

SPRING 2019

THE ESC CONNECTION

A DIGITAL MAGAZINE FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER OF NORTHEAST OHIO

SERVING THE NEEDS OF NORTHEAST OHIO'S EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY



EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE CENTER
of Northeast Ohio

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



By Dr. Bob Mengerink, *Superintendent*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that we are already talking about spring breaks and graduations. I hope that your year has been as positive and productive as you have hoped. Yet I

know there is always more to do, new things to learn about and challenges to address. There are never enough hours in the day or days in the year to do all that you need. Knowing this, we truly appreciate the time you take to become involved in our programs, projects and networks. Our work

is driven by each of you and your involvement and investment makes it more meaningful for all who participate. As you look through this spring newsletter, please don't hesitate to share ideas with us or let us know other ways that we can help you.

In the meantime, I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable year-end. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,
Bob

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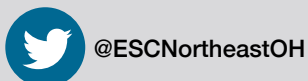
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ESSEX CONFERENCE CENTER . . . YOUR IDEAL SPACE TO MEET



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.

gifted and talented student programs

Leadership Workshop

High School students from **North Royalton City Schools**, **Warrensville Heights City School District**, and **South Euclid Lyndhurst City Schools** attended a Leadership Workshop at the ESC of Northeast Ohio on February 5.





For information about Gifted and Talented programs, contact:

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DANCE PARTY AT THE ESC

On December 7, 10 visually impaired teens and preteens enjoyed a dance party at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. Candice Evans, ESC Teacher of the Visually Impaired (TVI), organized the event at the ESC and was helped by other TVIs (Amy Yoho, Leanne Long, Deitra Wilson, Sherry Kennedy), the Daily Living Skills teacher (Sue DeVecchio), and the Orientation and Mobility trainer (Keith Lemison).

Students arrived at 9 a.m. and began the day with a facilitated discussion on confidence, approaching someone you like, and being your true self. The team shared the basics of what goes into going to a school dance (from asking someone to go with you, buying flowers, dinner before, and then what actually goes on at a dance). They also discussed adaptations that will help them navigate these and other social situations. Next, as the girls had their confidence-building discussion, the boys did

meal prep for lunch. Girls then switched with the boys to begin their session of meal prepping while the boys had a confidence-building discussion. Both groups discussed the proper etiquette for eating along with table settings. Students loved the glam session! Candice had acquired goodie bags donated from Studio 6A (Westlake) and Sephora (Great Northern) with make-up for girls and personal hygiene items for the boys. Kellie Lightfoot, a Cleveland Cavaliers Cheerleading Coach/Dance choreographer, worked with the girls on various make-up techniques with some of the Cleveland Cavalier girls, while a member from the SCREAM team worked with the boys. They then learned some basic moves to dance to any song and a few of the popular “crowd” dances with the help of the Cavs cheerleaders. Finally, it was time for the dance party. What a great way to teach the expanded core curriculum through experience.



gifted and talented student programs

Public Speaking Workshop

On January 14, the ESC of Northeast Ohio hosted students from **Cleveland Metropolitan School District New Tech East High School**, **Warrensville Heights City School District**, **South Euclid Lyndhurst**, and **Richmond Heights Secondary School** for a workshop on public speaking. Guest presenter was Lisa Ryan of Grategy.



gifted and talented student programs

Creating Peaceful Solutions Workshop

On November 13, high school students from **Warrensville Heights City School District, Rocky River City Schools, South Euclid Lyndhurst City Schools, Richmond Heights Local Schools** and **Bedford City School District** learned how to create peaceful solutions through the arts. This one-day workshop planned by the ESC of Northeast Ohio at the Beck Center for the Arts 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.





CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHARES CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

Cuyahoga County Director of Sustainability Mike Foley shared information about Cuyahoga County's Climate Change Action Plan and Solar Co-op Program with representatives from regional organizations on February 15 at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. Over the next few decades, it is anticipated that extremes in temperatures, changes in ice coverage on the Great Lakes, wind and rain storms, and an increase in urban heat island effects will impact our county and the health of its population and the environment. The county is raising awareness about the issues as well as potential solutions for communities and for individuals. The action plan focuses on energy,

transportation, ecosystems, health and land use. One solution is solar energy and so the county is exploring opportunities for co-ops among municipal and governmental institutions and

school districts to decrease costs for users. [Click here](#) for more Information.



COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

On February 1, four teacher-facilitators from the ESC's Competency-Based Education pilot presented an Introduction to Performance-Based Assessments workshop at Wadsworth City Schools' professional development day for secondary educators. Facilitators provided an overview of performance assessments (PAs) and guided participants in doing a PA just as their students would do. It provided the educators with the learners' perspective as they worked in teams to solve the problem of designing a playground with specific criteria and dimensions. The session also included reviewing teacher guides, student sample work, and scoring assessments in subject

areas of Grade 6 Math, Algebra I and U.S. History. Wadsworth teachers commented about the deeper level of learning that requires hands-on doing, as well as relevance to authentic work-related tasks. The ESC's Competency-Based pilot is in its fourth year with participants engaged in classroom implementation and data assessment of student work.

For information, contact:
Nadine Grimm, Coordinator for 21st Century Learning

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DISRUPTING POVERTY IN OHIO

On March 5, Andrew Ziccardi presented a workshop focused on School Culture vs. School Climate. While the district vision and mission generally define the culture of a district, school climate results from the interactions of the individual adults and students within a building, their strengths and weaknesses and their needs. To foster healthy relationships among teachers and students, adults need appropriate knowledge and evidence-based strategies to support students as they develop their social and emotional skills. In this workshop, participants learned to consider mindsets, contexts and school environments that either support or hinder development of the positive relationships and behaviors among both adults and students. Participants learned about curriculum and structures that can support best practices to develop trusting relationships among staff, administrators, families, students and community members.



NEWS FROM BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

Bright Beginnings – Outreach to Ohio School Districts

Since last July, Bright Beginnings has been busy not only in Cuyahoga County and Northeast Ohio, but throughout the state, managing the statewide **Help Me Grow (HMG)** central intake and referral function. Since then, Bright Beginnings and its seven regional partners were able to connect over 20,000 pregnant women and families with young children to early intervention and home visiting services.

Bright Beginnings is preparing a statewide campaign to provide school districts information about Help Me Grow that could be shared at parent open houses, kindergarten registration, and family nights.

The Help Me Grow system of support helps a family on the road to preschool and school by providing home visiting and/or early intervention services from pregnancy until the child turns three. **Help Me Grow Home Visiting** is a voluntary, home-based program offered at no cost to the family. Trained professionals offer information and support during pregnancy and throughout the child's earliest years - a critical time of development. **Help Me Grow Early Intervention** supports families of young children birth to age three with developmental delays and disabilities. These services are typically provided in the home or other places the family spends time and builds on their ability to enhance the child's learning and development.

The campaign was designed to inform parents of elementary school-age children the benefits of HMG services as well as give school administration referral information. High schools might also find the information valuable to educate school nurses who might come in contact with pregnant teens.



For additional information about the Help Me Grow school campaign or to request a presentation, contact Bright Beginnings at 216-698-7500.

Road to Child's Education

Now that your kindergartner is off to school, do you still have little ones at home or are you expecting another baby?

Ohio **Help Me Grow** supports children and their families through its two programs: Help Me Grow Home Visiting and Help Me Grow Early Intervention.

Help me grow.

Home Visiting Services **Help Me Grow Home Visiting** promotes positive parent-child relationships for pregnant women and families with young children.

Early Intervention Services **Help Me Grow Early Intervention** provides coordinated services to families with children who have developmental delays and disabilities under the age of 3.

Confident Caregivers and Child

Ready, set, go!

To learn more about these programs or to sign-up, call Help Me Grow at 216-930-3322 or 1-800-755-GROW

Visit: <http://bit.ly/ReferToHMG>

Ohio Department of Education | Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

WELCOME TO THE PBIS COACHING NETWORK

The five coaching sessions offered by State Support Team—Region 3 through the PBIS Coaching Network are designed to help schools to implement and sustain Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) in order to establish positive school climates for students and staff, leading to improved academic performance and safety. The overall learning targets allow participants to gain a deeper understanding of the systemic framework of PBIS and its overlap with existing frameworks in their districts, such as the Ohio Improvement Process.

The coaching sessions are meant for internal building/district coaches, PBIS team facilitators, and administrators who have attended the New Teams sessions either this year or in previous years. We have explored such topics as: Building Buy-In, Adaptive vs. Technical Leadership, Using Data to Make Decisions and Phases of Implementation/ Development of PBIS Action Plan.

Feedback from participants has been very positive, and they rate the opportunity to network with other districts and buildings consistently high. Engaging in a community of practice has allowed the opportunity for leaders to build their capacity as individuals and as a group.

Please join us for the last two sessions on March 20 and May 8, 2019.

For information, contact:
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State Support Team--Region 3
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SOLE (SELF-ORGANIZED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT) WORKSHOP

On January 28 and February 20, Jeff McClellan led teachers in a SOLE (Self-Organized Learning Environment) Workshop designed to provide an inquiry and research-based teaching and learning technique to foster student-led deeper learning and engagement. Jeff McClellan is founding director and CEO of STARTSOLE, located at Cleveland State University. The method was first taught in India by Sugata Mitra, who speculated that children could be self-taught using simple methods of inquiry and computer-assisted research. Jeff teaches the method to educators for classroom

use as a way to introduce children to inquiry-based research that requires the students to learn and to acquire the skills of critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity for learning. SOLE is an opportunity to engage students immediately into a practical inquiry environment, unlike project-based learning that requires more time, planning and budget to implement.



NEO SCIENCE SPECIALISTS NETWORK

Attendees at the NEO Science Specialists Network have explored cutting-edge, inquiry-based Science strategies, including modeling instruction, argument-driven inquiry (ADI), project-based learning (PBL), and self-organized learning environment (SOLE). Pictured here are educators building and testing hot-air balloons as part of a PBL exploration and determining how high objects can be launched as part of an ADI investigation.

The network is already planning meetings for the 2019-2020 school year, with topics ranging from NGSS phenomena to mathematics-science integrations to disciplinary literacy, as well as expanding our explorations of ADI and modeling instruction.

By popular request and demand, the final meeting of the 2018-2019 school year, Wednesday, March 13, will be devoted to Makerspaces. We will explore existing Makerspaces in Northeast Ohio, brainstorm and engage in low-tech and high-tech activities, and host a team from CWRU's think[box] during the course of the day.

[Click here](#) to register for the March 13 meeting at the ESC.

For information, contact:
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NORTHEAST OHIO CAREER READINESS LEADERS NETWORK



ESC College and Career Readiness Specialist Amy Harker led the Northeast Ohio Career Readiness Leaders Network on January 16 at the ESC. This network is for all career readiness leaders, both career tech as well as college and career readiness professionals, who are interested in collaborating, examining and sharing resources related to college and career readiness throughout Ohio.

TRANSITIONS NETWORK



On January 8, the Transition Network met at the ESC of Northeast Ohio to share relevant and updated information as it relates to transition services.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS CONVERSATION WITH WICKLIFFE CITY SCHOOL STUDENTS

This past fall, the ESC of Northeast Ohio welcomed eighth-grade students and sophomores from Wickliffe City School District to our headquarters for a morning of college and career readiness conversation. A career showcase featured presentations from professionals in education, communications, human resources, administrative services and information and technology. The students received a tour of the ESC and then participated in two breakout sessions—The Future of Work and Career Networking.



WICKLIFFE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Inspiring Students to Learn, Lead, and Serve

FLEXIBLE LEARNING INSTITUTE

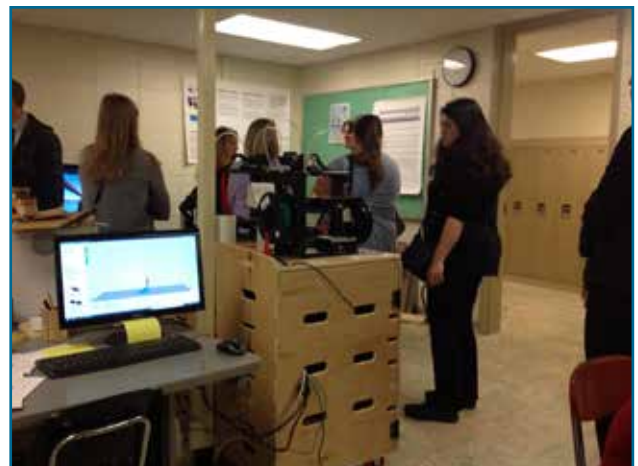
On February 4 and February 5, district teams participating in the ESC's Flexible Learning Institute visited Orange City Schools' Fablab and Strongsville City Schools' Makerspaces. Participants learned about the processes for developing and designing these active learning spaces. They had hands-on learning opportunities trying out making items in the Fablab. At Strongsville elementary, middle, and high schools, Flexible Learning participants talked with classroom teachers, media specialists, and students engaged in the active teaching and learning spaces. The

Flexible Learning Institute continues on May 15, when teams will present about their plans for the design and development of their districts' spaces for active learning. An optional summer program for educators is being planned.

For information, contact:

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REGIONAL DATA LEADS

The ESC of Northeast Ohio has three trained Regional Data Leads (RDLs): Mindy Geschke, Heather Miller, and Lea Travis. On October 31, we hosted two Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) informational sessions for district leadership to review simulated district, school, teacher and student reports while exploring opportunities to use Value Added data to improve student achievement and growth. The 2.5 hour morning and afternoon sessions were well-attended serving 83 educators throughout the day. Four RDLs from other areas of the state attended a session as we continue to network and build capacity across the state.

An additional training was held on November 9 at the Medina County University Center for administrators in Medina County. This session was co-facilitated by Janice Kollar, Heather Miller, Tom Nunziato, and Lea Travis as a joint effort between Medina, Northeast Ohio, and Stark County ESCs.

The ESC Regional Data Leads are available to help districts build conceptual understanding of the district, school, and teacher data available in the EVAAS reporting system. We can provide support with navigating the portal to allow participants to interpret reports and plan how the information can be used to inform instructional decisions. Additionally, we can help districts use growth data to help support teachers and students and integrate EVAAS data into personal practice and conversations.



FIRST RING SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

First Ring school district superintendents continue to foster collaboration across their schools in many ways. In addition to the superintendents' network, there are now six additional networks resulting in more than 100 administrators working collectively each month to address challenges faced by First Ring schools. In recognition of this expansion, the Collaborative has been rebranded as the First Ring Schools Collaborative (FRSC) with the mission of "Advancing Education Together."

One new priority of the FRSC is the Student Leadership Academy...

Leadership Academy Continues to Inspire First Ring Juniors to Make a Difference in their High Schools

On Friday, October 19, both teacher leaders and students from the participating First Ring school districts came together at the Wolstein Center in downtown Cleveland to kick off the first session of the First Ring Student Leadership Academy. This academy focuses on building community awareness and leadership through Youth Participatory Action Research, a research methodology that empowers youth by focusing on the issues important to them and by emphasizing student-adult collaboration in developing solutions. Participating students from each high school select an issue at their school and conduct research on its causes and possible solutions, guided by an adult mentor from their district who is participating in the adult Leadership Academy cohort.

At the first session, each district's team of student leaders selected an issue at their school to investigate and try to help solve. Working in pairs and guided by their teacher leader mentors, students analyzed the causes and effects of the issue, further narrowing their topic through root cause analysis. Before they left, each team had created a concept map to further refine and share with their district administrators. Topics include

mental health, substance abuse, high school dropouts, misuse of technology, college access and opportunity, motivations/teacher-student relations, student voice and communication, unhealthy relationships, school environment, and teacher effectiveness.

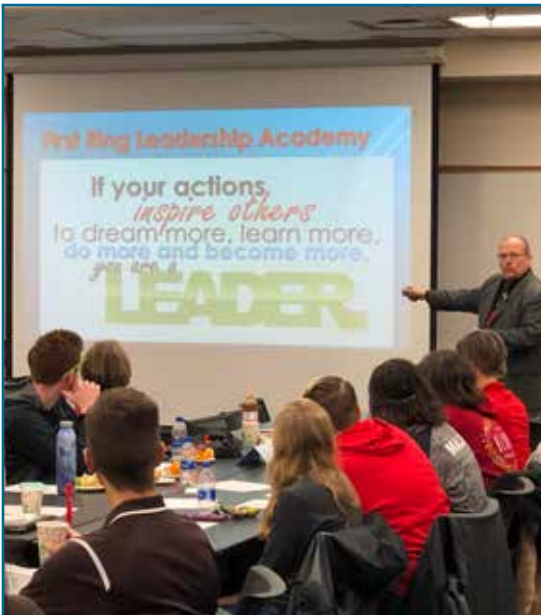
At the second session on December 14 at Cuyahoga Community College Metro campus, student leaders and their mentors learned about different forms of data collection used in action research. Teams developed a research plan for investigating their chosen issue and created the tools needed to gather their data.

Student leaders are completing assignments between sessions, including gathering data on their chosen issue as well as implementing surveys. Teams brought their data to the third session on February 15 at Baldwin-Wallace University, where they learned to analyze their results. With their mentors, student leaders reviewed their results to identify causes, effects and possible solutions. Teams learned how to develop action plans for sharing their results and recommending solutions.

At their final session on May 17, student leaders and their teacher leader mentors will present their results and recommendations to the First Ring superintendents and principals.



First Ring Schools
Collaborative
ADVANCING EDUCATION TOGETHER



workshop highlights

Teaching Creativity Seminar

Teachers interested in cultivating creativity in their classrooms attended a Teaching Creativity Seminar at the ESC of Northeast Ohio on January 15. Educators will take what they learn back to their classrooms and then collaborate with a master teacher and outside experts in additional seminars. These experts will offer support in being effective and inspiring agents for creativity in their classrooms and schools.



Building Leadership Teams

On February 7, Building Leadership Teams met at the ESC of Northeast Ohio to learn how to collect and chart Teacher-Based Teams (TBTs) and building-wide data in Step 1; analyze TBT processes and school-wide data in Step 2 to monitor and reflect on the implementation of building improvement plans; provide mastery feedback to TBTs in Step 3; and design school-wide supports for TBTs, emphasizing implementation.



Teaching with Intention in Early Childhood: Oral Language

On January 15, a Teaching with Intention in Early Childhood: Oral Language workshop was held for early childhood and kindergarten educators, intervention specialists, administrators and other related service providers. This three-part series focuses on oral language, early reading and early writing. It incorporates research-based strategies to intentionally facilitate literacy practices and interventions for all students.



Google for the Rest of Us

A Google for the Rest of Us workshop was held at the ESC on December 14. This workshop was geared for staff outside of the classroom who wanted to explore Google and what it has to offer. Participants explored a number of Google apps, including Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Calendar, Sites, Hangouts, and Gmail. In addition to learning the tools, participants had ample opportunity to “make and take” a little something Google-y to use back at their home district.



Teacher-Based Teams

On January 10, Teacher-Based Teams met at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. Educators are learning how the five-step Teacher-Based Team process improves teaching and learning to increase student achievement through creative, dynamic and collaboratively-designed instruction.



workshop highlights

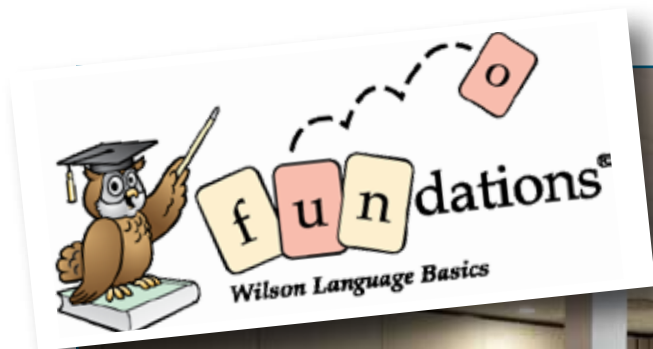
Early Literacy Workshop

On January 15, K-3 teachers, intervention specialists, instructional coaches and administrators came together at the ESC of Northeast Ohio for a K-3 Early Literacy workshop.



Wilson Foundations Level 2

A Wilson Foundations Level 2 workshop took place this fall at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. Wilson Language Trainer Ellen Brick, M.A. led the group of educators on underlying principles of Foundations; how the daily lesson plan and activities address the five areas of reading, teach the principles of language structure and incorporate direct, multisensory methods; and how to write lesson plans for particular foundations levels.





Violent Threats to Schools Training

On December 19, the ESC of Northeast Ohio hosted a very important meeting. Nationally-known researcher and developer Dr. Dewey Cornell through Sandy Hook Promise, **Bay Village City Schools** and ESC's Project AWARE, offered a training for districts that addressed assessing violent threats to schools.



workshop highlights



Project AWARE Youth Mental Health First Aid Workshop

On December 12, Project AWARE hosted a Youth Mental Health First Aid workshop. Participants learned to recognize signs and symptoms of common mental health diagnosis in youth ages 13-18. The course is offered periodically throughout the school year and is offered to any adults who interact with youth on a regular basis (teachers, secretaries, safety and security, intervention specialist, parent/guardians, faith based, bus drivers, lunch aides, etc.). Attendees learn a five-step process to assist in crisis situations.



Stem-tastic Children's Books and More! Workshop

Stem-tastic Children's Books and More! Workshop was held on November 13 at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. This workshop showed educators how to strengthen students' language and science literacy skills using an exemplary collection of BEST STEM BOOKS 2017 and BEST STEM BOOKS 2018, as selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) in cooperation with the Children's Book Council. Gail Greenberg, MS Ed., targeted instructional strategies and best practices that creatively integrated literature and STEM content. Participants previewed new and notable children's books, exemplary authors, electronic media, related resources, and a wealth of tool kits, topics and techniques.



upcoming workshop



Educator Quality: OTES Changes

For districts interested in learning more about changes to the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES), the ESC of Northeast Ohio is offering two upcoming opportunities this spring. On April 19, the ESC invites you to the third in a series of debriefing sessions following the final regional OTES Prototype Project work day. The purpose of the meeting is to share updates and gather preliminary feedback to share with the Ohio Department of Education prior to the statewide 2019-2020 pilot. The session is free of charge and open to districts interested in information regarding the new model for teacher evaluation. Participants receive 2.5 contact hours and may choose to attend either the morning (9:00-11:30) or afternoon (1:00-3:30) session.

The ESC also is offering a two-day professional development workshop, Coaching Within OTES, on April 2 and April 30, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Participants will develop a foundational understanding of instructional coaching and how the principles, skills and approaches related to coaching can be embedded within the teacher evaluation process. The cost is \$75 for both days;

participants attending both sessions will receive 15 contact hours, and also qualify for a two-year renewal of their OTES credential. (Participation in this module DOES NOT satisfy the requirement for initial OTES credentialing.)

Additionally, for districts interested in updates regarding the Resident Educator (RE) program, the ESC will host the Ohio Department of Education's regional RE Program Coordinator meeting on April 16, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for Program Coordinators to network and share their experiences, as well as to attend informational sessions around areas of interest, such as focused mentoring, leadership, and supporting mentor learning. Registration for all three events is through STARS.

For further information, contact:
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summer & beyond FAIR

The 21st Annual Summer and Beyond Fair took place on Saturday, February 16 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.









& beyond
FAIR





NORTHEAST OHIO BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Northeast Ohio Business Advisory Council (BAC) is a council of school administrators, business leaders and local community leaders that convenes quarterly to advise local school districts on changes in the economy and market; advocate for the employment skills most critical to the business and industry and; aid and support school districts by offering suggestions for developing a working relationship among business, labor organizations and educators. The Northeast Ohio BAC is one of the largest of its kind in the state, serving 38 school districts, located across five counties. With its renewed emphasis, and since the 2016 introduction of business advisory standards in HB 49, today's Northeast Ohio BAC is dedicated to providing opportunities where educators, students, business and community leaders can network, collaborate and partner together in creating programs and opportunities to support and develop a stronger Northeast Ohio workforce.

The Northeast Ohio BAC held a business roundtable meeting on December 10 at the ESC of Northeast Ohio. Participants discussed how industry leaders provide employment to thousands of Northeast Ohio residents. Regions prosper when they are able to attract talented employees, drive job growth, develop

cutting edge technology and provide for critical infrastructure. Representatives from Northeast Ohio's largest employers, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Aerozone, and Nestle discussed how they provide jobs, future needs and career pathways to meet these needs.

At the most recent quarterly meeting, held on February 8, pertinent information regarding preparing students for college and careers was shared by presenters from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), the Northeast Ohio Regional Tech Prep, and Perry Local Schools. The next meeting of the Northeast Ohio BAC is scheduled for May 2. Guests attending the May meeting will learn more about cyber security, area programs and future career opportunities. The location will be announced at a later date.

For information about the Northeast Ohio BAC, contact:

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NORTHCOAST BUSINESS ADVISORY NETWORK







PASSPORT School Program

Guiding Extraordinary Individuals Toward a Future of Hope

update

The past few months have been filled with plenty of activities at the Passport School Program, located in the Metzenbaum Center in Chesterland. Holiday activities included pumpkin carving, trick-or-treating with friends and visitors at Halloween, a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving meal, visit from Santa Claus, and holiday caroling and guitar music. Every day activities included individual and classroom work tasks, socializing and enjoying afternoon pool time. Everyone also celebrated the retirement of Denise Wheeler who worked for the ESC at Passport School Program for the past 26 years.

The mission of the Passport School Program, operated by the 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.



CAPSTONE ACADEMY

update

Capstone Academy is housed within the Hattie Larlham residential facility. The program collaborates with more than 20 school districts to provide educational programming for students in grades PK-12 (ages 3-22). To most effectively meet the educational needs of our students, Capstone Academy focuses on innovative teaching methods and a multi-disciplinary approach. In addition to a modified academic curriculum, students participate in special courses; such as, music, art, physical education and life skills.

One of our students' favorite classes is music. At the beginning of this school year, we welcomed Madeleine Landry to lead the program. Ms. Landry is a music therapist from Beyond Words Music Center. The music curriculum incorporates content, concepts and activities that foster cognitive, language, physical and social-emotional development that allow students to experience personal success.

According to Ms. Landry, some of the goals of the classes include communication, motor skills (fine and gross motor), turn taking and tracking (visual or instrument tracking). During a singing activity, the main focus may be to encourage communication. Students use an adapted switch to sing songs; such as, "This is Me," "Best Day of My Life," or "Shake it Off." To address fine motor skills, students may be asked to strum the guitar or ukulele to participate in the "Hello" and "Goodbye" songs. Movement props including stretchy bands and rainbow scarves are used to motivate students to reach and stretch their arms. During tracking experiences, students follow instruments with their eye gaze or use mallets to follow a drum. Throughout the class, students are encouraged to address these skills, along with others, while playing instruments, singing and engaging in movement experiences.





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CURRENT CLIENT DISTRICTS:

Akron Public Schools
Aurora City Schools
Bay Village City Schools
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
Rocky River City Schools
Shaker Heights City Schools
Solon City Schools
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