



# School Matters

## St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Schools

*"Where all students are challenged to learn and inspired to dream"*

**2018-2019 Issue 1**

### **SBEP Schools Emergency Operating Levy Renewal with 25% Decrease - Issue #4**

On November 6, 2018, the residents of St. Bernard and Elmwood Place will have an opportunity to vote on Issue #4, which would renew, and decrease by 25%, an existing emergency levy that expires in 2020. The levy was originally passed in August 2000 and renewed in February 2009.

The Board of Education has decided to request the renewal with a reduction of 25% in the amount of the levy for the next ten years. While the original levy collected \$1,675,000, the renewal proposed on the ballot is only \$1,256,250--a decrease of \$418,750 in tax revenue the district will collect. Without the passage of this reduced renewal levy, the district will see deficit spending in fiscal year 2020.

Despite the funding challenges presented for St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Schools by legislation, the district continues to live within its means and to find new ways to be fiscally responsible. The last time the district asked taxpayers for new operating money was in 2006. Below are some cost-saving measures that have been taken, allowing the district to maintain a mere one percent average, annual increase in expenses over the past five years:

- Consolidating duties has resulted in a reduction of staff.
- Retiring staff have been replaced with new employees at lower salaries.
- Substitute teachers are contracted through an outside source.
- Participation in an insurance consortium has resulted in 0% increase in medical premiums for four years.
- Purchasing gas and electric on the open market has netted the best price for the district.
- Utilizing purchasing consortia has resulted in cost savings for materials and supplies.
- Membership in the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program has reduced total cost for this insurance.
- Grant funding has been obtained to supplement and enhance district services.



### **Working Together for the Safety of our Students**

On Friday, August 10th, officers from St. Bernard and Elmwood Place Police Departments held ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training for the staff of St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Schools. The protection and safety of the students of St. Bernard-Elmwood Place are priorities for both our school district and our local police departments. Working together to provide preparation and planning exemplifies our commitment to safety.

Thank you to the following individuals for sharing their expertise and knowledge: Kevin Vanover, former lieutenant for Elmwood Place Police Department; and Chief Mike Simos, Lt. Bill Ungruhe, and Officers Aaron Grant, Shawn McCreanor, and Mike Potrake from the St. Bernard Police Department.

### **Please Complete FinalForms Registration**

Please complete your son's/daughter's FinalForms registration as soon as possible.

FinalForms allows you to complete all back-to-school and athletic participation forms for your student(s) online.

Please register at: <https://sbep-oh.finalforms.com> and follow the prompts to create your account, create each student's account, and sign the forms. Note: If your child is NEW to the district, please be sure to click the "New to District" checkbox when registering.

This process will be accessible for you via your mobile phone or home computer, and registration will take only a few minutes.

Additional FinalForms information/instructions can be found on the district homepage. Click "School Forms and Information" under the "Parents" tab.

Thank you for your assistance in streamlining the paperwork process at St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City Schools!

## District news...



Brett Allen

Mary Ann Brannen

Donna Curry



Quincy Curry

Katie Fitzpatrick

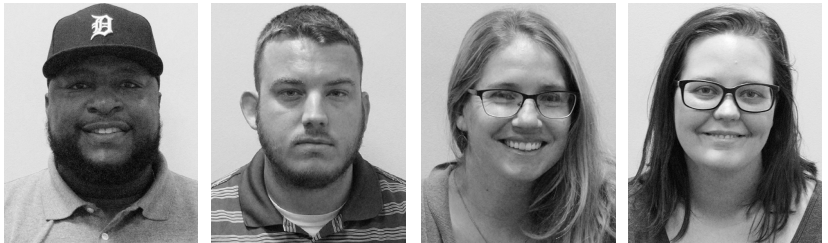
Rhonda Gregoire



Karen Hinkel

Carlee Hufstedler

Abreanna Jacobs



Fred James

Brandon Johnson

Lilianne Kinne

Amanda Kokenge



Tony Lee

James Spears

Kimberly Utrecht



Zachary Williams

Ashley Witzgall



## New Faces in the District

- Brett Allen - Jr. High Business Technology Teacher
- Mary Ann Brannen - Van Driver
- Donna Curry - Bus Driver
- Quincy Curry - Jr./Sr. High School Paraprofessional & Coach
- Katie Fitzpatrick - St. Bernard Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher
- Rhonda Gregoire - Jr./Sr. High School Braille Interpreter
- Karen Hinkel - Elmwood Place Elementary Paraprofessional
- Carlee Hufstedler - St. Bernard Elementary Math (Grades 4, 5 & 6)
- Abreanna Jacobs - Jr./Sr. High School Social Studies Teacher
- Fred James - Jr./Sr. High School Paraprofessional & Coach
- Brandon Johnson - Jr./Sr. High School Paraprofessional
- Lilianne Kinne - Elmwood Place Elementary Paraprofessional
- Amanda Kokenge - Jr./Sr. High School Science/Biology Teacher
- Anthony Lee - Bus Driver
- James Spears - Jr./Sr. High School Paraprofessional & Coach
- Kimberly Utrecht - St. Bernard Elementary Tutor
- Zachary Williams - Elementary Physical Education Teacher
- Ashley Witzgall - Elmwood Place Elementary 1st Grade Teacher

## High School news...



### Thank you, ERA Real Solutions!

Thank you to ERA Real Solutions for providing spirit wear for the Varsity Titan Football team!

### Fall-Fest 2018

Fall Spirit Week took place October 1-5, 2018. The schedule of events was: Monday - Hero or Villain Day, Tuesday - Athlete/ Jersey or Mathlete Day, Wednesday - Dress PINK for Breast Cancer Awareness, Thursday - Dress Wacky Tacky or Clothing Mismatch Day, and Friday - Titan Pride Day. Events included the Kona Ice Truck at lunch, a pep rally, and Friday Night Football, Titans vs. CCPA at Roger Bacon Stadium. The football game included a student tailgate before kickoff and Staff Appreciation Night, with faculty and staff being recognized at halftime. The evening ended in a Titan victory, 26-18!

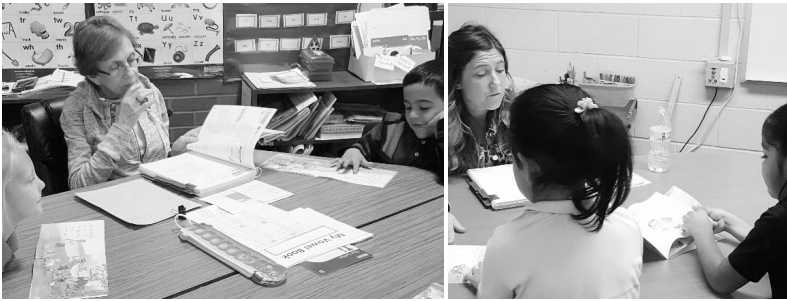


### Thriving Learning Communities Program

This year, St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Junior High School kicks off the Thriving Learning Communities (TLC) program. This program is aimed at building an awareness of strengths of character in every Junior High student. Each week, students participate in 30-minute sessions, with lessons centered around building an awareness and appreciation of 24 character traits. Students identify their own strengths and learn ways to utilize these strengths to succeed in school, at home, and in preparation for high school and beyond. In addition, TLC lessons help students recognize and appreciate the character strengths of others.

T  
L  
C

## Elmwood Place Elementary news... Science Fun in Fifth Grade



Elmwood Place Elementary fifth-grade science students started their school year with a fun lesson reviewing the scientific method. Students enjoy learning science with peers in a “hands-on” classroom environment by “doing.”



### Project Team Reading

All Elmwood Place Elementary (EPE) students in grades K-3 participate in Project Team Reading, in which students receive reading intervention or enrichment in a small-group setting beyond the regular classroom reading program. During the first several weeks of school, students were assessed by their teachers and reading tutors to determine their strengths and areas of needed growth in reading. Students took the online computer MAP Test, a spelling inventory, and some parts of the DIBELS assessment. First- and second-grade students took a one-on-one Developmental Reading Assessment with their classroom teachers to determine their specific reading levels. The principal, classroom teachers, intervention specialists, and reading tutors meet to discuss each student’s skill strengths and deficits and to determine grouping and instructional practices. EPE’s reading tutors all are literacy teachers with a wealth of previous classroom experience. This program is partially supported by federal Title 1 funds and is an integral part of how EPE serves at-risk K-3 readers and students who need acceleration in reading.



### EPE Student Council 2018-2019

Student Council is up and running at Elmwood Place Elementary. This year, students will be collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House and Box Tops for community and school outreach projects. The goal is to create an engaging and positive school climate with a focus on kindness. Students are excited to have fundraising opportunities throughout the year to help their school and community.

## St. Bernard Elementary news...



### P&G Donates Hygiene Products to Students

On Friday, September 21st, sixteen P&G volunteers donated their time to distribute hygiene products to all students in grades K-6 at St. Bernard Elementary. The school has had this partnership with P&G for the past three years.



### September Students of the Month

In September, one student from each class was selected as the Student of the Month. These students exhibited hard work in class, kindness to others, and overall great behavior. Congratulations!



### Students are Welcomed by Staff on First Day

The theme at St. Bernard Elementary this year is “We’re Better Together.” On the first day of school all staff wore matching shirts and greeted students and parents at the door. Students and staff are excited for a great year ahead.

**St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City Schools**  
**105 Washington Avenue**  
**St. Bernard, Ohio 45217**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 9901  
Cincinnati, OH

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Linda Radtke, *President***  
**Micki Spears, *Vice President***  
**Katie Estep**  
**Marc Fleak**  
**Tinette Underwood**

**Mimi Webb, Ed.D., *Superintendent***  
**Emily Hauser, *Treasurer***

**Central Office:** 513-482-7121  
**Central Office fax:** 513-641-0066  
**High School phone:** 513-482-7100  
**High School fax:** 513-641-4878  
**Elmwood Place Elementary:** 513-482-7115  
**Elmwood Place Elementary fax:** 513-641-5502  
**St. Bernard Elementary:** 513-482-7110  
**St. Bernard Elementary fax:** 513-641-0278

**Website:** [www.sbepschools.org](http://www.sbepschools.org)

## Schools searching for children with disabilities:

The St. Bernard-Elmwood Place City School District seeks to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with handicaps, birth through age 21, based upon I.D.E.A. (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) eligibility. This includes children attending private or parochial schools whose parents reside within our district.

Conditions such as multi-handicapped, hearing handicapped, visually handicapped, orthopedically and/or health handicapped, severe behavior handicapped, developmentally handicapped, specific learning disabled, autistic and speech and language handicapped would be included.

Additionally, it is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are handicapped within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are evaluated, identified and served. Section 504 disabilities are mental or physical impairments or a history of such impairments that "substantially limit one or more major life activities."

If you know of a child with a suspected handicap, please contact Mr. Carter Cordes, Special Education Coordinator at St. Bernard-Elmwood Place Schools, 400 Maple Street, Elmwood Place, Ohio 45216, 513-482-7115.

In accordance with the Ohio State Plan for the Education of Ohio's Homeless Children and Youth and the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 100-77), as amended in 1990, homeless school-age children shall have access to a free, appropriate public education which would be provided to the children of a resident of Ohio, consistent with Ohio's school attendance laws. If you are aware of or suspect that a homeless child is eligible for placement under this policy, please contact Mr. Carter Cordes at 513-482-7115.

### **I.D.E.A. Budget Meeting**

The St. Bernard-Elmwood Place School District is currently formulating a budget for the expenditures of I.D.E.A. funds for 2019-2020. These funds are used in providing educational services for preschool through grade twelve special needs pupils residing within the St. Bernard-Elmwood Place School District. Persons wishing to have input regarding the allocation of these funds can attend a meeting at Elmwood Place Elementary on Thursday, April 11, 2019, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., to discuss the budget, or contact Mr. Carter Cordes at 482-7115.