



THE BRIDGE

Winter 2021

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Issue 2

Serving the students of the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek community since 1976

Eagle Eats Volunteers



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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

It is the time of year at schools when we look back over the first semester and see the many things our students have accomplished and the growth they have made. As we look back, we see a first semester like no other. All of us working together have provided a safe and secure environment in which our students continue to flourish. One day in the near future, we will look back and see that we will have become stronger versions of ourselves as a result of these difficult and trying times. I know that it can be difficult to look at it in that way. While not easy) it may be the strategy that will continue to help us persevere and stay positive. It has truly been a team effort between students, staff, and parents. Thank you!

There are some new members to welcome to our team at Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools. Audra Dorn is our newest school board member. She was appointed to fill the vacancy of long time board member Mary Frantz who recently passed away. Mrs. Dorn is a former officer in the Air Force and is currently a Senior Procurement Specialist at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. She is the mother of two current Bellbrook- Sugarcreek School students. Adam Remaly is the district's new representative to the Greene County Career Center Board. He is the current Division Chief, AFRL/Systems Technology Office at WPAFB. Joining us as the new transportation supervisor is Jacob Wilhite. New teachers include Holly Warner-kindergarten, Hannah Hartley-third grade, Hannah Carnevale-fifth grade, Jennifer Lakin-BCI Reading Teacher, Amanda Newsome-BHS art, Michelle Mize-BHS French and Anna Valley-BHS school nurse. Welcome to our team!

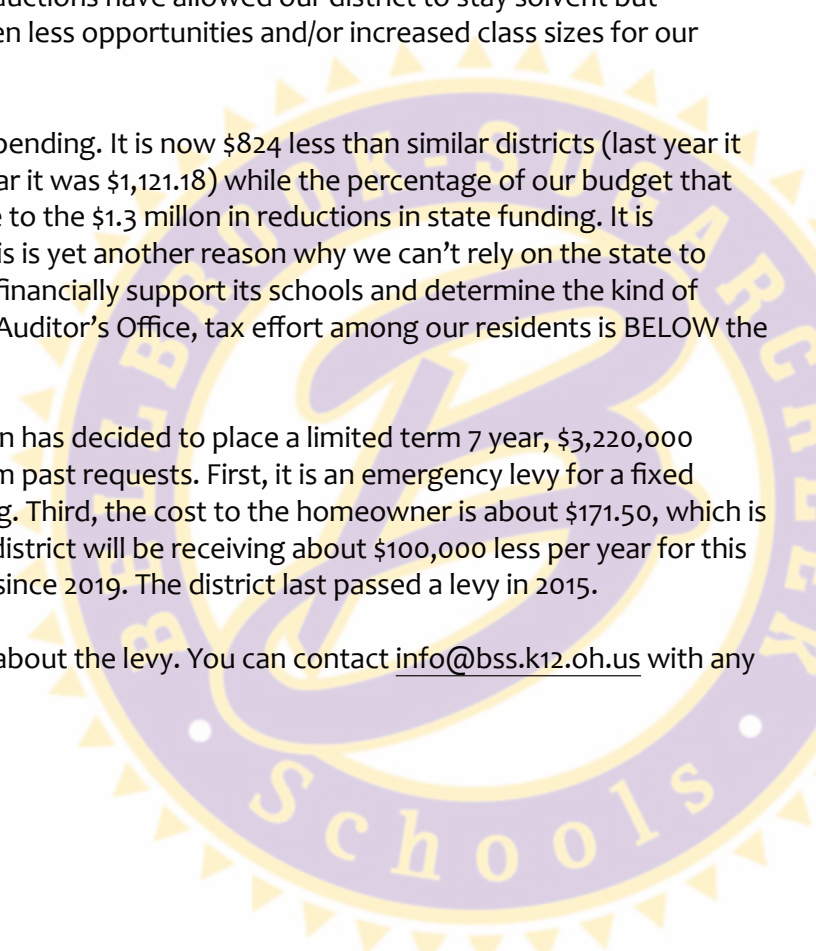
As you probably know, our school budget has been, and continues to be, one of the biggest concerns impacting our district. Since 2018, the district has made over \$4.8 million in reductions. With the failure of the levy for the third time last November, the need did not go away. To address this issue, we have already held the line on staff salaries through pay freezes and have reduced staff by over 11%. This 11% is over 33 staff members that include losses such as Art, STEM, high school busing and many student clubs. These savings and reductions have allowed our district to stay solvent but continued reductions increase the likelihood of providing even less opportunities and/or increased class sizes for our students.

The gap continues to widen when comparing our per pupil spending. 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) while the percentage of our budget that we receive from the state has decreased from 27% to 25% due to the \$1.3 million in reductions in state funding. It is unknown if these reductions will continue in future years. This is yet another reason why we can't rely on the state to properly fund our schools. It is up to the local community to financially support its schools and determine the kind of school district that it desires. According to the State of Ohio Auditor's Office, tax effort among our residents is BELOW the state average and local peer average.

Due to the district's financial situation, the board of education has decided to place a limited term 7 year, \$3,220,000 emergency levy on the May 4 ballot. This levy is different from past requests. First, it is an emergency levy for a fixed dollar amount. Next, it is for a limited time and not continuing. Third, the cost to the homeowner is about \$171.50, which is about \$28 less per \$100 appraised market value. Fourth, the district will be receiving about \$100,000 less per year for this levy request. This will be the fourth try for an operating levy since 2019. The district last passed a levy in 2015.

I urge you to get the facts about our district finances and/or about the levy. You can contact info@bss.k12.oh.us with any questions that you may have.

Douglas A. Cozad
Superintendent



District Mourns Loss of Long-Time Board Member Mary Frantz

Long-time Board Member Mary Frantz passed away on November 29. Mary Frantz served on the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Board of Education for 31 years. “We are saddened by the recent passing of Mary Frantz. Mary held many key roles during her tenure as a school board member, serving as either board president or vice president numerous times. She was part of the board which saw tremendous growth in the quality of our schools and the construction or renovation of all classroom buildings in our district. She advocated for the good of our students and the best interests of our community,” said David Carpenter, board president. She also served many years as a representative for us on the Greene County Career Center board. She was honored by the Ohio School Boards Association Award of Achievement three times and for her 30 years of service to our schools. In our community, Mary was the Director of Happy Child Preschool for over 30 years. She was on the Sugar Maple Festival Committee for over 30 years, lead chairperson multiple times, and was the Grand Marshal in 2016. She was also a member of the Greene County Women’s Hall of Fame and the Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools’ Hall of Fame. We are grateful for her many years of service to not only our district but the entire community. Donations in her honor can be made to the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Education Foundation at <https://www.sugarcreek.k12.oh.us/BSEF.aspx>



Mary Frantz



Audra Dorn



Holly Warner



Hannah Hartley



Hannah Carnevale



Jennifer Lakin



Amanda Newsome



Michelle Mize



Anna Valley



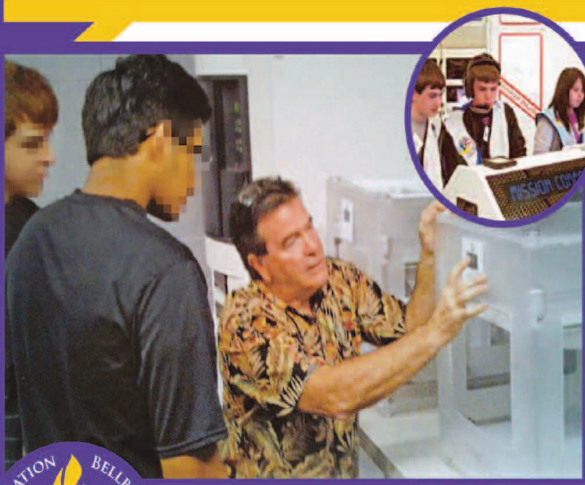
Jacob Wilhite



Adam Remaly

“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



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



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



PBIS Rewards at BCI

Students at Bell Creek Intermediate are Respectful, Responsible, Peaceful, Problem Solvers. Teachers have been teaching and modeling these behavior expectations for several years, and our students do a wonderful job showing these traits each day. We started using a new program called PBIS Rewards recently as a way for our staff members to recognize positive student behaviors. Students have the opportunity to earn points throughout the day from all staff members. Students can then use the points they earn to purchase items in their teacher's classroom store, or in our school store. School store items are delivered on the Woot! Woot! Wagon each Friday. Students really enjoy this program. It is exciting to see their pride in themselves and in each other.

"It's Your Choice, Make it a Good One!"

PBIS, Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, is a three-tiered framework used proactively to establish and improve practices that impact students daily. Its goal is to improve student behavior, support school culture and boost student achievement. The first tier of support focuses on the school building and culture as a whole. "At Stephen Bell, we implement many strategies to create this positive environment with our staff for our students," states Mrs. Ginger Keeton, principal.

Each morning, we begin the day with our school motto "It's Your Choice, Make it a Good One!" which is also posted in our main corridor. Also posted throughout our building are posters with expected behaviors, focusing on being kind and being safe. This allows our staff to easily communicate what we want students to do in various locations. To encourage these behaviors, students can earn Character Coupons from staff members. We acknowledge students who have earned coupons during morning announcements and their names are entered into a monthly drawing for a prize. We watch the progress of how many coupons are earned via a posted thermometer near the office. In past years, our building has earned over 1,000 Character Coupons. We have a collaborative staff and some pretty impressive students doing amazing things!

Along with individual rewards, classrooms engage in Character Kid Circle lessons - character-focused discussions that aid in their understanding of the "Be Kind, Be Safe" expectations and building motto (parents receive an email each time these discussions are conducted in order to create discussions at home as well). Classrooms earn "scoops" into their classroom buckets when they positively perform together. Once classroom buckets are full, a scoop is added to the Stephen Bell bucket! And when that's full, our whole building participates in a fun reward (PJ Day, extra recess, etc.)

For more specific information regarding PBIS as a program, please visit [PBIS.org](https://sites.google.com/bss.k12.oh.us/sbcounseling) to learn more. To see information specific to Stephen Bell, feel free to visit our Mrs. Knipfer's guidance counselor's page at <https://sites.google.com/bss.k12.oh.us/sbcounseling>

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.

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 Induction Ceremony was postponed. It will be held in collaboration with the 2021 Induction Ceremony in October 2021. The 2020 inductees are Casey Stevens Gill (1998), Darcy Mascotti Whyte (2009), Marty Prather (1976) and Christopher Stephens (1998). Recognition of these candidates will be forthcoming in a future Bridge.

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.



6th Grade Wins SWBL Super Bowl

The Bellbrook Wee Eagles 6th grade football team became the first Bellbrook team to win the 6th grade Southwestern Buckeye League Pee-Wee Super Bowl. They are just the second Bellbrook team to win any SWBL Super Bowl. The Eagles beat Alter (30-8) and Middletown Madison (20-12) in the playoffs to reach the championship game where they beat three-time defending champion Clinton-Massie (20-14) at Waynesville High School on Nov. 8, 2020.

Tincher Earns 300th Win

Congratulations to coach Jason Tincher, who earned his 300th career win with a 48-35 victory over Valley View on December 28. Tincher, a 1990 Bellbrook graduate, has led the Lady Eagles to 10 Southwestern

Division titles in the SWBL, four district championships, two regional championships, and state semifinal appearances in 2012 and 2018. Bellbrook hasn't had a losing season since 1989. "We've had great support and it seems like everyone rallies around us. Great memories," Tincher said.

BMS Earns Purple Star Designation from ODE

The Ohio Department of Education selected Bellbrook Middle School as a 2020 Purple Star designee. The Purple Star designation recognizes schools that meet important criteria for serving military-connected students and families. We applaud and appreciate the outstanding commitment we have to serving military-connected students and families. The district's three other schools, Bellbrook High School in 2019, Bell Creek Intermediate in 2018, and Stephen Bell Elementary in 2020 are already Purple Star designated schools.

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 Todd Whalen, special education supervisor at 937-848-5001 ext 2922 or todd.whelen@bss.k12.oh.us.

Montgomery Earns Band Booster Award

Congratulations to Bill Montgomery on receiving the Patrick John Hughes Parent/Booster Award for his many years of dedication to the Bellbrook Music Boosters. This award recognizes "the extraordinary commitment, dedication, support, and sacrifice of music parents and boosters around the world by shining a spotlight on an individual who exemplifies these qualities."

Though his kids are grown now with families of their own, Bill continues to be an integral part of our pit dad and booster organizations, spending countless hours loading the truck, striping the fields, making pizzas at UD, building props, and so much more. The Bellbrook Music Department is fortunate to have Bill as a part of the band family, and is looking forward to many more years of enjoying the band activity together!



BHS Principal Dave Hann presents Bill Montgomery with the Patrick John Hughes Parent/Booster award at a fall football game.

Three BHS students named National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists

Congratulations to our BHS National Merit Scholar semi finalists Avarie Faulkner, Cailey Riggs and Marissa Smith for qualifying as National Merit Scholars for the 2020-21 school year. 1.6 million students participated in the competition, with only 16,000 being selected as semifinalists. Impressive!



Avarie
Faulkner



Cailey
Riggs



Marissa
Smith

Project-Based Learning at Bellbrook High School

Marketing students presented their marketing research reports October 19-21. This semester students focused their research on the STEM Club's promotional products. The marketing students not only learned about the fundamentals of this process, but they actually created and conducted market research and analyzed the data they collected to formulate recommendations to key stakeholders. BHS Business teacher Mr. Josh Craig said, "The ability of our students to engage in a high level project like this and perform so well is truly a testament to the academic programs we have in the district. The student's writing skills and public speaking skills are outstanding thanks to the educational experiences they've had here."

Next quarter the students will continue their PBL experience by formulating a Marketing Plan for the STEM Club's promotional products.



Kindergarten Informational Meeting and Registration

WHAT: Kindergarten parent GoogleMeet (virtual)

WHEN: Tuesday, March 23, 2021

TIME: 7:00-7:45 p.m.

WHY: Learn about our kindergarten programs for 2021-22

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

REGISTRATION: Online the Week of April 12

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 2021-2022 school year.

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



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7th Annual Bellbrook-Sugarcreek PTO Direct Donation Campaign running February 14-March 14



Over the past 7 years, our Bellbrook-Sugarcreek PTO has run a successful Direct Donation Campaign raising over \$250,000 for our schools. Generosity throughout the community has funded classroom technology, reading programs, online learning subscriptions, leadership development/programming, student character incentives, field trips, playground equipment and so much more. Please consider making a 100% tax deductible donation to this campaign and spread the love for our students and teachers.

The 2021 campaign is dedicated in loving memory of Mary Frantz. Mrs. Frantz served on our School Board for 31 years and never missed donating to the Direct Donation Campaign. She honored and recognized our PTO's effort and was often spotted sporting our popular hoodies at her grandchildren's athletic events. We hope to make her proud in 2021 as we show the same love she selflessly gave to our schools for so many years.

Eagle Eats Helps to Feed Kids on Weekends

By BHS Student Cailey Riggs

Hunger is not just a problem in rural developing countries or crowded inner cities. During the week, dozens of schoolchildren in our very own suburban towns rely upon federally subsidized school lunches for their daily nutritional needs. On the weekends, however, no school means no food. Bellbrook High School's chapter of National Honor Society is striving to change that in our local community through a lunch-packing, belly-filling program called Eagle Eats.

Eagle Eats is the brainchild of Morgan Sharbaugh, a Bellbrook High School senior and our chapter's current NHS secretary. She organized the program as a solution to the issue of feeding underserved children, which was brought up in an NHS meeting. Roughly modeled after similar programs in neighboring school districts, the Eagle Eats volunteers collect food donations, package individual lunches in a safe manner, and then deliver the lunches to the school buildings of the kids who need them. Kids take the lunches home with them to have food over the week-end, and according to the wonderful feedback the program has received, it has been a big success. In a kind email, Whitney Knipfer, the Guidance Counselor of Stephen Bell Elementary, remarked that "It was awesome! I appreciate their help so much and this whole program!"

Although Morgan has acquired generous donations totalling \$2500 from Greene Giving, United Way, and the

Bellbrook Sugarcreek Education Foundation (BSEF), so far the program has operated fully on food donations alone. "We haven't even touched the grant money yet," Morgan reported in a telephone interview. "Students and staff in the school system have been incredibly supportive [with food donations] and each week we have just enough food for all the kids." All that food is certainly put to good use; the new program has already supplied over 350 lunches to children in the Bellbrook area. This week, Eagle Eats is adding a special touch-- fun little Christmas gifts!

Working this miracle has been no small feat, however. When asked about how difficult it is to run Eagle Eats, Morgan answered that "the hardest part was really all of the organizing, initially. Making a plan, straightening out logistics, getting the word out... getting the ball rolling was really difficult. Now that we have a system in place, everything is running pretty smoothly." That being said, meeting every other week to pack lunches-- and collecting donations daily-- is still a lot of legwork for Morgan and fellow NHS members.

All of the work put in by the donors and volunteers has paid off in more ways than one. "Eagle Eats is working hard to supply those who are struggling to afford food [but] it is also pulling the high school together in order to help those in our community through donations and acts of service." Easing hunger in our local area has strengthened our community by bringing BHS students and staff together for a common cause, which in the end has benefited us all.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools
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The Bridge e-edition

Do you know of a Bellbrook alum, former community member, grandparent or someone that has moved out of the community that would like to stay connected to our schools and receive an electronic version of the Bridge? Email info@bss.k12.oh.us and request that The Bridge e-edition be sent to them.

UPCOMING DATES

- Feb 11** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Feb. 12** No School-teacher in-service
- Feb 15** No School-President's Day
- Feb 25** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- Mar 5** End of 3rd Quarter
- Mar 11** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BCI
- Mar 17** Two-hour delay K-12
- Mar 29-April 5** No School-spring break
- April 8** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ SB
- April 22** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BMS
- April 28** Two-hour delay K-12
- May 13** Board Meeting - 7 PM @ BHS
- May 20** 1-hr early dismissal and last day for students
- May 21** Last day for teachers-teacher in-service

Substitute Staff Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted for substitute teachers, special needs aides, bus drivers and transportation assistants (aides) for the 2020-21 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

INCLEMENT WEATHER: WHAT DO WE DO?

From time to time during the school year, Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools may close, experience delays or early dismissals or make changes in school schedules and activities due to inclement weather. In an effort to disseminate announcements in a timely and cost-effective manner, the first step in our notification process will be electronic. We will post the notification on our FACEBOOK page (@BellbrookSchools), our TWITTER feed (@BellbrookSchool) and on our WEBSITE. We will PHONE CALL, EMAIL and TEXT all parents and staff using the Instant Connect call-out system. Local TV and radio stations will carry announcements and updates as well.

Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools

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



@BellbrookSchools

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