



Bell Creek Weekly Peek

5/8 - 5/12

Better today than yesterday;

Better tomorrow than today!

It's Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week 2023



This week we are celebrating our talented and dedicated teachers and staff at Bell Creek who make our school SOAR with the help of our PTO and all of our amazing and supportive families. This week, we are doing a daily theme following our Specials Classes' color rotation schedule. All of your generosity and support has made this week possible and we know our teachers are going to feel the love, appreciation, and fun! We'd also like to encourage students to dress in the color of the day:

May				
M	T	W	H	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

Monday = **Green**; Tuesday = **Blue**; Wednesday = **Pink**; Thursday = **Orange**; Friday = **Yellow**

MONDAY:
GREEN GODS AND GODESSES
OF EDUCATION

TUESDAY:
THE BLUE SKY'S THE LIMIT
WITH THIS AWESOME STAFF

WEDNESDAY:
WE'RE TICKLED PINK THAT
YOU'VE KEPT US AFLOAT

THURSDAY:
ORANGE YOU GLAD WE
LOVE OUR BCI STAFF!

FRIDAY:
WE'RE LUCKY DUCKS OF THE
FINEST FLOCK!

WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU DO - MR. PHELPS AND THE BELLBROOK SUGARCREEK PTO

We are so grateful for all of your generous donations & support to make this week possible. We are grateful to all of our Bell Creek Families! Pics coming soon of all of the festivities.

Spring Testing Season is *ALMOST* complete...

As you know, the past several weeks have been dedicated to the Spring administration of Ohio State Tests (OSTs) in English-Language Arts (3-5), Mathematics (3-5), and Science (5). These tests are so important because their results are what largely what populates our State Report Card and ratings as a school and district, which is why it is so important for students to perform their very best on them. This week we will be completing make-up testing due to student absences on an individual and group basis. In speaking with students, the overarching theme is that they felt prepared and confident on the testing days. I'm sure we can all expect some wonderful results we can be proud of!



Up this week is the Spring benchmarking with the NWEA MAP Assessment. Different from the OST testing we just completed, MAP is not an achievement test, but rather an adaptive, nationally normed assessment of students' growth relative to the common core state standards and skills in Reading and Math. The goal is always to show growth, which is relative and individualized for every student.

However, it is no less important than the OST... These assessments provide teachers and teams with invaluable data to make instructional decisions for grouping, interventions, enrichment opportunities, and more. Additionally, the MAP data is available within 24 hours of proctoring, and it automatically feeds into other platforms, like ExactPath for example, and creates a learning pathway that is specific to each learner. This way, students are always being met with what they need, whether that is gap-filling or acceleration to new skills where in either instance the content and skills may not be part of the normal curriculum at the student's grade level. Since we have all grown weary of being out of routine and testing schedules, we are running on a normal schedule and teachers will be testing their students in normal classes in Math and Reading this week. We will send family reports home so that you can see how much your student has grown this year with report cards by snail mail (USPS) in June.

Panorama Surveys

The district will be sending out the Panorama Survey to parents/families and it will be open until May 20. This is just a friendly reminder to please take the time to fill out the survey so that we can better serve your students. The administration analyzes this data each summer and uses it in planning and setting goals for the upcoming school year.



Did you
pre-order



forget to
a Yearbook?

If so, no problem...

The 2022-23 yearbooks have arrived. Students/families who pre-ordered should have brought them home already. If you didn't order, we have extras that may be purchased on a first come, first served basis. Just simply send \$25 cash or check made out to Bell Creek Intermediate or call our office for credit card payment.

Bell Creek Volunteers

Since state testing is taking place during our normal preferred visitor/volunteer days/hours, through the end of this week, we would like to welcome our regular visitors/volunteers to come lend a helping hand on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays instead. The hosting teacher will still need to put you on the calendar... and the 20th is a special day in Ohio

Schools - it's the recognition day for school volunteers. We have a special gift for you when you next visit us. We appreciate your endless hours of support and hard work to help our staff, students. and school to be the best that we can be.



Bell Creek's Night Out 2023 with the Dayton Dragons

Annually, Bell Creek Intermediate participates in a night out at the Fifth-Third Field for a Dragon's game. This year, Mrs. Wellbaum and her choir will perform the National Anthem! Our date is Tuesday, May 16th... the game starts at 7:05, with gates opening at 6:00 pm. The deadline to order your tickets is Friday, May 5th. Tickets can be ordered online by following this link:

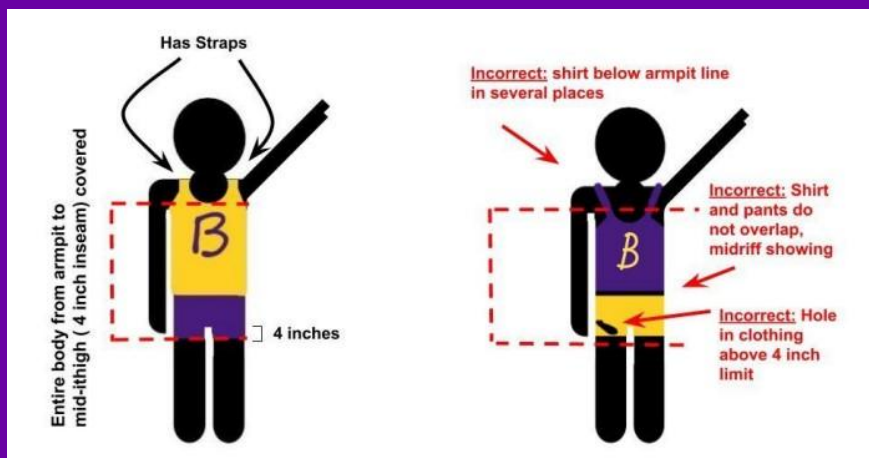
<https://fevoqm.com/event/Bellcreek23> - Choir members' tickets have already been

reserved for them and Mrs. Wellbaum will share that information with those students and their families prior to the big night out!

☀️😓 Warmer Weather = Spring/Summer Attire, but it needs to be school-appropriate

As the weather changes and the warmer temperatures come on, so do wardrobe changes. Oftentimes students have grown significantly since the final warm days of the fall and whether it is how last year's clothing is fitting or popular fashion trends, we need to remind you that clothing worn to school needs to be appropriate in fitting and content per our student code of conduct.

Bellbrook High School produced the following diagram to help students (and families) interpret the dress code expectations there. We thought it would be helpful to have this as a visual guide for our intermediate students, too. Students whose attire does not align with these expectations will be offered alternative clothing or may have caregivers bring other garments to school.



Calendar for the Week: (You can also access our building calendar [here](#) - the drop down in the upper right corner to filter our school)

This week, we get to...

Date	Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
Monday 5/8			
	6-8: Stephen Bell Elementary Art Show		
Tuesday 5/9	SPRING MAP TESTING in MATH		
	7pm: PTO Meeting @ BMS Large Group Room		
Wednesday 5/10			

Thursday 5/11	SPRING MAP TESTING in READING		
	7-9: Regular Board of Education Meeting @ BMS Large Group Room		
Friday 5/12			
Saturday 5/13			

UPCOMING DATES:

- **May 9 & May 11:** Spring MAP Benchmark Assessment (Math on Tu; Reading on Th)
- **Week of May 8:** Math Acceleration Testing based on parent/teacher nominations



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Positive Parenting Sessions Continue

Our partners at GCESC have shared this month's information with links to the free, online Positive Parenting Sessions:

Positive Parenting April 2023.pdf

Building Resilient Homes

a free learning series, online,
and at your own pace & on your own time!

We are happy to offer this to our Bell Creek families. Our staff is engaged in similar learning, only for building resilient classrooms and fostering mentally healthy classrooms for elementary students.

You can find more information about this excellent learning opportunity brought to us by the Greene County Educational Service Center through grant funds [linked here](#).



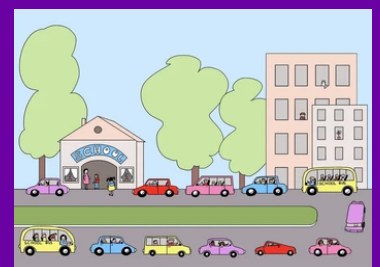
Does your family need
latchkey service? Check out
Champions!

[2023-24 Rate Sheet & Information](#)

CROSSWALK & DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

Just some reminders for safety and efficiency's sake:

- The crosswalk is not supervised until 8:45 am and there is a staff member there to help students cross 8:45-9:00 each morning.
- In the afternoon, the crosswalk is supervised from 3:35-3:45.
- Students can enter the gym beginning at 8:45; that is when supervision duty begins. Please do not drop students off before then. They should not be waiting in the elements or playing on the playground as there is no outdoor supervision.



- Please remember at drop off and pick up to pull up all the way around the loop and stop in front of the playground near the SEC. This is what keeps traffic flowing efficiently and keeps our carline off the road.
- 🍦 🍌 **DAIRY SHED INFORMATION** - this was already sent out previously, but you can find it linked above. I have also been told that some of our students are behaving very badly (climbing on tables, hitting/shoving as mentioned above, etc.) - not only does this reflect poorly on our school, it is also causing a nuisance for a local business, which is a hometown treasure. This is a privilege, which can be denied.

Requests for Placements in K-5 Classes for Next School Year 2023-24

As you may know, our K-5 Team made the determination in the spring of last school year that it would no longer be feasible to consider parent/caregiver preferences for students' placements in their classes and we shared this with all families. This is a friendly reminder of this change in our scheduling protocols and procedures for both Stephen Bell and Bell Creek's academic programming and our service model needs. Aside from the wonderful opportunity to employ many more teachers in our elementary programs based on the generous hiring opportunity to decrease class sizes that prompted many changes and new teachers, there are several other factors that make including requests for placement an impossibility. While it is fantastic that so many of our teachers are highly regarded, respected, and their reputations carry such prestige in our school community and the community at large, and it is understandable why families may request them, there are other factors that can have far greater impacts on our placement to ensure that every student receives an appropriate and personalized learning experience in our schools based on their individual needs.

Our teams use a variety of data points as well as anecdotal information and input from your students' current teacher(s) to help determine placement priorities for each one of them as we plan for next school year. As students progress in their educational journeys into second grade and beyond, the academic rigor along with more specific academic needs begin to need to be addressed. The specific services, programs, and personnel who provide the academic intervention or enrichment in conjunction with homeroom teachers delivering the core curriculum, make for a very intricate schedule in our buildings. Adding the additional variable of preference for placement is something we can no longer do. Please know that we consider many different pieces of data and other factors to ensure that students are placed most appropriately where the staff can best serve them, where they can be successful, and where reach their fullest potential.

WBCI Video Announcements



In case you hadn't heard, our Digital Literacy teacher Mrs. Barlow, coordinates our daily video announcements with student participation! There's a daily video drop that teachers play during Morning Meeting. You can subscribe to her [YouTube Channel](#) to check them out, too.



Our students' **SAFETY**
- which includes physical, emotional, social, and mental -
is **our #1 priority** all day, every day!

