

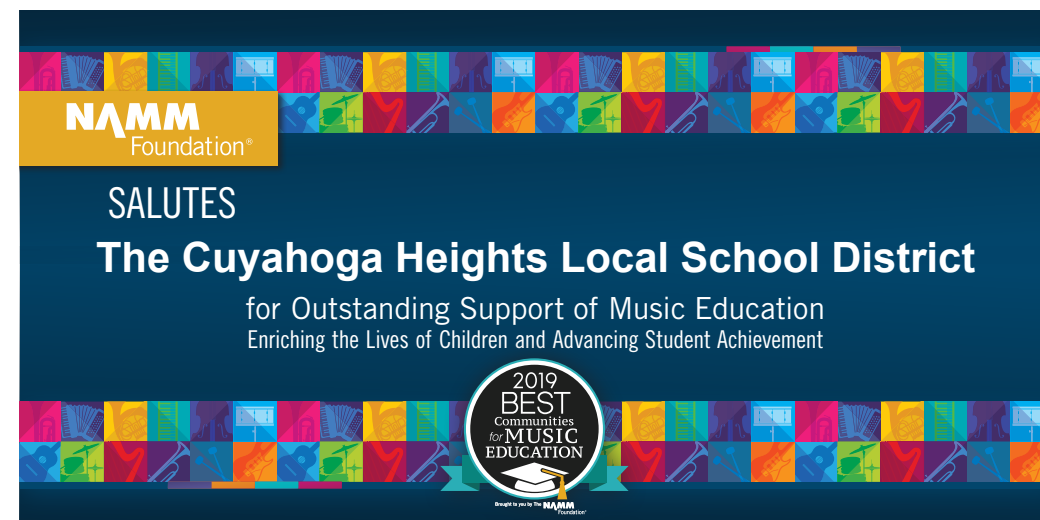


CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER . . .



Left to right: Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools Music Educators Angelo Bertolone, Jon Sokol and David Michaels

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools' Music Department was recently recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation as a Top 100 Music Community for the 14th straight year. Congratulations!



Superintendent Dr. Renee T. Willis, Richmond Heights Local Schools, was the recipient of the Betsy M. Cowles Leadership award presented by the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA). BASA aims to inspire and support members, develop exemplary school system leaders, and advocate for public education.

Betsy M. Cowles was one of the earliest and most notable female superintendents in Ohio. She was known for her contributions in education, civil rights and women's rights in

Ohio. Ms. Cowles was a risk taker who took a stand for what she believed. Each year, the award is presented to a female administrator who has demonstrated outstanding education leadership in making significant contributions to educational administration in a school district, educational service center or educational institution.

"Receiving this award from BASA is one of the highest honors I've received for doing the work that I so love," said Dr. Willis. "My life's mission is to make a positive impact in the lives of my students and staff."

WE BUILD BRIDGES FOR . . .

Educators • Districts • Agencies • Organizations • Universities & Colleges
Students • Adult Learners • Families & Communities • Businesses

SUMMER AND BEYOND FAIR CONNECTS FAMILIES WITH LOCAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

The 21st Annual Summer and Beyond Fair took place this past February at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights. This annual event offers educators, families and those who support children and youth with disabilities an opportunity to talk to agencies and organizations who offer academic, social-emotional, therapeutic and recreational supports year round in order to assist in developing independence, enhance growth and development, and prepare for post secondary options of students with disabilities. There were demonstrations from the world renowned Cleveland Dancing Wheels, face painting by Dixie and entertainment by Flower Clown.



Cover photo: Members of the ESC of Northeast Ohio staff recently volunteered at the Cleveland Kids' Book Bank. They sorted through hundreds of books by reading levels and filled request orders for shipment. The Book Bank distributes 40,000-50,000 books a month to underserved children in Cuyahoga County through partners. They also manage 100 "Little Free Libraries" around Cleveland.

ESC'S STUDENT PROGRAMS INCREASE CRITICAL THINKING, COLLABORATION, CREATIVITY AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Throughout the school year, there are many opportunities for students to attend events at the ESC of Northeast Ohio and elsewhere to enhance what they are learning in the classroom. These programs provide real-world experiences, as well as allow students to gain leadership and social skills. One of those programs is the GPS Workshop held at the Cleveland Metroparks. Students from Richmond Heights Local Schools and surrounding school districts attended a middle school student seminar at Look About Lodge in the Chagrin Reservation this past fall. Students were instructed by a naturalist at the park on the theory and use of a handheld GPS unit. After the instruction on the GPS, students in teams of four and five searched for eight different waypoints in the woods. They also completed an exercise in triangulation. Middle and high school students also had the opportunity to explore the arts at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood.



ESC'S EDUCATOR PROGRAMS PROVIDE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND GROWTH

The ESC of Northeast Ohio hosts hundreds of meetings each year for educators across the region. Many of our educators in Cuyahoga Heights, Independence and Richmond Heights Local Schools attend these professional learning communities. These educators from all fields come to the ESC to network with other educational leaders, find personal/individual development opportunities, and learn leadership ideas and best practices in their field. In addition, we support district administrators including principals, central office administrators and superintendents in enhancing their leadership potential and networking to share solutions to similar, but complex issues found in schools today.



INDEPENDENCE AND CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS PARTNER TO EDUCATE PARENTS ON VAPING

On April 4, Independence High School and Middle School partnered with Cuyahoga Heights High School to address vaping and decision-making among teens through an evening panel discussion in the Independence High School auditorium. Dr. Dean Frate, an internist at University Hospitals in Akron, discussed the harmful effects of vaping. City of Independence Police Department School Resource Officers Brad Borowy and Kevin Repicky discussed what the police department looks at legally when addressing this issue among teens in the community and what parents can and should look for with their students. Cuyahoga Heights and Independence school administrators also discussed what they look for in schools if they suspect vaping among students on campus or school functions. The night ended with a presentation from OhioGuidestone presenter Stephanie Robinson on gateway drugs and decision

making. A question/answer session was held at the end of the presentations.

"On the field and court, Cuyahoga Heights is our respected rival," said Superintendent Ben Hegedish, Independence Local Schools. "But when it comes to great educational opportunities and community growth, they are our neighbors and partners."

Both superintendents agree that the planning that principals Mr. Vanek, Mr. Coleman and Mr. McGuinness invested to offer the parent and student education night makes both of our districts and communities stronger.

"As schools, we focus heavily on academic growth and achievement. Rightly so, preparing our kids for their futures is a huge part of our mission as a school district. We also know that students are faced with decisions that can derail their

“On the field and court, Cuyahoga Heights is our respected rival,” said Superintendent Ben Hegedish, Independence Local Schools. “But when it comes to great educational opportunities and community growth, they are our neighbors and partners.”

- Superintendent Ben Hegedish, Independence Local Schools.

futures, including drug use and other risk behaviors. Vaping is becoming more and more prevalent as a risky decision students are experimenting with. The addictive nature and chemical exposures are frightening to say the least. By helping our students and parents know the risks and some of the implications of use and addiction, we believe we can help our students make positive decisions about their health and futures.”