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The Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County
The Bridge to Educational Excellence

ESC Hosts Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's Vision 8 Meeting

Business and educational leaders from the Cuyahoga Valley region attended this year's Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's Vision 8 community meeting for the Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools. This year's event, held on November 17th, was hosted by the ESC of Cuyahoga County at its Independence facility. CVCC Superintendent Dr. Celena Roebuck gave a presentation on the various program offerings, facilities, and expansion. The discussions centered on the needs of local businesses as they relate to training, internships, support and recruitment of a qualified workforce that the career center can provide.



Students from Cuyahoga Heights, Independence and Richmond Heights Schools "Explore the Arts"

On February 10th, the Explore the Arts Workshop was held at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood. Students from Richmond Heights, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, and other surrounding districts attended. The annual event, organized by the Educational Service

Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County, allows middle school students to express themselves in several forms of artistic expression. Whether it was improv, mime, drumming, clay, or sculpture, professional artists helped students explore their passions.



Learning History Locally... in the Cuyahoga Valley Region

Educators from Northeast Ohio enjoyed a "Learning History Locally" professional development workshop on February 18th and 19th at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park's (CVNP) Canal Exploration Center in Valley View, sponsored by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and CVNP.

Learning History Locally explores Ohio history of the Ohio-Erie Canal and the Cuyahoga Valley National park, and their historical and economic significance for the development of Ohio and the nation. The program was targeted for fourth grade educators developing content knowledge and historical thinking skills to satisfy Ohio's Social Studies Learning Standards. Participants were immersed in canal resources and activities, primary source documents, and model curriculum.



Local Educators Trained in Youth Mental Health



On March 15th, educators from Independence Local Schools attended a training session, "Youth Mental Health First Aid Training." They learned how to become a First Aid Responder and learned skills to identify, understand and respond to youth with signs of behavioral/mental health concerns or crisis and develop an action plan for next steps. They will join the the National Council of Behavior Health in their goal to increase First Aid Responders to one million citizens across the country this year. Attendees learned that they should: assess for risk of suicide or harm; listen nonjudgmentally; give reassurance and information; encourage appropriate professional help; and encourage self-help and other support strategies.

These eight-hour training sessions, held throughout the school year, are fully funded through the Ohio Department of Education Project AWARE grant. There is no cost to the district for attending. Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools has had educators trained as well. Richmond Heights Local Schools will be trained in the fall.

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Opening the Door to a New Way of Digital Learning at Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools

Teachers and Students Collaborate, Share, Engage through Google Classroom

In the classrooms of Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools, there is a new, centralized place for teachers and students to communicate, collaborate, explore, and work on assignments, as well as have interactive discussions. This classroom can be accessed anywhere and on any device that has Internet, making learning available beyond a classroom wall.

With the assistance of the technology specialists at Northern Ohio Research and Training Technology Hub (NORT2H), who work with the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Cuyahoga County and its local school districts, Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools welcomed Google Classroom into the district at the start of the school year. Also playing a major role in securing wifi access, devices that work, and readily available resources on the schools’ websites was Dave Wallis, technology coordinator for Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools.

Much thought, research and planning went into the decision to utilize this new learning platform, as well as the creation of an overall digital and technology plan for the district. “Any process we were going to implement had to emphasize the latest tools for teachers, resulting in enhanced learning for our students,” said Dr. Ted Caleris, director of administrative services for Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools. “We are always looking to build our resources and create activities for our teachers to excel.”

Teachers and administrators participated in professional development workshops, switched to Google Mail and Calendar, and are now utilizing Google Classroom applications from preschool through 12th grade.

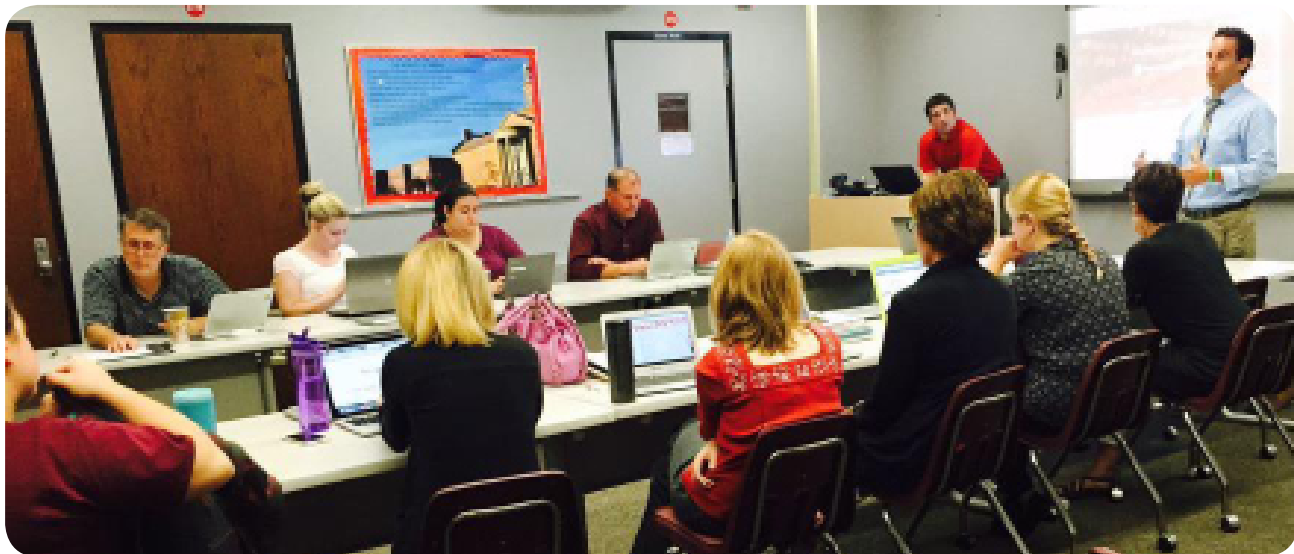
“The transformation over the past several months has been amazing,” said Tom Evans, Superintendent, Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools. “To see both our students and teachers taking learning to a higher level through the Google platform is rewarding.”

Many people view Google only as a search engine and have never had the opportunity to understand what Google Classroom offers. To stay competitive with classrooms throughout the world, it has become increasingly more important for schools to find new ways of teaching that incorporate digital learning with Chromebooks, iPads, and laptops to acquire those skills necessary for higher education and the workplace. These are skills like collaboration, innovation, and teamwork that one can’t learn from a textbook. Google Classroom and all of its various applications allow this to happen. Not only can learning take place in the classroom, but on any mobile device outside the classroom as well. It is a tool that has abundant educational applications and it is completely free.

Currently, Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools has 17 Chromebook carts throughout the district that total approximately 450 Chromebooks.

“I am excited to see so many teachers utilizing the Google Classroom tools this year,” said Joy Houchen, principal, preschool-5th grade, Cuyahoga Heights Elementary School. “As a building principal, I have been invited to participate as a student and/or teacher in the various classrooms throughout the building. This is a fantastic tool for our students and staff.”

In second grade, a teacher recently incorporated both paper/pencil and digital learning at the same time to review a math lesson. Students worked on a problem at their desks using white boards, while a document camera projected the problem on a large board in front of the class. Students digitally turned in their assignment using Google. “The future is now,” said NORT2H’s Dave Miller and Mike Triska. “Seeing all of these elements, both traditional and digital, coming together to enhance student learning and maximizing their potential is incredible.”



Kelsey O’Callahan, preschool teacher at Cuyahoga Heights Elementary School, created her own Google classroom where parents could log in and see all the resources and wonderful activities and lessons going on in their child’s class.

In first grade, the computer teacher had all her first graders collaborate in Google Slides. Every student logged into the same slide show and added his/her own content about animals. At the end of the lesson, they presented their slide show in front of the classroom. “It’s truly amazing to see six-year-olds collaborating in Google Slides to present information on what they are learning,” said Sarah Agee, computer teacher, Cuyahoga Heights Elementary School. “They thrived and didn’t need too much support.”

At Cuyahoga Heights Middle and High School, NORT2H worked with the media specialists on Google Search so they can assist students doing research.

What does the future hold in digital learning in Cuyahoga Heights? The district’s technology team and administrators are working with NORT2H to develop a few model classrooms for next school year, specifically a “Project Lead the Way” Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) lab and a Journalism/Writing lab at the middle/high school. “NORT2H has been a tremendous resource in our transformation to the Google platform, said Dr. Caleris. “Their expertise and resources are greatly appreciated. We would not have been able to come as far as we have this school year without them.”

Google Classroom has truly become “mission control” for learning in all the classrooms of Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools. There is no doubt that these students will be prepared when entering higher education or the workforce.

Public Speaking Workshop Offered to Local Students



On January 26th and 27th, the ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted high school students from Independence, Richmond Heights, and surrounding districts for a public speaking workshop. “Speaking to Win: How Mastering the Art of Public Speaking will Help You in School

and Life” was led by Lisa Ryan of Grategy, Inc. She taught the students fear reduction, skill development, preparation tips, winning style, and presentation design. The students will now be able to use these techniques in various projects in their high school settings.



Summer and Beyond Fair

The ESC of Cuyahoga County’s State Support Team Region 3, in collaboration with The Arc of Greater Cleveland, the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities and the Cuyahoga County Parent Mentor Project, hosted the “18th Annual Summer and Beyond Fair” for families of students with disabilities in the Greater Cleveland area on Saturday, February 27th at the ESC building in Independence.

The familiar task of planning support activities throughout the school year and summer is often challenging for families of children with disabilities. “Families want their children to experience all aspects of childhood,” states Terri McIntee, a Family and Community Involvement Specialist with the State Support Team for Region 3 at the ESC of

Cuyahoga County. “The Summer and Beyond Fair offers opportunities for community integration of children with various abilities which helps develop their independent living skills as well as their academic and social/emotional awareness.”

More than 300 attendees enjoyed visiting the more than 45 booths, watching a performance by Dancing Wheels, receiving specialized face painting by Dixie by Design, laughing with Petals the Clown, and taking pictures with the Cleveland Indians’ mascot Slider.

The 2016 Summer and Beyond Family Directory can be found at www.esc-cc.org.

