

## MISSION/VISION

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the BSS Special Education Department is to foster an environment that promotes inclusivity, empathy and individuality, by providing individualized learning experiences that acknowledge and enhance students' strengths and encourage growth and development for all learners.

### VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the BSS Special Education Department is to encourage student understanding of their rights and abilities, and equip them with self-advocacy and independence skills, by providing opportunities to take ownership of and actively engage in the educational process, in order to reach their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTORY

### Bellbrook Pre-School

Katie Weber, School Psychologist, [katie.weber@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:katie.weber@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Traci Womack, Pre-K Supervisor, [traci.womack@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:traci.womack@bss.k12.oh.us)  
**Phone: 937-848-5001, Fax: 937-848-5018**

### Stephen Bell Elementary

Jenna Sandlund, School Psychologist, [jenna.sandlund@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:jenna.sandlund@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Ginger Keeton, Principal, [ginger.keeton@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:ginger.keeton@bss.k12.oh.us)  
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### Bell Creek Elementary

Katie Weber, School Psychologist, [katie.weber@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:katie.weber@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Donnie Phelps, Principal, [donnie.phelps@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:donnie.phelps@bss.k12.oh.us)  
**Phone: 937-848-3777, Fax: 937-848-5078**

### Bellbrook Middle School

Evan Geist, School Psychologist, [evan.geist@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:evan.geist@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Jenna Hill, Assistant Principal, [jenna.hill@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:jenna.hill@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Jeff Eckley, Principal, [jeff.eckley@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:jeff.eckley@bss.k12.oh.us)  
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### Bellbrook High School

Evan Geist, School Psychologist, [evan.geist@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:evan.geist@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Nikki LaSota, Assistant Principal, [nikki.lasota@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:nikki.lasota@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Todd Whalen, Assistant Principal, [todd.whalen@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:todd.whalen@bss.k12.oh.us)  
David Hann, Principal, [david.hann@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:david.hann@bss.k12.oh.us)  
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### District Administration

Dr. Doug Cozad, Superintendent, [doug.cozad@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:doug.cozad@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Betsy Gann, Director of Curriculum, [betsy.gann@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:betsy.gann@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Todd Whalen, Sp. Education Supervisor, [todd.whalen@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:todd.whalen@bss.k12.oh.us)  
Jennifer McClure, Administrative Asst.,  
[jennifer.mcclure@bss.k12.oh.us](mailto:jennifer.mcclure@bss.k12.oh.us)  
**Phone: 937-848-5001, Fax: 937-848-5018**

### Additional Support

Ann Maguire, Parent Mentor  
[parentmentor.annmaguire@gmail.com](mailto:parentmentor.annmaguire@gmail.com)  
**Phone: 937-559-4029**

## BELLBROOK SUGARCREEK SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Welcome to BSS  
Special Education!  
**WE ARE...**

**G**iving  
**O**ur  
**L**earners the  
**D**iverse  
**E**xperiences they  
**N**eed

**EAGLES!**



## SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

### Dictionary of Special Education Terms

**Description:** The QR Code below links to a “Dictionary of Special Education Terms” to assist our parents/guardians and students in bridging any potential communication gaps that may exist when discussing student needs with our staff.



### Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

**Description:** The QR Code below links to the Department’s Parent Advisory Committee webpage. The role of this Committee is to facilitate collaboration amongst all stake holders in an effort to promote the inclusion and understanding of, as well as the respect and support for all children with special needs **(11% of our student population receive special services-you are not alone!)**.



### Additional Community Resources

The Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Community Support Center provides numerous programs that may further benefit our students and/or their families outside of their educational endeavors. For more information, please contact 937-848-3810.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOURCES

### Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Special Education Webpage

**Description:** The QR Code below links to the department website which includes information related to: “A guide to Parent Rights in Special Education”, Ohio Disability Category Definitions, Disability Resources from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the John Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, the Autism Scholarship Program, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, and information from the Greene County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



### Chain of Communication and Resolution

**Description:** The QR Code below provides the link to the district and individual schools’ Chain of Communication and Resolution document. This document contains contact information for staff at the building level, and also identifies the process for addressing concerns and asking questions at the building and district level.



## FAQs

**Q: My child is a current BSS student and was just diagnosed with a condition, who should I contact to learn if he/she qualifies for special services?**

**A:** Please contact the School Psychologist at your child’s school to gather more information about how to proceed.

**Q: If my child can’t keep up with his/her peers because of a disability or medical condition, will he/she be retained in his/her current grade?**

**A:** If a student is not making adequate progress, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team will convene to discuss potential interventions or next steps for the student.

**Q: Can I bring outside support to an IEP meeting? Does the school provide any support?**

**A:** Yes, per the IEP invitation, you may bring outside support. The school district also offers a parent mentor, Mrs. Ann Maguire. Mrs. Maguire can be reached via email: [parentmentor.annmaguire@gmail.com](mailto:parentmentor.annmaguire@gmail.com), or phone: (937)-559-4029.

**Q: How do I know what types of services should be provided by the school and which should be provided by outside doctors/therapists/tutors?**

**A:** This will be determined through the Evaluation Team Report (ETR) and an explanation will be provided by the School Psychologist once the report becomes available.

**Q: How is a student's Least Restrictive Environment LRE determined and what LRE options are available?**

**A:** The LRE is based on the student’s level of need and will be determined by the IEP team based on relevant data and student needs. Placement could include, but is not limited to, the general co-taught and/or special education classrooms, or home instruction.

**Q: What is the difference between a 504 and an IEP?**

**A:** IEPs, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), cover students who qualify for Special Education. Section 504 covers students who don't meet the criteria for special education but who still require some accommodations.