



# THE BRIDGE

## Summer 2021

Volume 44

Issue 4

Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community since 1976

2021 Bellbrook High School Graduation Ceremony



Photos by Nick Falzerano/Nicholas Studios

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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,

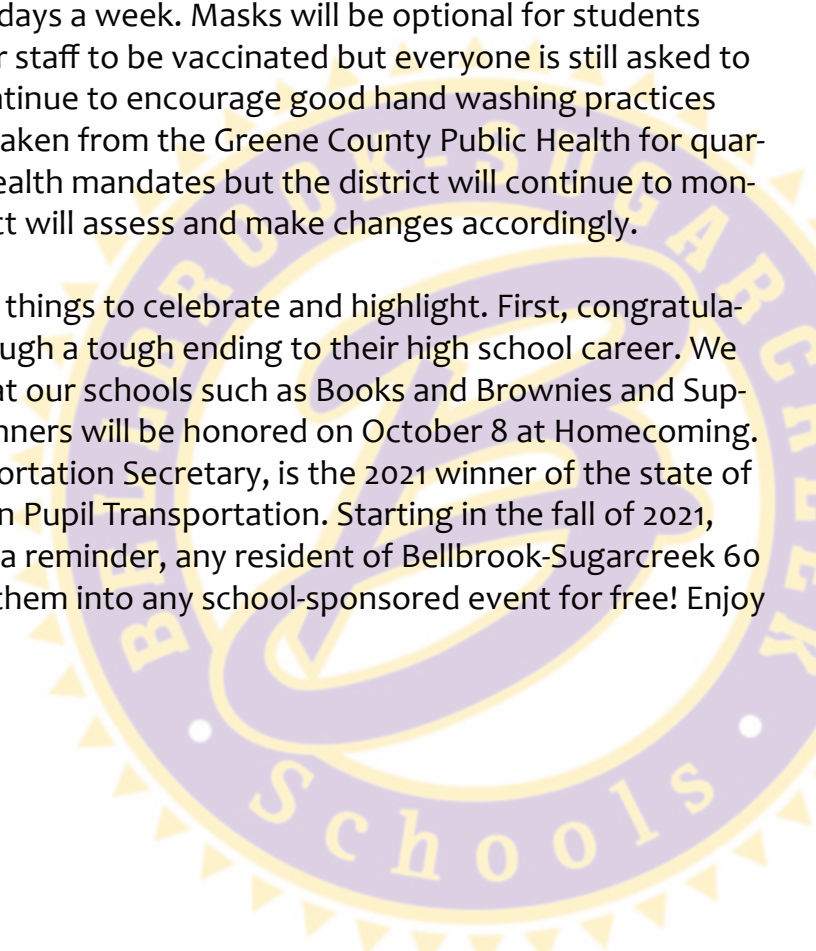
The 2020-21 school year has been like no other. Flexibility, perseverance, stressful, patience, and gratitude are just a few words that can describe the past year and half. The challenges of dealing with a pandemic while holding in-person school the entire year couldn't have been done without the support of everyone involved, students, parents, teachers/staff/administrators, and the entire community. Thank you!

The school district passed the 4.9 mill emergency levy it had on the ballot in May. We want to thank everyone that helped get out the information and facts to the community. We will continue to be fiscally responsible while looking for additional cost savings. We have already begun that work. For example, the district has partnered with the Greene County Career Center to deliver STEM classes at both our middle and high schools. This will save the district over \$750,000 in salaries and equipment over the next 2 years while students are still receiving the same high-caliber courses and experiences. Additionally, the school district has made substantial changes to its medical insurance plan that will result in a projected \$4.3 million in savings over the next 5 years.

As we look towards the 2021-22 school year, unless mandated by the Ohio Department of Health or the State of Ohio, it is our intention to return to a normal "pre-COVID" school year and activities. We welcome all students back to 100% in-person learning, 5-days a week. Masks will be optional for students and/or staff. There is no mandate for students and/or staff to be vaccinated but everyone is still asked to be vigilant – if you are sick, stay at home. We will continue to encourage good hand washing practices and make hand sanitizer available. Guidance will be taken from the Greene County Public Health for quarantine protocols. As of June 2, 2021 Ohio ended all health mandates but the district will continue to monitor the situation and if conditions change, the district will assess and make changes accordingly.

In this summer edition of the Bridge, there are many things to celebrate and highlight. First, congratulations to our graduates of 2021. They persevered through a tough ending to their high school career. We also highlight some creative programs and projects at our schools such as Books and Brownies and Supportive Peers. Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame winners will be honored on October 8 at Homecoming. Michelle Main, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools Transportation Secretary, is the 2021 winner of the state of Ohio Carol Brandel Award for Distinguished Service in Pupil Transportation. Starting in the fall of 2021, pricing changes for athletics will take effect. Last, as a reminder, any resident of Bellbrook-Sugarcreek 60 years or older, is eligible for a free pass that will get them into any school-sponsored event for free! Enjoy this edition of the Bridge!

*Douglas A. Cozad*  
Superintendent



# BHS Pilots New Supportive Peers Program for the Upcoming School Year



## BMS Flight Students get up close Experiences

8th grade flight students experienced expertise from community members' presentations this school year to enhance what they learned in class. Finley Barfield flew his helicopter out to the middle school field a couple of times for each trimester class to learn about helicopter flight and how to become a pilot. The Miami RC club came out to present about aviation and fly remote control planes with the students (one plane dropping candy for the students while in flight). Lastly, guest speakers from WPAFB presented about their aviation careers, the inside of planes, and the outside forces on planes. All were influential and helped make real-world connections for the students!



This summer, Bellbrook High School began the implementation of a new pilot program called Supportive Peers. The program is geared toward promoting authentic relationships and inclusivity between BHS students (Lead Peers) and students within the district's special education program (Peers). Over the course of 3 days, 26 BHS students received "Lead Peer" training and coordinated fun activities for the program's Peers. The Lead Peers facilitated an outdoor activity station (bubbles, sidewalk chalk, beanbag toss, ring toss, and a parachute), an art station (painting planters and filling them with flowers), a science station (making lava lamps and slime), and an archeological dig (students searched for various toys in the sand). Participants also enjoyed a friendly yet competitive game of duck, duck, goose. On the final day, the Lead Peers took an oath solidifying their commitment to the program and its core values, as well as their dedication to their future Peers.



Program Supervisor, Tess Rivero provided the following reflection after the first official event of the pilot program took place, "before the training in May, I was excited about this program; however, after experiencing three days of training, I am encouraged beyond my expectations. Watching the students interact was absolutely heartwarming, both as a high school teacher and as the parent of one of the Peers. I knew we had great kids in our district, but seeing them in action in this environment left me speechless."

In addition to supporting their Peers within the classroom this upcoming school year, Lead Peers will coordinate quarterly activities on behalf of the Supportive Peers program. Additional information regarding the quarterly activities will be released at the start of the 2021-2022 school year and will be open to any student within the school district who would like to attend.

For additional information related to the Supportive Peers program please reach out to Tess Rivero, Program Supervisor ([tess.rivero@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:tess.rivero@bss.k12.oh.us)).

## "Year of the Ukulele" at BCI

As we began the 2020-2021 school year, teachers and school staff had to spend a lot of time preparing the school building and changing our regular routines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our classrooms looked a little different, desks and chairs were more spread out, students didn't share materials as they had in the past, but teaching and learning continued. Mrs. Sasha Taylor had to think outside the box to plan for physical education lessons that included less physical interaction and sharing of equipment, but again, teaching and learning continued. When Mrs. Julie Wellbaum learned that singing inside wasn't allowable this year, she had to be very creative since students' voices were the instrument they used each time they entered the music classroom. As a result of Mrs. Wellbaum's creative thinking, this became the "Year of the Ukulele" at Bell Creek Intermediate! All students in grade 3-5 learned to read music and to play a Ukulele during the school year. It was such a joy to hear their progress throughout the year. In a year that included so many uncertainties, it has been clear to everyone at Bell Creek that our hard working and creative teachers and their students worked together to make this a year we won't forget for lots of good reasons.



# BELLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

## Congrats to the Class of 2021

Bellbrook High School was excited to hold an in-person graduation for the class of 2021. Ceremonies occurred on May 15 at Bellbrook High School's Miami Valley Stadium. This year's class of 224 graduates earned over \$5.4 million in scholarships. Fifty-five students earned an Honors Diploma. Additional students were recognized for their academic achievement: 45 earned Cum Laude (3.25-

3.49), 30 earned Magna Cum Laude (3.5-3.74), and 31 earned Summa Cum Laude (3.75-4). Future plans of BHS graduates include: 73% will be attending a 4-year school, 17% a 2-yr school, 8% workforce, and 2% military. Students will be attending 70 different colleges in 23 states.

Congratulations to all of our graduates and good luck in the future.

Mason Adkins  
Mark Alfes  
Omar Alkhawaga  
Erin Allen  
Beatrice Armah  
Allison Ashurst  
Christine Astroski  
Patrick Astroski  
Richard Astroski  
Jonah Atchison  
Delany Baldinger  
Vincent Baraldi  
Ehab Barri  
Tye Bennett  
Emmalee Benson  
Zachary Bereda  
Owen Blackburn  
Spencer Bretland  
Kevin Brown  
Megan Buckle  
Cameron Bybee  
Samantha Caruso  
Makayla Cole  
Lauren Combs  
Alexander Crane  
Dasha Crocker  
Drue Cross  
Chloe Culp  
Kyle Cunningham  
Hunter Dailey  
Angela Davis

Fern Davis  
Kaiden Delsing  
Angelia Deuzeta  
Samuel Devol  
Ryan Dittmann  
Leila Donnerberg  
Ashley Duckett  
Abby Dunham  
Kayla Dyer  
Cameron Earley  
Erin Ebel  
Lukas Edgington  
Daelyn Eppers  
Jared Everidge  
Matthew Excoffon  
Isaac Fallis  
Sydney Fannin  
Avarie Faulkner  
Natalie Fisher  
Riley Fitzner  
Tristan Flynn  
Takumi Ford  
Kenleigh Forsha  
Presli Fortkamp  
Cassandra Foster  
Leo Freudenschuss  
Ethan Fryman  
Brie Gallimore  
Sierah Geldbaugh  
Jessica Graham  
Tania Grajeda

Isaac Grant  
Liberty Grant  
David Greathouse  
Haley Greer  
Joshua Grismer  
Caitlyn Grissom  
Kyden Guilmette  
Olivia Hamilton  
Tyrone Haskins  
John Havlicek  
Elana Heebsh  
Abbigayle Hess  
Taylor Hilderhoff  
Stephen Hine  
Kyle Hobbs  
Emily Hockman  
Mary Hodgen  
Kali Hofacker  
Kelsi Hofacker  
Samantha Holdaway  
Randi Holder  
Tyler Holding  
Dorian Hotz  
Hayden Huff  
Julia Hummel  
William Hunsaker  
Caroline Hunt  
Noah Hurst  
Shelby Hurst  
Ryan Hyer  
Adam Jenkins

Allison Jiovani  
 Taylor Jordan  
 Brian Kahler  
 Logan Keefer  
 Caleb Keeton  
 Trey Keifer  
 Jaela Kennedy  
 Elana Kerlin  
 Mikayla Kinzeler  
 Aidan Kleinwaechter  
 Kaitlyn Knee  
 Caden Knisely  
 Corine Koogler  
 Devin Koogler  
 Sarah Krivitzky  
 Amiya Kundu  
 Arjun Kundu  
 Megan Kwik  
 Chad Lane  
 Kyle Large  
 Zachary Lawson  
 David Lees  
 James Leftwich  
 Lance Lemieux  
 Maile Lemon  
 William Leonard  
 Bailey Lesko  
 Hanna Lesko  
 Olivia Lesko  
 Bryce Levine  
 Jamie Levine  
 Rebecca Liu  
 Caroline Magill  
 Madelyn Main  
 Mariam Makhlof Shaltaf  
 Emily Mancuso  
 Ethan Marcus  
 Kelly Mcnamara  
 Alexander Meixner  
 Rachel Metzler  
 Olivia Micklem  
 Keyton Milbury  
 Nancy Munoz Medina  
 Naika Nagy  
 Emily Naylor  
 Ashton Neal  
 Elexes Neal  
 Blake Newman  
 Olivia Newton  
 Samuel Nipper

Robert Osborn  
 Shannon Osborn  
 Irene Owusu  
 Ramya Pandrangi  
 Justin Patton  
 Morgan Payne  
 Emily Pelfrey  
 Derek Peterson  
 Alexander Petry  
 Chun Pham  
 Koyri Phillips  
 John Phillipson  
 Logan Pier  
 Jacob Post  
 Adian Potts  
 Julia Powell  
 Ageliki Powers  
 Allison Prenat  
 Megan Prion  
 Colin Pursel  
 Ella Pursel  
 Heidi Raber  
 Claire Raison  
 Kyle Reigelsperger  
 Riley Reynolds  
 Cailey Riggs  
 Gianni Roberto  
 Michael Roberts  
 William Rogers  
 Tomas Ruiz  
 Nolan Samborsky  
 Marco Sanders-Johnson  
 Benjamin Sawmiller  
 Cory Sawyer  
 Jared Schaaf  
 Alex Schock  
 Rhiannon Schonauer  
 Jenna Schulz  
 Makenzie Schwieterman  
 Grace Selvaraj  
 Morgan Sharbaugh  
 Garrett Sharp  
 Chloe Shaw  
 Dominic Shelton  
 Logan Sickels  
 Adam Slater  
 Joshua Sloan  
 Dejhene Smith  
 Marissa Smith  
 Megan Smith



**Daelyn  
Eppers**



**Takumi  
Ford**



**Alissa  
Warren**

## BHS names Valedictorian and Co-Salutatorians

Daelyn Eppers has earned Class Valedictorian for the class of 2021 at Bellbrook High School. She will be attending The Ohio State University and majoring in Biomedical Engineering. Alissa Warren and Takumi Ford earned Class Co-Salutatorians. Alissa will be attending the University of Cincinnati and majoring in Medical Sciences. Takumi will be attending Brigham Young University and majoring in Biochemistry. Congrats on your great academic success and good luck in the future.

Jayden Spirito  
 Cameron Sprague  
 Zachary Stapleton  
 Michael Steffe  
 Mia Stephens  
 Ashlynn Stinson  
 Savannah Stucky  
 Abigail Swanson  
 Ryan Swanson  
 Hannah Todd  
 Lauryn Turner  
 Lindsey Ulring  
 Emily Van Schaik  
 Alissa Warren  
 Jordan Weber

Matthew Weber  
 Ryan Wehner  
 Alexander Westbrook  
 Alex Whiting  
 Boston Williams  
 Libby Wilson  
 Joshua Woeste  
 Sean Wolf  
 Audrey Woods  
 Cassandra Woods  
 Kyle Woods  
 Brandon Wooldridge  
 Ashley Wysong  
 Bailey Zerby  
 Bennett Zerby



## Athletics Tickets & Sports Passes Fall 2021



<b>Passes - Fall 2021 (good for regular season games only)</b>		
<b>Pass - Sport &amp; Level</b>	<b>Price of Seasonal Pass (per person)</b>	<b>Price Per Game (per person 6 &amp; up)</b>
HS/MS Football (pass includes JV & MS games)	\$48	\$8
Middle School Football	\$24	\$6
High School Girls Soccer	\$70	\$7
High School Boys Soccer	\$49	\$7
HS/MS Volleyball (pass includes JV & MS games)	\$70	\$7
Middle School Volleyball	\$54	\$6
ALL FALL PASS for all MS & HS Fall 2021 sporting events	\$100	n/a
ALL SPORTS PASS for all MS & HS 2021-22 sporting events	\$300	n/a

Tickets are purchased from the Athletic website using HomeTown Ticketing  
<https://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/BuyTickets.aspx>

**Extra information:**

- No senior discounts (senior residents 60 & older of Bellbrook & Sugarcreek can already get a free pass that gets them into all school events, which is obtained from the Athletic Department.)
  - Contact Tamara Cary ([tamara.cary@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:tamara.cary@bss.k12.oh.us)) 937-848-5001 ext. 2904
- No student rates - only one fee structure
- Individual game tickets are the same price online and at the gate
- Credit Card only for sales at the gate.....No cash at the gate

**League Set Up - Starting Fall 2021**

<b>West Division</b>	<b>East Division</b>
<b>Brookville</b>	<b>Bellbrook</b>
<b>Carlisle</b>	<b>Franklin</b>
<b>Eaton</b>	<b>Monroe</b>
<b>Madison</b>	<b>Oakwood</b>
<b>Valley View</b>	<b>Waynesville</b>

## Seven to be Inducted into the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame

On October 8, seven graduates of Bellbrook High School will be inducted into the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame. Due to last year's pandemic-related cancellation, four inductees will be inducted into the class of 2020 Hall of Fame and 3 more will be inducted into the class of 2021 Hall of Fame. "We are going to do things differently this year", says Hall of Fame Committee President Cindy Wilson ('81). "The induction ceremony will be held in the morning at Bellbrook High School in a student assembly. Lunch will then be served to the inductees and their guests and the inductees will be will also be recognized at the Homecoming football game that evening." The 2020 inductees: Casey Stevens Gill ('88), Marty Prather ('76), Christopher Stephens ('98), and Darcy Mascotti Whyte ('09). The 2021 inductees: Jack Crain ('69), Scott Steele ('76), Maureen Ahern Stover ('93).

## Michelle Main Wins 2021 Brandel Award

Michelle Main, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools Transportation Secretary, is the 2021 winner of the state of Ohio Carol Brandel Award. This award recognizes individuals for Distinguished Service in Pupil Transportation, given in honor of Carol Brandel, long-time Administrative Assistant for the Ohio Department



**Jacob Wilhite (Trans. Supvsr.), Michelle Main, Mike Main (husband), Bev Wetzel (former Trans. Supvsr.).**

of Education Pupil Transportation Office. It is the intent of this award to recognize Pupil Transportation Support Staff who exhibit outstanding leadership and professional conduct in the school transportation field, both in the district they represent as well as in the State of Ohio. Jacob Wilhite, district Transportation Supervisor, nominated her for the award. "This year has been a strenuous one for the books, and I can't think of a better nominee for this award than her. Through COVID-19, Michelle has remained calm and collected to provide the utmost level of service to our district" stated Wilhite. Congrats to Michelle and thank you for all that you do!

## Stephen Bell gets Creative During a Pandemic

During the 2020-2021 school year, Stephen Bell Elementary hosted an additional three events for parents to stay connected to the learning environment. Since the district made the safe choice to eliminate visitors/volunteers within the school building, it did limit the opportunity for parents/family members to bring their child lunch and to participate in our annual grade level/building events. Therefore, the staff brainstormed ideas on how to include the parents besides the emails, phone calls, report cards, conferences, and GoogleMeets. The PARKING LOT provided a means that parents could stay safe in their car and/or social distance outside while wearing a mask.

In October, we hosted a Parent Picnic in the Parking Lot for Kindergarten. In April, we hosted Books & Brownies in the Parking Lot for 1st-grade. Also in April, we hosted Poems & Popcorn in the Parking Lot for 2nd-grade. Each of the 20 classrooms had their own special date. Parents eagerly arrived in their

cars and were ready to greet their children. They enjoyed a special treat together hand-delivered to each family from Mrs. Keeton, principal. The kindergarten students, Class of 2033, talked about their school day with their family members. The 1st-grade students, Class of 2032, read aloud to showcase their reading skills with their family members. The 2nd-grade students, Class of 2031, wrote poems or read aloud their favorite poems with their family members. Each opportunity was captured with a photo to treasure these moments in time!



**The Dowty family.**

A thank you to each classroom teacher for welcoming the parents and preparing the students. A special thank you to Mrs. Horvath & Mrs. Brescia, secretaries, for helping with the events. Mrs. Keeton shared, "We are truly fortunate to have an abundance of parent support at Stephen Bell Elementary. As we put the children first, our parents go above and beyond to help us educate them!"

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

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## UPCOMING DATES

- Aug 12** Regular Board Meeting - 7 PM @ SEC
- Aug 18** First Day for Students, Gr. 1-12
- Aug 26** Regular Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Sept 6** No School/Labor Day
- Sept 9** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ SB
- Sept 17** No School- teacher in-service
- Oct 8** BSS Hall of Fame Induction & Homecoming
- Oct 11** No School- teacher in-service
- Oct 14** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Oct.15** End of the 1st quarter
- Oct 18** No School P-T Conferences K-12
- Oct 28** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Nov 2** Election Day
- Nov 11** No School- teacher in-service; Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BHS
- Nov 22-26** No School
- Dec 9** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BCI
- Dec 17** End of 2nd quarter

## Substitute Staff Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for substitute teachers, special needs aides, bus drivers and transportation assistants (aides) for the 2021-22 school year. Individuals who qualify will receive all necessary onboard training. Download an application from <http://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/Employment.aspx> and submit the following to Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, attn: Human Resources, 3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH 45305: district application, resume, cover letter



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