

CHIEFTAIN CONNECTION

Our Kids, Their Future!



SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS

February at BES!

Learning is in full swing at BES! Preschoolers are exploring animals, building number sense, and enjoyed a sensory-friendly library visit. Kindergarten students are growing as readers and mathematicians while learning about Native Americans and kings and queens, ending with a Royal Tea Party. First graders are moving from ancient civilizations to outer space, with a COSI planetarium trip ahead. Second graders wrapped up the War of 1812—singing the National Anthem at a high school game—and are now studying Westward Expansion.

February at BIS!

Third graders are making the switch from Norse Mythology to nonfiction as they explore light and sound and build strong reading skills. Fourth graders are wrapping up their geology unit with a hands-on rock lab, then moving into exciting stories focused on theme, point of view, and character development. Fifth graders are finishing their Renaissance learning and beginning the Reformation, with a focus on thoughtful writing using strong explanations and text evidence.

February News from BMS:

Students are finishing i-Ready diagnostics to support personalized learning and reading groups. Teachers are strengthening classroom practices with new positive behavior strategies. Winter sports are in full tournament season, and students enjoyed The Little Mermaid through PBIS rewards.

February at BHS:

The third grading period is underway, and counselors are meeting with students and families to plan schedules for next year, including CCP information. Staff will continue professional learning focused on strong instruction and vocabulary. Congratulations to February Seniors of the Month, Kaiden Foulk and Kayla Sellars. Students are staying busy with robotics and Quiz Bowl, and BHS is excited to present Mamma Mia! on February 27-28.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Bellefontaine Families,

Thank you to our parents and families for taking the time to read our Chieftain Connection newsletter and stay connected with what's happening in our schools. Your involvement and interest mean a great deal to our staff and help strengthen the partnership we share in supporting our students.

As we begin the second semester, your encouragement at home plays an important role in helping students stay focused, motivated, and ready to learn each day. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to a positive and successful remainder of the school year together.

CURRICULUM CORNER



It's mid-year, and teachers are using a variety of tools—such as i-Ready and the Ohio State Benchmark Assessments—along with daily classroom observations to better understand each student's progress. These assessments help identify strengths, pinpoint areas for growth, and guide instructional decisions in the classroom. Our focus is on growth—not just scores—so we can provide the right level of support, appropriately challenge students, and continue building confidence and strong academic skills as we move into the spring semester.

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CHIEFTAIN HAPPENINGS

District & School Calendar

- Feb. 9: BCS Board meeting - 6:30 p.m.
@ Distance Learning Center in BHS
- Feb. 9: Waiver Day-no school for BCS students

Student Life & Activities

- Feb. 27-28: BHS Musical
—"Mamma Mia!"

Important Reminders

February 16: BCS will be in session, serving as a designated make-up calamity day.

TIDBITS, TIPS AND TRICKS



- **PBIS & School Connection:**
 - Ask about how your child earned PBIS points and their positive choices.
 - Celebrate effort, kindness, and responsibility, not just outcomes.
 - Use reflection questions like "What went well today?" or "What are you proud of?"
- **Attendance Matters:**
 - Consistent attendance is crucial for student confidence and connection.
 - Schedule appointments outside school hours when possible.
 - If your child is hesitant about school, reach out for support.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



February 15 is National School Resource Officer (SRO) Day, and we are grateful for our strong partnership with the Bellefontaine Police Department. The district provides two SROs, with the City supporting one additional officer through a D.A.R.E. grant. Our officers help ensure a safe environment by being present during arrival and dismissal and by building positive relationships with students through programs like Lunch Buddies and other volunteer efforts.