Bellevue City Schools
INTENT • INTEGRITY • PURPOSE

RED REVIEW

Fall 2026

A New Season for Bellevue



There's something special about fall in Bellevue. The mornings are a little crisper, the leaves along our streets are turning shades of orange and red, and Friday nights are filled with the sounds of a big game and our marching band with many cheers from the stands. Fall has always been one of my favorite seasons because it brings exciting energy and a sense of possibility to the new school year.

That energy has been easy to see this year. Our students walked through the doors in August ready to learn, and our staff welcomed them with care, commitment and high expectations. From the first day, our classrooms, hallways and buses have been full of activity, and we are off to a strong start.

This fall also marks a new chapter for me. After 14 years as principal of Bellevue High School, I am honored to serve as your superintendent. The welcome I've received from our students, staff, families and community has meant more to me than I can put into words. So many of you have stopped me to offer a kind word, share an idea or simply wish me well. I'm grateful for every one of those conversations.

There is a lot to celebrate as we begin this school year. Bellevue City Schools earned a 4-star rating on the Ohio School Report Card, reflecting the hard work taking place in our classrooms every day. Our 99.4 percent graduation rate is one of many impressive accomplishments. Behind all the numbers are students who worked hard, teachers and all staff who supported them, families who encouraged them and a community that continues to believe in its young people.

But while we should be proud of those results, we also know that student success is not measured by a test score alone. We strive to grow and develop our students holistically, preparing them not only for academic success but for the opportunities and challenges they will face beyond the classroom. The report card provides important data, and my goal as superintendent is to use that data to build on what is working, address areas where we can improve and continue raising the bar for every student in Bellevue.

As you read through this edition of the Red Review, you'll get a closer look at our state report card and the ratings Bellevue earned in each area. You'll also find highlights from our middle and high school fall sports seasons, our band's performance at a Cleveland Guardians game and a heartwarming thank-you from our kindergartners to one of the custodians who keeps our schools clean, safe and welcoming. Each of these stories represents something different, but together they reflect the spirit of our schools and the people who make Bellevue what it is.

Leading the district in my hometown is a responsibility I take very seriously — and one I'm incredibly proud to have. I grew up here, graduated from Bellevue High School and have spent most of my career serving the students, staff and families of our community. Giving back to our community and the schools that gave so much to me is why I decided to pursue a career in education, and that history makes this opportunity extremely meaningful to me.

To our families, staff and community members, thank you for your continued support. Whether it's a teacher staying after class or coming in early to help a student, a parent packing lunches before the school day begins, a bus driver greeting students by their name or a neighbor cheering from the stands, those everyday acts of support matter. They are the things that make a school district more than just buildings and classrooms. They make it a community.

We are Bellevue Proud and together we are Bellevue Strong. As always, Go Red!

Nate Artino
Superintendent

Four stars and counting!

Bellevue City Schools earned 4 out of 5 stars on the 2025-26 Ohio School Report Card, exceeding state standards. Highlights include 5 stars in Graduation (99.4%), 4 stars in Achievement and Readiness, and 3 stars in Progress, Gap Closing and Early Literacy. That's Red Pride in action!

The Funding Freeze: How HB 920 and Ohio's New Tax Laws Affect Bellevue City Schools



If you've looked at your property valuation or followed Ohio news lately, you know property taxes are a hot topic. As treasurer for Bellevue City Schools, I often hear the same question from residents during our "Financial Fact Friday" updates: "If my property value went up, doesn't that mean the school district is suddenly flooded with new money?"

The short answer is no. To understand why, we need to look at a 50-year-old Ohio law called House Bill 920 and how it collides with the state's new tax reform laws.

The Hidden Rule: What Is HB 920?

Passed by the Ohio General Assembly in 1976, House Bill 920 was designed to protect homeowners from runaway property taxes driven by inflation.

When property values in Erie, Huron, Sandusky or Seneca counties rise during a county's three-year update or six-year reappraisal, HB 920 automatically lowers the effective tax rate on the school district's voted levies.

For homeowners: It keeps your property taxes from climbing sharply just because the real estate market is hot.

For Bellevue City Schools: It freezes the amount of local revenue we collect from voted operating levies.

In other words, once voters approve a levy, the dollars it collects from existing homes and businesses stay the same, whether property values double or drop. The only automatic source of new revenue from these levies is new construction within district boundaries.

The Collision with New State Tax Reform

Recently, Ohio passed major tax reforms that limit the growth of unvoted revenue, known as "inside millage." Inside millage has historically been the one small area where school revenue could grow with inflation. Now that state lawmakers have limited that growth to provide relief for homeowners, public school budgets across Ohio face a double freeze.

This creates a real challenge for public education:

Revenue stays flat: Because of HB 920, our local property tax funding does not grow along with property values.

Expenses keep rising: Just like your household budget, the district pays real-world costs that go up with inflation, including diesel fuel for school buses, electricity for our classrooms, cafeteria food and textbooks.

Local governments funded by sales or income taxes often see revenue rise naturally with inflation. School property tax revenue does not.

Our Commitment to Strategic Budgeting

At Bellevue City Schools, we plan ahead for these limits through our required five-year financial forecast. Our promise to you is careful, efficient use of every dollar. We closely monitor everyday spending, protect classroom programs, keep operating costs low and use grant funding whenever possible, so that flat revenue does not mean a frozen future for our students.

Transparency is the foundation of our relationship with the Bellevue community. My door is always open, so please reach out anytime with questions at
(419) 484-5000.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership, your shared pride and your investment in our Bellevue Redmen.

Tammy Flicker
Treasurer

Sunshine and Giggles Earned!

Mrs. Nystrom's fifth-graders just earned their first Perfect Attendance Award of the year! Each day every student shows up, the class earns a letter toward its goal, and their hard-won reward was a classroom celebration of "extra sunshine and giggles." Keep showing up, fifth grade, because every day counts!



WATCH D.O.G.S: Pizza, Pride and the Power of Showing Up

Bellevue Elementary kicked off another year of WATCH D.O.G.S. with Pizza Night, where dads, grandpas and other male role models learned how they can make a big difference in a student's day. Each volunteer commits to spending at least one full school day in the building, lending a hand, a high five and an extra set of eyes. Missed Pizza Night? Mark your calendar for Donuts with Dads this winter!





Magic With a Message

Anthony Grupido brought his "Magic of Hope" assembly to Bellevue Middle School, blending jaw-dropping illusions with his own personal story. In honor of Suicide Prevention Month, his performance reminded students that reaching out for help is a sign of strength and that hope is always within reach. The tricks wowed the crowd, but the message is the part that will stick.



From Our Hallways to the Front Lines

They answered the call, and now it's our turn to answer theirs! Bellevue High School is building a Military Wall of Honor to celebrate graduates of Bellevue, York and Thompson high schools who served our nation with courage. Share the name of a hero you know at bit.ly/BHSHonorWall. Help us make this tribute a reality by sending a donation to the Bellevue Fallen Soldiers Memorial (501(c)(3)), Attn: BHS Wall Project, c/o Firelands Federal Credit Union, PO Box 8005, Bellevue, OH 44811.

A Spotless Surprise for Ms. Feick

Mrs. Newsome's kindergartners rolled out a heartfelt surprise for custodian Ms. Feick on National Custodial Workers' Recognition Day. Our youngest Redmen wanted to thank her for keeping their school clean, safe and welcoming every single day. It was a sweet lesson in gratitude, and proof that big thank-yous can come from small hands!





Turning Pages, Building Community



Thanks to a generous gift from the Bellevue Rotary Club, our One School, One Book program is ready to bring students and families together around one great story. The donation provides books and engaging activities that turn reading into a shared adventure across our school community. Thank you, Rotary, for proving that a good book can bring an entire town together!

Bellevue Band Hits the Big Leagues

The Bellevue High School band stepped up to the plate in a big way, performing the national anthem at a Cleveland Guardians game! Our musicians proudly represented their program, school and community in front of a big-league crowd. Talk about a home run for the Bellevue band!



Freshmen Find Their Voice



Knees may have shaken at first, but Bellevue High School students in Freshmen Focus are growing more confident at the podium every day. They've been sharpening their delivery and getting comfortable in front of a crowd as they gear up for their big presentations. Keep practicing, freshmen. The spotlight is yours!

Lions Club Roars for Lindsey Cochey

Congratulations to Lindsey Cochey, this year's recipient of the Bellevue Lions Club Saluting Education Award! Her dedication and passion for education have made a lasting mark on our students and our community, and this well-deserved honor shines a spotlight on the difference she makes every day. Thank you to the Bellevue Lions Club for celebrating the people who help Bellevue students thrive!



Freshmen Get a Front-Row Look at Local Careers

Bellevue High School freshmen traded the classroom for an inside look at local manufacturing careers at the THINK Manufacturing Showcase in Fremont. Students met face to face with employers from across Sandusky County, asking questions and discovering the wide range of careers being built right in our own backyard. Who knows? A future career may have started with a single handshake.







Bellevue City Schools
125 North Street
Bellevue, OH 44811

Check out our website and follow us on social media to keep up with the great things happening in our schools.

bellevueschools.org

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BCSRedmen

Important School Dates

Nov. 25 - Nov. 27
Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 21 - Jan. 1
Winter Break

Jan. 4
School Resumes

Jan. 15
Records Day (No School)

Jan. 18
MLK Day (No School)

Middle School Athletes Bring the Fall Fire

More than 100 Bellevue Middle School student-athletes competed this fall in cross country, football, volleyball and cheerleading, showing grit, sportsmanship and teamwork all season. Our cheerleaders kept the energy high, proving Redmen spirit starts early!























Fall Highlights From the Redmen and Lady Red

Boys golf placed second at OHSAA sectionals, led by senior Blake Sutherland's runner-up finish, and William Cooper earned All-District Second Team honors. Senior volleyball captains Ellie Freitag and Finley LaPata hit 1,000 assists and 1,000 digs, respectively. Golfer Mariska Manning earned Second Team All-NOC, and Estonian exchange student Roosi Leemits placed third at tennis sectionals to qualify for districts. Meanwhile, Bellevue's new 15-player club soccer team is already making its mark.