

WINTER 2018



@ESCNortheastOH

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS: HELPING FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN BIRTH TO AGE 3

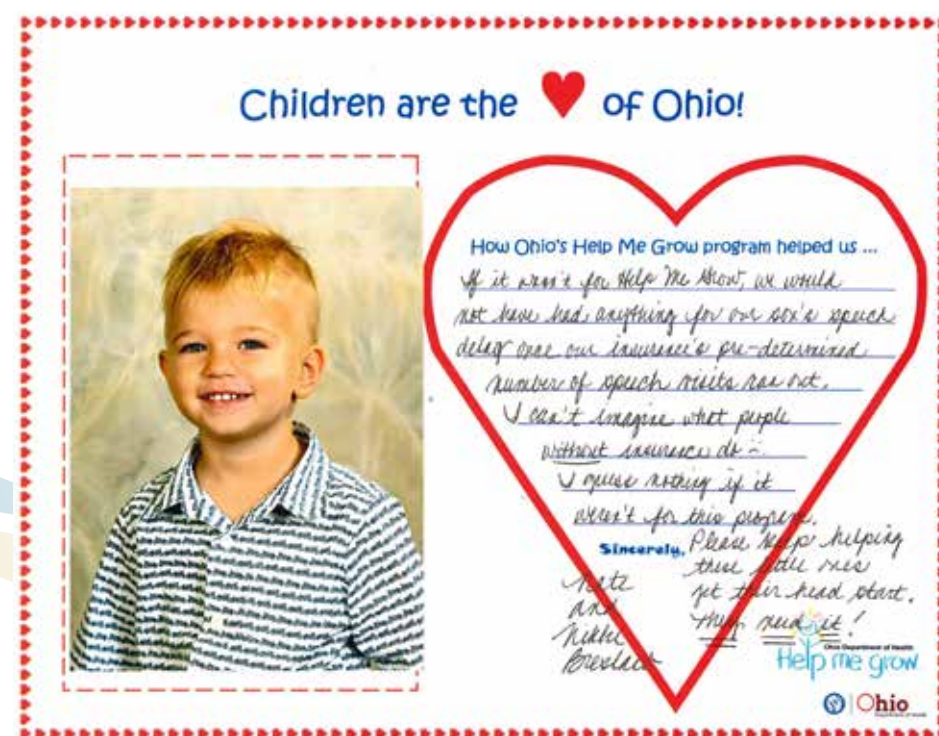
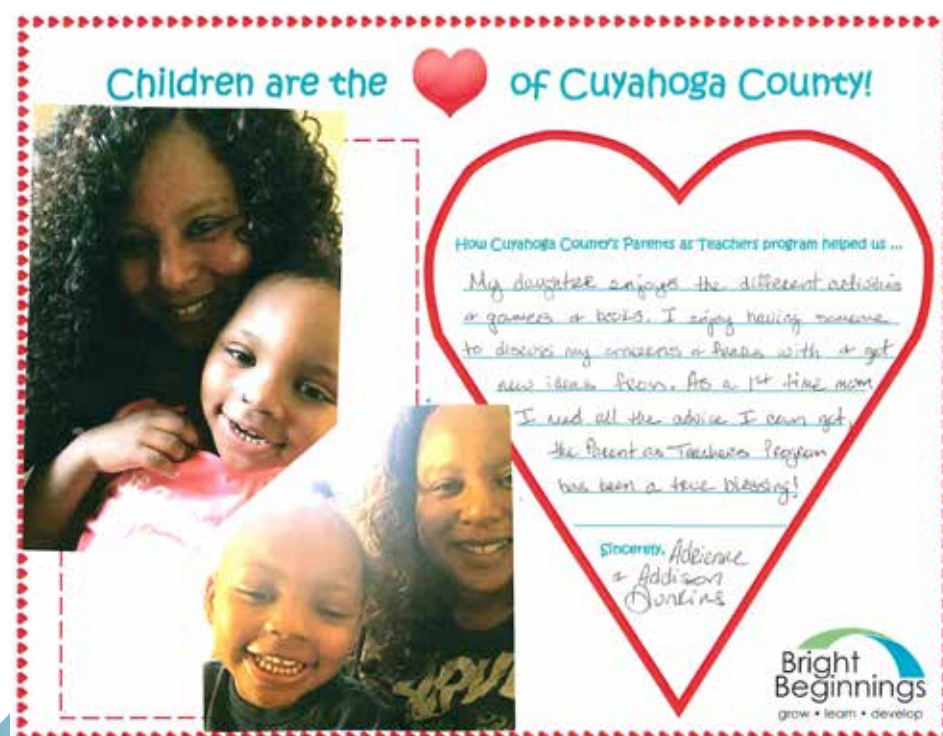
Bright Beginnings, formerly Help Me Grow of Cuyahoga County, operating through the ESC of Northeast Ohio, currently provides two primary services for families with children birth to three in Cuyahoga County and also connects pregnant women and new parents to multiple home visiting services.

Parents as Teachers™ home visiting. Parents as Teachers™ (PAT) is an international, evidence-based, home visiting program that supports parents as their child's earliest and best teacher. Parent educators bring age-appropriate activities and information to parents in their homes, provide appropriate guidance, conduct developmental screens and assessments, encourage and support parents, and connect families to needed community resources and services.

Enrolled parents may join Parents Connect, an online parenting group. In state fiscal year 2017, Bright Beginnings provided Parents as Teachers™ services to 542 families with 734 children through three contracted service provider agencies.

Early Intervention Service Coordination. In state fiscal year 2017 Bright Beginnings served more than 2,400 children with Early Intervention services in partnership with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Bright Beginnings offers developmental evaluations and assessments, development of individualized family service plans, early intervention services, ongoing service coordination, and transition services to eligible families.

For more information, visit www.brightbeginningskids.org



WE BUILD BRIDGES FOR . . .

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

ESC COMMUNITY CONNECTION

WINTER 2018



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW NAME...THE ESC OF NORTHEAST OHIO



Last spring, the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County changed its name to the Educational Service Center (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.

The ESC of Northeast Ohio is the largest educational service agency of its type in the State of Ohio, employing personnel for Northeast Ohio school districts and offering programs, grant development, educational resources and leadership training, as well as supporting special education, curriculum, literacy, technology, online learning, and more. We partner with local administrators, teachers and other professionals in education as they endeavor to impact their students and families through a high-quality education.



While the ESC of Northeast Ohio provides services to any district in need, we currently have 46 school districts, located throughout five counties, as our current member districts. The ESC directly services Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights Local Schools. The ESC Governing Board is made up of five members from these three local school districts.

The ESC Administration Building is located in the Essex Center on Oak Tree Boulevard South on Rockside Road in Independence. It is home to our superintendent and administrators, professional development, and those individuals who coordinate professional development, special education and gifted programs throughout the school districts.

The first floor of the Essex Center has more than 20,000 square feet of meeting and event space. The ESC hosts more than 1,000 events annually for educational entities, non-profits, corporations,

and small businesses. Our recently renovated meeting rooms feature the latest technology to facilitate learning, collaboration, and networking.

“While this change highlights the many ways we have grown over the last several years, our sincere commitment to serving each of our districts as individuals has not changed,” said ESC Superintendent Bob Mengerink. “Our entire staff remains dedicated to being responsive and flexible in order to help address any need.”

WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP OUR DISTRICTS WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN THE WORLD – BUILDING THE FUTURE OF OUR YOUTH.

SUMMER & BEYOND FAIR

The ESC of Northeast Ohio presented the 20th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair for children and youth with disabilities last winter. Held at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights, hundreds of people visited and talked to representatives from camps and organizations from around Ohio. There were free fingerprint ID cards, face painting, flower clown entertainment, and a wonderful performance by Dancing Wheels. The Cleveland Indians' Slider even made a special appearance. Each year the ESC produces a "Summer and Beyond Directory" for families. Visit www.escneo.org to download a copy.

This activity is funded in whole or part by IDEA, Title VI B, and Grants to States through Ohio Department of Education grants to the ESC of Northeast Ohio, fiscal agent for State Support Team-Region 3. The 2019 event will be held on Saturday, February 16 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights.



RICHMOND HEIGHTS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ARTS WORKSHOPS THROUGH THE ESC

Seventh and eighth-grade students from Richmond Heights Local Schools, South Euclid-Lyndhurst City Schools, and Rocky River City Schools attended a Financial Literacy Workshop at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. The presenter was Kriss Plumer, a communications coordinator in Education & Museum Outreach at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. The learning program focused on financial education and economics with hands-on, interactive activities.



The Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood opened its doors to arts-motivated seventh-graders from not only Richmond Heights Local Schools, but Bedford, South-Euclid Lyndhurst, and Rocky River Schools. Students explored a variety of cultural arts experiences in an actual arts setting and were able to meet peers with similar interests in the arts.

Students participated in 30-minute sessions of mime, dance, clay, television production, improvisation and other types of visual and performing arts experiences with professionals from the Beck Center for the Arts.

The Beck Center for the Arts is a non-profit, performing arts and arts education organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life for Northeastern Ohioans. The Center combines professional theatrical productions with comprehensive curriculum-based arts education in creative arts, therapies, dance, music, theater, and visual arts, serving more than 100,000 people annually in Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lake, and Summit Counties.



INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS COLLABORATING ON NEW TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

Independence High School students are participating in 1:1 Chromebook initiatives. As technology continues to evolve and teachers embrace the free, nearly unlimited resources that are available via the Internet, it is important that schools continue to support teacher growth. A part of the district's 1:1 Chromebook initiative is a strong belief in supporting teachers with local technology integration experts. Five Independence Local Schools' teachers are participating in a cohort model of professional development this school year. Stephanie DeMichele, an educational consultant and instructional technology coach from the ESC of Northeast Ohio, is meeting with teachers face-to-face as well as supporting the teachers virtually as they integrate technology into their teaching.

The cohort met for a total of six half-day sessions last year. Teachers have been working to identify areas of concern with integrating technology, best practices for meaningful technology integration, and how teaching with technology empowers students while changing the dynamic of both the instructor and learner. The teachers in the cohort have been able to share successes, lean on each other through roadblocks, and gain a greater appreciation for how different courses implement technology differently.



Members of the Independence High Schools' technology cohort network include Laura Janosik, media specialist; Donna Krusinski, science teacher; Scott Maretka, science teacher; Chris Paulus, math teacher; and Eric Wells, science teacher.

Our goal is to foster the growth of professional learning networks, like this technology cohort, that share a passion for education, a similar skill set, and a vision for technology integration in their classrooms. We see this as just the beginning to a new way of expanding the ways our teachers can learn and grow from each other to ultimately benefit our students.

- Mike Pennington, Director of Curriculum and Technology Integration
Independence Local Schools

EDUCATION CONSULTANT JACK BERCKEMEYER WORKS WITH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Jack Berckemeyer, a nationally-recognized presenter, author, and humorist, has been working with both Cuyahoga Heights and Independence Local Schools on a variety of professional development opportunities over the past several years. At Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools, Berckemeyer has worked with the fourth through eighth-grade teachers on a number of topics related to teaming, differentiation, classroom management, and working with at-risk students. He also has given the opening keynote address to district staff. The district received a grant in 2015 that gave them the opportunity to bring Berckemeyer to the district to work with the teaching staff. Berckemeyer also does joint professional development workshops with both Cuyahoga Heights and Independence Local Schools, allowing teachers from both districts to collaborate and learn from each other.



THE ESC OF NORTHEAST OHIO HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS: 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

The ESC of Northeast Ohio named several students as recipients of their annual Humanitarian Awards. Recipients were nominated by administrators in their schools for showing leadership and community service as well as possessing great character during the 2017-18 school year. One student from each middle and high school in the communities of Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights Local Schools

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools Jacob Artino, 8th grade



Jacob demonstrates kindness no matter the circumstances. He treats all people with respect and is mindful of the needs of those around him. Jacob always opens doors for others and his friendliness shows when he greets people with a smile and hello. He does not hesitate to reach out to any classmate when they need help or if they just seem to need a friend. While

some people are kind because they want others to view them in a positive light, Jacob is kind because he genuinely cares and wants to help people. He continually makes a positive difference in the lives of so many people in so many ways; he is a true humanitarian. ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. presented the award.

Independence Local Schools Ashleigh Porter, 8th grade



Ashleigh presents herself with grace and moral fortitude in every class, school club or athletic team in which she participates. She is caring, compassionate, and conscientious. Ashleigh also includes the values of understanding, respect, and support in her interactions with students and faculty. She is upbeat and willing to encourage her peers. She participated in

softball, basketball, choir, and student council. She participated in the Special Olympics Run and donated toys each year for Toys for Tots. Ashleigh presents herself with the emotional decorum of a mature academican and citizen. She is a humanitarian at school and in her life. ESC Vice President Christine Krol presented the award.

Richmond Heights Local Schools Tracy Tanner, 8th grade



Tracy was an honor roll student who always valued her learning, while also understanding the need to help her fellow classmates. She was a member of the Rise Up After-School Program where tutoring and clubs take place. There, students engage in discussions surrounding social issues and learn the importance of advocacy. Tracy led these discussions and looked for a connection for engagement

activities for peers. She was a driving force in organizing the student body for the National School Walkout Day protesting gun violence in March. She helped to develop slogans and took on the role of poster creator for the cause so students would be walking billboards. She was a member of student council. Tracy led tours for new families and connected students to activities and programming throughout the school. Her extracurriculars included singing in the school choir and for district-sponsored events. ESC Board Member Tony Hocesvar presented the award.

received the scholarships and awards. The awards were presented by ESC board members during their individual schools' awards assemblies during the months of May and June. In addition to a cash award, students receive a personalized plaque, starfish pin, and starfish bookmark. The starfish is the symbol of a story of the impact one person can make in a community.

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools Kayla Haag, Senior



Kayla is resolute in her process and kind in her communication. She completed 144.25 hours of community service, many being spent with Brooklyn Heights Men's Club leaf raking project, at the concessions stand during football and track season, as an after-school tutor, caroling at Eliza Jennings Nursing Home, and as a

camp counselor. She is responsible, organized and thorough. She handles pressure in school or on the field and court with consistent resolve. She was a founding member of the Art Club. She was a vital team member of the Lady Redskins volleyball and softball teams. ESC Board Member Frank Mahnic, Jr. presented the award.

Independence Local Schools Madeline Fichter, Senior



Madeline participated in 600 hours of community service. She and her classmates in the Teaching Professions Program at CVCC created a children's book and earned first place in the K-3 category for children's literature at the Ohio Educators Rising State Conference in Orlando. Her volunteer experience included

Autism Society of Greater Cleveland, TMAD at Independence High School, Cuyahoga County Public Library, New Beginnings Cat Shelter, City of Independence After-School program, a mission trip, Cuyahoga Valley Railroad Polar Express, and a mission to Appalachia. ESC Board Member Carol Fortlage presented the award.

Richmond Heights Local Schools Ramir Williams, Senior



Ramir was a member of the Excel Tech program and has dedicated his efforts to improving the student experience, engaging the community, and empowering others. He graduated from the "Look Up to Cleveland" program, a year-long civic engagement program created by the Cleveland Leadership Center to expose high school juniors from Northeast

Ohio to Cleveland and the people, places and projects moving it forward. Ramir received the 2017 Allen Waddle Leadership Award, that recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills, ambition, integrity, teamwork, and an exceptional work ethic. He has been honored by the OABSE for his commitment to school and student leadership. He has acted as the Athletic Manager for the 2017-18 Boys' Basketball team and was president of student council. He was a member of Marcia Fudge's Student Advisory Council. Finally, he has been featured in Who's Who for 2018. ESC President Tony Miceli presented the award.

CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS TAKES STUDENT LEARNING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH IMPRESSIVE STEM LAB

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools opened an impressive, new STEM Lab last school year that will provide high school and middle school students access to an exciting world of learning opportunities.

The new lab features state-of-the-art technology, including an interactive computer, laptops, microscopes, digital projector and a document camera. Using hand-held devices, students can utilize 22 different sensors to more quickly measure and analyze data, including motion, pH level, voltage, temperature and light. The incorporation of technology makes it possible for students to complete experiments within a single class period that would normally take several days. Classroom teachers are provided a powerful learning resource which helps to integrate mathematics, life and physical sciences in a lab setting.

Funding for the STEM lab was made possible through a \$30,000 grant from the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, which was used



to help purchase and implement the lab equipment. Along with advanced mathematics courses, and the Project Lead the Way labs located at both buildings, the new STEM Lab is one of several top-notch STEM learning opportunities offered to students in the Cuyahoga Heights Schools.

INDEPENDENCE LOCAL SCHOOLS OFFERS NEW TECHNOLOGY COURSES



Phil Palumbo is the newest staff member at Independence High School in the role of computer science teacher. Palumbo will be joining a team of teachers who have built a foundation for interdisciplinary

learning at Independence High School over the last two years. Independence High School now offers new STEAM programs. These stand for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. The program allows students to stretch their creative skills and utilize interdisciplinary skills. The school's goal is to create a series of courses that promote collaboration among the teachers while giving students access to software, equipment and learning environments that resemble the jobs they may obtain after graduation. The technology department is offering three new semester-long courses for the 2018-2019 school year.

The first is "Computer Programming." Students will learn text-based computer programming and how it represents "real" programming. They will build upon their block-based programming knowledge from Independence Middle School and expand their programming ability to the level of those used by IT professionals. The concepts in the course include problem solving techniques, program design, control structures, functions, loops, data structures and algorithms. The second course is "Digital Media" and covers topics such as graphic design, animation, audio production, video production and web design. These techniques influence the visual experience of film, magazines and digital content. The third course is "Game Design." Course materials cover all aspects of the game design process from 2D and 3D game design as well as game logic and programming.

Our hope is that the classrooms and learning spaces at IHS continue to evolve to allow for student-centered learning with a focus on the important skills necessary for successful careers.
- Mike Pennington, Director of Curriculum and Technology Integration
Independence Local Schools

RICHMOND HEIGHTS TEACHER GRADUATES FROM FIRST RING LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The First Ring Leadership Academy celebrated its 13th graduating class on May 16 at the Gemini Center in Fairview Park. Eighteen teachers presented their final projects to their fellow leaders and the First Ring Superintendents' Collaborative. This Collaborative is an association of school leaders from 17 school districts that surround the city of Cleveland, Ohio.

The First Ring Leadership Academy is a professional development program for teacher leaders. The program promotes collaboration with learners, provides opportunities for learners to utilize communication and problem-solving skills, encourages self-directed learning and provides learners with the skills and processes of leadership. The Leadership Project requirements are to increase student achievement, enrich teaching, and/or enhance community engagement.

Congratulations to Shaun Lodge from the Richmond Heights Local Schools who graduated from the program. Lodge, along with colleagues from Lakewood, Cleveland Heights-University Heights, Berea and South Euclid-Lyndhurst, centered their project and presentation around wellness.



Photo left to right: Bridgette Lambright, English teacher, Cleveland Heights-University Heights City Schools; Shaun Lodge, dean of students, Richmond Heights Local Schools; Dr. Renee T. Willis, superintendent, Richmond Heights Local Schools

Excellence in Education Awards

The ESC of Northeast Ohio recognized students with disabilities, peers and educators from Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools, Independence Local Schools, and Richmond Heights Local Schools, as well as several other area districts, at the 39th annual Excellence in Education Awards. Planned by the ESC of Northeast Ohio and the State Support Team – Region 3, the event was held on May 4 at the Woodside Event Center at St. Michael's in Broadview Heights.

The recognition brunch is an opportunity for educators, teachers, students, and community members to celebrate the great things that are happening in special education today. The Outstanding Student Achievement Award acknowledges achievements of school-age children and youth with disabilities in Northeast Ohio. The Outstanding Peer Achievement Award recognizes students without disabilities who have established positive relationships and who have assisted other students with disabilities, serving as exemplary role models. The Outstanding Educator Achievement Award honors educators who are the exemplars in designing instructional strategies and programs. Congratulations to our award recipients.

Outstanding Student



April Hedrick, was not only recognized with an Outstanding Student Achievement Award, she also received the R.A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for a Student. This award is presented to one exemplary student receiving special education services and support from each of Ohio's 16 State Support Team regions.



Donald Robinson
Richmond Heights Secondary School
Richmond Heights Local Schools

Outstanding Educator



Jacki Palumbo
Cuyahoga Heights Middle School
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools



Kenneth Lane
Richmond Heights High School
Richmond Heights Local Schools



Nancy Wygonski
Independence Primary School
Independence Local Schools

Outstanding Peer



Matt Conners
Cuyahoga Heights High School
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools



Marissa Fogg
Independence High School
Independence Local Schools



Dejanique Blake
Richmond Heights Secondary School
Richmond Heights Local Schools