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October 2021

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Finding the right school for
your family, plus listings of
local private schools

Keep It Up!

10 ways for students
to maintain positive
momentum all
school year

Girl Scouts

Local girls win their
highest award

**Tips for
trick-or-
treating**

**Mommy
Chronicles**



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Keep It Up!

10 ways for students to maintain positive momentum all school year

By Christina Katz

Ah, the first few weeks of school. Backpacks are bursting with new books. Lunch boxes are filled with nutritionally sound lunches and healthy snacks. Moods are upbeat and bouncy. Kids head off to the bus or the car with a bit of optimism in their step. Everything is new! Subjects are fresh challenges, teachers are as-of-yet unknown, and the year is filled with the promise of positive potential.

A few weeks into the school year, though, kids hit their first fatigue hurdle. Challenges crop up. Everything starts to feel a lot less new and shiny. Teachers are giving a lot of homework. Math is harder. Social circles may be in flux. Friends can all be together in other classes. Auditions and tryouts have come and gone with unexpected results. What happened to all of the optimism everyone had during the first week of school? More importantly, how can you help your child navigate the ups and downs that come as the school year clicks into gear? Here are ten ways to help your child maintain positive momentum throughout the school year.

Attitude check. The point of view you have towards school and teachers is going to be mirrored by your children. If you criticize and disrespect teachers and administrators at home, don't be surprised if your child does the same at school. Are you friendly with teachers? Do you volunteer at the school? Show your child that teachers deserve respect, support and appreciation and that school is a safe and fun place to learn. Attend parent-teacher night, meet your child's teachers, and make sure they know you are an education ally.

Notice moods. Kids should be reasonably happy to get out of bed each morning and go to school. If your child does not have at least one or two activities to look forward each week, address this together. The beginning of the school year, the change in season or after the holiday break are good times to get involved in new activities. Having fun, interactive activities to look forward to can significantly improve a child's mood. Getting enough sleep and eating three healthy meals plus snacks are also critical for maintaining a cheerful attitude and good health.



It is important that your children have down time to relax.

Imagine a happy future. Many parents cannot seem to talk about the future without causing kids to feel anxious or overwhelmed. This is a surefire way to instill a sense of doom and gloom in kids about their options. Instead why not simply ask detached questions about the future and listen. We need to allow children an opportunity to inform us how they view the world long before it's time to leave the nest. It may be tempting to correct their less practical inclinations, but don't. Let them have their hopes and be a safe space where they can evolve.

Ask about the day. Don't lose track of kids' emotional states. Ask and listen without phones within reach. Don't sacrifice a daily check-in for a too-hectic schedule. Before or after dinner can be a good time to chat, especially when there are after-school activities and plenty of homework. In fact, the more hectic the schedule, the more important it is to increase family down time. Try to have longer conversations about how school is going on the weekends, while you kick back and relax. Be sure to spend at least a half to a full day each week relaxing.

Review annual goals. Help your student establish academic goals that serve their vision of the future at the beginning of the school year and revisit them intermittently as the year progresses. If you sense they are getting off track or distracted, simply say, "What are your goals for the year again?" Briefly chatting about goals can reinvigorate kids to put energy into achieving them. If kids are not keen on their goals, make sure they set their goals and not yours.

Make school a good fit. If your child is bored in school, maybe classes are not rigorous enough. On the flip side, if academics are too challenging,

your student may constantly be struggling to keep up. Talk to the school counselor to see what options you have for making adjustments. Placement in the proper level classes is crucial for student happiness at school. Don't let school become a breeze or a punishment.

Check grades regularly. It's wise to let students keep track of their own progress in school as much as possible. But touch base with them about grades often enough to help troubleshoot any problems that might crop up. The frequency of chats can vary depending on age and maturity level. Choose the routine that best supports your child's success. And then cut them some slack as they take on more responsibility. Encourage kids to talk to teachers at the first sign of an academic problem, instead of waiting for things to get worse. Asking for help from older adults is an important life skill, and self-advocacy is usually rewarded.

Keep social commitments in balance. We all know kids who keep their social calendars booked, rarely taking any down time. Try to remember that self-care is taught rather than innate, and don't allow your child's hypersocial friends to make them feel like they are constantly missing out. Be especially mindful if your child has friends who don't have enough parental guidance. For some kids, having a few close friends and hanging out one-on-one may be better than being part of an extended group that thrives on social drama. Make sure your child knows what "me time" means from a young age onward by setting a good example and helping prioritize self-care.

Be alert for bullying. Sometimes aggression between children is so subtle that parents don't pick up on it. Furthermore kids who are being

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bullied may not realize it, or if they do, they may be ashamed to confide in parents or other adults. When your kids are younger, volunteer at school once in a while and check out the social dynamics. Even children who have known each other for years can suddenly turn on each other, especially if they sense popularity is at stake. With tweens and teens make sure to regulate screen time, social media use and check devices regularly. Make sure you train kids in empathy and assertiveness and reinforce those lessons, especially during the tween and teen years.

Watch for red flags. If your child has an appropriate schedule but is still showing signs of being disengaged or not wanting to get out of bed in the morning, get some help. As parents, we may not have all of the resources our children

need at our fingertips, and there is no shame in this. If your child is suffering from depression or anxiety, talk to a health care professional. Your general practitioner or family physician can ask the right questions and discuss treatment options to get your child back on track. Childhood anxiety and depression are on the rise, especially during the ages when kids leave home to attend college. Make sure your child is ready for that transition by instilling a positive attitude and encouraging slow and steady momentum that will pay off during the first twelve years of school and beyond.

Journalist Christina Katz has given her fair share of pep talks and lent plenty of shoulders to cry on. Parenting has taught her that life is Wabi-Sabi and isn't likely to become perfect any time soon.

Words of Wisdom

“Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you.”

—Robert Fulghum

The 11th annual Beech Brook 5K Race & Family Fun Run



Sunday, October 10 • 9 a.m.

Orange City Schools Campus • 32000 Chagrin Blvd. • Pepper Pike

A vigorous run or a casual stroll on a beautiful fall morning? You decide! Whether you choose to participate or spectate, gather up the kids and enjoy a variety of family-friendly activities and refreshments. Whatever you decide, you'll be making a difference for our community's most vulnerable children and families!

- Have your photo taken with Ghostbusters Cleveland, the 501st Legion Star Wars characters, and Super Heroes for Kids!
- Fuel up with unique popsicles and ice cream snacks from Pop Culture CLE and other refreshments.
- Plus, face painting and other fun stuff for kids.



\$20 Early Registration (by October 9)
\$25 Race Day Registration



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The Fine Arts Association's 2020-2021 theatre season offers something for everyone!

Miracle on 34th Street will open the holiday season at FAA (November 26–December 19, 2021).

Continue the holiday spirit with a Holiday Concert by the Cliff Habian Trio (December 11, 2021).

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe will ring in the new year (February 11–February 27, 2022), featuring chases, duels and escapes as the witch is determined to keep Narnia in her possession and to end the reign of Aslan.

Selected submissions received from all over the world, The Fine Arts Association's One Act Festival- Ten Below! will take place April 1–April 10, 2022). The festival is guaranteed to arouse post-theatre conversation.

Audiences will laugh and be amazed at the wit and humor of their young actors during Chili Con Comedy as they incorporate suggestions and chance into live performances on November 13, 2021,

February 5, 2022, and May 14, 2022.

The 2021–2022 theatre season concludes with Alice in Danceland (June 10–26, 2022), a brand new musical conceived and created by FAA staff. This is an exciting new venture as FAA combines their Theatre Department with their Dance Department.

The Fine Arts Association's New Artist Recital Series features acclaimed faculty members and renowned guest artists. Concertgoers can expect a wide variety of musical performances including classical piano, contemporary percussion, jazz, classical improvisation, and more.

For complete information and to purchase tickets for the 2021–2022 performance season, visit fineartsassociation.org or call FAA at 440-951-7500. Discounted group rates are also available. FAA is barrier free. Secure on-site parking is free. Sign interpreted performances are available on specific dates.

Back In The Spotlight!



More Magic & Fewer Meltdowns

Tips for trick-or-treating parents

By Christina Katz

Blisters abound, sugar levels soar, dehydration ensues, and next thing you know, what started as a fun, festive night feels more like a ghoulish nightmare.

The uncomfortable truth is that Halloween costumes are often flimsy and lack the insulation needed to stave off a brisk autumn chill. Kids' candy bags can quickly become over-stuffed to the point of creating a cascade of candy-and tears-as the evening wears on.

Before you turn into a witch or a warlock, parents, remember, the key to enjoying All Hallows' Eve is as simple as rallying the troops in advance, going over your expectations, and getting prepared for anything that might go amiss. Here are some tips from a mom who has literally been around the block a few times:

Split into age groups. Have one parent take one age group and the other parent take the other age group. Tweens like to run in packs and they move fast, so wear sneakers and layers you can lose, if you plan on keeping up with them. Toddlers and preschoolers may dawdle or tire quickly, so choose the more patient parent to accompany them. Or consider taking two shifts, one earlier in the evening for younger kids and another later in the evening for older kids, trading off who stays home to hand out candy.

Wear a backpack. Maybe it seems extreme to gear up as though you are going for an overnight hike just to walk a few blocks around the neighborhood. But the weather is fickle this time of year, and once you grab everything you need for a pleasant evening, you will be amazed by how much stuff you have to tote. And don't be surprised if your kids shed pieces of their costumes as the excitement heats up. A shoulder bag may feel fine for the first fifteen minutes of the night, but after two-hours, you will likely wish you had brought the backpack.

Invest in warm & dry. Your evening could end prematurely if there is a sudden windstorm or rain

shower. If your kids have on enough layers of tights and long underwear underneath their costumes, they won't falter even if they get a little wet. And if you are walking with a young child or children, bring a large umbrella, and keep a couple of compact umbrellas in your pack for older kids who will say they won't need them, but then might.

Eat a high-protein dinner. 'Tis the season for over-indulging in sugar, which means it's more important than any other time of year to emphasize three healthy high-protein meals a day. Be sure to give your kids limits on how much sugar they may consume between meals. Take their candy away and mete it out yourself if they don't comply with your limits or can't seem to wean themselves off the sugar roller coaster.

Practice their refrains. Commit to making the night pleasant for all. "Trick-or-treat!" and "Thank you!" are the only things young children need to be able to say their first couple of years out. But encourage older children to be more cordial especially to the older folks in the neighborhood, who will likely opt out altogether if they are offended by enough poorly behaved kids. How about making a chorus of "Happy Halloween!" or "Have a great night!" mandatory before the kids run off to the next house?

Be prepared. Plastic and paper bags for treats are out. They are the most likely to rip or tear. Pillowcases are better, but these too may split open when stuffed. So whatever you do, don't let the kids use your good set. Whatever they carry, stuff a few extra bags in your backpack in case you need replacements. Also carry band-aids for blisters, water for hydration, and cash on hand in case you come across a food cart selling something you might enjoy. And, of course, don't forget the camera.

Aim for the middle. If you are driving to another neighborhood to walk with a friend or friends, consider parking your vehicle in the middle of the neighborhood instead of on the edge or back at the friend's



house. This way, if you need to make an early exit for any reason, you'll be that much closer to your escape car. When bringing along very young children with older children consider bringing along a stroller or wagon. Even if the kids insist they don't need one, they might want one later after exhaustion sets in.

Use social sense. No one likes to feel left out, so encourage your kids to invite new or shy kids who might not already be part of a group to join you. Or, if you know that you will all have a better time if it's just you and your kids, don't feel bad about breaking off from a group.

Halloween is a great opportunity to teach kids about doing what works best for your family rather than always going along with the crowd. On the other hand, if there is a crowd you need to keep up with, now you will be ready. Happy Halloween!

Trick-or-treat preparedness:

- Umbrellas
- Water bottles
- Bandages
- Extra treat bags
- Lip balm
- Throat lozenges
- Cell phone/camera
- Protein snack like nuts or Go-Gurt
- Backpack or shoulder bag
- Stroller or wagon
- Flashlight



Christina Katz's favorite Halloween costume was the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz. She is proud to share that she made the costume herself.

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A healing journey leads to a new beginning

Like far too many children who come into our care, Katie's early years were marked by exposure to violence and the trauma it leaves in its wake.

Now 12, Katie has been working with Beech Brook art therapist Rick Rule-Hoffman ever since she was placed in a Beech Brook foster home at age 7.

Small but mighty. That's one way to describe her. Katie has always been petite for her age but, as Rick says with a smile, she's always been "big in voice and actions."

In one of their first sessions, this tiny dynamo tried to run away and barricaded herself in a room by stacking heavy chairs on top of each other against the door, astonishing the staff members with her strength.

Katie's tendency to run was one of the toughest issues to overcome. She was constantly running away from her foster home and from school and putting herself into dangerous situations. Often the police had to be called to help find her.

What Katie was really running from, says Rick, was her fear and the powerful feelings she was unable to face, the result of the horrific abuse she had witnessed against her mother and little brother. It's no surprise that she would want to run away from those memories.

"She did a lot of re-enacting of the things she had seen," Rick said of Katie's volatile behavior. "Even as a small child, she always felt she had to play the adult role and would try to protect her mother and brother."

A good painter, Katie was able to begin dealing

with some of these traumatic memories through art therapy sessions with Rick, producing poignant and powerful images of scenes in which she had seen her brother slammed against a wall and others depicting the violence she had witnessed.

Equally important to the healing process were Katie's Beech Brook foster parents who provided stability and consistency despite her extremely challenging behaviors.

Her foster family did not just sit on the sidelines in terms of Katie's treatment.

"They really wanted to understand Katie's trauma and how they could help her," Rick said.

They came consistently to art therapy sessions with her every week and fully engaged in family therapy, and they learned all they could about trauma and its impact on a child.

And they hung in there with her through thick and thin, providing the caring support she needed as she learned to express her overwhelming feelings verbally instead of acting them out.

Another part of the strategy to help Katie overcome her fears was to provide a special place where she could feel safe and be safe rather than running. At Rick's suggestion, her foster parents gave her a pop-up tent for her room where she could go to calm herself when she began to experience strong emotions.

Throughout her years in foster care, Katie had continued to hope that she could be reunited with her mother, who had been incarcerated since her children had been removed.

"For a long time, she didn't want to be adopted, but she finally accepted the fact that she couldn't

go back to her mother," Rick recalls.

Her foster parents were not able to adopt a child – an additional blow for Katie who had asked if they could adopt her – so the search for an adoptive home was on.

It was a family in another city who saw Katie's profile and decided to pursue an adoption. After conversations with Rick and others involved in Katie's care, they began to talk with her by phone and then by video calls, and they hit it off. She got to know her three soon-to-be siblings.

It became clear to all those involved that this was a sensitive and loving family who was truly engaged with all their children and very focused on meeting their individual needs.

"They made a beautiful book, welcoming Katie to the family, and explaining that this would be her home now and that they would be living with her. It was really wonderful," he said.

Katie has now joined her new family, and her adoption should be finalized in the coming weeks. Her parents are making sure she continues to get the therapy she needs, including transitional sessions with Rick, as she adjusts to her new life. And they've created a special niche in her room where she can feel safe whenever she needs to deal with strong feelings.

As they parted for the last time, Rick says, he thanked her for all of her hard work over the last five years. "Just keep on being your best self," he told her. And thanks to the healing she found at Beech Brook and a wonderful new family, it looks like she's now on track to do just that.

Visit www.beechbrook.org for more information.



Great Lakes Science Center opens new aerospace exhibition 'Above and Beyond'

Get ready to explore the future of aerospace technology and air travel with Great Lakes Science Center's newest exhibition, Above and Beyond, an interactive experience presented by Parker Aerospace.

Guests will launch into the future at Above and Beyond with 5,000 square feet of unprecedented interactive demonstrations of the advances in aviation and aerospace from the first powered flights to the newest innovations.

"The Science Center is thrilled to offer this incredible, interactive exhibition that highlights the science and wonder of flight," said president & CEO Dr. Kirsten Ellenbogen. "From the moment guests enter through an immersive theater experience they will feel the excitement and inspiration that has accompanied humanity's quest for flight."

Within the exhibition, guests will be able to step into a simulated space elevator that takes them to

the edge of the universe, design and test a supersonic jet to face off in a virtual high speed flying competition, experience a flight simulation with motion-sensing technology to get a sense of what it's like to fly like a bird, and discover concepts for future aircraft.

"Parker is proud to help bring this fascinating exhibition to northeast Ohio, a land of world-class technology, innovation and education and home to Parker Aerospace. It is more meaningful because it is in Cleveland, the community we call home," said Parker Aerospace President Roger Sherrard.

Above and Beyond runs through Sunday, January 2, 2021 and is included with general admission to the Science Center.

Fall hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. on Sundays. The Science Center will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays and for all home day Browns games.



Patterson Family Fun Fest is back!

When it comes to nature at its best, the beautiful days of autumn speak to our senses. Crisp fresh air and colorful scenes with leaves ablaze wherever you turn welcome you to celebrate the climax of the growing season at Patterson Fruit Farm. Harvest is in full gear with an abundance of apples leading the way. Stop by the farm market to shop and to enjoy the scenes overlooking Lake Erie on Caves Road or bring the family to the Family Fun Fest on the Mulberry Road farm to play for a while.

While the market is open year round, Patterson's add their Family

Fun Fest to the action for seven weeks in September and October. This area costs \$10 per person to enter and gives families of children preschool through elementary ages a place to enjoy hiking, sliding, playing in straw, climbing and "driving" tractors, viewing the world from the top of their tree house, disappearing in the silo and, in general, enjoying the outdoors filled with fun. No reservations needed. Just come when you have a few hours to spend with your family outdoors.

For more information, visit them online at pattersonfarm.com or call 440-729-1964.

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Pumpkins & Piranhas returns to Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Family friendly event for kids of all ages

Pumpkins & Piranhas returns to Greater Cleveland Aquarium Wednesday through Friday, October 27–29 from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (last admission at 6 p.m.).

“Costumes are encouraged and very much appreciated,” says Education Coordinator Matt Debelak, noting that baby sharks, superheroes, princesses, scarecrows and seahorses roamed the galleries in 2019. “It’s funny to me to see a T-Rex reaching out to touch a stingray—an animal that predates that dinosaur.”

The family friendly fun days are included with general admission (\$19.95 ages 13+, \$13.95 ages 2-12, \$0 passholders and guests younger than 2) and feature extended hours, underwater pumpkin decorations, costumed SCUBA divers, a small, take-home treat bag for children, pop-up animal enrichment and I-Spy/trivia activities focused on some of the curious creatures residing at the Aquarium.

“Moray eels, poison dart frogs,

sharks and many of the animals we might think are scary are really fascinating and a little misunderstood,” explains Debelak. “Piranhas aren’t really a danger to humans, but an Amazon River basin expedition story President Theodore Roosevelt penned about seeing hungry piranhas in a feeding frenzy gave the fish a fearsome reputation.”

The Aquarium asks that guests purchase advance general admission tickets to ensure entry. “We are deliberately limiting attendance and timing arrival to ensure social distancing,” explains Debelak. “We wouldn’t want to disappoint anyone who came out in costume on a sold-out day.”

The Aquarium will also be hosting Pumpkins & Piranhas-themed videos leading up to Halloween

Greater Cleveland Aquarium is located in the West Bank of the Flats, 2000 Sycamore Street in Cleveland. For more information call 216-862-8803 or visit www.greaterclevelandaquarium.com.



NEW Eagle Zip Adventure ride

Takes guests to new heights above Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

What is the Eagle Zip Adventure Ride?

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to fly like an eagle? Ride the Eagle Zip Adventure Ride and find out. On this tandem zip ride, guests board on the ride platform next to Wade Hall. Once seated and strapped in they are pulled backwards over Waterfowl Lake and up to a tower that rises 150 feet above the Zoo where riders can see all the way to downtown Cleveland. After pausing at the top for a moment, riders are released for a thrilling 35 mile an hour zip ride back down to the starting platform. You’ll feel like an eagle soaring through the air on this exhilarating ride.

How many zip lines are there?

There are two lines that can be operated simultaneously. Tower #1 is 701’ long and Tower #2 is 739’ long.

How long is the ride?

Ride times may vary but the average time from loading to unloading is five minutes.

How fast is the ride?

When being pulled up to the tower, the cart moves at 20 mph. On the descent back to the loading platform, you will reach speeds up to 35 mph before automatically slowing down.

What are the requirements to ride?

- Minimum rider height is 42”.
- Riders between 42” – 47” tall must ride with a paying adult.
- Riders 48” or taller may ride alone.

- Maximum weight is 300 lbs. for a single rider and 450 lbs. for two riders. Riders will be weighed prior to boarding.
- Riders must not have an impairment which prevents a normal seating position or use of the safety restraints.

Can I purchase a souvenir picture of my ride?

A camera provided by Kool Replay is mounted on the ride cart and will automatically capture your experience. Once the ride is over, you can scan the QR Code provided to access your free preview or purchase to get the full content.

- Photo: \$8.00
- Video: \$12.00
- Combo: \$15.00
- Cameras cannot be disabled by the ride attendants.

What are the hours of the ride?

- 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily and during special events
- April 1 – December 31 (weather permitting)
- Ride cannot operate during thunder and lightning storms, rainstorms, snowstorms, and winds exceeding 33 mph.

How much does it cost to ride?

- \$7.00 for Cleveland Zoological Society Members.
- \$8.00 for the general public.
- \$22.00 for the Eagle Zip Adventure Pass – includes admission to the Zoo and The RainForest and one ride.

Visit www.clevelandmetroparks.com/zoo for more info.

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Little Annie's Hope Train makes its rounds to help those in need

Former teacher uses retirement to live her best, most satisfying life

By Deanna Adams

Chances are you've seen them all over Lake and Geauga counties. Those little outdoor kiosk pantries filled with nonperishable food items, packets of seeds to grow your own food, as well as hygiene supplies—all free for the taking.

The concept for those complimentary pantries with its motto, "Take what you need - leave what you can," is the brainchild of Mentor resident, Annie Felice Kline, who always felt compelled to make a difference in her community. She is founder and president of the non-profit charitable organization, "Little Annie's Hope Train," which she began in 2016, after retiring from her teaching job.

"We supply 19 freestanding pantries that we personally restock every week," Kline says. "We encourage people to not only take the items they need, but also leave some items for others to use." The pantries are often located in low-income areas where the residents can best benefit.

Kline also accepts cash donations and every penny donated goes directly to the homeless and others in need in Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga and Summit counties. "Although we mostly serve our surrounding counties, our true mission is to aid anyone in Ohio who is in need," Kline adds.

That grand mission extends back a few decades when, as a teen, Kline began thinking about her future. Although she wanted to start college right after high school to become a teacher, Kline was too busy helping raise her younger siblings. She's the oldest of seven, with four sisters and twin brothers, who are also active in their community. And so, Kline went straight to work as the secretary for the Willoughby Hills police chief for the next 20 years. Meanwhile, in her mid-30s, she set out for that teaching degree by first attending Lakeland Community College, where she earned her associate of arts degree, then moved on to Ursuline College to get BA degrees in both middle childhood

education, and history. She then taught language arts for 13 years to 7th and 8th graders at the Horizon Science Academy Cleveland Middle School.

"Because I've always felt driven to give back, becoming a teacher was a big part of that dream," she says. "When I taught, it was important for me have the kids learn for themselves how gratifying it is to make a difference," she says. "I wanted to teach them to be compassionate so I would take my students to hunger centers to help serve hot meals. Some of my students came from without, as well, but it taught them to give back no matter what your situation is."

Once she retired, Kline began wondering what else she could accomplish. "You suddenly have more time on your hands and I wanted to make the best of it," she says. "I felt this was the time to dig deeper. Actually the movie, "The Blind Side," really elevated that calling. It spoke to me in the sense that the power of giving is the best feeling you can have."

The pantries, which include paperback books because, after all, being a former teacher, Kline knows the importance of literature, are not the only services she provides. The organization also distributes groceries to local soup kitchens and much more.

Kline focuses on getting survival supplies—meal and hygiene kits—to those living in homeless camps and tent cities. "Many people are struggling and have a hard time reaching out. Some, like war veterans and victims of domestic violence, often have difficulty asking for help so we try and give aid to them while helping them maintain their dignity." She says two of the most needed items are toilet paper and new adult-sized socks.

She emphasizes that she does not work alone. She has a handful of trusted volunteers and receives help from other local organizations, such as schools, businesses, civic-minded and church organizations, who all strive to bring help, and hope, to others.

"There are people lacking in needs other than food so we collect laundromat and haircut vouchers, and bus passes to issue out to the homeless. And believe me, they appreciate it." In addition, Little Annie's Hope Train provides school supplies for students in need, and donates beds for children who don't have one. "We pride ourselves in being truly grassroots. We are a 501(c)3 organization and have always operated at a deficit." Working out of her own home, she saves overhead expenses, and adds that they use their personal vehicles, do not claim mileage, and pay for fuel and car insurance out of their own pockets.

Kline herself is no stranger to life challenges, having recently gone into remission from breast cancer. But that has never stopped her from living her full life. She is an avid kayaker, attends a lot of baseball



Annie Felice Kline (right) and Karen Moffett next to a kiosk pantry at the Mentor Headlands Community Center.

games, and has her own photography business, "Caring Heart Photogra-

See HOPE TRAIN on page 10

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Just For Laughs!

A young man agreed to babysit one night so a single mother could have an evening out. At bedtime he sent the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to watch football.

One child kept creeping down the stairs, but the young man kept sending him back to bed.

At 9 p.m. the doorbell rang, it was the next door neighbor, Mrs. Brown, asking whether her son was there. The young man brusquely replied, "No."

Just then a little head appeared over the banister and shouted, "I'm here, Mom, but he won't let me go home!"

Two kids are talking to each other. One says, "I'm really worried. My dad works 12 hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!"

The other kid says, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!"

The first kid says, "What if they try to escape?"

Hope Train from page 9

phy," specializing in portraits, nature scenes and wildlife.

"Going through breast cancer, I've become even more grateful for every day. You appreciate all the little things—which are really the big things."

For more information on how you can help Kline meet constant needs or to find a kiosk nearest you, see her website at www.littleannieshope.com, or her Facebook page under Little Annie's Hope Train.

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36 northeast Ohio Girl Scouts earn highest award

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) is proud to honor 36 Gold Award Girl Scouts this year. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout senior or ambassador may earn. The Gold Award project challenges girls to identify an unmet need or core issue in their community, research and investigate it, recruit volunteers and build a team to create a plan to address the issue or need. Across northeast Ohio, members of the community are seeing great changes take place. Elementary schools are receiving valuable STEM resources. Places of worship are seeing improvements to their buildings and to the safety of their congregations. Animals have new habitats and resources to support their populations. These things were all made possible because of Gold Award Girl Scouts!

When compared to non-Girl Scout alums, Gold Award Girl Scouts soar when it comes to seeing themselves as leaders, providing service to others through volunteerism,



and having positive attitudes about themselves and the lives they lead. Over 90% of Girl Scouts not only attributed their success in life to Girl Scouts, but they also said they could not have had access to the same experiences anywhere else.

Nationwide, only five percent of eligible Girl Scouts go for the gold. This year, 36 Gold Award recipients from northeast Ohio will join the ranks of generations of young women who are recognized for making a difference, both locally and globally. It's not only Girl Scouts who understand the value of the Gold Award. Some universities and colleges offer scholarships unique to Gold Award recipients, and girls who enlist in the U.S. armed forces automatically enter the military one rank higher.

2021 Girl Scout Gold Award recipients in the Today's Family coverage area including city and project title:

- Elyse Ertel, Mentor, Cubby Clean Up
- Alexandra Fox, Mentor, The Instrument Initiative
- Meredith Mallon-Jeffrey, Gates Mills, H2O at SFA
- Brigit Morgan, Chardon, CMS Music Room Reno
- Alexis Ochi, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village Greenview Train Bluebird Houses
- Keira Oyen, Chesterland, Tubes of Love

Bios can be found at gsneo.org/goldaward.

Earning the Gold Award is just one of the amazing things girls can do as part of Girl Scouts. To join GSNEO, or learn more about volunteering, please visit gsneo.org.



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Halloween costume hijinks

By Stacy Turner

As new parents we looked forward to our child's first Halloween as yet another milestone and photo opportunity to be celebrated. We bought our tickets for Boo at the Zoo in advance and planned that first costume before the leaves began changing. It didn't matter that our little one was too young to enjoy most of the trick or treats.

And as a newly formed family of three, we wanted to be a part of the costume fun, too. Dressing our little one in a lion costume made of a fuzzy, light brown hooded onesie, we topped her head with a handmade yarn mane to keep our little cub toasty on that chilly fall night. And just in case the temperature dropped further, we wedged her into the stroller with enough extra blankets to cover the Serengeti. My husband and I wore vests, pith helmets, and binoculars, ready for the safari.

That's how my career in the family costume department began. The year little sister arrived, big sis wanted to be a flower, so it made scents (err, sense) for baby sis to go as a bumblebee. Since costumes couldn't be easily found, I created them using a mix of purchased clothing, fancy fabric, and some rudimentary sewing skills. As the years went by, the requests kept coming.

The year my eldest was Tinkerbell and the youngest was an alligator, our family was invited to a costume party. My husband vetoed the girls' suggestion he play Peter Pan, but appeased them by playing Captain Hook. Later, during the mortgage crisis, he and I dressed in business suits with name tags that read "Fredy Mac" and "Fannie Mae" while our girls dressed in cardboard houses, our own little foreclosures.

Another year, the eldest wanted to be a monarch butterfly. While

generic butterfly wings were easy to find that year, none were made with the specific markings of her chosen species, so I got to work again. Using a set of fairy wings as a base, I fashioned canvas wings that could be decorated with the distinct markings of that particular Lepidoptera. My husband and daughter spent hours hand-painting them; with the vision and all the extra effort, she was hopeful she'd win the costume contest at our small community gathering.

Meanwhile, our youngest had trouble choosing from the plethora of well-loved options in our dress-up box. Should she be a princess, and if so, which one? How about an OSU cheerleader, because the pom-poms were fun...or a doctor with a stethoscope? She finally settled on the Wizard of Oz Dorothy costume handed down from her cousin. Rummaging through her toys, she found a cute picnic basket and small stuffed Toto look alike. We bought a shiny pair of ruby slippers and she was ready for the Yellow Brick Road in no time flat.

As we headed to the costume party, Ms. Monarch was optimistic, while Dorothy busied herself sorting the candy she'd collected earlier that evening. And I'd like to say that all the planning and hard work paid off for my budding butterfly expert, but that's not how it worked out. The competition in her age group was pretty fierce that year. It seems residents of our tiny town were hitting Pinterest pretty hard. She lost out to a real-life American Girl doll walking around in a life-size, perfectly branded box. Ironically, our little Dorothy took the prize in her category, which made the event sting just a little more for our young entomologist.

Over the years, we've created a host of costumes that reflect a varied array of my kids' interests,



The Turner girls at two-and-a-half and seven months.

from made-up personas like a candy corn fairy, to well-known characters including Captain America, Batman, and Minions. We made it through with a little creativity, basic crafting skills, and a lot of duct tape.

If there's a moral to the story, maybe it's to come up with an idea you love and just go for it. And even though those fancy wings didn't win a

prize, they hung on the wall throughout my daughter's butterfly phase, reminding her of the time she and her dad worked so hard to create her favorite species. And Dorothy's ensemble worked because my younger daughter had fun working with what she had. Or maybe the moral is this — that with the right shoes, you can accomplish anything.

Words of Wisdom

**“When a child hits a child, we call it aggression.
When a child hits an adult, we call it hostility.
When an adult hits an adult, we call it assault.
When an adult hits a child, we call it discipline.”**

—Haim G. Ginott



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Private School GUIDE



Finding the right private school for your family

By Jan Pierce

You want a top-notch education for your children and choosing the perfect school is probably one of the biggest decisions you'll ever make. Depending on your location, you may find your public schools offer everything you want. If not, you'll need to embark on a search for the right private school.

In general, private schools exist to provide smaller class sizes with greater individual attention to each student and a safe, focused environment free of discipline problems. They tend to set a higher bar than public schools in academics, and build

a culture of shared values. They offer a strong sense of community and may tailor lessons to the needs of the student.

In reality, each private school is a world unto itself. It may or may not hold accreditation with a national education association, or hire credentialed teachers. It may have many extracurricular offerings or just a few. It may charge a very large tuition plus additional fees, or may be more affordable, offering scholarships and sliding scales. It may have a long history in your community or be a brand new charter school.

To find the right private school for you, you'll need to consider the following:

1. What are your educational priorities?

Some private schools are faith-based and some are not. You'll want to decide as a family your basic priorities. Is it most important to find high academic standards, or more important to support your family's faith? Do you expect accelerated programs such as advanced placement classes or extensive access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs? How important are extracurricular activities? Are you comfortable with homework policies and school rules?

2. What is the culture of the school?

In a faith-based setting the culture of the school will place religion at the forefront. There will be religious studies as part of the curriculum. The school may be all boys or all girls. Does this suit your goals? What is the relationship of staff to students? Is it casual and friendly, formal and strict? How are parents involved? What is the balance of academics to sports, the arts, clubs and other activities? Does the culture "feel right" for your children?

Continued next page

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3. What role do parents play in the school?

Some private schools make great use of parent volunteer time and emphasize whole family participation in their programs. Others minimize parent involvement to occasional visits or conferences to report progress. Which best suits your family's needs?

4. What are the costs? Are there scholarships available?

It's a sacrifice to pay for your child's education when public schools are free. And there are huge variations in the expenses involved. When researching possible schools, be sure to check not only the tuitions, but also book fees, sports or other extracurricular expenses and possible transportation fees. Check on scholarships available and the possibility of a sliding scale based on family income.

5. Is the staff credentialed and the school accredited?

Some faith-based schools and newer charter schools don't require their teachers to be credentialed. How important is this to your family? In addition there are many different education associations nationwide offering accreditation. If a prospective school has received accreditation, they've shown the initiative to meet high standards.

6. Is the curriculum up to date?

In this technological age, you'll want to be sure your private school has kept up with the times. Do they offer appropriate college preparation standards in science, math, languages, writing and more? Do they offer a well-rounded education in art, drama and music? Are textbooks current and in good condition? Are computer labs or individual screens available to students?

7. Does the school provide transportation?

Do buses transport students to school? Are they available for after-school activities? Does the school coordinate carpools? Are there extra expenses charged for transportation?

8. How well do students transition into or out of the school?

If a particular school offers classes such as K-6 or K-8, do they work closely with a sister high school? What provisions are made to make a smooth transition from one school to another? If students transfer into the school either at the beginning of a year or mid-year, what provisions are made to welcome them? How do children fare when they need to move from this school to another?

9. What is the school's reputation?

Most private schools have a reputation to uphold. Are they the best in college prep? Are they known for a friendly, family community spirit? Who do you know with first-hand information and experience with the school? What recommendations can you find amongst friends and acquaintances?

10. Is the school open to visits and drop-in observations?

All schools need to make sure their campus is secure and will have procedures to follow when visiting. But as a parent, you want to feel comfortable visiting the building to observe or take care of business.

When you've narrowed your search to several schools, be sure to take the time for a personal visit. Talk with an administrator, take the tour and gather any written information they've prepared for prospective students. Discuss pertinent questions and voice any concerns you may have about your child's specific needs.

Selecting the perfect private school is well worth the time it takes to research, visit and finally make your selection. This is the place your children will make important friendships, learn and grow, and pave the way to their bright futures.



Ask about our:

- Transportation options
- Scholarship opportunities
- Financial Aid application

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Huntsburg Campus: 10 am-12 pm

Concord Campus: 1-3 pm



Huntsburg Campus
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Register to attend an Open House or schedule a personal visit at admissions@hershey-montessori.org.

Virtual tours are available on our website.
www.Hershey-Montessori.org

Nurturing the spirit. Engaging the intellect. Inspiring creative thinking.

Develop Skills for Life

Experiential learning is woven through the curriculum daily. On any given day, our Lower School students can be found in a small-group music lesson, working with practicing scientists or engineers, or learning the intricacies of coding. Living a lesson rather than just reading about it allows for the deepest levels of engagement.

Lower School Highlights

Intentionally Small Class Sizes

Average number of students is 12 per classroom

Best-in-Class Technology

Programming and Robotics instruction beginning in Kindergarten.

18 Months - Preschool Montessori

Cultivate curiosity and perseverance in strategically designed learning environment

Nature-Based Learning

Our 144-acre campus is a real-life learning laboratory where students get their hands dirty in practical applications of the curriculum, while learning to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Weekly Wellness Program

Includes financial literacy; academic, physical, social emotional and spiritual wellness; and mindfulness

Weekly Ice Skating & Swimming Lessons

Included in PE program

Interdisciplinary Immersion Experiences and Enriching Field Trips

Tuition Assistance

Average Lower School tuition assistance award is \$10,500

The Lorraine and Bill Dodero Center for Performing Arts

Gilmour's new state-of-the-art facility is home to its fine and performing arts programs.

Drama, music (partnership with Piano Cleveland) and dance (partnership with Cleveland Ballet) instruction

The CPA features a professional stage (with fly space), a black box theater, scene and costume shops, as well as designated practice space for the speech and debate program.

New this year!

Non-Montessori Kindergarten classroom.

This move to a stand-alone kindergarten classroom best prepares our students for the transition into first grade. This adjustment allows for an even more personalized academic experience for our kindergarten students with an emphasis on literacy development.

Lower School Open House
Sunday, Oct. 24, 12-2 p.m.
Register at gilmour.org/openhouse

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Cleveland Montessori

12510 Mayfield Road, Cleveland
(216) 421-0700
www.clevelandmontessori.org

Cleveland Montessori is celebrating over 25 years of serving the children of Greater Cleveland. The school is located in the historic Alta House. Students in preschool through middle school thrive within this unique urban campus inclusive of Little Italy and University Circle. A Cleveland Montessori education looks at each child's individual potential academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Their students become independent thinkers with compassionate hearts.

The authentic Montessori curriculum incorporates a variety of opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom to the culturally rich neighborhood of Little Italy. Their proximity to University Circle provides many extensions for cultural and scientific exploration setting the stage for an experience rich in diversity, growth and joy. Cleveland Montessori op-

erates on a school year calendar, September to June.

Call to arrange a personal tour.

Corpus Christi Academy

5655 Mayfield Road, Lyndhurst
(440) 449-4244
www.corpuschristiacad.org

Corpus Christi Academy is a family-friendly pre-K through 8th grade school serving Lyndhurst and the surrounding communities. At CCA, your child will develop the foundational knowledge to deepen their curiosity in learning, while enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The school boasts a 1:1 technology program that supports student creativity and innovativeness in the classroom. Intimate class sizes encourage individualized learning plans for each student to deepen their spiritual, social-emotional, and academic accomplishments guided by a caring and dedicated faculty.

Full- and part-time pre-K options are available. For more info call (440) 449-4244.

Gesu Catholic School

2450 Miramar Boulevard
University Heights
(216) 932-0620
www.gesu.com

Gesu Catholic School is an educational community created in partnership with students, their families, and the Church of the Gesu. Founded in 1926 under the direction of the Sisters of Notre Dame and the Society of Jesus, the school community is committed to the Jesuit traditions of Catholic faith formation, academic rigor and excellence, personal growth, service to others, and global citizenship, "all for the greater glory of God."

They are proud to be part of the Diocese of Cleveland's "Better Together: Exceptional Catholic education for every student" initiative and to be a "Designated STEM School" by the state of Ohio.

The school community includes approximately 630 students in kindergarten through grade 8 with another 85 students in the Gesu preschool.

For preschool, kindergarten, or admissions information for grades 1-8, please contact Judi Herbert at (216) 932-0620, ext. 117 or email jherbert@gmail.com.

Gilmour Academy

34001 Cedar Road, Gates Mills
(440) 473-8050
admissions@gilmour.org
www.gilmour.org

The Advantage of Being Independent and Catholic

As an independent, Catholic school, Gilmour Academy stands alone in its ability to prepare students who thrive. Their mission is rooted in educating the mind and empowering the heart, ensuring that every student develops to their fullest potential. From 18 months to 18 years, everything at Gilmour – from the curriculum to the academic extension programs to extracurriculars – is focused on cultivating four enduring competencies that are most important in developing students as leaders of their generation. Those enduring competencies are effective

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- November 14 at 12 Noon: Kindergarten Information Session & Tour
- January 30 from 12 Noon - 2 pm: Open House, K - 8



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WWW.STDOMINICSCHOOL.NET

Private School GUIDE

Gilmour cont'd

communication, critical thinking and problem solving, leadership and moral responsibility. These are introduced in the Montessori preschool programs, and then expanded upon and developed throughout the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. Gilmour graduates emerge primed for the next step and confident in their ability to make the world a better place.

HA HA!

What food do math teachers eat? Square meals!

Why would a music teacher need a ladder?

To reach the high notes.

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses? Because the kids in her class were so bright!

How do you get straight A's? By using a ruler!

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www.grossschechter.org

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Gross Schechter inspires its students to love learning, become their best selves, and embrace Jewish practice, values, and community in a challenging and encouraging academic environment.

Technology and creativity are woven appropriately into all aspects of a curriculum that adheres to and exceeds state standards. Their integrated Judaic studies program fosters a strong identity and mastery of the spectrum of Jewish traditions in ways that are relevant for living in the modern world.

Listings continue on page 18

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(Preschool–Grade 8)

4400 West 140th Street, Cleveland
(216) 251-2321

The Mastery School of Hawken

(Grades 9–12)

11025 Magnolia Drive Cleveland
(440) 423-8801

Hawken School is an independent, coed day school of over 1,500 students, toddler through grade 12, located on two campuses in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland, a campus on Cleveland’s west side, and a campus in University Circle that is home to the Mastery School of Hawken, opened in 2020, which takes the

school’s problem-based programming to scale.

Hawken was founded in 1915 as an educationally progressive school, and they remain academically progressive— because that’s what it takes to prepare students to thrive in a changing world. From recognizing the value of a co-educational environment to designing programs, learning spaces, and innovative schedules that support learning by doing, Hawken boldly adapts to prepare students for a promising future.

Hawken’s nationally-recognized programming and non-traditional schedules support partnerships with world-renowned institutions that provide real-world learning opportunities, including honors-level engineering and entrepreneurship programs and STEM internships. These experiences instill in students the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and dynamic world.



Hershey Montessori School

www.Hershey-Montessori.org

(440) 357-0918

Concord Campus

10229 Prouty Road

Huntsburg Campus

11530 Madison Road

Hershey Montessori School prepares students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The Montessori approach to education is scientifically geared toward the psychological stages of the student at every phase of their natural development. This allows the student to discover their strengths and master challenging concepts based upon individual growth and interests.

Hershey provides a world-renowned education that integrates academics with financial literacy, leadership, entrepreneurship, and other important real-life skills. Special emphasis is placed on embracing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), ensuring students are emotionally, academically, and skillfully empowered for life. DEIB are Montessori-aligned

skills that give students necessary tools to navigate the social complexities of our current society and to make a positive impact in the communities among them.

Hershey’s Concord Campus educates children from birth through 6th grade. The Huntsburg Campus educates adolescents from 7th to 12th grade.

Tuition assistance, boarding, transportation, and scholarship opportunities are available.

Montessori School of University Heights

23599 Cedar Road, Lyndhurst

(216) 381-8388

www.ms-uh.org

The Montessori School of University Heights, established in 1968, is a preprimary school dedicated to helping the child become the unique person his/her Creator intended in a Christian atmosphere of peace, love, and respect. Their approach involves:

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For boys, Junior K-12

Private School GUIDE

Montessori School of UH cont'd

to the materials as the child becomes ready for the concepts that the material embodies.

Children develop order, concentration, coordination, independence, and self-discipline.

- Engaging children in a caring, supportive community. Their multi-age environment, serving children ages 3 through 6 years old, provides a family-like atmosphere. Children develop compassion and confidence.
- Respecting each child's developmental abilities and personality. Montessori children enjoy choosing their own work each day guided by adults who are sensitive to each child's unique personality. Children experience joy in learning.

They warmly encourage interested parents to schedule an in-person or virtual tour.



Our Lady of the Lake School

175 East 200th Street, Euclid
(216) 481-6824
www.OLLEuclidSchool.org

Our Lady of the Lake School, grounded in Catholic faith and values, provides a program of academic excellence in an environment that engages students, families, faculty and community. Small classrooms, individual attention and strong curriculum together provide exceptional learning opportunities, and advanced programs and educational partnerships challenge their students to excel.

Learning goes beyond the classroom. Students enlarge their world with service learning and field trips. Outreach programs bring a wealth of resources into the school, and students also engage in hands-on learning through technology, with interactive boards in every classroom, a cutting-edge makerspace, and iPads for curriculum use. Even their youngest students take part, with preschoolers



ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL

what's your story?

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 8TH GRADE BOYS

OPEN HOUSES FOR 8TH GRADE FAMILIES

Sunday, October 3 :: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Monday, October 18 :: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, October 25 :: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 8 :: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT SEHS.NET/OPENHOUSE

ADMISSION TESTS FOR 8TH GRADERS

Saturday, October 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 23 at 9:00 a.m.
(extended time testing offered)

Wednesday, November 3 at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 6 at 9:00 a.m.
(extended time testing offered)

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT SEHS.NET/ADMISSIONTEST

CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ADMISSION AT 216.521.2204 OR ADMISSION@SEHS.NET

ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL • 13500 DETROIT AVENUE • LAKEWOOD, OHIO 44107 • SEHS.NET



 **OPEN 2021**
HOUSE 2022
RUFFING MONTESSORI SCHOOL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021 12-2 pm

Admissions Open House for 18 months - Middle School

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED @ RUFFINGMONTESSORI.NET

3380 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio

MONTESSORI

SCHOOL OF
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

FOUNDED 1968

WWW.MS-UH.ORG

23599 CEDAR ROAD | BEACHWOOD, OH

CALL FOR A PERSONAL TOUR

216-381-8388



THREE YEAR PROGRAM
BEGINNING AT AGE THREE



Private School GUIDE

Our Lady of the Lake cont'd

making full use of the gymnasium, art rooms, makerspace and library.

Students are also encouraged to develop their talents through art and music programs and a variety of clubs and extracurriculars. A fully-equipped gym hosts an array of sports and athletics. An active parent-teacher organization keeps the school community engaged and welcoming.

Call today for a tour or to get more information.

Ruffing Montessori School

3380 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights
(216) 321-7571

www.ruffingmontessori.net

Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights is more than just a school for children ages 18 months through the 8th grade. It is a beloved community where bright and curious children are guided by experienced Montessori-trained faculty and immersed in a rigorous curriculum that prepares students to become

independent thinkers and creative problem solvers. Walking through Ruffing's classrooms, you will see students working with purpose and joy, and excelling academically with confidence and compassion. Being a student at Ruffing offers children a global perspective and a strong understanding of their impact on the world, and prepares them for high school, college, and life beyond.

Learn why Ruffing is the compelling school of choice for so many families by attending our fall open house on Saturday, November 13, or by scheduling a personal or virtual tour at ruffingmontessori.net.

Listings continue on page 22



HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED



Plan your visit today:

Lower & Middle School Toddler – Grade 8, Lyndhurst Campus
Parent Visit: Thursday, 10/21/21, 9:00 am
Open House: Sunday, 11/21/21, 1:00 pm

Birchwood School Preschool–Grade 8, Cleveland-West Campus
Open House: Sunday, 10/24/21, 2:00 pm

Upper School Grades 9–12, Gates Mills Campus
Parent Visit: Thursday, 10/14/21, 6:30 pm
Open House: Sunday, 11/7/21, 1:00 pm

Mastery School Grades 9–12, University Circle Campus
Parent Visit: Tuesday, 10/19/21 1:00 pm
Open House: Sunday, 11/14/21, 1:00 pm

Events will be virtual if they are unable to be held in person.

To RSVP and for more information, call 440.423.2950 (Lower & Middle School), 216.251.2321 (Birchwood School), 440.423.2955 (Upper School), 440.423.8801 (Mastery School), or visit hawken.edu/admissions.



On-campus and virtual tours are available. Call to schedule!

HAWKEN
SCHOOL



COEDUCATIONAL,
TODDLER – GRADE 12

Lyndhurst Cleveland-West Gates Mills University Circle

ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE
PERSONAL
GROWTH
FAITH
FORMATION



GESU
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



DIFFERENT IS WHAT WE DO BEST

Please join us at the Gesu Family Center

**Kindergarten
Information Night**
January 18, 2022, 7:00 PM

**Preschool
Information Night**
January 27, 2022, 7:00 PM

RSVP to Judi Herbert at jherbert@gesu.com

Gesu Catholic School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

2450 Miramar Boulevard • University Heights, OH 44118 • 216-932-0620
www.gesu.com



St. Dominic School

3455 Norwood Road
Shaker Heights
(216) 561-4400
www.stdominicschool.net

St. Dominic School, located in Shaker Heights, is a Catholic, co-ed elementary school serving students in grades K-8. St. Dominic School is small in size, but big in possibilities. They offer academic excellence in a warm, caring faith-based environment. Students

have opportunities to participate in academic extras like Power of the Pen or the Stock Market Club; a top notch athletic program; and a variety of art and music options, including choir and instrumental music. Students take on leadership roles by developing their gifts and talents in a supportive school community. Come to their open house or call for a private tour.



SCHECHTER
GROSS SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL



*Success illuminated by tradition,
ignited by innovation.*



27601 Fairmount Boulevard | Pepper Pike, OH 44124
admissions@grossschechter.org | 216-763-1400 x417

St. Edward High School

13500 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood
(216) 221-3776
www.sehs.net

St. Edward High School, a Catholic school in the Holy Cross tradition, educates the hearts and minds of a diverse group of young men to have the competence to see and the courage to act as men of hope for the transformation of the world.

The relationships that bond the St. Edward community stem from shared experiences of hospitality and compassion modeled every day by their faculty, staff, and students. With the understanding that together we are part of something greater than ourselves, St. Ed's mission focuses on family and the relationships that become their students' foundation to transform the world around them.

They invite you to share your story and be part of their strong family tradition at St. Ed's. They look forward to welcoming you at their upcoming admission tests, open houses and through their Edsman for a Day Program.

Please contact the Office of Admission at admission@sehs.net or 216-521-2204 with any questions.

University School

www.us.edu
Junior kindergarten to grade 8

20701 Brantley Road
Shaker Heights
(216) 321-8260

Grades 9 to 12
2785 SOM Center Road
Hunting Valley
(216) 831-2200

Young boys are growing quite fast physically, mentally, and emotionally. University School's junior kindergarten and kindergarten programs invite, inspire, and cultivate a boy's curiosity. The teachers understand boys and this important stage of development.

Campus and classroom spaces were designed by teachers and

are housed in the primary building and on its 32-acre site in Shaker Heights. These spaces are ideal for young, active boys and the hands-on academic program.

The low student-to-teacher ratio is possible because each classroom has full-time licensed lead and associate teachers. Boys enjoy the resources of the extensive physical education, performing arts, outdoor, and maker spaces.

University School is a wonderful community to launch a young boy's lifetime love of learning. Having a strong knowledge base and desire for learning in the youngest years is key to future educational success.

Schedule a personal family tour or join them for an upcoming in-person or virtual open house. Learn more at www.us.edu/visit.

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

18491 Lakeshore Boulevard
Cleveland
(216) 481-8414
www.vasj.com

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic, comprehensive college-preparatory school and the only school in the world cosponsored by the Ursuline Sisters and Marianist Brothers. VASJ is committed to helping students grow in their faith, be challenged academically, follow their passions, and create high school memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

The family spirit is felt by all who enter the school and makes VASJ a special place to learn and grow. If you're looking for a school that feels like a family, they invite you to contact the admissions department to request a private tour. Tours provide an opportunity to meet students and teachers and learn about the school's unique academic, campus ministry and athletic programs. They'd love to have you be part of the VASJ family!

Today'sFamilyMagazine.com

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Cleveland Metroparks Zoo 2nd annual Trick-or-Treat Fest

The daytime Halloween celebration returns this October

Tickets are now on sale for the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the 2nd annual Trick-or-Treat Fest presented by Citizens. Bring your family in costume for this year's family-friendly Halloween event at the Zoo, Fridays through Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning October 8 through October 31.

"We're excited to continue the tradition of celebrating Halloween at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo," said Kelly Manderfield, Cleveland Metroparks chief marketing officer. "Thanks to the support of our sponsors and positive community feedback, we are able to bring back this popular daytime event."

Trick-or-Treat Fest includes meet-and-greets with costumed characters, access to 15 trick-or-treat stations on Wayside Furniture Way, and the return of the Monster Mash Dance Party at the Zoo's amphitheater. This add-on ticketed experience also

includes unlimited rides on the carousel courtesy of MetroHealth. The first 1,000 guests each day receive a complimentary trick or treat bag courtesy of Meijer.

"Halloween at the Zoo has become a tradition at Citizens," said Jim Malz, president, Citizens. "We're proud to partner again with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to offer the community a safe, fun and engaging event where families can make lifelong memories."

Trick-or-Treat Fest will have timed ticketing and tickets are limited. Guests are strongly encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance and must adhere to the time selected. Tickets for Trick-or-Treat Fest, which includes Zoo general admission, are \$19.95 for nonmembers and \$9.95 for members. Children under 2 enter free. Tickets are available now at www.FutureForWildlife.org/trickortreatfest.

Great Harvest Haunt Experience at Holden Arboretum

From Saturday, October 2nd through Sunday, October 17th, visitors are invited to participate in a not-so-spooky story trail on the grounds of The Holden Arboretum.

Follow Ty the Turkey as they search for food to fill this season's cornucopia. As they talk to different trees/plants along the path, help Ty answer mini riddles to gather nutritious foods required for this turkey's survival through the winter. Each stop along the trail will highlight a different tree or plant, and the food source they provide to turkeys.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Children 2 and under are free. Visit holdenarb.org to purchase your tickets and reserve your time slot. If you have questions, call the guest services team at 440-946-4400, Tuesday through Sunday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Jimmy's Treehouse now open at Nature Center at Shaker Lakes

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes is pleased to announce the completion of Jimmy's Treehouse, which is now open to the public.

Jimmy's Treehouse is yet another exciting enhancement to the grounds at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, made possible through the Enhancing Your Outdoor Classroom: Campaign for the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, and a generous donation from the Lincoln Family. Open during regular Nature Center hours, the treehouse is ADA-accessible and overlooks the scenic Stearns Woodland Trail. Offering access to nature for people of all ages and abilities, Jimmy's Treehouse will be a new outdoor location for visitors, summer campers and school groups to enjoy.

Jimmy's Treehouse is named after the late James F. Lincoln Jr. Jimmy was a playful spirit, who was often heard saying, "The only problem with children is there are not enough of them!" All are welcome to visit and explore the treehouse. Visitors will see firsthand how this

recently constructed feature allows visitors to explore and more deeply immerse themselves in nature and the outdoors.

Jimmy's Treehouse is one component of a larger, multi-phase \$6.1 million capital campaign to restore and reinvigorate the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes' outdoor classroom. Currently in its final year, the capital campaign will allow the Nature Center to transform the visitor experience and enhance the property with new, unique features, interpretive elements and restored native habitats.

"Each of our new features, including Jimmy's Treehouse, are transforming the Nature Center into a local destination. It is yet another example of many new, engaging trail features that will help adults and children spend more time outdoors while gaining a deeper appreciation for and connection to nature," says president and CEO Kay Carlson.

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes is located at 2600 South Park Boulevard in Shaker Heights.



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