

BELLEFONTE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Red Raider

m a g a z i n e



Welcome Back • International Trip • New Faculty



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The Bellefonte Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities or employment practices based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ancestry or any other legally protected classification. This policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. Information relative to special accommodations, grievance procedure, and designated responsible official for compliance with Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 may be obtained by contacting Dr. Michelle Saylor, at 355-4814, Ext 3005.

Cover Photo: Brenna Bixler

How to Reach Us

Administration Building	
All Numbers.....	355-4814
Superintendent's Office.....	Ext 3005
Director of Fiscal Affairs.....	Ext 3015
Assistant Superintendent.....	Ext 3004
Director of Special Education.....	Ext 3021
Business Office.....	Ext 3001
Director of Human Resources	Ext 3002
Director of Physical Plant.....	Ext 3006
Director of Food Service	Ext 3010
Director of Transportation.....	Ext 3015
Bellefonte Elementary.....	355-5519
Benner Elementary.....	355-2812
Marion-Walker Elementary.....	357-2425
Pleasant Gap Elementary	359-2739
Bellefonte Middle School.....	355-5466
Bellefonte High School.....	355-4833
BeLA	Ext. 3053
Web Site.....	www.basd.net

A Message from

Dr. Michelle Saylor

Bellefonte Area School District Superintendent



Welcome to the 2016-17 school year.

The start of school has always been my favorite time of the year and this year was no different. I know our teachers and staff feel the same. In those first few days back, curiosity is peeked, stories are shared, and new friendships blossom. It is also our opportunity to ensure that all of our students are welcomed back to a nurturing environment where students can grow academically and socially.

Each year brings changes, and this year is no different. At the elementary level, we will be offering World Languages to our 3rd grade students (in addition to K-2) - Mandarin Chinese at Bellefonte Elementary School and Spanish at Benner, Marion Walker, and Pleasant Gap, we will be developing innovative maker spaces within our libraries, and we will begin to make changes to our English Language Arts programming that better addresses the needs of our students. At the secondary level, new technology utilizing virtual reality will enhance instruction in our engineering, art, agriculture and science classes, and high school students will have the opportunity to experience "College in the Classroom" through the University of Pittsburgh.

However, despite the growing opportunities afforded our students, we realize that perhaps not everyone within our community is aware of the engaging and relevant learning experiences our district provides. It is our goal to better communicate all that we offer our children. And likewise, it is also incumbent upon us to help our local community members better understand the educational landscape and the toll that misconceptions take on our district.

A point for discussion is Charter schools. It is not our intention to devalue the choice any family makes for their child's education; we

understand there are many variables to consider, but rather it is our intent to ensure that those decisions are informed by information indicative of what a school or district has to offer and their support systems that ensure both academic and social success.

The annual cost to our district to support the education provided by our region's charter schools during the 2015-16 school year was \$1,756,551.00. Charter schools are not free as advertised; the cost for attendance at these schools is funneled from your local district. That is funding that is no longer available to support the programming and facility upgrades, among many other things, for students enrolled within our district buildings. Our district is also required to provide transportation services for those students enrolled within the charter schools that are situated within ten miles of the district boundaries and to provide full special education costs regardless of services required (and often at a price much larger than what it would be to provide the same services to those students if enrolled within our district).

Unfortunately, there is often no elected Board oversight of charter schools - no checks and balances to ensure financial and programming responsibility. These points are a concern. We want the best educational opportunities possible for our children, for all children. We want the decisions made with regard to choice in education to be fully informed; and, we want our community to better understand the challenges our district faces.

We are extremely proud of our district and all it has to offer. We are extremely proud of our students, as well as our faculty and staff. Bellefonte Area School District is a great place to learn.

Michelle Saylor, Ed.D.

High School

A new school year and new adventures are upon us. BAHS is off to a wonderful start and it's as if we haven't missed a beat. The school hallways are a buzz with learning, excitement and camaraderie. Our students are in full swing with their coursework, extracurriculars, jobs and other endeavors which keep them so busy and involved. A huge thank you to the Parents and Guardians for your support as we started another school year; your support is what makes our school the proud center of our community. Thank you to the Staff of BAHS who have made the start of the school year the smoothest I have seen. Custodial staff, the hallways are gorgeous and our campus looks amazing...thank you. Cafeteria staff, it was a busy start, but you handled it with grace and a focus on our students. Secretaries and Clerks, we couldn't do it without you...you are invaluable. Paraeducators, you are some of the most important people in so many of our student's lives. Bus drivers, van drivers and crossing guards, you do not get the recognition you deserve. You keep our children safe; we cannot thank you enough. MIS/Technology department, I'm not sure if you hear how much you mean to our school, but know your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you Substitutes for coming into our school and being a part of our team. Faculty, your passion and dedication is second to none; thank you for always being focused on the students. Students, try your best, take risks to grow and follow your passions. Here's to a journey of trial and error, success and a focus on your passions in the 16-17 school year.



Wishing you the best,
Mrs. Jennifer Brown
Principal, BAHS

Welcome New Faculty at BAHS



Shawna Weaver



Kevin Briggs



Colin Chapman

My name is Shawna Weaver. I am a Bellefonte High School Alumni. I graduated from BHS in 1995. After High School, I went to Lock Haven University where I received a Degree in Early Childhood Education. I am currently in my 12th year of teaching, having spent the last eight years teaching Family and Consumer Sciences in the Penns Valley Area School District. I live in Hublersburg with my Husband, Shawn, and our three boys; Nolan (7th grade at BAMS), Noah (4th grade at MW), and Nash (1st grade at MW). When I am not at school, you will probably find me at one of my boys practices or games. I am very excited to be a part of BASD!!

I am thrilled to be back at Bellefonte Area High School to teach high school English. As you may know, I started out as a high school English teacher for the School District of Lancaster, served as an assistant principal at BAHS and BAMS, and then worked for Penn State for the past two years. Penn State was great, but I quickly realized I missed working with secondary students, and I always hoped to get back in the classroom to teach again. So, I am very happy about this new adventure. When I am not teaching and preparing lessons, I enjoy spending time with my two children, Mayra and Dylan, and my black lab, Iggy. You may also see me around the county playing music in various ensembles, at various places, on various instruments. Or, you may see me trail running on any one of our beautiful Centre County mountains

My name is Colin Chapman, and I am the new Social Studies teacher at BAHS. I am teaching World Cultures and U.S. History 1. I graduated from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania where I received my Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Social Studies Education. While at Mansfield, I also completed minors in Music and Business Administration.



Welcome New Faculty



Heather Huntsinger

I have over 16 years of experience in education. I began my educational career as a Science teacher at the Saint Clair Elementary/Middle School. I hold a bachelor's degree in Biology, Secondary Education from Millersville University and a master's degree in Education with an emphasis in Classroom Technology from Wilkes University. During the past eleven years, she has been working in the central technology training unit at Penn State University to assist students, faculty, and staff in the effective use of technology for their courses and daily work. My passion for teaching has lead me back to a classroom teacher role, and I am excited to share my experience and love for Science in the Earth and Space Science and Environment and Ecology classrooms. I live in Bellefonte with my husband and two children and enjoy spending time with family at their activities, cooking, flower gardening, and running.



Molly Molnar

I'm from Tyrone, I went to Juniata College after high school then taught English for two years at the Grier School before moving to Eugene, Oregon. I went to grad school at the University of Oregon and taught for 10 years in OR before returning to PA. I taught at Huntingdon for 2 years and now I'm here. In addition to teaching, I also have two little girls ages 5 and 8.



Kaysey Beury

I graduated from Lock Haven University in 2012 and taught 8th grade English for three years in Virginia before moving back to Pennsylvania and attending Penn State. This past summer, I finished my Master's degree in higher education and worked with the Learning Edge Academic Program at the University Park campus. I have a passion for education at all levels, and I am excited to be here and back in the classroom. I am looking forward to working with some new content and getting to know a new group of students!



Erin Welsh

I am thrilled to be teaching art at Bellefonte Area High School this year! I look forward to working with my students to make strong and thoughtful work. My own studio practice focuses on painting, drawing, silk painting, quilting and mosaic-making. I have been teaching art for 17 years, most recently at Mifflin County High School in Lewistown, PA. I graduated from Penn State University in 1999 with degrees in Art Education and Painting and Drawing. I live in State College with my bicycle-enthusiast husband, two sweet kiddos (ages 2 and 6), two dogs, a cat, and one fish.



Alexander Billotte

I grew up in Clearfield, PA. I spend a lot of my free time doing things outdoors like running, backpacking, biking, and golfing. Reading is something else that I really enjoy. I graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia. My first two years, I taught learning support at an elementary school near Washington D.C., and I spent the last two years teaching at an inner-city high school in Philadelphia



High School

zSpace-Real World Virtual Reality Technology



Students from Mrs. Poorman's Plant Science and Biotechnology class experiment with the newest technology, zSpace. zSpace technology combines elements of VR and AR to create lifelike experiences on the computer that are immersive and interactive. With zView, you can share your experience with not just a peer but with an audience as well. zSpace is the ultimate immersive learning experience that allows students to interact with objects and understand the concepts behind them. With zSpace, students can learn highly engaging tasks that are often too complex, expensive, and dangerous for the classroom. We have programs that support curricula such as geometry and algebra, music, art, science, anatomy, and much more! These machines are much more than just a 3D computer used to dissect things. There is so much more that can be used to enhance curricula, and it's up to the teachers to incorporate this technology.



BAHS CELEBRATES HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!



Throughout this last month, the halls of BAHS have been decorated with posters detailing a person of Hispanic descent. All the students in a Spanish class made a project for Hispanic Heritage Month, which is September 15 through October 15. Students got to pick a pop culture icon of Hispanic descent and research about his or her life. Students specifically looked at details such as the Hispanic country of origin, birthday, and fun facts. The higher level Spanish students created their project in Spanish. This offered students a great way to get back into the Spanish language after summer break. The AP Spanish students got to do their project on a Hispanic person who has had a major influence on history or was very culturally important.

In addition to Spanish students researching a Hispanic person of their choosing, the Spanish Honor Society is spreading awareness of Hispanic Heritage Month. On the daily morning

announcements, there is a daily fun fact regarding a Hispanic person or the Hispanic culture. On the last week of Hispanic Heritage Month, there is a daily quiz question where students can test their knowledge of the facts they have learned from the announcements. Students compete for the daily prize provided by the Spanish Honor Society.

Beyond the posters and announcements, the goal of celebrating Spanish Heritage Month is to educate students and faculty on the Hispanic culture. We can celebrate the contributions and histories of all Hispanic people. The Spanish department and Spanish Honor Society want to ensure that everyone has learned something new this month; whether it be about a person they didn't know was from Hispanic descent or some contribution to society that a Hispanic person has made. Hopefully, the school has gained some valuable knowledge about the Hispanic culture.



Trip to France and Spain

Would you like to swim in the Mediterranean on the French Riviera? Ride a bike through the streets of Barcelona? Eat escargot in France and tapas in Madrid? In mid-June, 39 high school students and six teacher-chaperones got to do all those things, and more. The trip was planned and chaperoned by members of the high school World Language Department: Emily Zimdahl-McManus, Victoria Butch, and Brittany McCamley. Three middle school teachers—Kelly McManus, Amy Sten, and Ashley Waite—also helped chaperone the trip.

We left Bellefonte on June 13 on a charter bus to Dulles Airport and flew overnight to Nice, France. For many students, this was the first time that they had been out of the United States. They learned to be proficient with showing their passports, going through airport security, traveling with a big group, and using Euros to pay for purchases. Throughout our trip, we were accompanied by Eduardo (famous for his “just a short five-minute walk--!” refrain), our guide furnished by EF Tours.

We traveled by bus around Nice and Cannes in France. Students visited a perfume factory just outside of Nice and were able to see how perfume is made. Our journey included a brief trip to the principality of Monaco, where we saw the palace, cathedral, and park dedicated to the memory of Princess Grace. As we traveled south through France, we toured the walled city of Avignon and then saw the Pont du Gard, a 900-foot long aqueduct built by the Romans almost 2,000 years ago. Our final stop in France was in Montpellier, the town where Ms. McCamley (one of the chaperones and the only French-speaking teacher on the trip) lived while she was studying in France.

Once we left France, we crossed the border into Spain and went to Barcelona, the largest seaport in the country. Although we still took a few short sight-seeing trips by bus, we generally traveled around the city by walking (a lot!) and taking the subway. Students shopped in a market for food ingredients then participated in making authentic Spanish food. We also saw La Sagrada Familia, the impressive (but still unfinished) cathedral designed by Gaudí, Barcelona’s most famous architect.

The final leg of our journey was to Madrid, the capital of Spain, via the city of Zaragoza. In Madrid, we toured the Royal Palace (although we only saw a fraction of the 2,800 rooms in the palace). We saw the legendary plazas (La Plaza Mayor and la Puerta del Sol) and toured the Prado, Madrid’s famous art museum. Our group ate incredibly delicious churros dipped in chocolate, went to a flamenco show, and then ate tapas and listened to a Mariachi band.

Our final day began with a wake-up call at 4:00 a.m. Twenty-four hours later, we arrived back in Bellefonte. We were exhausted but exhilarated, toting suitcases stuffed with souvenirs and dirty clothes, our heads filled with memories and funny stories of our adventures in France and Spain.



Middle School

A fresh start! Those are the words that come to mind as we begin a new school year. Everyone has the opportunity to try new things, learn new things, and make new friends. Our staff worked diligently throughout the summer to prepare the building and classrooms for our students. It is wonderful to hear the sound of laughter and chatter in the hallways once again!!

BAMS will still be publishing a monthly newsletter. We appreciate the feedback that we received last year, and we intend to keep the lines of communication open through our monthly publications. The BAMS Newsletter can be found on our website at www.basd.net.

We continue to promote positive behaviors and school climate through the Raider Revolution, our School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program. Over the course of a year, we have created a student team who is eager to plan rewards and incentives that motivate the students to follow the school-wide rules and acknowledge staff for supporting the Raider Revolution program. By doing this, we are creating a fun, safe, and enriching environment that coincides with the values of the Bellefonte Area School District and it's community.

Five new teachers have joined our team at BAMS. Kristy Fitzgerald is serving as 8th grade Learning Support. Erin Harrison is the Itinerant Emotional Support teacher. The long-term substitute for Orchestra is Emma Ripp. Lu Leyan is the Chinese teacher. Our new Technology Education teacher is Jordan Eccher. They have all been an excellent addition to our BAMS family.

Educating a child is an awesome responsibility. It is one in which we all play a role - from parents/guardians, to the community, to the faculty and staff of the school. We appreciate your support now and throughout the school year. A wise man, known as Dr. Seuss, once said "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you CHOOSE!"

Here's to a fresh start and a wonderful 2016-2017 school year

Sommer Garman, Principal
Becky Michaels, Vice-Principal



These artists are hard at work on their bike drawing. Students are drawing multiple perspectives of the bike using thumbnail sketches. They are going to enlarge the best one and paint the negative spaces.

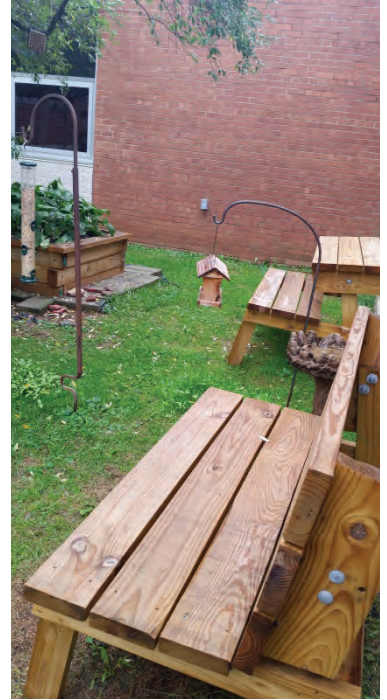


7th Grade Courtyard Work

The 7th grade is excited to show you the progress we've made in both our courtyards! The raised beds are completed with native perennial plants the students grew from seed last year with the help of Penn State Master Gardeners. The plants were specially selected to attract pollinators, especially butterflies.

The benches and tables were designed and constructed by Mr. Olmsted and the students in wood shop. The design allows for them to be changed between being a bench or a table, giving the students the option to choose which design will allow them to sit and work comfortably during a lesson and tutorial.

The area also has a "beach" for faculty and staff to use during plan time, lunch, and breaks. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoor space while grading papers, planning lessons, relaxing, and eating lunch. We've also added bird feeders and a bird bath to attract our feathered friends, all part of the ecology of the garden environment. The redesigning of functional and beautiful courtyards are wonderful assets to the building, students, faculty and staff.



Welcome to the Raider Revolution Store!



Here at BAMS, our students are rewarded for following the school-wide rules by being given Raider Cards. There are various ways to "cash-in" the Raider Cards--one of which is the Raider Revolution Store. The store originated on a cart which was pushed into the hallway in the morning and allowed students to purchase items with their cards. Now, the store exists in its own space on the corner of 6th grade and the front hallway. The store carries many things from school supplies to gift cards. Students have the ability to go to the store on days 1-5 during tutorial. On any given day, the store has 30-40 students making purchases. The store is funded by generous donations and monies

received from spring pictures. Student volunteers help Mrs. Van Buskirk with the day to day running of the store. It is hoped that each student "employee" gains a sense of responsibility from working in the store as they are required to maintain good grades and be on time for work. If you would be interested in making a cash donation to the store, please email Mrs. Van Buskirk at kvanbusk@basd.net. Cash is used to buy the gift cards at establishments like Target, Walmart, and Sweet Frog. If you are visiting the middle school during tutorial time, feel free to stop down and take a look at the store in action!

Middle School

A NEW YEAR FOR THE BAMS CHAIN REACTION CLUB

In its fourth year, the Bellefonte Area Middle School Chain Reaction Club is a group of approximately 30 middle school students who focus on spreading kindness throughout the school and community to show their appreciation for students, staff, and community members.

The program organizes several community projects every year and completes school-wide activities on a regular basis. Each year, the club sponsors two blood drives with the American Red Cross. Our fall blood drive will be held on October 26th at the Middle School from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Please consider donating blood by registering at www.redcrossblood.org, finding the Bellefonte Area Middle School Blood Drive, and registering for an appointment. Our goal is 40 pints of blood. A second drive will be held in April, 2017.

Another activity CRC will be facilitating is a winter coat and food drive from November 7 - 18. Non-perishable food items and gently used and new coats, gloves, hats, scarves, and winter boots will be gratefully accepted at the Middle School during that period. Food will be donated to the Faith Centre Food Bank in Bellefonte, and clothing items will be donated to the Buffalo Run United Methodist Church Coat Ministry program. Coats are given away at the church on Buffalo Run Road each Saturday in November to January from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

In addition to these types of events, students in the Chain Reaction Club visit Centre Crest and participate in their recreational program with the residents, spread positive messages to the students at the school, and make thank you gifts for teachers, custodians, cafeteria staff, administrators, guidance, clerical staff and neighbors surrounding the school.

The 2016 - 2017 club officers are Austin Melius-President, Morgan Goodman-Vice-President, Natasha Hoffman-Secretary, and Leigha Schrader-Treasurer. The group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings before school to share successes, make future project plans, and occasionally just to enjoy breakfast and friendship.



The BAMS Band will be presenting our winter concerts on Monday, December 12th and Thursday, December 15th at 7:30 in the middle school auditorium. Please come out to hear us play some fun tunes including Baby It's Cold Outside, Do You Want to Build a Snowman, and Jingle Bell Rock! We hope to see you there!

New Faces at BAMS

My name is Jordan Eccher and this is my First year teaching Technology Education (PLTW) in the Bellefonte Area School District. I enjoy the outdoors, physical fitness, carpentry, and metal working. I am a recent graduate of Millersville University. While I was there, I studied Technology Education and Occupational Safety and Environmental Health. Over the years, my passion for industry and technological development has grown. I feel that uncovering the surface to this world will benefit each and every student that walks through the doors of the Tech Lab.

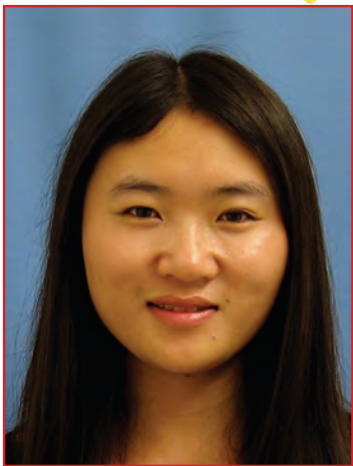
My name is Kristy Fitzgerald, and I am the 8th grade Learning Support teacher on the white team. While I spent the last two years as an 8th grade Learning Support teacher in Mifflin County, I have also taught various elementary positions including Kindergarten, 2nd grade, and Learning Support in MD, CA, and Tokyo, Japan. I live in State College with my husband and three children. In addition to spending time with family, I enjoy reading, biking, and dancing with the Happy Valley Cloggers. I am thrilled to be a part of Bellefonte Area Middle School!

My name is Ms. Emma Ripp, and I am the new Orchestra and 7th Grade Music Teacher. I grew up in Huntington, New York, and moved to Pennsylvania to pursue my Bachelors of Music Education at Penn State. I have taught elementary



orchestra in the Philadelphia area and am excited to continue teaching what I love in Bellefonte. In my free time, I enjoy performing with local orchestras, teaching private students, and playing with my energetic puppy!

Hello, my name is Erin Harrison, and I am the new Itinerant Emotional and Autistic Support Teacher at BAMS. I graduated from Mansfield University with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and Special Education, as well as a Minor in Music. I am currently working toward a Master's Degree in Special Education with a concentration in Behavior Management.



My name is Leyan Lu and I came from the province of Sichuan in the South-West of China. I am currently a graduate student at Beijing Normal University gaining a master's degree of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages.

I feel very happy that I am here because I really like experiencing different cultures especially American culture since people always regard Chinese culture and American culture as two representations of East and West cultures. And I am also very glad that I can teach Chinese here, the world is rich and colorful just because there are so many cultures and languages. We can have some culture and language communication through language teaching.

In my free time, I enjoy reading books, listening to music, and watching movies. Since living in Bellefonte, I also enjoy walking around town and learning my new surroundings. Bellefonte is such a wonderful and peaceful place! In short, I am so excited to be here for the year and to teach Chinese at BAMS! I am working with an absolutely awesome group!

Bellefonte Elementary

Bellefonte Elementary School welcomes several new teachers and some returning teachers.

Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Mix were teachers at BE in previous years and transferred back this year to teach 2nd grade.

Mrs. Plotts and Mrs. Glocke are two new learning support teachers serving grades 3-5.

Miss Sherman and Miss Mastroianni joined us as new 3rd grade teachers.

Mrs Shirey transferred from the high school to a reading specialist position.

Miss Ke is our new Chinese teacher from Beijing.

Follow us on Twitter at @BellefonteElem.





Students in Mrs. Harris's second grade class at Benner have had a seamless transition from summer to school. In addition to making new friends and learning about their classmates, students have been kicking off the school year with math games and a changes science unit. Pictured are students playing Rolling for 100 and students completing a KWL chart in Google Classroom on their Chromebooks. The implementation of 1:1 Chromebooks has been a welcomed addition to the building this year.



Mrs. Kipp's 4th grade students began the school year with an "All About Me" project that helped us to get to know each other better. Students were given a small paper bag to decorate with things that represented who they are and things they like, and then they took these bags home to fill with 3 to 5 of their favorite items to bring back to school. Students brought in photos of special family vacations, small sports and hobby items, and other personal items that they held close to their heart. All enjoyed sharing and listening as we learned so much about each other.



Mrs. Covone's class and Mrs. Anatheswaran's class were the September Box Top Champs at Benner Elementary. They are shown here with their trophy and the Benner Bear.



Marion - Walker Elementary



Mrs. Sharlene Yontosh

Welcome Back To The 2016-2017 School Year!

Our summer break was certainly one that was full of sunshine, warm temperatures, and loads of fun! It has been awhile since we were able to enjoy such a balmy season, but students returned to school rested and ready to learn!

The month of September is nearly over and so are our beginning of the year assessments. You may wonder why your child often speaks about being assessed here at school. In order to more accurately determine students' academic needs and where instruction should begin, we must first ascertain where students currently are on their learning path.

Throughout the summer months, most students experience what is known as summer regression. That means students will lose a certain amount of information that they have learned throughout the prior school year. It is important that we quickly close that small gap so that the children are ready to receive the new information at the next grade level. When we assess, we can easily note those gaps and address them right away. We are off and running and look forward to an exciting new school year!!

New Student Lounge

There is something new at Marion-Walker! Students can now enjoy a quiet moment to read or talk in the new student lounge area. This area will be used for small instruction or as a reward for positive behavior. The students have been watching it come together and expressed their excitement to begin using it.



Mrs. Shea Hazel's First Grade at Marion Walker engaged in a science lesson about how the Earth moves around the sun. The students used chalk and drew the sun and the path (orbit) that the Earth travels around the sun - and learned that it takes a whole year for one rotation! They acted this out in their small groups. They even were spinning like the Earth does on its axis (once each day for day and night).



Joining the Marion-Walker Team



Meredith Freeman

I am from Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Penn State University in 2014. I student taught in the Bellefonte School District at Marion-Walker Elementary during my senior year of college. I taught first grade for two years for the Westside Union School District in Palmdale, California. Outside of teaching in the classroom, I am the co-director of M Twirling Team, the 2016 Beginner National Baton Twirling Champions, based out of Bellefonte.

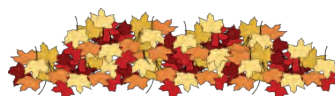


The first weekend of Autumn brought beautiful sunny weather to Happy Valley and to Walker Township. Saturday, September 24th, was the perfect day for families of the Marion-Walker community to enjoy a fun-filled Fall Festival sponsored by the Walker Township Parks and Recreation.

The day started with a 5K run/1 mile walk through the park sponsored by the Marion-Walker PTO. Sadie Ripka, a fourthgrade student at MW, was the winner of the kids 5K division. Later, the park was packed as families came out to stuff scarecrows, decorate pumpkins, make crafts, have face painting, and eat delicious food. The Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, churches, and area groups and businesses provided free games and activities for the kids. The children enjoyed exploring a fire truck and police car thanks to the Walker Township fire department and PA State Police. Operation Christmas Child, the Centre County Library, and Source 4 Teachers provided information on their organizations and free activities for the children. Local vendors sold their crafts and merchandise, as well.

Updates to the park were showcased with the dedication of several newly planted trees and benches installed as part of an Eagle Scout project by BAHS student Mitchell Holden. The trees and benches were purchased by residents in honor or memory of loved ones.

There was something for everyone and a good time was had by all, at this first annual Fall Festival celebration for Walker Township.



Pleasant Gap Elementary

Pleasant Gap Elementary School is starting off the school year by welcoming our newest addition, Mr. Daniel Besch, as our Interim Principal. During the first week of school, Mr. Besch has taken a hands-on approach to his new role in our school by visiting with each of the classes and introducing himself. It is important that the students interact with him in the early weeks of the year, see him in the classroom, and establish personal relationships. The students have expressed their desire to visit with Mr. Besch in his office during our School-Wide Positive Behavior in School (SWPBIS) Program, as shown in the photo

Mr. Besch began his career in the Bellefonte Area School District in 2003 at the Bellefonte Area High School teaching Earth Science, Environmental Science, and Chemistry. Later, in 2008, he was hired as the Assistant Principal at the High School. In 2012, he took the role as the Assistant Principal at Marion-Walker Elementary and Bellefonte Elementary. While working in our District as a teacher and Assistant Principal, he was also actively engaged in the community where he served as the Assistant and Head Coach of the Bellefonte football program. We are looking forward to the opportunity of having Mr. Besch as our Principal here at Pleasant Gap Elementary with his active attitude in the community and his ability to integrate into our small Pleasant Gap family. His experience in teaching, coaching, and leading has been an invaluable asset to our school

thus far, and we are proud to have him to work so closely with, while also developing himself as an Administrator. He has had a strong presence in the Bellefonte community, which we feel will aid him in his abilities to lead our school, our parents, and our students.

Additionally, we ask that you join us in wishing Mrs. Tammie Burnaford well wishes in her newest position as the Interim Assistant to the Superintendent. We know she will perform instrumentally in her new role as she did for us at Pleasant Gap and want to wish her the best of luck.



The Pleasant Gap Elementary teachers and staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school. The start of the school year brings an excitement like no other. Each year we begin with the school's PBIS program: the Headline Program. Throughout the year our Headline Program will work with the students of our school to help teach and reinforce the proper behaviors that help students be successful in and out of the classroom. The teachers and staff focus on teaching the students the proper ways in which to interact with other students throughout the school. Our goal is to make each school day a positive experience for each student of Pleasant Gap Elementary. The SWPBS Team also helps coordinate and promote several main events throughout the school year. We are looking forward to beginning some new programs and sustaining the traditions of Pleasant Gap Elementary.

We wish everyone a safe and happy school year. To help them be successful, the SWBPS Team wants to remind students that they should always remember to: BE SAFE, BE KIND, BE RESPECTFUL, BE HERE & BE READY!!



TECHNOLOGY

Elementary Online Access– Our Vision, Their Future



After several years of sharing computers on carts, enough computers have been made available to provide every elementary student with a Chromebook for use at school. During the first few weeks of school, elementary technology teacher, Miss Julie Henry, met with all elementary students. In the first twelve days of school, Miss Henry helped nearly 1,300 students, including nearly 200 kindergarten students, sign in and access learning activities with their Chromebooks! Additional Chromebooks have also been made available for middle and high school students. Students use Google Apps for Education as well as other apps and websites for research, writing, creating presentations, and for accessing online instructional resources.



Cross-District Collaborative Classroom

Through some creative co-teaching and technological assistance, BAHS is currently participating in BASD's first cross-district online classroom.

Using Google Classroom as its platform, Bellefonte's AP Language class has partnered up with Mifflin County's AP Literature students to simulate the structure and coursework students are likely to encounter online when they go to college.

The idea was the collaborative brainchild of AP teachers Ashlie Crosson (BASD) and Tona Williams (MCSD), both of whom were looking for ways to make their college-level courses feel more authentically collegiate. After taking courses through Penn State's World Campus, Miss Crosson thought simulating the online learning platform would be a practical and enlightening experience for her students that could give them a skill set necessary for 21st century education.

For the project, in honor of Banned Books Week, both classes are reading Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*. As with typical college reading assignments, students have about a week to read a large portion of the book independently before spending a couple days debriefing the text with their in-house classmates. After the class meets,

students use textual evidence from the book to answer a literary analysis question posted in discussion board format on their Google Classroom. Once students complete their initial response, they are then assigned two students whose posts they are to reply. Responses must defend, qualify, or argue against the original post, using the text to support their thinking. Bradbury's book is divided into three parts, and students complete this assignment after each section. By the end, they will have replied to at 4-6 students from the other school.

Creating a cross-district classroom through Google turned out to be an easy process, thanks to the IT's knowledge of Google's Apps for Education. Once each school's principal had approved the project, the tech departments changed a few settings in their district's Google subscriptions, and immediately, the teachers and students were able to enroll in a combined Classroom. The biggest challenges of this collaborative venture for the two teachers has simply been finding time to work together on the lesson plans and materials. To make the project run smoothly and maintain expectations across districts, they had to create shared reading assignments, in-class discussion rubrics, and grading processes for the discussion board. They also had to

make a discussion board matrix to make sure each student was always replying to students from a different school, and never to the same person twice.

So far, the student's reaction to the experience have been positive. When the project was introduced, Bellefonte students expressed some "healthy trepidation." They worried, "What if our analysis isn't as good as theirs?" "What if our writing isn't as strong?" But these concerns are part of what inspired Miss Crosson to do the project. She wanted Bellefonte students to experience what it's like learning in a "bigger pond" with students who haven't had the same educational upbringing they have had. So far, she's been impressed with how seriously they've taken the work and thinks they've really stepped up to the plate. The kids, too, are starting to get more comfortable with the platform and with their faceless classmates. Despite not knowing each other at all, through the discussion board posts, they're getting a feel for each other's personalities and finding intellectual connections (and differences of opinion) with their peers. They've said they'd like to meet up with Ms. Williams' class in-person so they can finally put a face to the posts and discuss the book as one big group.

Red Raider

Fine Arts

The Bellefonte High School Marching band is in full swing at this point in the year. Hopefully, you have been able to see us at one of our performances over the summer or at a recent high school game. The marching band will perform for the public between 15 and 20 times during their season. This includes the summer parades and festivals, football, soccer and volleyball games, homecoming events, pep rallies, and various community events for special occasions. A highlight of the season is the annual Centre/Clearfield County marching band show. This year the event will be held at Penn's Valley High School on Saturday, October 15, starting at 7:00 PM. This is a special night because it showcases the talented students of the 9 high school marching bands from the 2 counties.

The Bellefonte high school marching band show is entitled "A Celebration of Winter." It features music that is associated with the cold and winter months. Songs included in the show are "Let it Snow," Winter Sketches," Winter Wonderland," "Baby it's Cold Outside," Jingle Bells," Theme from "Game of Thrones" (Winter is coming), and "Ukrainian Bell Carol." Soloists are Nate Smith and Seth Johnson. The small ensemble

consists of Nick Howe, Josh Gaus, Sarah Lexon, and Kayleigh Rine. The Drum Major for this season is Noah Gaus.

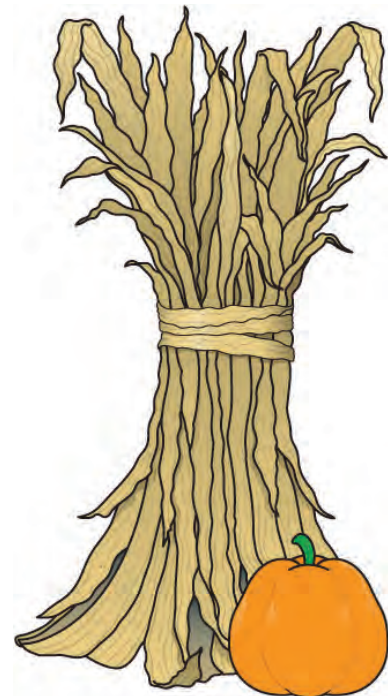
The show concept was Miss Jayme Zimmerman's idea. Musical arrangements and the marching drill were written by band director Jay Zimmerman. The staff for the marching band includes Susan Zimmerman - Assistant director, Kim Weaver - Choreographer, Amy Alison - Color Guard instructor, Emily Rickard - Majorette instructor, and Joe Houser - Percussion instructor. We are very lucky to have a dedicated volunteer staff that gives up their free time for no compensation that comes in and helps the students get better. Volunteers are Miss Jayme Zimmerman - music, marching, and brass technician, Aramani Caprio- twirling coach, Cassie Alison - color guard coach, Dom Depasquale, Chris Lahr, and Nick Levine - percussion instructors. A special thanks goes to Miss Jessica Brown who is a junior at Penn State in Music Education and a former drum major for the band. Jessica assists with the musicians and drum major whenever her school schedule allows her the time. Another special thanks goes to Kathy Bamat, the color guard instructor for the Penn State Blue Band. Kathy comes in over the summer months and assists with the band front squads. Kathy also choreographs some of the guard routines for the girls. The students and staff are very appreciative of our volunteer's efforts. We would not be as good as we are without their help.



Marching band is a fun activity for the students. Being involved in a musical group is also an activity that you can do your entire lifetime. The Bellefonte program has been blessed over the years to have a quality program that prepares our students to continue to perform following graduation. This year we are proud to say that 12 alumni of the Bellefonte High School marching band are members of the prestigious Penn State Blue Band. In addition to those 12, there are students currently marching at Temple and Edinboro. In the past 10 years, we have had students march at IUP, West Chester, Mansfield, Clarion, Lock Haven, Gettysburg, and Shippensburg. In addition to the marching band students, a number of our musical graduates have sung in choirs or played in bands and orchestras at Penn State, Bloomsburg, Messiah, Lycoming, and Juniata. We currently have four students pursuing music education degrees at various universities. Historically, the Bellefonte music program has produced a high number of music educators that are currently teaching music programs at school districts around the state. It is obvious to the staff that the Bellefonte Music program provides a strong foundation of skills and opportunities to allow our students to experience enjoyment and success at the next level and for the rest of their lives. We thank the community and the administration for your continued support of all the Fine Arts programs here at Bellefonte.



Mrs. Karen Shawley and Mr. Allen Harchak were the recipients of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees (PASR) Laurretta Woodson Award. This award recognizes one support staff personnel and one professional employee for their exemplary contributions to the education of the students they serve. Congratulations!



A Message from the Board of School Directors



When I graduated from Bellefonte in 1969, the world was big and round and the high school was square. The highest level math class available was trigonometry. Basic chemistry, biology, and physics were the classes that we enrolled in on our way to college. The Centre County Vo-Tech had just opened to provide education for the basic trades.

In 2016, the high school is a completely renovated multi-level spacious building that allows students to explore classes from architecture to videography. Math and science classes that were once the domain of college curricula are now offered at Bellefonte along with a multitude of advanced placement classes in the arts, humanities, and sciences.

The vocational-technical school that my generation may remember has transitioned into the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology (CPI) which is now in a refurbished and expanded state of the art facility. CPI is a progressive institution that transitions many of our students directly into the workforce or prepares them for post-secondary education and is supported by local and national companies along with our local tax dollars. In order to better serve our students, Bellefonte is piloting a program this year that allows ninth grade students to attend CPI and get an extra year's head start on their careers.

Bellefonte has always been a leader. In 1998, the Bellefonte Area School District was the forerunner in the county when we installed fiber optic connections between most of our schools which allowed our students and staff the opportunity to utilize the state of the art teaching tools. Our technology investment has continued to grow throughout the years and is a necessary and important component of our educational system.

Over the past twenty years, we have renovated the middle school, high school, and the Marion-Walker elementary plus we replaced roofs on the other elementary buildings plus repaired and replaced other internal needs. This year, we completed an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) parking lot adjacent to the baseball field and Rogers Stadium. Other stages should follow shortly to conveniently accommodate anyone who wishes to attend either venue. The board is also awaiting a district wide facilities analysis from the design firm Crabtree Rohrbaugh that will help us firm up a master plan as we look to upgrade our other facilities over the coming years.

Always mindful that your tax dollars are hard earned, our business office has been diligently holding down costs and has employed conservative management practices with prudent recommendations to the board. Because of that restrained approach. We enjoy a AAA financial rating which allowed us to recently refinance a bond and receive a refund of over \$600,000.

Because of technology and the internet, the world of our students seems to me so much smaller than when I was their age, but I know it's the same big round globe. The district is working hard to prepare our students for that ever changing world, and we thank you for your support.

Rodney Musser
President, Board of School Directors





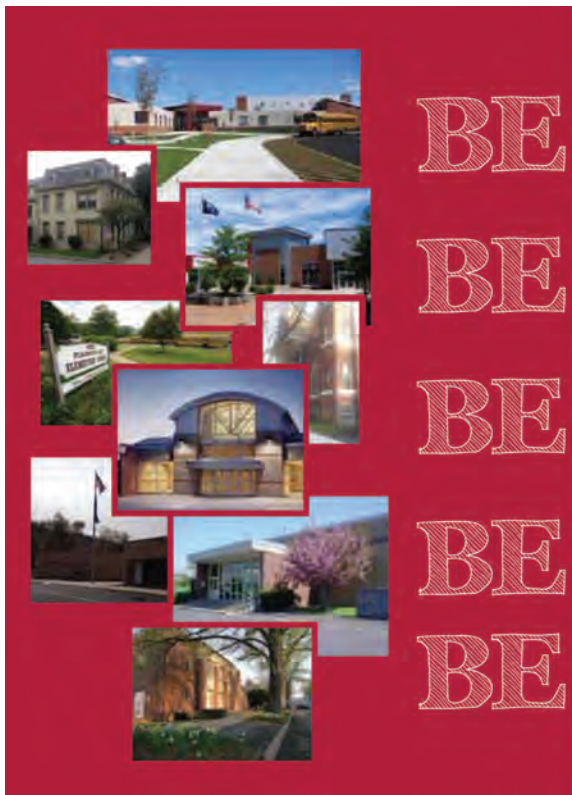
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Contact Pam Vaiana for more details at 814-355-4814 x 3008 or email: pvaiana@basd.net

We're on the Web! www.basd.net