

SPRING 2018

THE ESC CONNECTION

A DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO

ANNOUNCING OUR NEW NAME



EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE CENTER
of Northeast Ohio

ESSEX
PLACE

6393

**SERVING STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS
ACROSS NORTHEAST OHIO BY
PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to share that the ESC of Cuyahoga County is now the ESC of Northeast Ohio. As our ESC has evolved, it was important to us to more accurately represent all of

our client districts and more effectively reflect our scope of work.

While this change highlights the many ways we have grown over the last several years, our sincere commitment to serving each of you as individuals has not changed. Our entire staff remains dedicated to being responsive and flexible in order to help you address any need and I encourage you to reach out to any of us at any time with questions or requests

for assistance. It is the conversations with district administrators and educators that drive the development of new services and programs.

Communication is essential to meeting your needs. Our phone numbers have not changed and you are always welcome to reach out to our leadership team at any time of day or night by email or cell phone. You will continue to see information about our name change over the next several months so that everyone has updated information regarding email addresses, our website and our social media sites (also included in this newsletter). That said, our old email addresses and website domain will remain active to ensure that there are no gaps in your ability to reach us.

As always, we thank you for trusting us to help you with the most important job in the world – building the future of our youth.

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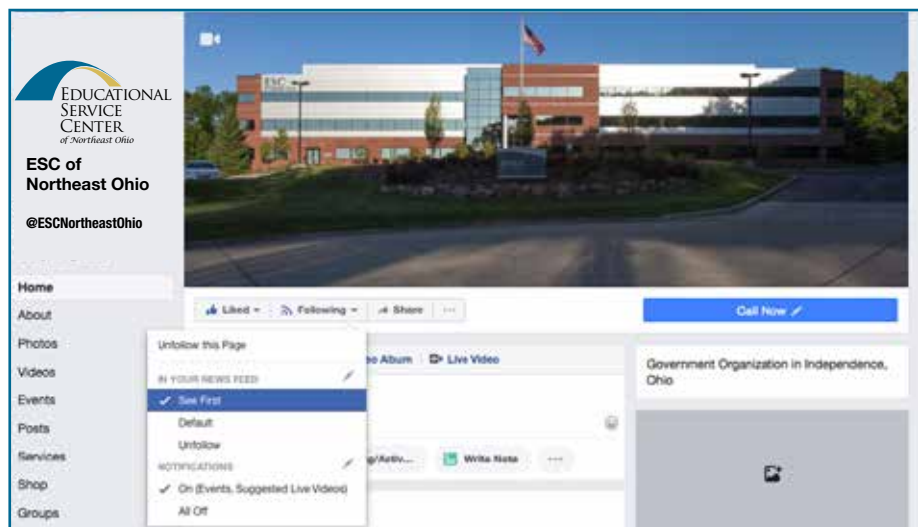
ESSEX CONFERENCE CENTER . . . YOUR IDEAL SPACE TO MEET



Watch our New Video on the Essex Conference Center

Are you or someone you work with looking for the ideal space to collaborate, network, and celebrate in a wonderful meeting space? Watch the ESC's latest video on why the Essex Conference Center may be the perfect solution for your meeting space and conference needs. [Click here](#) to watch.

REMINDER ABOUT FOLLOWING ESC OF NORTHEAST OHIO ON FACEBOOK



Did you hear Facebook is changing the way we see content on our pages? Don't miss out on the ESC of Northeast Ohio's posts! Visit our page, hover over "FOLLOWING," and click "SEE FIRST." It's that easy!

CURRICULUM BLUEPRINT PROJECT

Three districts—**North Olmsted, Orange City, and Westlake City Schools**—currently are collaborating to create a “macro” district-level curriculum that each district can use to develop K-12 cornerstone assessment tasks. The “macro” curriculum will include Transfer Goals, Overarching Understandings and Essential Questions, and performance-based Cornerstone Assessment Tasks. These performance tasks can be used across the K-12 continuum as a way for districts to assess students not only within the ELA content but also to hold them to high levels of rigor and 21st-century learning skills. Drafts of the cornerstone assessment tasks will be developed that teacher teams can administer and then provide feedback before they are fully implemented.

The districts’ work is supported by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. The project is in part facilitated by McTighe and Associates through

consultant Dr. Ronnit Carter. ESC of Northeast Ohio consultant Heather Miller and Coordinator of Curriculum Dr. Lynn Hruschak wrote the grant and supported the work of the districts.

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ALL IN STUDENT ACADEMY

State Support Team—Region 3 (SST-3) at the ESC of Northeast Ohio has partnered with SST-5 (Ashtabula, Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana Counties) to bring the All In Student Academy to 8th -10th grade students in seven school districts, including three districts in Cuyahoga County—

Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Collinwood High School and Garfield Heights Middle School.

Each student team is led by an adult student coordinator. Facilitated by Dr. Markeda Newell, Associate Professor of School Psychology at Loyola University, Chicago, the student teams have completed two learning sessions of the four-day series. The All In Student Academy focuses on developing student leaders for positive change in their school and community. Topics of the academy include social justice and identity, privilege, advocacy, communication, and

leadership. The sessions are held on various college campuses so students also get the opportunity to take a campus tour. The first two sessions were held at NEOMED and Youngstown State University. In March, the academy students will visit Kent State University.

The academy culminates in the All In Student Academy showcase held in conjunction with student teams from SST-9 (Stark, Wayne and Holmes Counties) where student teams from eight Ohio counties will share their Student Academy projects. Student teams have begun planning their projects which will focus on various social justice topics and making a positive change in their school and community.

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UPDATES FROM PASSPORT SCHOOL PROGRAM (FORMERLY ESC-CC SCHOOL PROGRAM)

The ESC-CC School Program has a new name – the Passport School Program.

The mission of the Passport School Program, operated by the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio, is to guide extraordinary individuals toward a future of hope and arrive at the right destination. The Passport School Program provides an entranceway to the tools, skills, strength, and courage needed to develop individual independence, all while showing honor and respect for each of its students.

Located at the Metzenbaum Center at 8200 Cedar Road in Chesterland, Passport School Program serves students ages 5-22 with multiple disabilities and significant medical needs in a separate facility providing intensive educational, behavioral, and medical programming. Specialists certified to work with children with multiple disabilities staff four classrooms. Each classroom can have up to eight students staffed with a minimum of one intervention specialist and a minimum of one assistant. An Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) is developed for each child and reviewed annually.



LY THE ESC-CC PROGRAM)

Students have had a busy winter. On nice days, students, staff and volunteers enjoy a walk around the playground. Currently, they are busy constructing and planning for their first horticultural center, located just outside of the classroom on the grounds of their new facility. Meanwhile, some of the students took a field trip to Century Village in Burton and learned about the history of Geauga County. Students also were invited to take part in a fun bingo event that Progressive Insurance was hosting at the Metzenbaum Center.

Academically, large picture books are being enjoyed by the students, and the speech- language pathologist is using icon cards to answer questions about the story. In gym class, the students enjoy using the adaptive bowling equipment. Some students also are enjoying riding bikes during gym and of course, swimming in the pool. The sensory room is one of the favorite places for students, too.

All eyes are focused on the Passport School Program graduation on June 1. Two students, Dorian and Carlos, will be graduating.

PASSPORT School Program

Guiding Extraordinary Individuals Toward a Future of Hope



UPDATES FROM CAPSTONE ACADEMY

Capstone Academy, operated through the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio, is housed within the Hattie Larlham residential facility in Mantua, Ohio. This nonprofit agency provides medical, recreational, and vocational services to children and adults with significant developmental and physical disabilities as well as profound medically fragile conditions.

Serving students from throughout the state, Capstone Academy collaborates with more than 25 school districts to provide services for students in grades K-12 (ages 5-22) with the most profound multiple disabilities. Through individualized learning plans and instruction, and attention to social, personal, and vocational needs, this educational program provides students with an opportunity to experience success.

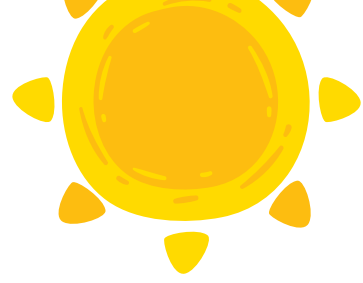
Students and staff are looking forward to spring. They recently created watercolor water lilies inspired by Claude Monet. They also created three-dimensional and sculptural projects including different types of pots. In music, they have been exploring different instruments and adaptive devices as ways to create and enjoy music together. The students enjoyed learning about dental health, the winter olympics, and even about penguins and arctic animals. Social studies, science, Language Arts, Math classes were rigorous, but the students accepted the challenge.

Three students, Jacob, Shane, and Victoria, will graduate from Capstone Academy on June 4 at 1 pm.

Capstone Academy utilizes whole group, small group, and one-on-one instruction, as well as assistive technology, to ensure that students have an opportunity to experience success. All students follow a weekly schedule consisting of classroom-based learning in Math, Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts, Music, Art, Adapted Physical Education (APE), Vocational Skills, and multi-sensory integration. Related services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy, as well necessary modifications to adaptive equipment, enhance the learning experience of each child. It is this emphasis on an integrated team approach and the extensive use of adapted technology that makes the Capstone Academy program distinct.







PLANNING FOR SUMMER . . .

Summer and Beyond Fair

The 2018 Summer and Beyond Fair was held on Saturday, February 17 at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights. Families were able to talk with representatives from camps and organizations from around Ohio. Children had free fingerprint IDs made and had their faces painted. They enjoyed entertainment by Dancing Wheels, Flower Clown, and a guest appearance by the Cleveland Indians' mascot Slider.





FROM EDUCATOR QUALITY . . .OTES NEXT STEPS

On February 8, the ESC of Northeast Ohio hosted OTES (Ohio Teacher Evaluation System) Next Steps training presented by Lou Staffilino, Cindy Yoder, and Carol King. This pilot training, funded through the Ohio Department of Education, will be held for three days over the next three months and provides face-to-face OTES recalibration training for 50 experienced evaluators representing districts from across the Northeast Ohio area.

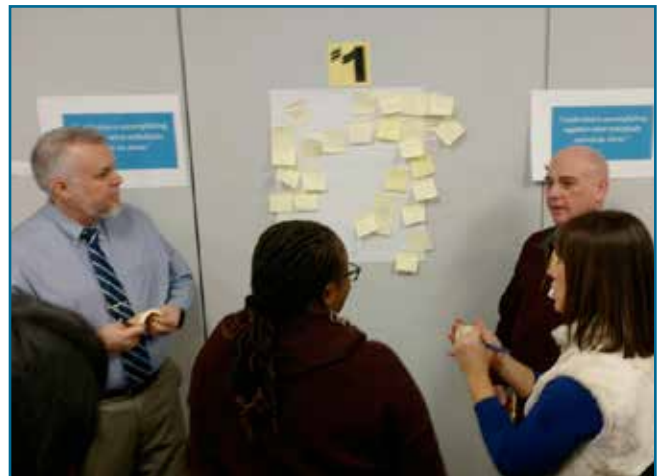
With an aim to strengthen the evaluation process, professional conversations during the training centered on collecting, sorting and interpreting high-quality evidence and artifacts. Training also emphasized developing the role of the educator in the evaluation process as a means to empower teachers to set meaningful professional goals and monitor their progress throughout the year.

Following the Collect, Sort, Interpret, Provide Feedback model of observation from *Better Feedback for Better Teaching: A Practical Guide to Improving Classroom Observations*, the second module of OTES Next Steps will focus on coaching teachers for improved performance, practicing research-based high-quality coaching strategies, and learning to give quality feedback to teachers.

Participants are also provided an opportunity to implement new learning and approaches in their work within their districts on a limited scope across the three months to provide additional support throughout the process.

Participants' feedback will help to inform future training modules. Completion of all three modules will qualify principals and evaluators for the two-year renewal of the OTES credential.

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workshop highlights

Writing Ourselves Workshop for Middle and High School English Teachers

A two-day workshop on January 29 and March 14 helped high school and middle school English teachers bridge the gap between writing instruction at the secondary level and at the college level. The workshops were facilitated by William Kist, Ph.D., School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies at Kent State University. The workshops provided an overview of college-level writing expectations and assignments using the writers' workshop model. Educators reviewed rubrics and alignment with secondary ELA standards and curricular mapping and considered models for blended learning and digital writing practices.



Project Based Learning Workshop

Project Based Learning (PBL) is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working through a process of sustained inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. These interactive workshops are led by an ESC consultant who was trained by Buck Institute for Education (BIE) and implemented PBLs in grades 7-12. The first workshop, held on January 24, had three basic parts: Project Design, Assessment, and Management. It was designed to teach the basics of PBL by exemplifying the experience of a project, video analysis of best classroom practice, exploration of PBL tools and project libraries, and development of a project with opportunities for critique and revision. Workshop participants received BIE's PBL Starter Kit book. The next workshop—PBL 201—will be offered on April 10 at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. Grade-level or content-area teams are strongly encouraged to attend together for an enhanced PBL design experience.



workshop highlights

Competency-Based Education Pilot

The ESC-coordinated Competency-Based Education pilot focusing on Performance-Based Assessment met at the ESC of Northeast Ohio on January 18 and 19. During fall, teacher teams in the cohort wrote performance tasks and assessment aligned to Ohio's priority Learning Standards in specific subject areas. During the workshops, educators scored and calibrated sample student work from the fall implementation. Later this spring, scores will be compared to students' achievement on annual state assessments in the subject areas.

On January 19, Paolo DeMaria, Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction, was updated by district leaders and the Envision Learning Partners/SCALE facilitator about the ESC's Competency-Based Education pilot for alternate assessment.

Districts in the CBE consortium include **Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Kirtland Local, Maple Heights, Orange City, Perry-Lake County, and Springfield City Schools.**

Districts in Ohio's Innovation Lab Network (ILN) are invited to participate in two upcoming workshops on "Introduction to Performance Assessments" as a result of the CBE/PBA pilot work. One workshop was held at the Springfield City Schools Dome Innovation Center on March 16, and the second workshop will be held at the ESC on June 13. The programs are funded in part through a grant to ODE from the Council of Chief State School Officers to extend the PBA work to additional ILN districts.

For information, contact
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KnowledgeWorks

How might changes in the broader landscape affect what learning looks like in 10 years? KnowledgeWorks explores the future of learning to help education leaders and innovators anticipate change, explore strategic possibilities and identify ways of creating better opportunities for all learners. Their strategic foresight team creates forecasts on the future of learning, takes deep dives into critical education issues and suggests ways of translating insights about the future into action today.

On January 19, educators discovered ways of illuminating new possibilities for learning during a workshop held at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. While we can't know how the future of learning will unfold, we can shape it in ways that work more or less well for learners. We can all act as agents of change by using foresight to guide our strategic choices today.



Introducing Ohio's Biliteracy Seal Program

On January 17, the ESC of Northeast Ohio hosted an event "Introducing Ohio's Biliteracy Seal Program," a new opportunity for Ohio high school seniors to demonstrate their high level literacy in English and another language. Students who pass the biliteracy exams that require high levels of written and oral fluency in both languages will receive a seal on their high school transcripts. The program was led by Ryan T. Wertz, ODE Lead Consultant for World Languages & International Education. He presented research on the global languages currently highest in demand for economic trade and business relations in Ohio: English, Japanese, and German. The Biliteracy Seal is available for high school seniors in 2018.



workshop highlights

Question Formulation Techniques Workshop

A good question can spark curiosity and fuel creativity, understanding, and innovation. Question formulation techniques are increasingly vital skills for critical thinking, literacy, inquiry, and civic engagement in the 21st century, as reflected in many new state and national standards. Yet, it is rare that the skill of question formulation is deliberately taught to students. How can we transform teaching and learning and build the capacity for all students to take greater ownership and develop higher order thinking skills through question-asking?

Educators explored how to answer that question during a one-day workshop on January 10th at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. They learned the Question Formulation Technique (QFT), a simple yet powerful strategy to teach students how to ask and find answers to their questions.

In this hands-on, active learning experience, participants worked closely with staff from The Right Question Institute (RQI) and collaborated with educators and administrators from across the region to explore the many ways the QFT is stimulating student curiosity, promoting deeper learning, and helping to build the democratic habit of mind of asking questions.

Thinking, Creating, and Designing Outside the Box

The ESC of Northeast Ohio is coordinating a series, Thinking, Creating, and Designing Outside the Box! highlighting the creative Makerspaces of **Strongsville City Schools**, and the fabulous Fablab at **Orange City Schools**, and Mobile Learning Labs highlighting educational resources from throughout Northeast Ohio. Friday, December 8 was the first session of the three-part series. Educators were inspired by the Makerspace process and design at Strongsville Middle and High School. Participants interacted



with students in the media labs working with an augmented reality sandbox as they learned about topography, and with sewing machines as they created clothing or fabric artifacts, as well as with tiny robots following digital pathways.

In the second session, which took place on February 7 at Orange City Schools' Fablab, participants learned critical planning and design concepts for developing such spaces in their districts. Educators used software and 3-D printers to create personalized keychains.

During Session 3 on Mobile Learning Labs, scheduled for the ESC on May 16, participants will join representatives of many educational organizations in Northeast Ohio to learn about resources available to schools and districts that don't yet have their own makerspaces.

For information, contact:
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Thinking, Creating, & Designing **OUTSIDE THE BOX**

Mark your calendar for the final session
Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Location: ESC of Northeast Ohio
6393 Oaktree Blvd. in
Independence

Time: 9 am - 3:30 pm

Participants will join representatives of many educational organizations in Northeast Ohio to learn about resources available to schools and districts that don't have their own makerspaces.

[Click here to register.](#)



HIGHLIGHTS

OF ESC'S WINTER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES & NETWORKS

CURRICULUM DIRECTORS

The Curriculum Directors Network offers curriculum directors the opportunity to hear relevant information and updates, share best practices, and discuss implementation strategies.

Next meeting: June 11



GIFTED

The Gifted Network is designed for educators to learn more about gifted education in Ohio, including Ohio law, gifted program models, assessment and reporting, and staff professional development.

Next meeting: May 18



EMIS COORDINATORS

The EMIS Coordinators Network offers monthly EMIS support workshops through its office of Online Programs and EMIS data support. The network provides guidance and support that fosters intelligent dialogue and exchange of ideas of current practices in Ohio.

Next meetings: April 10 and May 15



FEDERAL PROGRAMS

The Federal Programs Network is for Federal Program, CCIP, and Title 1 coordinators, directors and other educators who would like to hear updates, discuss current topics, and share resources.

Meetings have concluded for the school year and will resume next school year.

IMPACTFUL INTEGRATION

The Impactful Integration Network encourages grade, building, and district-level teams of teachers, instructional coaches, technology integration specialists, curriculum directors, IT specialists, and administrators to advance effective practices, support teachers, and make learning engaging for students.

Next meeting: May 1



INNOVATION LAB

The Innovation Lab Network is a national network for districts to implement innovation design principles of next generation learning. The ESC hosts regional meetings for ILN districts and those districts interested in learning more.

Next meeting: June 13

LITERACY

The Literacy Network is for dedicated ELA specialists, coaches, and teacher leaders to share, discuss, learn, and reflect together to ensure all students receive the highest quality ELA instruction possible.

Next meeting: April 19



SCHOOL PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATORS

The School Personnel Administrators Network is for human resources professionals to collaborate, examine, and share effective practices.

Next meeting: May 15, 2018

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The English Language Learners (NOELL) Network is for ESL teachers, tutors, central office administrators, and other educators to network and discuss issues as they relate to the English Language Learner.

Next meeting: May 18



ESC'S WINTER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES & NETWORKS

MATH SPECIALISTS

The Northeast Ohio Mathematical Specialists (NEOMS) Network is for passionate math specialists, coaches and teachers who are interested in learning together for the sole purpose of advancing mathematics instruction.

Next meeting: May 17



REGIONAL LEGAL UPDATES

The Regional Legal Updates Network is facilitated by Walter & Haverfield, LLC, and is for superintendents, central office administrators, principals, and other educators interested in hearing current legal updates, discussing issues, and networking with colleagues.

Meetings have concluded for the school year and will resume next school year.

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

The Northeast Ohio School Counselors Network is for elementary, middle and high school counselors and social workers who are interested in networking and discussing issues as they relate to advocating for students at each level.

Next meeting: May 9



SCIENCE SPECIALISTS

The NEO Science Specialists Network provide overviews of the Ohio Science Learning Standards (OSLS) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), as well as current news about impending revisions to the OSLS. Time is largely devoted to facilitating sessions focused on inquiry-based teaching strategies that can be implemented in K-12 Science classrooms.



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

The Administrative Assistants Network meets four times a year with a focus on building relations, ethical issues, innovations, and other topics of interest.

Next meeting: May 3



PUPIL SERVICES/ SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Pupil Services/Special Education Network is open to all Ohio school district central office administrative professionals to collaborate, examine, and share effective practices, expertise and resources.

Next meeting: May 15



ESC'S WINTER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES & NETWORKS

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

The Program Coordinators Network is designed for lead mentors, mentors, program coordinators, HR directors, and central office personnel, and higher education representatives to learn and share best practices related to preparing/mentoring beginning teachers, specifically using the Resident Educator program.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

The Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) Network is for school-based Speech-Language Pathologists and other SLPs who are interested in learning, supporting, and reflecting on current topics and best practices within the educational setting to collaborate.

Next meeting: April 27



PROJECT BASED LEARNING

The Project Based Network shares resources, explores questions, and offers authentic experiences that model the PBL methodology.

Next meeting: May 15

REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The Regional Technology Network is for technology directors, curriculum directors, and other interested educators to discuss current topics and share resources as it relates to the educational uses and applications for instructional technology.

Next meeting: May 10



RESA FACILITATORS

The RESA Facilitators' Network supports resident educators participating in the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA).

TEACHING AND LEARNING KNOWLEDGE

The Teaching and Learning Knowledge (TALK) Network is for educators interested in networking with other educators on issues and topics as they relate to curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Next meeting: May 22



ESC'S WINTER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES & NETWORKS

PRINCIPAL & SUPERINTENDENT

The Elementary, Middle, and High School Principals Networks, as well as the Superintendents Network, are great opportunities for administrators to network with other colleagues and discuss relevant issues related to education and leadership.

Next meeting: April 25



Project AWARE Ohio: Understanding and Managing Trauma - Train-the-Trainer Workshop

Akron Children's Hospital, in partnership with Project AWARE, held a workshop on January 31 to offer comprehensive training for school districts. This train-the-trainer model is designed to provide schools with an in-house trainer who can better understand how students experience traumatic events and how to help them through these tough times. Topics covered in the training included an Introduction to Trauma; Managing Trauma in the Classroom; and Recognizing Secondary Traumatic Stress.

Click here to read Project Aware Ohio's monthly newsletters.

<http://www.escneo.org/ProjectAWARE.aspx>





Frontal Lobe

Hypothalamus

Amygdala

Hippocampus

Limbic Brain



NORTHCOAST BUSINESS ADVISORY NETWORK

Northeast Ohio is recognized as the home of world-class healthcare, and the healthcare industry is one of the largest employers and economic engines in the region. Developing a pipeline of employees to fill the many career opportunities available including direct patient care, technology and cutting-edge research and development is a responsibility of the educational community.

The Northcoast Business Advisory Network met on December 6 at Cuyahoga Community College Westshore Campus in Westlake to highlight two educational institutions that are leading the way to provide awareness and training for pathways to health-related careers.

Students from Milkovich Middle School in **Maple Heights** discussed their Medical Muse Project. These 7th- and 8th-grade honors science students meet with medical students, university scholars, and other healthcare professionals to explore, engage, and learn about the paths necessary for careers in the many medical occupations available in our region.

Representatives from Corporate College discussed its HealthCare Industry Solutions. Attendees met Apollo, the incredible high-tech human patient simulator used by medical professionals. The center addresses the training needs of employees in health care occupations by utilizing the latest technology and equipment.



STATE SUPPORT TEAM REGION 3 NETWORKS

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION ITINERANT

The Early Childhood Special Education Itinerant Network provides networking for teachers and staff who provide single service delivery to children.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPERVISORY

The Early Childhood Supervisory Network is for early childhood and administrators from LEA's, Early Childhood Educational (ECE) Entitlement and Expansion grantees, lead representatives, and staff to network regarding state and local initiatives, compliance/mandates, and best practices.

Next meeting: May 2



FAMILY LEADERSHIP

The Family Leadership Network is made up of district-appointed Family Leadership representatives, Parent Mentors, and Community Resource agencies. It provides a forum to exchange information to support family/school partnerships that support the education of students with disabilities and other diverse learners.

Next meeting: April 13



LEADERSHIP - COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Community Schools' Leadership Network fosters shared leadership through a process of setting clear building goals with an emphasis on teacher learning and development. The group coaches leaders to strengthen implementation and monitoring processes.

TRANSITION

The Transition Network meets to learn needed updates in transition planning, to collaborate with fellow districts' transition personnel, offer support, and seek answers to pressing questions.

Next meeting: May 31



LEADERSHP

The Leadership Network is for leaders of equity, the Ohio Improvement Process, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, and Family Community Engagement. The network emphasizes implementation science, coaching, and collegial sharing with specific topics connected to equity, the Ohio Improvement Process, Positive Behavior Intervention Supports, and Family and Community Engagement.

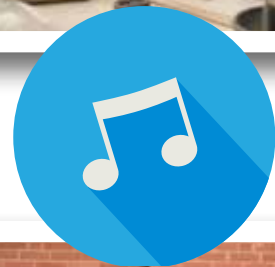
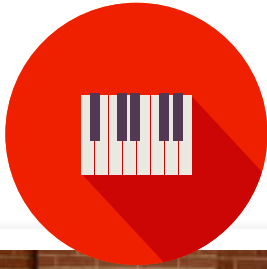
Next meeting: May 11

gifted and talented student programs

Learning Peaceful Solutions at the Beck Center for the Arts

On November 14, high school students from **Bedford**, **Warrensville Heights**, and **Rocky River** learned how to create peaceful solutions through the arts. This one-day workshop at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, organized by the ESC of Northeast Ohio, included opportunities for students to write songs, play instruments, paint, mold with clay, and learn how cultural arts can have a positive impact on their lives and society.





gifted and talented student programs

Public Speaking Workshop

On January 22, the ESC of Northeast Ohio hosted students from **Bedford, Richmond Heights, and Warrensville Heights Schools** for a workshop on Public Speaking. Guest presenter was Lisa Ryan of Grategy.

For information about Gifted and Talented programs, contact:
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gifted and talented student programs – Portage County Updates

Quizbowl

The Portage Quizbowl League season ran from October through February. The participating schools were **Aurora, Bio-Med Science Academy, Cloverleaf, Field, James A. Garfield, Kenston, Lake Center Christian, Mogadore, Newbury, Ravenna, Rootstown, Southeast, Streetsboro, Waterloo, Western Reserve Academy, and Windham**. The 16 schools, most fielding two teams, played 15 games—one against each other school—in sets of three approximately once a month. They completed their last set of matches at Maplewood Career Center on February 20 with all teams present for dinner and awards. [Click here](#) for full stats and national postseason bid winners.



Teen Board

Each month, the Portage County Teen Board gathers at Maplewood Career Center to choose the Portage County High School Seniors of the Month. The Seniors of the Month are chosen from the nominations from each of the high schools in Portage County. The teen board members review each of the nominations

and pay special attention to the nominees' school leadership and participation, community leadership, academic strength, and personal qualities that set the candidates apart. Seniors of the Month for February were Sara Miller, Crestwood High School and Isaac Foster, Maplewood Career Center. Recipients for

Math 24

The Math 24 Tournament was held on March 9 at the Maplewood Career Center. Competitors were from **Aurora, Crestwood, James A. Garfield, Kent, Southeast, Streetsboro, Rootstown,** and **Windham Schools**. Each year, the Math



24 contestants participate in the t-shirt drawing contest to design the t-shirt for the tournament. This year, Francesca Ferrara, a fifth-grade student from Kent submitted the winning t-shirt design entry. As shown on the t-shirt designed

for the tournament, even the year is solvable. For those unfamiliar with Math 24, students need to multiply, divide, add, or subtract each of the four

numbers on the Math 24 card with the answer always being 24. For the card with the four numbers of our year on it, 2,0,1,8 one needs to combine these four

numbers to get 24. To solve the year as a Math 24 card, the students start with the answer



first which is 3 times 8 equals 24 and then show how they got that by using the four numbers on the card, 2 plus 1 equals 3, 3 plus 0 equals 3, 3 times 8 equals 24. Students play five rounds with 48 cards per round. The first round is all single digit cards, second round is single digit plus variable cards, and rounds three through five are all double-digit cards with variable cards added in.

March were Jatia Caples, Ravenna High School and Elliott Thomas, Southeast High School. Marty Dragelevich and Shelley Cassese are co-coordinators of this program. The Seniors of the Month are honored at the annual Honors Breakfast in May.



gifted and talented student programs – Portage County Updates

Spelling Bee

Eleven districts including **Crestwood, Field, James A. Garfield, Kent, Mogadore, Ohio Virtual Academy, Rootstown, Youngstown Diocese, Southeast, Streetsboro** and **Waterloo** participated in the Portage County spelling competition which was held on January 31 at Maplewood.

Congratulations to our participating students in each district for being the champion or finalists in their school spelling bee. The five finalists from the 2018 Portage County Spelling Bee were Ella Deevers from Streetsboro Middle School, Rida Shaikh from Henry Defer Intermediate in Streetsboro, Emma Chaffee from Waterloo Middle School, and Naomi Sanor and Cooper Kelly who

are both from Southeast Middle School. These students represented Portage County in the *Akron Beacon Journal* Regional Spelling Bee on March 10 at the Summit County Main Library in Akron. At this final bee in Akron, one student will go on to represent our area in the National Spelling Bee which will be held near Washington D.C.

In the audience was Marjorie L. Pagan who won the 1939 Portage County Spelling Bee. She was wearing her pendant that she received as the spelling champion that year. Marjorie is 90 years old and a member of the Kent Area Orthographic Society (KOAS). She participates every year in a spelling bee for seniors held at the center.



uranium
exquisite
hypotenuse

functionary
charismatic



THE OHIO ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM

The Ohio Online Learning Program (OOLP) has seen great changes over the past semester and has welcomed plenty of new students and a few new Student Learning Advocates to the OOLP team! The fall semester brought in the highest student roster to date with over 700 active students! The program has also added six new districts and created new partnerships with current districts to bring in an influx of enrollments. After attending **Richmond Heights Local Schools** “Back to School Fair,” the district requested assistance with their high school language requirement. All of their students are now taking their Spanish and French courses through OOLP.

In September, the program was featured in a segment on WKYC’s “Live on Lakeside” to share the benefits of enrolling and what sets it apart from other online schools. The program has also held several Parent Information Nights to educate families on this online option within their local district! With the closing of ECOT, the program has seen a rush of enrollments for the Spring semester and will only continue to grow. The program is now in its sixth year of operation and districts continue to utilize it for many purposes.

Districts seeking more information should contact Shannon McCreary, Ohio Online Program Shannon.mccreary@escneo.org
216-901-4213



EMIS SERVICES & DATA SUPPORT

The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Northeast Ohio launched EMIS Academy this past fall. EMIS Academy was designed as an opportunity for school districts to identify individuals who are interested in becoming an EMIS Coordinator or learning about EMIS to expand capacity. This experience offers a year-long series of classes whereby participants receive instruction of all aspects of EMIS reporting as things occur throughout an entire reporting year. These classes are facilitated by experienced EMIS professionals who understand current EMIS practices and also provide context to its evolution over the last 20 years.

Our first cohort has successfully completed half the year and we will begin accepting registrations for 2018 – 2019 in early spring.

We also continue to offer an array of EMIS services to school districts throughout the region. These services have helped to provide meaningful up to date information to EMIS Coordinators via monthly meetings where topics are driven by the participants. Other services include EMIS Audits and providing reporting services to districts with a combined enrollment of over 14,000 students.

As EMIS reporting responsibilities have become much more complex, we recognize the need for districts to build capacity and strengthen overall infrastructure to meet the increasing demands of state reporting.

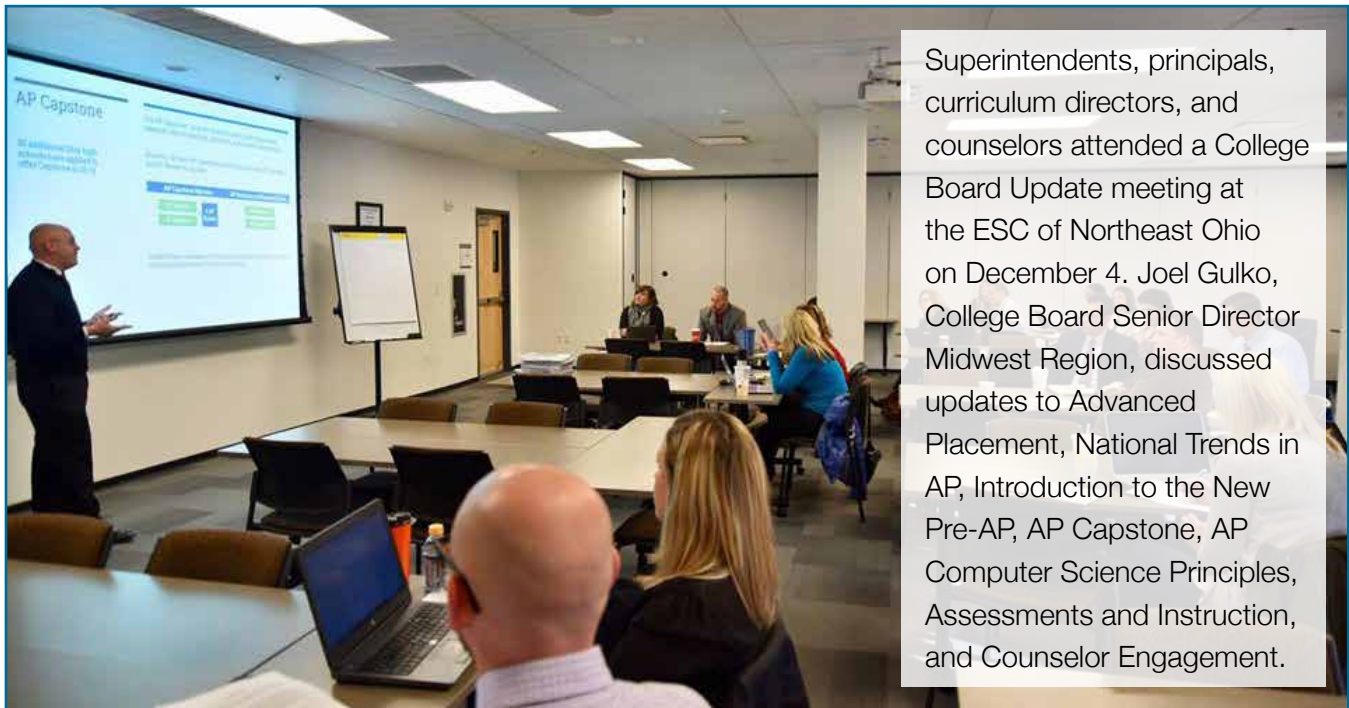
For more information, please contact Mark Curtis, Coordinator of Online Learning and EMIS Data Support

mark.curtis@escneo.org

216-901-4238



COLLEGE BOARD UPDATE



Superintendents, principals, curriculum directors, and counselors attended a College Board Update meeting at the ESC of Northeast Ohio on December 4. Joel Gulko, College Board Senior Director Midwest Region, discussed updates to Advanced Placement, National Trends in AP, Introduction to the New Pre-AP, AP Capstone, AP Computer Science Principles, Assessments and Instruction, and Counselor Engagement.

NEW TOOL FOR MULTI-HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

This year a new tool was introduced to the teachers of multi-handicapped students. The resonance board is a 4' x 4' board that the visually-impaired student lays on. Other items are placed on or around them, such as beaded necklaces, balls, and reflective items. The student's involuntary movements create a vibration and "resonance" on the board, which they, in turn, hear and respond to. Eventually, an involuntary movement becomes voluntary, when they realize that they are creating the sound.

The resonance board was developed by Lilli Nielsen, who developed a whole approach called "active learning". It is her philosophy that every child can learn on their own, given the right environment. This approach was taught at Western Michigan University to vision teacher Leanne Mooney, who made her own board and brought it to her students who need it. The response has been so positive, that all three

districts that she works in – **Parma, Berea, and Strongsville**, are all finding means to make their own boards.

"The other students in the classroom want to interact with FS (Female Student) when she is on the board! She has never interacted with her peers before this!" exclaimed Sabrina Connor, of Strongsville Middle School. Brooke Burke of Berea City Schools was so excited about her students, that she wrote and received a grant from the Berea Education Foundation to purchase the materials for her own resonance board. Holly Niro, of Parma City Schools, is very anxious to see her student on the board again. Since this student has multiple seizures, responses have been next to nothing before the board came along.

For more information, contact:
Dana Lambacher, Special Education Supervisor
dana.lambacher@escneo.org

Location:

Strongsville City Schools
Strongsville Middle School
13200 Pearl Road
Strongsville, OH 44136

Times:

8:30 AM—3:30 PM
*(Registration begins
at 8:30 AM)*

Cost:

\$99.00 Individual
\$499.00 Team Rate
**(5-6 participants
per team)**

Graduate Credit

*1 semester hour of
graduate credit, at
a reduced rate, will be
available for
participants to purchase*

Learn—Explore—Adapt—Deliver (LEAD) 2018!

2nd Annual Curriculum and Technology Conference *Featuring National Speakers*

Matt Miller, Author, Ditch That Textbook

Tim Kight, Found & President, Focus3

& Northeast Ohio Educators and Experts!

June 12-13, 2018

Audience

Superintendents,
Central Office Administrators,
Principals, Instructional Coaches,
Teachers, Students and
other interested educators!



We asked our network of coaches, “What are the challenges you’re being asked to address?” and the answers overwhelmingly focused on a common theme:
using technology to drive pedagogy—not replace it!

With that, we’re offering professional development and learning that promises to positively impact and transform student (and teacher) learning. This two-day conference focuses on pedagogy first—with technology as the supporting structure.

- ◆ **Sample a Variety of Sessions!**
- ◆ **Built on a Learn—Adapt—Do Model!**
- ◆ **Learn from both National & Local Experts!**
- ◆ **Go Deeper with Learning in Extended Sessions!**



To register online go to:
www.esc-cc.org and click on
Professional
Development/Calendar of
Events

For questions or assistance
with registration contact:

Tracy Spies
(216) 901-4229

What is Bright Beginnings?



Bright Beginnings provides **family support**, **developmental screenings**, and age-appropriate **activities** to prepare children for preschool. We also provide early intervention services for families who have **concerns about their child's development**. Research shows that **80%** of the brain is developed by the time the child is 3 years old. Our goal is to support parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

The ESC of Cuyahoga County welcomes the staff of Bright Beginnings to our headquarters at 6393 Oak Tree Blvd. in Independence.



Enrolling Families with Children Birth to Age 3

Early Intervention

The Early Intervention program addresses concerns about a child's development by completing a developmental evaluation and assessment at no cost, providing services in the home and community through a team of professionals answering questions, and connecting families to resources.

Parents as Teachers

The Parents as Teachers program is an international, evidence-based home visiting program offered at no cost to families that provides parents with knowledge and tools that support the health and development of young children at every stage.

www.brightbeginningskids.org



@BrightBeginningsKids



@BBKids216

Bright Beginnings

(formerly Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County)

6393 Oak Tree Boulevard, Suite 201

Independence, OH 44131

Phone (216) 698-7600

Fax (216) 381-6106



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Beachwood City Schools
Bedford City Schools
Berea City Schools
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools
Brooklyn City Schools
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
Chardon Local Schools
Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools
Cleveland Metropolitan Schools
Crestwood Local Schools
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

East Cleveland City Schools
Euclid City Schools
Fairview Park City Schools
Garfield Heights City Schools
Independence Local Schools
James A. Garfield Local Schools
Kenston Local Schools
Kent City Schools
Kirtland Local Schools
Lakewood City Schools
Maple Heights City Schools
Mayfield City Schools
Mentor Exempted Village Schools
North Olmsted City Schools
North Royalton City Schools
Olmsted Falls City Schools

Orange City Schools
Parma City Schools
Ravenna City Schools
Revere Local Schools
Richmond Heights Local Schools
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Westlake City Schools
Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools

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