Local School Districts Publish Quality Profiles

Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights Local Schools have published a Quality Profile. Each district has placed its Quality Profile on its website. Be sure to take a few moments to review your district’s document.

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools
www.cuyhts.k12.oh.us

Independence Local Schools
www.independence.k12.oh.us

Richmond Heights Local Schools
http://www.richmondheightsschools.org

Follow Your District on Facebook!
Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools - Independence Local Schools - Richmond Heights Local Schools

Cuyahoga Heights Elementary Teacher Named State Finalist for Ohio Teacher of the Year

Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools’ Kindergarten Teacher Dr. Matthew Luginbill was named a state finalist for the 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year award, in addition to being recognized as the 2018 Teacher of the Year for State Board of Education District 11. The award program recognizes influential and inspiring educators in the State of Ohio. The winner of the 2018 Ohio Teacher of the Year award will be selected by a panel of education and community stakeholders, and announced during the fall of 2017.

An early childhood educator for the past 15 years, Dr. Luginbill’s passion for helping students learn is evident in his innovative and creative use of 21st century technology in the classroom, as well as his ability to connect content to real-world experiences. Dr. Luginbill has also demonstrated a commitment to professional development and lifelong learning by recently earning a doctorate from the urban education program at Cleveland State University.

“Teachers are changing lives and creating futures – not only for the students, but for our communities, our state and our nation,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria. "The Ohio Teacher of the Year program recognizes influential and inspiring educators who demonstrate some of the things I love most about teachers: they take our system to higher heights and continue the path toward excellence.”

Independence Local Schools Language Arts Teacher Recognized for Power of the Pen

In addition to being a Language Arts teacher at Independence Middle School, Jill Wagner is also the advisor to the school’s Power of the Pen team. The Power of the Pen is an educational enhancement program that aims to have interscholastic tournament competitions for young writers throughout Ohio. It also assists teachers by providing tools and an educational network to develop better student writing.

Wagner decided to start a Power of the Pen (PenOhio) team at Independence High School, as well. Her team competed last year, taking Second Place in the Junior Varsity division. This year, Wagner added a Varsity level to the team. The teams have virtual and in-person meetings with Wagner, and will compete in two or more writing competitions this year. "We are trying to have high-school writing become more of a competitive sport. Concerning Independence, I am hoping to start a scholarship for future writers and have students earn Varsity letters in writing," said Wagner. "I hope statewide is to add more high-school writing teams.

Due to her successful competitions and hopes for the program, Wagner was chosen to be a member of the United Fellowship of the Pen Board of Trustees. Additionally, she earned the 2017 Ohio Middle Level Association (OMLMA) Regional Award for best middle level practice. The criteria for the award are: the nominee is involved at the local, regional and state levels and they promote the middle school concepts through programs, leadership, or research. Wagner will be recognized at the Awards Reception at the 2017 Ohio Middle Level State Conference at the Hilton at Easton in Columbus on Thursday, Nov. 2nd.

Richmond Heights Resident Graduates from the ESC School Program

The ESC School Program, formerly the Rose-Mary Center School, held its graduation on June 2nd. Congratulations to Diane who has been a student since January 2007. Richmond Heights Local Schools presented her diploma to her. Following the ceremony, a reception was held. Diane was one of five graduates, all of whom will be transitioning to an adult provider service.
The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County recently named several area 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 2016-17 school year. One student from each middle and high school in the communities of Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and Richmond Heights Local Schools received the scholarships and awards. The awards were presented by ESC board members and administration during their individual schools’ award 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.

First Ring Leadership Academy Graduates

The First Ring Leadership Academy is a professional development group for newly appointed administrators and teacher leaders, coordinated through the First Ring Superintendents’ Collaborative. Twenty-one educators graduated from the First Ring Leadership Academy this past May. Curty discussed the grant she received for sphero robots to assist each other in advancing their professional knowledge and expertise. Newly appointed administrators and teacher leaders, coordinated through the First Ring Leadership Academy, are focused on growth and improvement in their schools.

Excellence in Education Awards

The Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County recognized Independence High School recent graduate Maria Sagi with a 2017 Excellence in Education Awards. Maria Sagi, a recent graduate of Independence High school, developed a 3D printer, as well as the school’s “STEM Coding Club,” while Davis shared her views on “Cultivating a Culture of High Expectations—making sure each student knows college is a viable option for them.”

Humanitarian Award Recipients: 2016-17 School Year

Hannah Michalski, senior at Cuyahoga Heights High School

Hannah has an unwavering compassion for students, adults, and animals, especially dogs and reptiles, and the environment. Hannah completed 624.75 hours of community service. Many of those hours were spent volunteering with the Girl Scouts, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Crew, and the Blue Wave Swim Team. She won the Silver President’s Award during her junior year for outstanding service to her community. Hannah selflessly gives of her personal time and can often be found heading up committees collecting non-perishables for a food drive or donation items for the animal shelter. She is a calm, gentle voice of caring and concern toward her peers and is always ready with a comforting hug. Hannah was not seek attention for herself, but celebrates others who are in the spotlight. She is a young woman who is a friend to everyone, grades 9-12. Cuyahoga Heights Board Member Dr. Holly Thacker presented the award.

Recipients from Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

Monica Menkhaus, eighth grader at Cuyahoga Heights Middle School

Monica continuously looks out for the welfare of her classmates and is always offering a helping hand to her teachers. Her acts of kindness are always unexpected. Monica sees a need and does not think twice about stepping in and offering help. She has a natural ability to shun pettiness and gossip and encourage generosity and friendship. Monica is the epitome of a wonderful humanitarian and a concerned citizen. ESC Board Member Frank Mahrle, Jr. presented the award.

Recipients from Independence Local Schools

Alyssa Pallini, eighth grader at Independence Middle School

Alyssa exhibits herself with grace and moral fortitude in every class, school club or athletic team in which she participates. These values include understanding and respect to support the pivotal points in the lives of her peers, teachers and coaches. She exhibits respect and responsibility while working cooperatively with the other members of the end-of-year committee. Alyssa is the constant and always honors her responsibilities in a timely and polite manner. She is a leader. Other teachers describe her as being conscientious, respectful and kind, and willing to help others at any time. Yet, she is willing to offer her opinion at a moment’s notice, but that comment is never hurtful or mean. She has sensitivity, a type of innocence that is remarkable. ESC Board Member Carol Fotlage presented the award.

Recipients from Richmond Heights Local Schools

Rayna Williamson, eighth grader at Richmond Heights Middle School

Rayna is an outstanding student who shows promise inside and outside of the classroom. She is always willing to help others during class time. Every first period, she makes it a habit to be the first student around the building. She is the president of the middle school student council and a member of our volleyball and track team at Richmond Heights. In addition, Rayna volunteers at the homeless shelter to help other people in need. She is a leader and a true definition of a humanitarian. ESC Board Member Tony Hocovar presented the award.