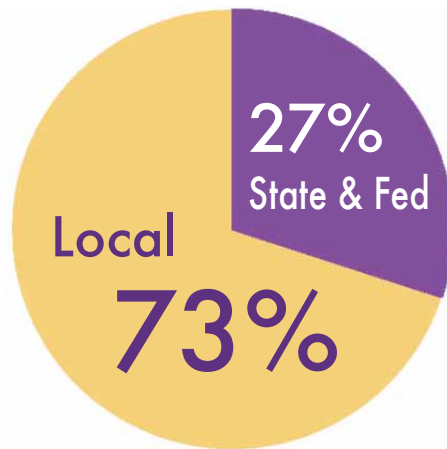
\$11,355

Cost per pupil in the district...about **\$1,336 below** the state average

\$3,087

State share per pupil (about **\$3,075 below** state average)

District Revenue



Expenditures

- 58%** Employee salaries and wages
- 22%** Employee Retirement and Insurance
- 15%** Purchased Services
- 3%** Supplies and materials
- 2%** Other Objects (Debt services, due, etc)

Since 2018, the district has cut over **\$4.8 million** dollars from the budget. Reductions include 33 positions eliminated.

Giving Back

\$33,750

PTO donated to our schools

\$22,000

SB students donated to Kids Heart Challenge

\$6,700

BCI students donated to Health Moves Minds Challenge

\$28,971

BSEF funded for classroom grants

2,360

Hours logged in community service by JROTC

71

Units of blood donated by BHS students and staff

145

7th grade students participated in service-learning projects

District Finances Facts and Figures

Total Expenditure Per Pupil

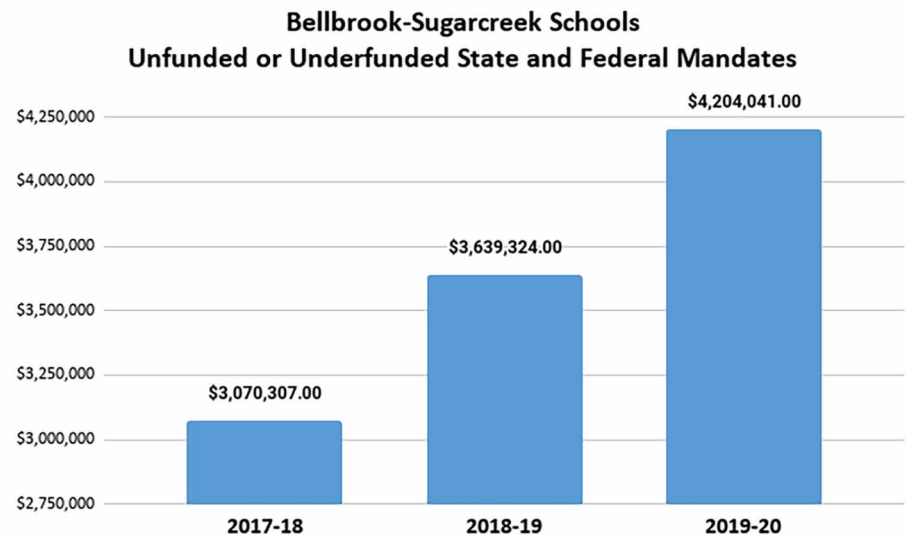
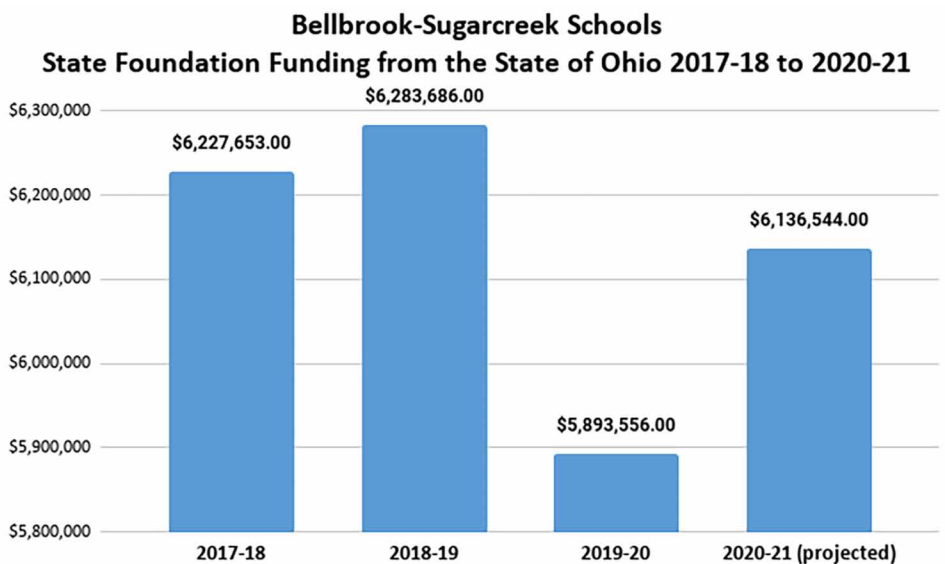
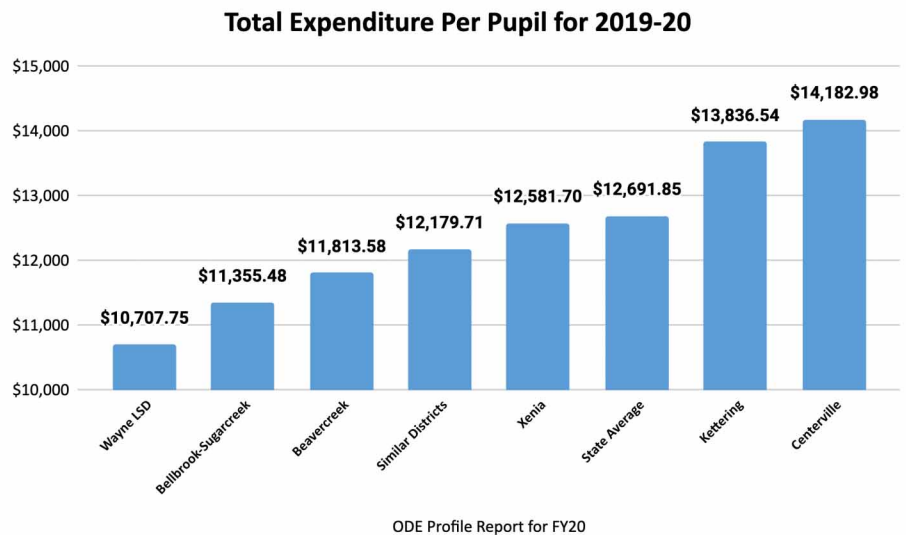
Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Local Schools spends the second lowest for per pupil expenditure compared to neighboring local districts, similar peer districts, and the state average. We spent about \$11,355 per pupil in 2019-2020. This is about what we spent in the previous year; however, the gap continues to widen when comparing our per pupil spending. According to the O.D.E.'s Profile Report, it is now \$824 less than similar districts (last year it was \$530 less) and \$1,336 less than the state average (last year it was \$1,121.18)

State Funding

As you can see from the chart, our foundation funding from the State of Ohio has dropped over the past two fiscal years and we are still not at the same level of funding compared to 2017-2018. This is in addition to the fact that we only receive 25%-27% of our funding from the state compared to the state average of 44%.

Unfunded and Underfunded State and Federal Mandates

Did you know that the cost to the district is over \$4,200,000 on unfunded or underfunded state and federal mandates in 2019-2020? These are laws that our legislators pass and mandate public schools to do but don't fund them sufficiently.



These include College Credit Plus, Special Education, Gifted Education, Preschool, Charter/Community Schools and English Language Learners. You can see from the

chart that the money spent on these mandates has increased by over \$1,200,000 since 2017-2018. These are costs that are passed on to the local taxpayers.

We Want your Feedback!

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools is looking for feedback from the community. Email your feedback to superintendent@bss.k12.oh.us or mail it to Superintendent, 3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH 45305

What recommendation(s) would you make to the district to improve communications with the community?

What recommendation(s) would you make to try to engage more parents and non-parents with the schools?

What recommendation(s) would you make to build a better relationship between the school and the community?

(optional information)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____



Miranda
937.689.1013
mb@remax.net

Alyssa
513.292.7345
am@remax.net

Amy
937.409.9099
ah@remax.net

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation is hiring a Fundraising Coordinator

Purpose: To raise funds from donors to support BSEF activities and raise community awareness

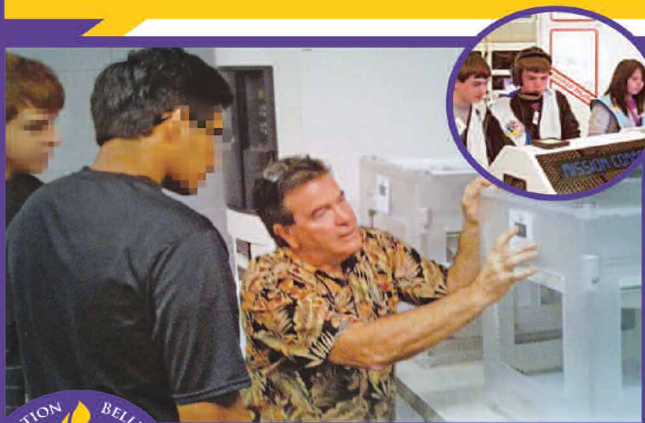
Working Hours: 30 hours per month (this role may require flexibility to work a few evenings and weekends)

This position would be perfect for a community member or alumnus looking to get involved with the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation.

For more information contact Jenness Sigman at 937-848-5001 ext. 6101 jenness.sigman@bss.k12.oh.us

"A great way to open a world of knowledge for our students and help the youth of our community — now and in the future."

Bellbrook - Sugarcreek Education Foundation



Visit www.BSEF4kids.org to learn more about our organization and to make a contribution.

Did You Know?

...that the Bellbrook - Sugarcreek Education Foundation was started nearly 20 years ago to fund classroom projects in our school system that are not affordable through public funds?

Did you know that through community donations BSEF has paid out over \$340,000 in teacher classroom grants to fund hundreds of special academic programs?

Recent grants were used to purchase a laser engraving machine for Mr. Barnes classes and to fund Ms. St Pierre's Challenger Learning Center field trip for all 7th graders. Grants are used for Music, Art and Technology equipment and more

Did you know that BSEF received private donations to equip over 50 of our classrooms with voice enhancement systems so that every student in the class gets a chance to hear the teacher, not just students in the front row?

And, that ALL contributions are strictly used to enrich learning opportunities for students in the Bellbrook - Sugarcreek Schools?

How Can You Help?

- Support the foundation with a tax deductible donation at www.BSEF4kids.org
- Remember special people and events by making a gift through wills and trusts
- Promote the foundation through friends, relatives, and co-workers
- Volunteer or support fund raising events like the Spirited Affair and BSEF Derby Day
- Join the governing board

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

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Voter Information

- ~ Voter Registration ends April 5
- ~ Early Voting Starts April 6
- ~ May 4 is Election Day (Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.)
- ~ LAST DAY TO REQUEST A MAIL-IN BALLOT: May 1, 2021
- ~ MAIL-IN BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY: May 3, 2021
- ~ MAIL-IN BALLOTS MUST BE HAND DELIVERED BY: May 4, 2021



For more information visit <http://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/Levy.aspx>

UPCOMING DATES

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| April 22 | Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS |
| April 28 | Two-hour delay K-12 |
| May 4 | Election Day |
| May 13 | Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BHS |
| May 15 | BHS Graduation |
| May 20 | 1-hr early dismissal, last day
for students |
| May 21 | Last day for teachers-teacher
in-service |

Tailgate Talks

Superintendent Dr. Cozad will be hosting Tailgate Talks as a way to informally meet and chat with residents about school finances, including the upcoming levy. We will meet outside in the parking lot in front of Bell Creek Intermediate gym. COVID-19 protocols such as masks and social distancing will be in place. Dates are April 20 from 9-10 AM and April 28 from 6-7 PM.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH 45305 P: 937-848-5001



@BellbrookSchools

@BellbrookSchool

