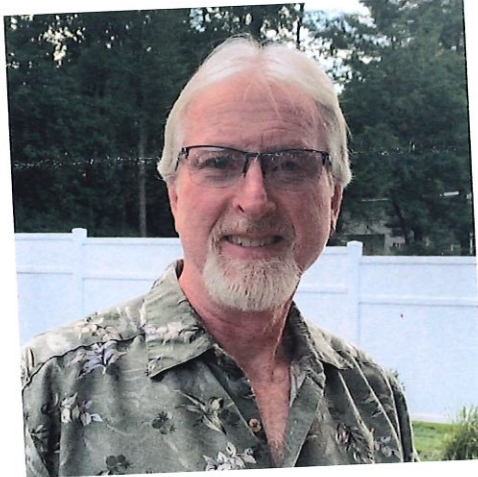


The RED & BLACK

FALL 2023

Message from the President



Hello BHS Alumni!

The Alumni Association held our 2023 Spring Banquet on May 20th at the Wheeling Country Club. The event was a success! We honored our 2023 Outstanding Alum, Norman Balsei (Class of '59) and all achievement award winners.

Our upcoming events will be Night at the Races on September 16th at the Sons of Italy and the annual virtual Reverse Raffle will be October 14th. Tickets are available now. Come join us for an enjoyable night.

As we work on various projects in the future, we would like to thank all of our supporters.

The annual Alumni dues of \$10 and the many donations for our various funds are needed and greatly appreciated.

Please visit our webpage or our Facebook page for more information on upcoming events.

GO BIG REDS!

Your President,

Spotlight on a Big Red

The Alumni Association would like to spotlight Mayson Sochor. Mayson is a current Senior at Bellaire High School. During Sochor's freshman and sophomore years, he advanced to the Division II state meet to compete. This year Mayson advanced to the Division III state meet where he won the state title for 110-meter hurdles with a winning time of 14.80 seconds. Leading up to the state meet, Sochor placed 3rd at district, 2nd at regional, and went on to claim the state title! We are incredibly proud of Mayson and his dedication to the sport. Sochor is the fourth track athlete to claim a state track title for Bellaire High School - Joey Galloway (100 and 200) in 1990, Kacie Vavrek (100H and 300H) in 2002, Cole LaRoche (shot put) in 2018, and now Mayson. In addition to winning the state title, Mayson was also named the Division III Eastern District Track Athlete of the Year. In addition to his success with track, Mayson excels with his studies and is a member of the National Honor Society. Best of luck to Mayson and all BHS athletes in the upcoming sports seasons!



SAVE THE DATE: Spring Banquet 2024

Mark your calendars and save the date! The BHS Alumni Association Spring Banquet will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

After another successful year in 2023, the Alumni Association Board of Directors has again decided to host the event at the Wheeling Country Club, located at 906 Oglebay Drive. The 2024 Banquet will be honoring the fifty-year class of 1974.

The alumni board is continually working to provide an event that is memorable and worthwhile for all classes to attend. Please plan on attending to gather with the BIG REDS family!

There are several accommodations near this venue including the Hampton Inn - Wheeling, Wilson Lodge, and Springhill Suites.

Update from Superintendent of Schools:



Big Reds,

Thank you for the opportunity to share some exciting news about our school district. This year, we have continued our work to future proof the school district. Our certified, classified, and administrative staff have been working closely to ensure our students are placed in a position to be successful.

We have worked through several facilities projects that will change the face of our district for years to come. After finishing the clock tower and HVAC projects we focused our attention on Nelson Field.

We have completed a new visitor bleacher structure, concession stand, and restrooms. We have also upgraded the plumbing, electrical, and PA systems. As a result of this project, Nelson Field has a larger, level plaza inside the main entrance and now fulfills ADA

requirements.

We have spent the year reinventing our curriculum in grades PK-12. The Bellaire Local School District is rolling out Project Lead the Way in all grade levels. This program will tie our STEM curriculum to specific areas in the engineering, medical, and computer science fields. For students who are interested in the trades, we are building a menu of industry recognized credentialing programs that can be obtained directly through Bellaire High School. With the support of Mrs. Cusick, our fantastic reading and math teachers have picked out new instructional materials that are aligned with state standards. This year we have also rolled out cutting edge software to take a data driven approach to identify and remediate academic weakness in reading and math.

The District has also returned to regularly scheduled professional development for our staff. We have used this valuable time to address COVID learning loss methods, roll out Trauma Informed Care practices, adopt new curriculum across all buildings, and spend time focusing on areas that the teachers request help in.

As we innovate and move our schools forward, we hope to attract new enrollment. While many districts in our area are losing students, over the last two years, we have grown. So far, our 2023 kindergarten enrollments are already far ahead of where we would expect to be at this point in the year.

This coming November, we will be asking voters to renew the operating levy that positioned us to be so successful. Naturally, a renewal will not raise taxes. We will continue demonstrating how we have used these funds to place our students in a position to be successful and have the educational opportunities that their peers around the state enjoy. I am happy to report that our beloved school district is in a solid position to face the future. We are a small school district with big school facilities and educational options. Our staff, students and community are up to the task of building this school district to stand the test of time. It is an honor to serve as your Superintendent and I welcome the opportunity to work closely with this association to move our schools, our students, and our community forward! Thank you and go Big Reds!

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

HOMECOMING NIGHT AT THE RACES
Saturday, September 16, 2023

VIRTUAL REVERSE RAFFLE
Saturday, October 14, 2023

2024 SPRING BANQUET
Saturday, May 18, 2024

ALL CLASS REUNION
Celebrating 100 Years – Saturday,
July 5, 2025

Update from Bellaire High School

Hello Big Reds,

We are excited to kick off another year at Bellaire High School. We are starting the year with the same staff as last year. We have no new teachers and that is a testament to how close knit we are here.

Our goal is always to get students graduated. We want to continue to try to help students at all levels. Our goal is to help our top students reach their potential. We plan on organizing college visits to expose them to nearby colleges and universities. We will provide ACT prep and help getting them ready for college. We recently obtained licenses for ASVAB prep. We understand that not all students will go to college immediately and recognize that the military is a viable option. This ASVAB prep will allow interested students the opportunity to maximize their score, allowing them a more opportunities in the military. Our Genesis program is in its second year. It is a student led approach to learning entrepreneurial skills. Students create and run a business selling student made products. Our students will be selling grow your own plant kits. They also plan on growing various plants during



the school year. These items will be for sale through intermittent pop up shops during school hours. This program allows students to work on important job skills such as networking, teamwork, collaboration, and creativity.

Our sports teams have put a lot of time in preparing for the fall sports season. Our annual Meet the Team will take place on August 16 at 6:30 pm at Nelson Field. Cross Country kicks off August 22 at Buckeye Local. Coach Arno always has a competitive team. Last year the

boys team was OVAC runner up and regional qualifiers. The girls program has seen an influx of young runners and hopes to be as successful as the boys team. Volleyball starts on August 21 at Shadyside. The team is looking to build on the successful campaign from last year. The cheerleaders went to camp in Mason, Ohio and were awarded third overall. Four Bellaire cheerleaders were named All-Americans. Finally, the football team is coming off a run to the regional championship game. The team returns a lot of skilled players. The Big Reds kick off the season on August 18 in Sugar creek against Garaway.

I encourage you all to come out and support our kids. Our students pour hours and hours into band practice, making art, rehearsing for plays, and preparing for athletic contests. You can keep up on dates and results by following the school website or my social media pages, @MrMcMahonBHS on X (formerly Twitter) or Bellaire High School Principal McMahon on Facebook.

Scot McMahon Class of '99
Bellaire High School Principal

Update from Bellaire Middle School

Greetings, Bellaire Alumni Association!

This summer, the middle school upgraded the entryway to our building with a bench that was donated in memory of Bellaire teacher, Kimberly Hall Maffe. We also added vinyl signs, designed by Vinyl Graphics by Hart, to the entryway and two banners with the Bellaire Alma Mater & Fight Song to the wall in the gymnasium. The entryway signs and Bellaire banners were made possible by a donation from Mr. Tom Rataiczak and the Bellaire Class of 1964. We would like to extend a special thank you to them for providing us with the funding for these projects.

Our teachers, administrators, and staff members are excited to be back in school for the 2023-2024 school year! Bellaire Middle School did very well on the Ohio State Test in the spring of 2023. Not only are our



students focused on academic excellence, but we are creating students who are well-rounded and prepared for high school. We offer band and choir to students in all grade levels and our students participate in several sports teams, including football, cheer, volleyball, basketball, cross country, and track. BMS also has a strong PBIS program that works

on teaching our students the soft skills that are needed in the workforce, by focusing on positive behavior interventions and supports.

Bellaire Middle School has a very active social media presence and we invite you to follow and like our posts on Facebook, Instagram, and our website for the most up-to-date information about what is happening at BMS. We thank you for your continued support of our students and staff members and, as always, GO BIG REDS!

Sincerely,
Miss Jennifer A. Berdine, M.Ed.
Principal, Bellaire Middle School
jberdine@bellairesd.org



Update from Bellaire Elementary School

Send in the students! Bellaire Elementary School is ready for another school year full of learning and engagement! Our school is a safe place for students to learn, take intellectual risks, discover passions, be themselves, and, most importantly, have fun!

We are especially excited to welcome our youngest Big Reds to Kindergarten. We are expecting a large class this year, large enough to allow for the creation of an additional Kindergarten homeroom! We all look forward to meeting our newest students!

A lot of work happens leading up to a school year and 2023-2024 has been no different. Our maintenance and custodial staff have done a great job with getting our buildings and grounds ready for kids. Our teachers have spent time preparing as well. You can usually find a teacher's car in our parking lot during the summer break!

Sure, you will notice summer improvements such as playground area additions, painted



walls, new gym upgrades, etc. but the real power of our building comes from the care our staff has for our students and the relationships they build and strengthen with them. BES realizes there are many ways to be a kid and many ways to be a leader, which motivates our students to thrive.

As we help students begin and continue their educational journey, we remain committed to having a strong, consistent curriculum that is

grounded in research and strengthened through professional development. We pride ourselves in allowing our community to see what we are achieving and providing by sharing news and programs through our website and social media. I urge you to visit us online to keep up with our successes, events and programming throughout the school year.

In the end, we are grateful to be partners with our community and families to ensure that all of our students, those for whom learning comes easily and those who have to work a little harder at it, acquire the skills, confidence, and work ethic to identify what they are passionate about and follow where it leads.

As we welcome students in 1st to 4th grades on August 23rd (Kindergarteners a little later), our first day goal remains the same—have students be excited to return the next day!

Sincerely,
Ben Doyle '02

Homecoming Night at the Races

The Bellaire Big Reds Alumni Association 2023 Night at the Races will be held Saturday, September 16, 2023, Homecoming Night, at The Son's of Italy, Bellaire.

Doors open at 6:00 pm and races begin at 7:30 pm. General admission is \$10 (available for purchase in advance and can also be purchased at the door).

All horses are a \$25 donation and include general admission (the deadline to purchase a horse is Sunday, September 10, 2023, and each horse must be named in advance for the programs to be printed prior to the event). General admission includes finger food and munchies. All drinks must be purchased at the bar.

If you would like to sponsor a race, a sponsorship is \$50, and includes two general admissions and your organization/name printed on our program. Your generous sponsorship will be announced prior to a race.

A sponsorship with one horse is \$65 and a sponsorship with two horses is \$80. (A limit of two horses can be purchased with a \$50 sponsorship).

You can contact any Bellaire Association Member, return the insert with this newsletter or go to our website

(www.bellairebigredsalumni.com) to purchase a horse, sponsor a race or obtain a general admission.

There are 10 horses per race and a total of 10 scheduled races for the evening. There will also be a special auction "11th Race" at the end of the night of the event.

\$2.00 donation bets can be made throughout the evening on each of the horses in all 10 races with various amounts being won all night long. The owner of the winning horse in each of the 10 races will win \$40.

Throughout the evening there will be a 50/50, lottery raffle and other various raffles. It is a fun filled evening with the Bellaire Big Reds Alumni Association and their generous supporters.

Please come and join us for an evening of gaming, betting and music in support of Bellaire Schools, teachers (educational tools or materials that aid in the advancement of technology and/or assist teachers in day-to-day classroom learning) and students (Scholarships, Theater & Arts, etc). Please email us with any questions you may have at bellairebigredsalumni.com.

Thanks in advance and Go Big Reds!! We hope to see you there!

Senior Service Award Winners



The Bellaire High School Alumni Association and Endowment Board held an awards ceremony to congratulate Chance Maffe (left) and Anna Pramik (right) on winning the Senior Service Award for 2023. Congratulations!

CLASS REUNIONS

1974

50th reunion 2024. Plans are under way and more details will be forthcoming. Questions call Dan Angus. 740-312-8016

1968

The Class of 1968 will observe their 55th year since graduation from BHS during the Homecoming weekend. Friday, September 15 at 5:30 PM at Undo's, St. Clairsville and Saturday, September 16 at the American Legion pavilion in Bellaire. Questions? Contact Terriann Bonfini at tbonfini@att.net

Please send all class reunion information to Greg Mehlman at gregmehlman@hotmail.com

ALL CLASS REUNION – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Saturday, July 5, 2025
We will celebrate ALL CLASSES and the 100th year Anniversary of the present Bellaire High School! More information to come.

SEEKING NOMINATIONS

We need nominations for 2024 Outstanding Alumnus Award.

If you know of a past graduate that you feel is worthy of this award, send a cover letter including the person's name, the year he or she graduated, their chosen career field, reason you are nominating this person along with their resume. Send paperwork to Bellaire Alumni Association, Attn: Outstanding Alumnus Committee P.O. Box 307 Bellaire, OH, 43906.

Deadline is December 31, 2023

Endowment Award Winners



Pictured are the 2023 Endowment Board Scholarship Recipients. Back row from left: Chance Maffe, Tyler Vingia, Isaac Salva, Taylor Rife, and Brenton Naumann Front row from left: Abigail Craig, Logan Thorp, Makayla McPeley, Elizabeth McAninch, Sarah Dunfee, and Sophia Porter

Spring Banquet 2023





DONORS FROM FALL OF 2022 & SPRING OF 2023

Alumni members that have generously made donations to one of the many funds which helps the alumni association give back to Bellaire Local Schools and students.

GENERAL FUND

Debbie (Johnson) King
Deborah DeGenova
Gary Gill
Tracie Hughes
Douglas Allen, Class of '71
Richard VanFossen, Class of '69
Terri Heil, Class of '74
Elizabeth "Beth" Heil, Class of '72
Ron & Stephanie Pramik, Class of '65
Dan & Penny Frizzi, Classes of '70 & '71
Dave & Judy Jeffers, Class of '61
Frances (Rhodes) Conaway, Class of '51
Stephanie (Shimble) Sarcheck, Class of '84
Arthur Wallace, Class of '57
Georgia (Bruce)n Hamilton, Class of '74
Lois Jean (Small) Hendershot, Class of '54
Robert Marshall, Class of '70
Jennie Capitini, Class of '70
Tom & Marie Olexa
Joan (Roy) Hazard, Class of '66 - In Memory of Jack Hazard, Class of '64
Lois (Taggart) Palicka, Class of '63
Barbara (Derry) Hubbard, Class of '74
Bob Hubbard, Class of '72
John Mike & Linda (Zacchini) Marinacci, Classes of '65 & '68
Joseph & Brenda Dumas, Classes of '65 & '66
Craig Tschappat, Class of '75
Al Vaglianti, Class of '68
Charlottev (DeVaul) Vaglianti, Class of '86
Cynthia Wheeler, Class of '64
Wilda (Trigg) Cain, Class of '55
Rick Shimble, Class of '82
James Devendra, Class of '71
Shelva Davis, Class of '53
Shirley (Bishop) Caldwell, Class of '53

Richard Jones, Class of '72
Clarence Fulton, Class of '58
Sarah (Steele) & Charles Horne, Classes of '63 & '66
Cathy (Holloway) Chirpas, Class of '73
Steve Chirpas, Class of '74
Dan Angus, Class of '74
Paul "Trey" Duffy, Class of '81
Gina (Farnario) Fuller, Class of '76
Don Clark, Class of '72
Joseph Bonar, Class of '59
Mike and Pam (Soland) Sherwood, Class of '67
John Redpath, Class of '87
Patricia Willerton Shimble, Class of '55
Larry Kuntz, Class of '64
Karen Walker Ballard, Class of '65
Deborah (Steed) Sitar, Class of '70
Audree (Leslie) Stephenson, Class of '66
Susan (Robinson) Bauer
Andrew Sabatino, Class of '09
Frank & Arleen (Brunori) Sabatino, Classes of '73 & '76
Saundra Hill Capitini, Class of '65
Barbra (Tomlinson) Bradford, Class of '65
EDUCATION ASSISTANCE FUND
Jerry Ramsay, Class of '73
Susan Badia & William West, Class of '71
Nancy (Steele) Tedeschi, Class of '61
Mary Ann (Carpino) DeBlasis, Class of '57
Marlene (McNeil) Symank, Class of '75
Rosemary Durant, Class of '66
Dan & Penny Frizzi, Classes of '70 & '71
Samra (Taylor) Mazulli, Class of '73
Carol (Meholovitch) Saffield, Class of '65

Jerry Ramsay, Class of '73
Steve & Mary Jo (Zacchini) Kurko, Class of '64
Stephanie (Shimble) Sarcheck, Class of '84
Georgia (Bruce) Hamilton, Class of '74
Mary Ann (Carpino) DeBlasis, Class of '57
Robert Marshall, Class of '70
Jennie Capitini, Class of '70
Joan (Roy) Hazard, Class of '66 - In Memory of Jack Hazard, Class of '64
Lois (Taggart) Palicka, Class of '63
Norman & Mary Ann (Camsky) Balsei, Class of '59
Mary Louise (Giffin) Cowen, Class of '40
Wayne Travineck, Class of '65
John Mike & Linda (Zacchini) Marinacci, Classes of '65 & '68
Wilda (Trigg) Cain, Class of '55
Kellie (Balsei) Cusick, Class of '84
Alice (Peck) Chirpas, Class of '50
Linda Thornton
Shirley (Bishop) Caldwell, Class of '53
Rylie Purtiman, Class of '17
Sydney Purtiman, Class of '19
Richard Jones, Class of '72
Dennis Burech
June (Pavlich) Valocik, Class of '59
Clarence Fulton, Class of '58
Michael Murphy, Class of '11
Lisa (Favish) Wintner, Class of '70
Kathy Wallace, Class of '70
Julia (Schramm) Rezoni, Class of '58
Mary Kaplet Bishop, Class of '54
Dan Angus, Class of '74
Joseph Bonar, Class of '59
Carolyn (Hess) Cook, Class of '72
Harold Burech, Class of '72 - In Memory of all '72 classmates that have passed
Ronald & Diana (Gooch) McCulley, Classes of '59 & '61

Susan (Robison) Bauer
Andrew Sabatino, Class of '09
Frank & Arleen (Brunori) Sabatino, Classes of '73 & '76
Bill and Carla (Williams) Banig, Classes of '71 & '72
Saundra Hill Capitini, Class of '65
Est of Barbara June (Kurth) Bostancic - In Memory of and In Honor of our mother, Barbara (Kurth) Bostancic, Class of '52 - Bill Bostancic, Jr., Roger Bostancic, Sue Cook, Lynne Geib
SPECIAL GIFT FUND (SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS)
Tal Hutchins
Rebecca Ullom - Jerry Ramsay Class of '73
Goldie (Sykes) Rogers, Class of '52
Frances (Rhodes) Conaway, Class of '51
Jennifer (Schlaicher) Taylor '66
Rebecca Ullom - Donation from Class of '59
Frank & Arleen Sabatino - In Memory of Louis Beltrondo
Gary & Toni Sechrest - In Memory of Janice Ramsay
Dolores (Burda) Derry - Class of '46
William & Elizabeth (Prisner) Gasbarre, Class of '62
Dan & Penny Frizzi, Classes of '70 & '71
Samra (Taylor) Mazulli, Class of '73
Jerry Ramsay, Class of '73
Robert Marshall, Class of '70
Karen (Sabinsky) Conrad, Class of '66
Janet (Heil) Gosnell, Class of '59
Lois (Taggart) Palicka, Class of '63
Marc (Bonar) Quirk, Class of '00
Norman & Mary Ann (Camsky) Balsei, Class of '59
John Mike & Linda (Zacchini) Marinacci, Classes of '65 & '68
Melissa (McCorkle) Oakley
Rosemary (Traylinek) Rulon, Class of '68
Alice (Peck) Chirpas, Class of '50
Richard Jones, Class of '72

