



BMS cast of the fall play -
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

THE BRIDGE

Winter 2022

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Issue 2

Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community since 1976



Photos by Nick Falzerano/Nicholas Studios

The Bellbrook girls basketball team started the season 14-0 and was ranked No. 4 in the Ohio AP Division I State Poll. The team also competed at the prestigious Flyin' to the Hoop basketball showcase over MLK Weekend. Earlier this season Bellbrook became one of 11 programs in state history to record 800 wins in girls basketball. The Eagles have had 29 straight winning seasons.

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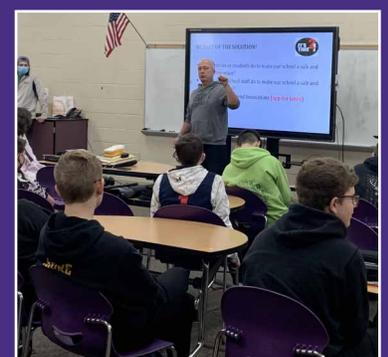


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Our Mission...Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools empowers our learning community to: be responsible decision-makers and effective problem-solvers; persevere in the achievement of life goals; contribute to communities locally and beyond; and embrace learning as a lifelong process.

SUPERINTENDENT



Dear District Residents,

I am proud each and every day of what is accomplished in our schools. Our school district has outstanding, dedicated teachers and staff who do an excellent job educating and supporting our children, especially in the difficult times of today. The district is consistently recognized for this effort and ranked among the best locally and across the state. There is so much we have to offer, to provide all of our students a high-quality and well-rounded educational experience. For example, I don't take for granted the value gained from the opportunities our students are afforded-the 15 AP courses offered, the 5,019 community service hours logged by our National Honor Society, the 329 students in grades 6-12 that are in band or choir, 100% of students have access to 1:1 technology, Bellbrook Winterguard advancing to the Winterguard International Virtual Open Class, and BHS offering 23 varsity sports. To learn more about the amazing things students are doing and other important facts and information about the district check out the district's Quality Profile for the 2020-2021 school year on pages 4 and 5.

I am also pleased to introduce our newest Board member, Heidi Anderson. Mrs. Anderson and her husband, Todd, have been married for 24 years and are both graduates of Bellbrook High School. Heidi has lived in the Bellbrook community since 1989 when her dad, who was a Marine, got stationed at DESC. Heidi's mom was a long term substitute for many years at Stephen Bell Elementary. After high school, Heidi went to Wright State University and earned her B.S. in Secondary English Education. After graduating from Wright State, Heidi spent 4 years teaching at Fairborn High School and directing their theater department. When they started their family, Heidi transitioned to an online school where she taught high school English for 15 years and was the Senior Class Advisor. As their family grew, she decided to be a stay-at-home mom. They have six kids ages 3-21, two of whom are students in the district. Heidi has a passion for both kids and education. She is honored to serve as a board member and is looking forward to serving the community and district that made her who she is today. We welcome Heidi Anderson to the school board.



Heidi Anderson

We also welcome back our three returning board members that were elected this past November - Mike Kinsey, Audra Dorn, and Kevin Price. They join sitting member David Carpenter.

Sincerely,

Superintendent



BSS Hall of Fame Nominations Due March 1

Each year members are inducted in the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Hall of Fame. Candidates can be nominated for the following criteria: (1) FOR GRADUATES OF BELLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL: significant or outstanding achievement as a student or a contribution in vocation pursuits, community or governmental affairs, philanthropic endeavor, meritorious recognition for some action taken or provided. (2) FOR FORMER STAFF OR COMMUNITY CITIZENS: extraordinary service to the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, and/or served as an extraordinary example to others.

Nominations are due by March 1 of each year. For more information, go to our district website and look under the BSEF link listed under Programs.

Sugarcreek PTO-Direct Donation Campaign Feb. 14-28

The Sugarcreek PTO is a volunteer organization which maintains a close working relationship between parents, teachers/staff and students. At the start of the school year, the PTO school building representatives showed appreciation for the wonderful Bellbrook staff through stocking the staff lounges with treats and snacks graciously donated from families. Most importantly, the PTO aims to enhance the educational experience for students and staff through fundraising efforts to provide additional equipment, technology, educational resources, educational



services and special projects. The Direct Donation Campaign is the most significant fundraising event of the school year and is coming up February 14 - February 28, 2022. All proceeds from this go directly to benefitting our

children and our school district. Two programs that the PTO has donated funds to this school year are the Bellbrook Supportive Peers Program to assist the program with the continuation of fun and inclusive activities at the high school as well as to the Bellbrook High School Softball Team in support of their spring break tournament. Please continue to help us support the educational experience of the students and staff by reaching 100% participation this February! You can check out the PTO on the district website located under the Programs tab.

Kindergarten Informational Meeting and Registration for 2022-2023

WHAT: Kindergarten Informational Meeting
WHEN: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 (If school is closed, we will only offer a virtual meeting. The GoogleMeet link will be emailed to the parents.)

TIME: 6:00-7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Stephen Bell Elementary gym (in-person)

WHY: Learn about our kindergarten programs for 2022-23

RSVP: marjorie.horvath@bss.k12.oh.us

REGISTRATION: Week of March 1, 2022

What do I need? Child's original birth certificate, 2 proofs of residency, any court documents, updated immunizations, \$100 deposit for the Daily program. Please visit our website for instructions on registration for the 2022-2023 school year.

<https://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/kindergarten.aspx>

Safer Schools Ohio's SaferOH Tip Line

Being safe at school is more than just physical safety - it is also about having a safe place to talk, ask questions and be yourself. Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools participate in the Safer Schools Ohio's SaferOH tip line. Anyone can anonymously call or text 844-SAFEROH to report anything that is suspicious or might endanger a student, the school or anyone on our campuses.

Child Find Policy

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



Quality Profile
2020-2021

Student Experiences/District Accolades

546 Middle and high school students that participated in an extracurricular sport



Supporting Military Families

100%

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

32



Languages spoken in district homes

78% of 7th and 8th grade students participated in an extracurricular activity

25 Students that participated in BMS Science Fair

23 VARSITY SPORTS



Bellbrook High School is included in the..



329 Students participated in band/choir in grades 6-12

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

BMS Boys track team finished as Runner ups in the State Track Meet

26

SWBL All-Sports titles Bellbrook has won, including five straight.

Bellbrook Winterguard advanced to the Winterguard International Virtual Open Class Finals for their 2021 season



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

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

65 High school credits earned by middle school students



Academic Life

224 Graduates in 2021

15 - AP Courses Offered **AP**



93% of the Class of 2021 is attending college or joined the military

1,970
College credits earned by BHS students

\$5.4+ Million Scholarships offered to the Class of 2021

100% of third graders met the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, Ohio's program to identify students from kindergarten through grade 3 that are behind in reading.

4 STEM classes added at BMS (Automation and Robotics, Flight and Space, Medical Detectives, and Design and Modeling)

6 Student-athletes offered athletic scholarships to college

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

78% of certified staff hold a Master's degree

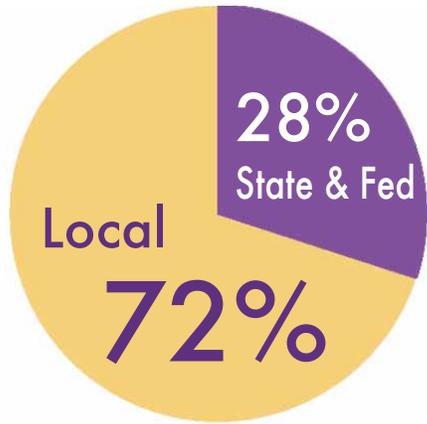
14 College Credit Plus (CCP) courses offered at BHS, giving students the opportunity to earn college credit without leaving BHS

Fiscal Responsibility

District Revenue

Expenditures

\$11,086



- 57%** Employee salaries and wages
- 23%** Employee Retirement and Insurance
- 15%** Purchased Services
- 2%** Supplies and materials
- 3%** Other Objects (Debt services, due, etc)
- >1%** Capital Outlay

Cost per pupil in the district...about \$2,300 below the state average

4.9 mill Emergency Operating levy passed in May of 2021. This levy will bring in \$3,220,000 annually.

Giving Back

\$35,725 Money raised and/or donated by the PTO to support classroom and school activities

\$22,723 SB students donated to Kids Heart Challenge (#3 in Ohio)

\$3,500 BCI students donated to Health Moves Minds Challenge

\$17,730 BSEF funded for classroom grants

5,019

Hours of community service by the National Honor Society

958

Hours logged in community service by JROTC

45%

of 7th grade students participated in service-learning projects



Collaboration at Stephen Bell to Support Our Community

At Stephen Bell Elementary, Mrs. Barker's 2nd grade classroom and Ms. Beekman's Kindergarten classroom loved hearing a story from a deployed military father. It was fun for the 52 students to listen to someone read a story from so many miles away! Mrs. Barker's class brainstormed an idea to spread some cheer and she and Ms. Beekman had their students work together. The classes worked with their families to bring in gifts to ship overseas. It was their hope that this would show a community member who is serving our country in the Air Force how much we appreciate him. This experience was an excellent way to extend warm wishes and tidings of good cheer to Major McQuown while he is deployed for the holiday season. Mrs. Barker's 26 students had fun wrapping up each item with the help of Mrs. Knipfer, our school guidance counselor! Mrs. Knipfer organizes the Military group at SBE. We are so happy to celebrate all military families, but it was especially great for our classes to learn and celebrate about a classmate's family and their military experience.

Comm-UNITY & Real-World Connections at BCI!

The first semester at Bell Creek has been filled with many fun and exciting opportunities for our school family to connect with the community at large through numerous extracurricular and co-curricular events. Most notably was the fourth annual Great Pumpkin Auction sponsored by the fifth grade class. Fifth graders and their families crafted all sorts of pumpkins to be auctioned off with all proceeds going to benefit the Miami Valley Chapter of A Special Wish. The very first pumpkin went for more than \$1,700 and the event amassed a grand total of \$12,722.33! That is more than the combination of all of the previous years' sales combined! Many thanks to all of the staff and faculty volunteers, our auctioneers, Military Kids Group, A Special Wish, and of course, all of the auction attendees and purchasers! Later in the fall, BCI welcomed Veterans of the US Armed Forces by invitation of our students in all grade levels. The event began with a parade of Veterans through the decorated hallways, followed by an assembly to honor all those brave servicemen and women who served and to remember all those who lost their lives in service to our country. The holiday season was an eventful time at Bell Creek. Students and staff enjoyed themed dress-up days, crafting, and visits from special guests near and far. These guests included caroling compliments of members of the BHS orchestra's instrumental talents as

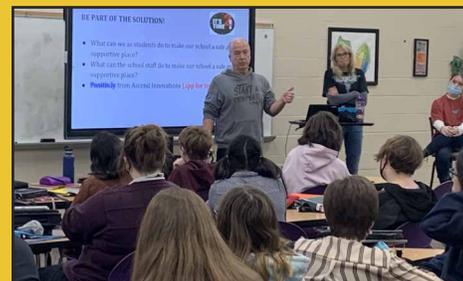
well as the vocal talents of advanced Spanish and French language students who sang in their respective languages of study.

* Santa and Mrs. Claus also made a visit to BCI to deliver a gift to each teacher from Mr. Phelps, our principal. The day culminated with a staff photo with Santa, and he reports that everyone was on the Nice List!

* Academically speaking, fifth grade science students in Mrs. Williams' classes took their study of space science hands-on with COSI kits for project-based learning. Students had a blast, literally, with their hands-on learning as they launched rockets, recreated the lunar surface, built a lunar base, and did a crater formation simulation.

* In third grade, Mrs. Sargent's class has been working hard on publishing their own informational text chapter books. Their hard work culminated in an authors' showcase event in which parents, grandparents, and other guests came in to meet and read with our budding authors and provide them with feedback.

As you can see, it has been an action-packed second quarter at Bell Creek. We are looking forward to even more fun experiences and opportunities to grow, learn, and teach together in the second semester!



BMS 8th Graders Participate in GUIDE

Over the last 11 years, 8th grade students at BMS have participated in the GUIDE program. While originally designed as the Guaranteed Understanding In Drug Education program, with input from students, staff, and local partners the program has evolved into so much more! This year's topics include decision-making, social media etiquette and legal consequences, depression, suicide prevention, the truth about vaping, and understanding the impact drugs can have on physical, social, and mental well-being. BMS is proud to partner with Sugar Creek Police Department, Greene County Juvenile Court, Dr. Ceccarelli and the It's Time 2 Organization, Family Solution Agency, and the Greene County Suicide Prevention Coalition in order to continue this important and meaningful program with our students!

Music Updates

The BHS Music Department wrapped up their fall marching band season with a second place finish at the MidStates Band Association championships at West Clermont High School. The band also received first place in their class at the Centerville competition, and took caption awards for outstanding music, color guard, percussion, and general effect. Congratulations to the Marching Eagles for an outstanding fall marching season!

With the end of marching season comes the beginning of many other winter activities, including Indoor Percussion Ensemble, Winter Color Guard, Jazz Band, and Pep Band! The students are happy to be back in jazz band and pep band after a two year long break! All these groups are off to a great start, and more updates will be coming.

The concert bands are still going strong after a beautiful and

emotional world premiere of *Some treasures are heavy with human tears* in October, with composer John Mackey in attendance. The concert bands followed that up with a fun holiday concert on Tuesday, December 7 at BHS, which also featured the jazz band at their first public performance in two years! The wind ensemble enjoyed their trip to Bell Creek in December, when they provided some holiday cheer with carols in the hallways at school!

The band students in grades 7 - 12 are hard at work preparing for their March concerts, as well as for the District Chamber Music Showcase on Saturday, January 22. It's an all day event and will take place in the BHS auditorium.

Congratulations to Abigail Larson, Brady Fortman, and Joey Dickman, who participated in the Capital University Honor Band in November, and to Joey, Abigail, Karin Peterson, and Amy Juhascik (BMS 8th grader) for their first performance with the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra in December.

Season of Giving at Bellbrook HS

The winter holidays are always a season of giving at Bellbrook High School. Each year BHS students go above and beyond to help our community by raising money, collecting food and toys, and donating the gift of life during our blood drive. Key Club held a bake sale and silent auction and JROTC cadets are conducting their annual canned food drive. All items are donated directly to the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Community Resource Center. So far the cadets have collected just over 6,850 non-perishable food items and expect to collect an additional 2500 items over the next two weeks. The cadets also collected toys for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign. Our Biomedical Club, HOSA, organized the annual blood drive for the Community Blood Center. Students and staff donated 57 units of blood this year. The Sophomore Class coordinated our yearly teacher turkey contest. Mrs. Hensley was our "winner" and all proceeds from the contest were donated to the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Community Support Center. The Bellbrook Hopeful Squad held its own food drive in November and donated the items collected to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. In the upcoming weeks, they will be collecting materials and creating cold weather kits to be delivered to St. Vincent DePaul and the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Community Resource Center for those with housing insecurities. It is truly inspiring to see so many of our students work together to fulfill the needs of their neighbors.



BHS Proud of Fall Sports Success

Bellbrook High School's volleyball, girl's soccer, girl's tennis, football and golf all won SWBL East titles. The football team was regional runner-up with Seth Borondy, Ashton Ault, Ashton Kookan and Sam Vine being selected as all-state. The boy's soccer team won the district title and Trace Terry was selected as an All-American. The boy's golf team claimed the sectional championship. Andrew Magill won the district golf tournament and advanced to the state tournament. Maddie Chappers and Maya Brink both qualified for the district tennis tournament and Brink advanced to the state tournament.

Winter sports are off to a great start. The girl's basketball team opened the season by winning the program's 800th game and played in the Flyin' to the Hoop event over MLK weekend. The competition cheer squad will host the SWBL Championships on February 19. Wee Eagles night for boy's basketball was held on January 25 (vs Franklin) and on January 20 for the girl's teams (vs Monroe). Wrestling hosted Fairborn on January 18 with both the middle and high school participating.

Tickets & Streaming: Tickets for all home games are available online, in the HTT Fan App or at the gate, but can only be purchased with a credit card (no cash). Ticket information for SWBL away games can be found on the league website. All home events for HS basketball and wrestling are streamed through the NFHS Network. Visit the athletic department website (sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/Athletics.aspx) to find up-to-date schedules.



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UPCOMING DATES

- Feb. 10** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Feb. 18** No School-teacher in-service
- Feb. 21** No School-President's Day
- Feb. 24** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Mar. 10** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Mar. 11** End of 3rd Quarter
- Mar. 16** Two-hour delay K-12
- Mar. 28-April 1** No School-spring break
- April 14** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- April 15** No School-teacher in-service
- April 22** Two-hour early dismissal
- April 28** Board Meeting- 7 PM @ BMS
- May 12** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- May 26** One-hour early dismissal, Last day for students
- May 27** Last day for teachers-in-service

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Education Foundation Seeks Fundraising Coordinator

The 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 or at jenness.sigman@bss.k12.oh.us

Substitute Staff Opportunities

We need your help! We have a critical shortage of daily substitute staff in all areas of our district such as teachers, nurses, bus drivers, special need assistants, secretaries, custodians, transportation assistants (aides), and library specialists for the 2021-22 school year. These positions are on an as-needed basis and provide a lot of flexibility for days available to work. No experience is necessary!

Download an application from sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/Applications.aspx and submit the following to Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, attn: Human Resources, 3757 Upper Bellbrook Rd., Bellbrook, OH 45305: district application, resume, cover letter. If you have questions call 937-848-5001, option 5 and then option 2.

Daily Substitute Pay Rates (Experience not required)

Teacher-\$150/ day (at least an Associates Degree or equivalent); Nurse-\$150/day; Custodian-\$16/hour; Secretary-\$16/hour; Bus Driver-\$17.75/hour; Certified Van Driver- \$15.50/hour; Library Specialist-\$13/hour; Special Needs Assistant-\$14.75/hour; Transportation Assistant-\$14.75/hour



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