

TODAY'S family

August 2023 Cuyahoga

**If only life
were like
the movies!**
Humor Essay

Ideas for a great trip to Niagara Falls

By Kim Miller
Today's Family Publisher

**Five things
I won't stop
doing for
my kids**
Humor Essay

Mommy Chronicles

Getting rid of stuff,
not memories

Family Fun Ideas!

A list of fairs and festivals
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inside



**Five things I won't stop
doing for my kids**

Page 4



Visit Niagara Falls

Page 8



Mommy Chronicles

Page 10

CALENDAR

**Fairs &
Festivals
in August
and September**



Pages 21–23

BACK TO SCHOOL

Shopping at Goodwill

Page 12

Homework Help

Page 14

**Surviving the
Elementary Years**

Page 15

Preparing for High School

Page 17

Crafty Critters

If only life were like the movies!

By Cheryl Maguire

I love the Disney movie *“Enchanted.”* One of my favorite scenes is when Princess Giselle is peacefully sleeping on the couch. She awakens in a graceful manner, donning a white puffy ball gown, reminiscent of an eighties wedding dress. Then the camera pans to show the viewer a disorganized NYC apartment; dirty clothes are strewn across the floor, papers are scattered on the table and food-encrusted dishes are dispersed throughout the kitchen. I cringe with the realization there is an uncanny resemblance to my humble home, most mornings.

She declares, “This just won’t do!”

I shout at the screen, “I know! It’s like living in a frat house!”

Here’s where it gets interesting. She opens the window, sings a magical chant and suddenly pigeons, mice, rats, flies, and cockroaches gather in the apartment. Instead of calling an exterminator, Princess Giselle dances while belting out a song about the joys of housework as the critters clean the place spotless. They even did the laundry and brought her a bouquet of flowers.

All I could think is, “How can I inspire pests to become my personal cleaning crew?”

I probably had visions of this movie, or maybe *Snow White*, when we went searching for a home to buy. The realtor showed us a house, surrounded by woods. As she was pointing out the large backyard, she mentioned how the other day she saw wild turkeys roaming about. My husband and I looked at each other in disbelief thinking, “this must be a rustic, wonderful and possibly magical place to live because we have never witnessed real live wild turkeys roaming anywhere.”

In unison, we inquired, “How soon can we buy it?”

After signing, almost a thousand documents, the house was ours! Sure enough we saw those turkeys, in fact, they seemed to like the house as much as we did. But instead of helping clean it, they enjoyed depositing their droppings on the walkway for us to step in while leaving the house.

We’ve encountered many other woodland creatures since taking up residence in our suburban abode. One day while I gazed out the window, dreaming of Princess Giselle’s cleaning crew, I saw a large furry cuddly looking critter wobbling by the playset.

I said to my daughter, “Look there is some kind of interesting animals outside”.

Grabbing the camera, we darted onto the deck



to get a closer view. The brown fuzzy animal was crawling around the grass, unaware of our presence. As we were “oohing and ahing” at our new found friend, we must have “oohed” a little too loud since the animal started to run. But instead of returning to the woods as I would expect, I watched in horror as the varmint sprinted straight for our house.

“Run!” I shouted to my daughter. I had no idea what type of creature it was and suddenly it felt more like a scene from a Stephen King novel rather than a Disney movie.

A few days later I got up the nerve to inspect around the deck to see what happened to our

See Critters on page 6

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Five Things I Won't Stop Doing for My Kids

By Gina Rich

"Stop doing these 17 things for your kids right now, or you'll fail to raise independent, successful human beings!"

Parents have been inundated with these types of articles lately, and I'll be the first to admit I have some habits that fall into the "naughty" category. Packing my kids' lunches? Check. Cleaning up after them? Check. Making sure their homework is done? Check, check, check.

My daughters are in second grade and kindergarten, and I'm looking forward to helping them become more self-sufficient in the coming year, simply by doing less for them.

But there are still some things I plan to continue doing for them, for as long as they'll let me.

1. Telling them a bedtime story.

My kids love books, but the stories they seem to enjoy the most are the ones that come straight from the perpetually exhausted brains of their parents. Over the years, our bed-

time stories have ranged from the heartfelt to the hilarious, from fairy tales created on the fly to discussions about space and nature. My husband and I have shared recollections of grandparents and great-grandparents, and the different world in which they grew up. All of these stories have played a vital role in sparking my kids' curiosity about the world around them, and I've often even learned something new in the process. I imagine that someday, our nightly stories will evolve into after dinner conversations over coffee, tea or ice cream, but the importance of the ritual will remain the same.

2. Noticing and praising when they've acted with compassion or kindness.

I'm not talking about ego boosting here; what I mean is simply noticing and recognizing when my kids do the right thing. Last week, when little sister dropped her snack on the ground and the threat of a meltdown was looming, big sister, unprompted, offered up her own granola bar as a



Bedtime stories can include reading books, but also discussions about the world or recollections of grandparents and other ancestors.

replacement. "Hey, that was a really nice thing to do," I told big sister, and I extended the kudos by mentioning it to their dad later that day. Believe me, there are plenty of days when sharing and being kind seem to be the last thing on my kids' minds, so I'm all for highlighting these moments when they happen.

3. Offering them different foods, even if they've tried it already and swear they hate it.

My kids are fairly picky eaters, which I find frustrating. It's not as though I'm serving them free-range quinoa with sautéed brussel sprouts and tofu; in recent history, they've given a ruthless thumbs-down to cheese pizza, homemade mini chicken pot pies, and chocolate chip pumpkin muffins (I mean, who turns down anything involving chocolate?!). Still, I'll continue to encourage my kids to try lots of different foods, including items they've previously rejected, because I'm banking on the fact that one day their tastebuds will have an "aha!" moment. I refuse to believe their palates can't expand to appreciate cuisine beyond apples, plain spaghetti and Goldfish crackers.

4. Giving them a safe space to vent over school, friendships or other issues, no matter how minor.

Yes, kids need to develop a thicker skin and learn how to handle disappointment and all that jazz. But that

does not mean I can't offer a non-judgmental ear when they come to me feeling sad or frustrated because so-and-so at school was mean or didn't like their hairstyle that day. Being there to listen doesn't necessarily mean solving the problem for my daughters, but my hope is that it will foster trust and openness that will extend into the preteen and teenage years.

5. Letting them see me being silly, even if it means embarrassing them sometimes!

Humor was a key element of my childhood. While we didn't always say "I love you," my family often showed affection via goofy behavior and jokes. When I played trumpet in the school band, I was always incredibly nervous about missing the high notes during my solos. In response, my dad promised that if I ever botched a note during a concert, he'd stand up and blow his nose loudly; that way, everyone in the audience would focus on him instead of my mistake. Naturally, I protested: "Noooo Dad that's so embarrassing!!!" But I still had to smile, because I knew deep down this was my dad's way of saying, "Don't worry, I've got your back."

Whatever my kids are facing in life, I want them to know I'll be there for them, even when they are able to tie their own shoes, make their own lunches, and one day (someday...!) even do their own laundry.

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Toddlers and preschoolers have many opportunities to explore. They can move and groove in the popular Kinderdance (ballet and tap) and Itty Bitty Ballet classes. The new Itty Bitty Music class encourages exploration of vocal and instrumental sounds. Surprise Art on Monday and Friday mornings offers a chance to try different artistic techniques in an age-friendly environment. Fairmount's monthly Tales for the Budding Artist workshop series provides a multi-arts event with storytelling, creative movement, and art-making.

School-aged children can discover their artistic talents through a variety of dance, music, theatre, and visual arts classes and workshops. Private music lessons in voice, piano, guitar, ukulele, flute, and more allow for customized instruction. Students can also participate in one of Fairmount's dance performing groups (Fairmount Dance Company or Hip Hop Crew) or the new Youth Chamber Ensemble and Fairmount Children's Chorus. A new Drama Club and theater workshops will



also be offered for older students. When school's out, students can enjoy special multi-arts camp days at Fairmount.

Lastly, adults can enjoy a range of classes and workshops for beginning through advanced students. Get a dance card to mix and match your favorite combination of ballet, yoga, tap, or hip hop classes. New this fall includes the Fairmount Singers, a pop singing group for anyone 18 and older. Plus, don't miss a variety of art classes including watercolor, portrait drawing, embroidery, Japanese-style sketchbooks, pastels, and ceramics.

The full schedule can be found online at www.fairmountcenter.org or call (440) 338-3171 for additional information. Book by August 11, 2023 and save 5% off registration using code "earlyreg."

Critters from page 3

newest inhabitant. I discovered at least three deeply dug holes. I'm guessing it was either a groundhog or a gopher. I considered finding a hose to fill the holes with water, but then recalled it didn't work out too well for Bill Murray in "Caddyshack."

Mr. Gopher/Groundhog must have sent out a rodent message, equivalent to a teen tweeting, "party at my house" because soon after he took up residence, in my residence, a family or more likely a colony of mice, decided our minivan would be a great new dwelling.

I can only imagine the conversation between the mice upon discovering our minivan.

"Oh my god! We hit the mother lode. There is enough food here to feed us for the next five years. I mean everywhere you look there are juice boxes, Goldfish, Cheerios, and Cheez-Its."

After high-fiving one another, the

mice probably broke down with tears of joy knowing they would not have to search for food anymore.

The only cleaning I witnessed from the rodents was eating of tissues, air conditioning wires and leftover food remnants which hardly compared to Giselle's band of domestic workers. It was becoming abundantly clear these animals shared little resemblance to the ones in the movie "Enchanted."

At this point, I would merely settle for cleaning assistance from the small humans who also reside in this household. I wonder if I wore a ball gown, tiara and pranced around the living room, would it inspire them to pick up a broom or even a mop?

If nothing else it would hopefully motivate all these cantankerous critters to go find Princess Giselle.

Bio: Cheryl Maguire holds a Master of Counseling Psychology degree. She is married and is the mother of twins and a daughter.

5 reasons why your child should (and can) learn how to play chess

By Jon Sieber, co-founder,
Story Time Chess

Chess is one of the oldest and most popular games in history, with early forms of the game dating back to the 6th century CE. The game has certainly seen a revival since the pandemic began, as people around the globe have dusted off their chess boards and even binged one of the most-watched series ever inspired by the masterful game for much-needed entertainment.

Chess is also one of the most beneficial games you can teach a child, fostering critical developmental skills and instilling important life-long lessons. If you've been thinking about getting in on the craze and introducing chess to your child (or even learning how to play together) here are five reasons why you should totally do it:

1. Chess exercises both sides of the brain. In a game of chess, the left analytical side of the brain looks for the next logical move, while the right creative side seeks out patterns

and new possibilities. The game boosts both intelligence and creativity.

2. Chess gives kids an edge in the classroom. Playing chess is known to increase IQ, promote critical thinking, and teach core math and verbal skills. It also helps kids retain information, improve test scores, solve problems, remain calm under pressure, and perform well in school.

3. Chess helps kids speak the same language. The chess board is 64 squares of safe space that brings together kids of all backgrounds, interests, and languages. It's a common ground and even playing field. Through chess, kids also learn to explore the thoughts of the person sitting across from them, which helps develop important social skills and emotional intelligence.

4. Chess teaches sportsmanship. Win or lose, kids will learn it's fun to play the game of chess with a friend. In the game, they'll grow to understand the consequences of a bad move and how to embrace failure.



Photo credit: Story Time Chess

But, at the end of every game, they always give a "good game" handshake. This teaches kids how to lose with dignity and win with humility.

5. Chess is the ultimate executive coach. Grit is a powerful driving force and predictor of success in the business world, and an important trait kids can learn by playing chess. The game teaches kids patience as they work through different scenarios, learn to plan, course correct and wait to see how things play out, in-

stead of being tempted by easy, more immediately gratifying moves.

Plus, learning chess is more accessible and approachable than ever before. There are after-school programs, private tutors, online classes and now an innovative board game that uses proven silly, story-based curriculum to introduce chess to kids as young as three years old. "Story Time Chess: The Game" is available at storytimechess.com and on Amazon for \$39.99.

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Ideas for a great trip to Niagara Falls

By Kim Miller
Today's Family Publisher

My husband and I recently did a two-night trip to Niagara Falls, Canada. In talking with family and friends before and after our excursion, we were surprised to find out many have never been there. This was our fourth time and the experience is always incredibly fun. So for anybody who has never been, here are some tips from two Niagara "experts."

First, you need to decide which side to stay on – American or Canadian.

The American side features beautiful Goat Island, where you can explore the Falls, enjoy a relaxing picnic, and still have access to two popular tourist attractions -- the Cave of the Winds and Maid of the Mist.

For this visit, we stayed on the Canadian side. There are many more attractions available there and the views of the Falls from the street level, hotel rooms and many dining establishments are spectacular. Remember to bring your passports!

Before crossing the bridge to our hotel, we were sure to take in the experience of the Cave of the Winds on the American side. You ride an elevator 175 feet deep into the Niagara Gorge. Then, clad in a bright yellow poncho you travel over wooden walkways to the famous "Hurricane Deck." As you stand at the railing, you are a mere 20 feet from the billowing torrents of the Bridal Veil Falls. Be sure to wear proper footwear and prepared to get very wet unless you clench your poncho tightly around your head. Even then you WILL get wet. Just be sure to have a towel in the car before heading to your next destination!

We stayed at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Niagara Falls Fallsview Hotel which has 42 floors that tower above Niagara Falls with an unobstructed view of both the American and Canadian Horseshoe Falls. Spacious two-room suites with kitchenettes and separate living areas provide all the conveniences of home and all the indulgence of a first-class vacation. Enjoy the nightly illumination of the Falls from the comfort of your own private suite. Free breakfast is included!

The Falls Incline Railway is near the base of the hotel and allows easy access to and from the Table Rock Centre which features shops, restaurants and access to the Horseshoe Falls.

Table Rock Centre is where the popular Journey Behind the Falls attraction is located. This consists of an observation platform and series of tunnels near the bottom of the Horseshoe Falls that allow visitors to view water cascading in front of open cave entrances. The tunnels and platform can be reached by elevators from the street level entrance. The tour is unguided.

Perhaps the most iconic feature, and our personal favorite, is the Voyage to the Falls boat tour run by Niagara City Cruises. (On the American side this is known as the Maid of the Mist.)

This is a 20-minute tour that takes you near the

base of the Horseshoe Falls and provides great views of the gorge, Bridal Veil Falls and the American Falls. Don't get caught in the hoopla of getting a spot on the open-aired upper deck. The front lower deck actually provides the best view and exhilarating experience of water splashing on you. Recyclable ponchos are provided but the force of wind and water will get you fairly wet.

Another great attraction is the Whirlpool Aero Car. The antique cable car is suspended from six sturdy cables and offers a wonderful view of the Niagara Whirlpool which is formed at the end of the rapids where the gorge turns abruptly counterclockwise and the river escapes through the narrowest channel in the gorge.

If you are looking for even more spectacular views, consider a glass elevator ride to the observation deck of the Skylon Tower. This is the highest point from which to view the falls, is open-aired (windy, but enclosed by fencing) and gives you a 360 degree view of the entire area.

No visit would be complete without a trip to Clifton Hill aka the "Street of Fun." They have it all—fun shops, wax museums, mini golf, souvenir outlets, fudge shops, burgers, themed restaurants, hotels, nightlife, Niagara Skywheel, Niagara speedway (go-karts) and much more. This is an especially great spot to visit if you are bringing children.

If walking long distances is not an option, the WEGO hop-on, hop-off visitor transportation system connects all Niagara Parks locations to your hotel as well as other Niagara Falls tourism areas. We used it frequently and highly recommend it.

Other features to consider on the Canadian side include Niagara's Fury, Zip Line to the Falls, Butterfly Conservatory, and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

And before heading back to then USA over the Rainbow Bridge, stop by Niagara Duty Free where you can save up to 50% on brand name products including liquor, wine, beer, tobacco products, fragrances, jewelry, imported chocolates, gifts, souvenirs and more.

Niagara Falls is more than "just looking at water go over a cliff" as my sister once said. (And for the record she has never been.) It is a fully immersive experience that will take your breath away at the power of nature and the innovation of man. Bon voyage!

Below are some links to get you started. Feel free to send me an email if you have questions about the attractions featured in the article. I would be happy to share whatever info I can. Email: kim@todaysfamilymagazine.com.

Cave of the Winds: <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/46>

Canadian side info:

<https://www.niagarafallstourism.com>

Embassy Suites: embassysuitesniagara.com

Journey Behind the Falls: <https://niagaraparks.com>

Whirlpool Aero Car: www.niagarafallstourism.com

Voyage to the Falls: www.cityexperiences.com

Clifton Hill: www.cliftonhill.com

Skylon Tower: www.skylon.com

Niagara Duty Free: www.niagaradutyfree.com



The Embassy Suites Hotel and Falls Incline Railway



Voyage to the Falls



Whirlpool Aero Car



Our view from the Skylon Tower

All photos by Kim Miller

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Getting rid of stuff, not memories

By Stacy Turner

When school let out for summer, my elder daughter's attention was fixed on updating her bedroom. Now that she's nearly a full-sized human, she's informed us that a twin-sized trundle bed is no longer acceptable. And I grudgingly agree. Now, her longer limbs mean the once more-than-ample trundle has probably reached the end of its usefulness for her. And the paint colors on the walls are less than ideal for her more mature palette. It's time for this admittedly overly sentimental momma to say goodbye to the room that hosted gaggles of giggling girls for parties and sleepovers as well as games of hide and seek. And that special embroidered butterfly quilt from Grandma that perfectly matched the butterflies and vines of her now unwanted bed need to find a new home, too.

She began the process of sorting her things, setting aside the few that still made the cut, and created a small pile to give away and another pile to offer for sale. That special toy she had to have sits alongside the perfect dress we scoured the stores to find. Both were offered up for sale. It was hard to watch, so I took a deep breath before leaving the room to let her finish sorting. She and her dad agreed that any proceeds from this sale of childhood artifacts will be added to her bedroom



makeover fund. With that in mind, she then scoured the house for other items from her youth. Stumbling upon the child-sized wooden table and matching wooden chairs hidden away in a spare room, she added them to the clearance event, too.

Realistically, I know there's no good reason to keep all these items. I'm just having difficulty separating the items from the sweet memories they're intertwined with. If I look closely at the low wooden table and small green chairs, I can picture two small princesses, each with shiny plastic crowns. They clink tiny cups of lemonade together, pinkies outstretched, toasting at one of their regularly scheduled tea parties. The high-end

table and chairs were a generous gift from Grandma and their now-departed Pop Pop. Both were pleased to accept invitations to tea on more than one occasion, to the delight of the girls. I know those days are over and the set has been gathering dust. That must be what's making my eyes water. It's hard for an overly sentimental momma to peel away the fond memories from the items making their way to the sale pile.

"What should it cost?" my daughter asked, as she typed in a description and uploaded photos to sell the items online. Lost in thought for a moment, I wondered how we could possibly put a price tag on all those sweet memories. She answered her own question, interrupting my thoughts, "How about \$85 for the table and chairs?"

I'm slowly coming to terms with the fact that while those items that had been perfect and exactly what she needed, over time as she's grown, they've become outdated and simply no longer fit. So even if lately it feels like I'm stuck in an obnoxious "everything must go" ad, I take comfort in knowing I can hold on tightly to the sweet memories, even while the remnants of her childhood go to the highest bidder. I'm letting go of what was to make room for what will be. And I can't wait to see what will blossom in this new space she's creating.

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Waterloo Arts Fest is September 9, 2023



The Waterloo Arts Fest is Collinwood's annual summer arts bash with tons of local music, art vendors and a multitude of engaging activities for people of all ages to enjoy. From noon to 7 pm on Saturday, September 9, the Waterloo Arts District will come alive with seven stages of local music, maker booths and food vendors up and down Waterloo Road, fine art exhibits in district galleries, and lots of hands-on creative activities for families to explore.

If you are curious about the lakeside community of Collinwood, the Waterloo Arts Fest is a great time to stop in and get to know what the neighborhood has to offer. The festival spans the full length of the District on Waterloo Road from E.161 Street to Calcutta Ave. with shops, galleries and eateries open throughout. Street performers and pop-up art workshops will keep you and the little ones entertained as you wander along.

With seven outdoor stages, you are never far from one of the 40 local bands playing the fest. For the past 20 years, Waterloo Arts has been committed to including a diverse range of musical genres in the event which attracts a great mix of visitors to this annual community celebration.

The activities are "open ended" and designed to allow kids (and adults!) the pleasure of creative exploration. Whether they try weaving on a loom at Praxis Fiber Workshop, making a flag with the Remember Love Recovery Project, building a fort with giant colorful blocks, printing with Zygote Press, watching a blacksmith demonstration, painting murals with DayGlo colors, or any of the other many interactive art experiences, it will be hard to tear them away so arrive early and plan on staying a full-day! For updates, schedules and more information, visit waterlooarts.org or call 216-702-3109.



Nate: Why was school easier for cave people?

Kate: Why?

Nate: Because there was no history to study!

Luke: Why did the M&M go to school?

Stan: I'm stumped.

Luke: Because he really wanted to be a Smartie!

Teacher: Class, we will have only half a day of school this morning.

Class: Hooray!

Teacher: We will have the other half this afternoon.

Stevie: Hey, Mom, I got a hundred in school today!

Mom: That's great. What in?

Stevie: A 40 in reading and a 60 in spelling.

Mom: What did you do at school today?

Mark: We did a guessing game.

Mom: But I thought you were having a math exam.

Mark: That's right!



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Before the kids go back to the classroom this fall, head to your local Goodwill store

Amazing finds!

Whether your kiddo is heading off to Kindergarten or on to college, Goodwill carries a variety of new and donated goods including jeans, uniforms, backpacks, shoes and electronics to start the school year out on the right foot. New items are continuously being stocked on the sales floor for a never-ending supply of great finds at affordable prices!

With so many local stores to shop and a steady stream of new donations coming into those stores, Goodwill will never give you that “all-the-good-stuff-is-gone” panic attack you might have when shopping at big-box stores as the start of school quickly approaches.

Don't forget to look for some of our top back-to-school items, many of which you might not realize you can find at Goodwill:

- Adult shirts that can be repurposed as paint smocks for a preschooler's classroom.
- Plastic crates, bins, and baskets that can be used to store school supplies.
- Wall décor, lamps, and seasonal decor for a college dorm room or new apartment.
- Instruments like guitars, horns, or metro-nomes for the budding music student.
- Calculators and flash cards for the math stu-



dent.

- Bedding like sheets, blankets, and towels for the college student.
- Bicycles and helmets for riding to and from school.
- Backpacks and lunch boxes along with thermal and plastic drink bottles for students who enjoy a homemade lunch.
- Educational games, toys, books, globes, and maps.
- Jewelry, clothing, and accessories for all those classroom themed parties.

Budget friendly!

At Goodwill stores you can find gently used, and new-with-tags, clothing, shoes, accessories

and more at prices that are typically 50-90% less than large retailers. Whether you are on a budget, just love a good deal, frugal, or saving money for a special reason shopping at Goodwill stores help teach those money-saving lessons to your children. Don't miss an opportunity to save even more August 4-6 during Ohio's tax-free weekend.

Thrift shopping at Goodwill stores also means you are giving second life to clothing and other items by reducing waste and keeping them out of landfills. Shopping in a thrift store like Goodwill is a valuable teaching moment, giving you a chance to demonstrate to your children the value of being financially, environmentally, and socially conscious.

Community strengthening!

Did you know that by shopping at Goodwill you help support programs like job training, hot meal programs, parenting classes, support of families in crisis and much more? Every year, your local Goodwill supports thousands of individuals in your community with programming that gives them a hand-up in life, not just a hand-out.

“It may not be foremost in your mind, but you're helping the people in your community when you shop at Goodwill,” explained Maureen Ater, vice



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BACK TO SCHOOL

president of marketing and development. "Whether it's dorm essentials you need or shoes for gym class, Goodwill is a great option for families who are looking to save. And all purchases support a network of programs that help thousands in our community."

Before you restock your kids' wardrobes with clothing and accessories at Goodwill, take a moment to go through their closet and clear out any items they do not wear or need anymore. Any clothing that does not fit anymore can be donated to Goodwill, along with shoes, accessories, books, furniture, and other household goods! Keep a bag or box in the corner of your kids' rooms designated for Goodwill donations. Then, before your next shopping trip, drop off your donations to Goodwill. You'll keep your home organized and up-to-date while doing good for your community!

Locally, Goodwill Industries has several convenient locations for both donating and shopping. Log onto GoodwillGoodSkills.org for a location near you.

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University Heights
Cedar Center South
Shopping Center
13908 Cedar Road
216-306-2661

**Landerwood Plaza
Donation Center**
30850 Pinetree Road
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Homework Help

15 ways to support your child

By Janeen Lewis

Let's be honest – sometimes parents dread homework as much as their kids do. But homework connects parents to what their children are learning in school, and research shows that children are more likely to be successful in school when their families support them. By following these tips, even the most homework-challenged parents can help their children have a successful homework year.

1. Understand the reason for homework

Homework reinforces what is being taught in the classroom and teaches students important life skills – responsibility, time management and task completion. Children should be able to complete the work with little help from parents, and they shouldn't come home with an entirely new concept to learn. Homework should be practice or an extension of what they've already learned.

2. Know the teacher's philosophy

Teachers have different philosophies about how much homework to assign. Some think piling on a ton of homework helps build character. Others think children have done enough work during the day and don't assign any. Understand where your child's teacher falls on the homework spectrum so you are not surprised as the homework does (or doesn't) come home. If you are unsure what a reasonable amount of homework is, The National Education Association and The National Parent Teacher Association recommend 10-20 minutes of homework per night in the first grade, and an additional 10 minutes per grade after that.

3. Learn what the homework rules are

At open house learn the homework policy of the school and your child's teacher. What are the consequences for lost or forgotten homework? Don't be quick to bail your child out every time you get a



frantic text message about forgotten homework. One of the purposes of homework is to teach responsibility.

4. Get organized

Your child should have a backpack and homework folder to carry assignments between home and school. Teachers of primary students usually send homework correspondence each night. If your older child's teacher doesn't require students to record school work in an assignment book, provide one yourself and teach your child how to fill it out.

5. Schedule a consistent time

With sports, service projects, religious and community activities, it can be hard to schedule one set time every day to do homework. Aim for as much consistency as possible when scheduling homework around after-school activities.

6. Designate a study space

Pick a homework space free from distractions. However, consider your child's personality and ability to focus when selecting a homework station. Some children concentrate best in complete quiet at the kitchen table or a desk. Others study well on their bed with background music. And reading areas can be creative like a reading tent or comfy bean bag. Make study areas free from vid-

eo games, television and the games of other siblings who finish homework early.

7. Create a supply caddy

Fill a plastic caddy or bin organizer with items your child might need for homework. Some good supplies are pencils, markers, crayons, glue, tape, stapler, three-hole punch, paper clips, notebook paper, small wipe-off board with dry erase markers, art paper, graph paper, calculator, protractor, compass, ruler and a dictionary/thesaurus combo. Also provide a wipe-off calendar for important due dates.

8. Be available, but don't do the work

Helping your child with homework is a great way to connect with them, but don't spoon feed answers. The whole point of homework is for children to practice skills independently.

9. Use a timer if necessary

Sometimes children like to procrastinate. Some children like the challenge of beating the clock. Either way, a timer keeps a child focused on the finish line.

10. Keep a resource bookshelf

Can't remember what a gerund is? Are you a little rusty on what the terms perpendicular and parallel

mean? Keep an assortment of reference books or save online references to your favorites list on your computer. A good math dictionary for parents of elementary students is "Math Dictionary: Homework Help for Families" by Judith de Klerk. Another great resource is the "Everything You Need to Know About Homework Series Set" by Anne Zeman and Kate Kelly.

11. Create a phone/email chain

How many times has your child left their spelling words at school or forgotten a lesson? Help your child make a list of friends they can call, text or email, or get to know other parents in your child's class so you can have a chain to get answers about assignments.

12. Model learning as a priority

Let your child see you reading the newspaper or books. Discuss current events, politics or the new art or history museum you want to visit. Find exciting tidbits in their homework lessons and research them. Show by example that learning is fun.

13. Encourage

No matter how tired you are, have a positive attitude about the work your child is doing. Encourage their efforts and let them know you are proud of them.

14. Reward

Homework rewards don't have to be elaborate, although you may want to up the ante for a struggling child or one who is hard to motivate. A reward can be something as simple as a fun activity when they finish. But you can also keep a homework incentive chart and let your child earn a special activity with mom or dad, some extra screen time or a dinner out.

15. Don't be afraid to speak up

If you think too much homework is coming home, that your child isn't familiar with the material or that they are struggling, don't be too intimidated to schedule a conference with your child's teacher. Most teachers welcome feedback and want to help your child succeed.

How to Survive the Elementary School Years

8 parenting tips for ages 6 to 10

By Kimberly Blaker

You survived potty training and the terrible twos; you've reclaimed your bed, and your child is now somewhat self-sufficient. Life ought to be smooth sailing from here on, right? Perhaps. That is if you don't take into account the elementary school-age battles that lie just ahead. But don't sweat it. The following tips will help you ride out this adventuresome yet trying stage.

Tattletales. Does your child tattlet every time a sibling or playmate breaks a rule? Kids tattlet for many reasons. Sometimes they don't understand the difference between tattling and telling about something important. Other times, kids are looking to get another into trouble.

So explain the difference between tattling and telling. Tattling is when someone breaks a rule (or when there is no rule), and breaking the rule is relatively harmless. Telling, on the other hand, is when another child does something that could cause harm to oneself or others. Make a rule that you don't want to hear any tattling, but that telling is okay and even necessary.

Lying. Every child tells a lie at some point or another. Even most adults are guilty of occasional white lies. Still, teaching kids to be honest is vital to developing into trustworthy adults and their ability to form intimate relationships.

Talk to your child about how lying diminishes yours and others' ability to trust your child. Explain how it can impact your child's relationships. Then, if you catch your kid in a lie, explain how his or her future freedom and privileges are dependent on how well you can trust your child.

Also, to build your kid's trust in you, practice being open and non-judgmental. This will go a long way toward your child's openness with you.

Media overload. With the overwhelming variety of media available to kids, it's hard to know where to draw the line. But the American

Academy of Pediatrics, recommends kids be limited to no more than two hours of entertainment-based screen time per day.

To gain cooperation, invite your child to help you establish media use rules. List the various forms of media used by your child, including TV, video games, computer, and cell phone. Establish a total number of hours per day your child can use media. Then ask them to help you break down how much of that time can be spent on specific forms. Also, discuss the measures you'll take if rules are violated.

Chore wars. As your child grows, so should his or her responsibilities. In the elementary years, kids can pick up their rooms, set and clear off the table, sort their laundry, fold laundry, put away their clean clothes, bring in the mail, rake leaves, and dust, among other simple tasks.

So have your child choose a small number of simple chores. As your kid grows, increase the amount or level of difficulty. To gain cooperation, set a regular schedule for each task, and offer daily or weekly rewards or an allowance.

Homework hassles. This is a routine challenge for many parents. So hold a meeting with your child to discuss homework. Explain that you're going to set some rules. Then give your kid a couple of choices to increase cooperation. One option might be 30 minutes of free time or media time after school before having to begin homework. Another option could be to do chores and free time right after school. Then homework will start immediately following dinner. But avoid saving homework until late in the evening.

Also, find a distraction-free location in your home that is always for homework. Then require your kids to put their phones on the charger, away from the area when doing homework.

Name-calling and teasing. Sometimes when kids call each other names, they're just playing. If they're going back and forth at each other, both laughing and having a good



time, it probably isn't a big deal. As long as it's play, balanced, and no one's feelings are getting hurt, you can let it go.

But if it's one-sided, mean-spirited, or the child on the receiving end seems angry, upset, scared, or hurt by it, it's usually best to intervene. First, try to empower the teased child, and encourage him or her to tell the other to stop. If necessary, take a more direct approach, and make clear to the child doing the teasing how hurtful the behavior is and that it isn't acceptable.

The birds and the bees. The question of where babies come from, and discussions of puberty can leave even the most open-minded parents fumbling. So, prepare in advance for the inevitable discussions so you can answer questions in the best way possible and without showing discomfort. Your comfort is essential to making your kid feel comfortable and will lead to more openness from your child as he or she matures.

To get started, during the early elementary years, read *Where Did I Come From?* or another age-appropriate book to your child. This takes

the guesswork out of what to say and how to say it.

In the later elementary years, discuss puberty and sex more completely. Many kids reach puberty by the age of 10. So make sure your preteen is fully prepared for the changes that'll take place. By late elementary, some kids are already talking about it amongst each other and are full of misinformation. So having this discussion is crucial to ensure your child is accurately informed about sex.

Defiance. As kids grow, they become more independent – and with independence comes defiance. To deal with defiance, lay out the rules ahead of time, so you and your kids know the consequences.

When your child is defiant, remember the following. Consistency is crucial to being effective. Also, don't argue. If your child tries to debate you after you've already stated the issue and laid down the consequence, calmly say you've already made up your mind, and you're done discussing it. Then leave the room, so you're not tempted to argue or give in to badgering.

Helping Students Succeed

Huntington Learning Center

By Stacy Turner

"It is our mission to help students succeed," shared Kim Walter, the executive director at Huntington Learning Center in Mayfield Heights and Mentor. "With the help of our tutors, students can strengthen academic skills, master new concepts, prepare for standardized exams, and build crucial study habits for academic success." Huntington Learning Center was the first supportive education facility in the US and has been serving this niche for 45 years. "We get great results," Walter explained, "because our tutoring is tailored specifically to your student's academic needs."

The process begins with an initial evaluation that includes a number of multi-disciplinary assessments that identify where and why your child is struggling. The evaluation results are used to craft a personalized learning plan for your student, along with the total number of hours estimated for success. The one-time cost of the evaluation is \$195.

There's no set recommendation for the number of tutoring sessions per week, as the learning plan depends on the individual student's abilities. "As an example, for a student who currently has a B

in chemistry and wants to improve the grade to an A, an hour of tutoring per week may suffice." Walter continued, "For a student several grade levels behind, more time will be needed to see improvement. Each student is unique and special to us."

Tutors at Huntington Learning Center are unique as well. Each has at least a bachelor's degree, and many are experienced classroom teachers. "We even have college professors in subjects like finance and physics," Walter noted, "and a chemistry and higher math tutor who works as a chemist." Tutoring services range from \$57 to \$83 per hour depending on the student's age and subject area covered. "Financing opportunities are available—we want to provide every family with the support they need," Walter explained.

"We value our relationships with families," Walter continued. "We meet regularly to keep them apprised of progress. We want to be good stewards of their investment throughout the process." With parent permission, Huntington staff will discuss your child's academic needs and progress with his or her teachers, school personnel, and other professionals as needed.

When prepping for the SAT or ACT standard-



ized tests, Huntington's students have earned "astounding results," according to Walter, "which can help with college selection and scholarship opportunities." Huntington students saw an average increase of 248 points and 5.9 points, respectively. Huntington also provides assistance in preparing for high school entrance exams and advance placement tests.

"There are lots of ways for families to spend their time and resources, but education is invaluable, and always a good investment of time and money," said Walter.

Call Huntington Learning Center's Mentor location at 440-205-8283 or visit huntingtonhelps.com/center/mentor. Call the Mayfield Heights location at 440-683-1784 or visit: huntingtonhelps.com/center/mayfield-heights-oh.

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10 Ways to Prepare Your Child (and YOU) for High School

By Rebecca Hastings

I walked into the huge doors of the high school, overwhelmed by emotion. It was all mixed up – joy, excitement, fear, pride, worry, disbelief. My daughter was oblivious to it all. As she walked beside me she had her own feelings, but she hid hers beneath a cool smile, chatting with her best friends.

We were walking into her high school orientation. This was her first glimpse at the next four years of her life. It was my first glimpse of how fast time had truly gone.

There are big transitions we face with our kids when they're little. First steps, potty training, the first day of kindergarten. So many milestones in such a short time. As they get older the milestones are harder to see.

There's driving and first dates and graduation. All of them monumental in their own right. If we rush or blink too much we might miss some of the other things: middle school, first dance, first A, first F. They're all part of a lifetime of steps on the way to adulthood.

My oldest starts high school in the fall. And this feels like a big deal. Even in middle school, I was able to reason through how she's still a kid and life might be going fast but we're in the middle.

High school feels so much bigger, older, and more like getting ready for goodbye. This shift feels complex for both of us. We are doing our best to feel ready. But not by looking at grades and course selection.

Here are 10 things that will help you both prepare for the transition to high school.

Start getting ready now

If you have a toddler you don't need to start buying her a high school backpack or prom dress, but you do need to start thinking about the trajectory of your child's life.

So often we are busy trying to survive the day or get through the stage they're in, but knowing they will get through it and move on is helpful.

Still, we need to think for a moment about high school. What are you hoping your son or daughter will know before she goes? What do you want her time to look like? How many activities will he do?

How will you preserve family time as she's embarking on more independence?

Even in elementary school, we thought about how our time would look as a family. We decided our kids could do one activity at a time. When my oldest was in second grade she wanted to try dance. She knew that meant she had to stop gymnastics to try it. This helped her understand the value of time, and it helped us keep our family priorities in check.

We don't need to plan their courses for high school the day they enter kindergarten, but our decisions can help set the whole family up for success as they grow.

These things are not meant to scare you, but to remind all of us that they will grow and we can prepare for that.

Think about your school experiences. Picture it all. Did you have a locker? Did you fall in love? What class was insanely hard? Walk down memory lane. Seriously. Now file it in the back corner of your brain.

Your teen doesn't want to hear story after story of your experience. Even your elementary school children will tell you to keep your stories to yourself. He's living his own life. Your experience will never be his experience. He's breaking free and you, his parent, could never understand what he's facing.

At least that's what he thinks.

You don't need to completely discard your experience. But only share pieces when it seems right and wanted. One or two short stories from your experience will go a lot farther than talking about your experience so much your child tunes you out.

Find someone they can relate to

Maybe it's a cousin or an older sibling. Maybe a family friend that's a few years older than they are. Find people you trust to speak wisdom into your child's life.

Ideally, they are no more than 10 years older than your child. This is the perfect window for your child to look up to them and still listen to them. Beyond that, they're just old (at least to a 14-year-old.)

My daughter has an aunt in her early twenties. Her aunt and I could say the same thing to her, but

it would mean more coming from her aunt because she relates to her differently.

Start building that relationship now, while they are young. Start bringing people into their lives for them to look up to. Paving those paths of communication now will pay off when those hard-to-discuss issues come into their lives.

You'll both be grateful to have these trusted voices in his life as he walks through these years.

Give them responsibility

This is the perfect time for kids to try new things and become responsible. High school years are the final practice for adulthood.

Learning responsibility begins right now – at whatever age they are. According to Jessica Lahey in her book, *The Gift of Failure*, "children are starved for responsibility."

Right now, your 3-year-old can help to bring the silverware to the table and lay the napkins on the table. Your 6-year-old can be taught how to wash towels. Your 12-year-old can run into the store for you and pick up a gallon of milk and some bread.

"Kids flourish when they are given responsibility," Lahey goes on to say. Encouraging them to take more responsibility is healthy and gives them a chance to make mistakes while you're there to help them through.

Having opportunities for things to feel hard or to fail or to work through a problem with a friend are all essential life skills. And right now, you get to be their backup.

If they fail, they will learn. And Jessica Lahey reminds us that failure is one of the greatest teachers kids could have.

But let them be kids

While we do want our children to be responsible, the goal isn't to make them act like they're 40.

My son asked for Legos for Christmas last year. He's 12 and I hesitated because I wasn't sure he'd use them. And if he did, it wouldn't be for long. I knew his Lego days were numbered. As I thought about it, I chose to buy the Legos. Why? As long as my son wants to play, I want to encourage him to do that.

Does your teen still love collecting Legos? Keep

giving them birthday presents. I know, they won't play with them like they used to, but if they want to hold onto their childhood for a little longer, let them.

Does she still want to snuggle up and watch a movie with you? Say yes every chance you get.

Just a few more blinks and they'll be moving out to live at college or on their own. Make the most of these years while they're still kids.

The best way is to lead by example. Be silly. Sing really loud in the car, have a water balloon fight, and challenge them to a game of HORSE at the basketball hoop. They may roll their eyes, but that little kid inside will secretly love it.

Think about time

This is one of the hardest things for teens to navigate, mostly because they don't even know it's happening. Time management is a skill they will need for their whole life.

Scholastic has a great guide that takes you through teaching your kid about time management. You can start just by talking to your 3-year-old about how time works. Talk about the changing of the seasons or create a picture schedule to help them work out what happens in a day.

When they reach grade school you can teach them how to read a clock and give them set time amounts for things like eating breakfast or doing homework. As they get older you can help them work through setting homework priorities or plan-



ning out a big project.

In high school, talk about courses available and which ones make the most sense time-wise. Would a study hall be helpful during the semester they're taking that Honors course? Maybe having a break for an art class will help him focus when he's in Biology. Help them think about their school day beyond cramming in all the classes they can.

After school time is even more important to think about. It's tempting in high school to do all the things. Sports? Yes! Clubs? You bet! Driver's ed? Absolutely. A job? Of course! With so many opportunities it's hard to know how the puzzle pieces will all fit.

Talk about their time. Help them plan time for homework and activities and family. But also make sure they understand the value of free time.

Again, the best way to do that is to model the behavior. Take breaks and have space in your day that are good and healthy.

Lighten up

It feels like everything is higher stakes once you hit middle school. And when they hit high school? Boom! We hit another level. Suddenly, it's all about getting into college. And there is merit in that. But it's a lot of pressure.

Find ways to navigate when your child needs to be pushed and when to back off. And start now, before they are in middle school. Back off on sports. Lighten up around grades. Be a gentle supporter around homework.

In all likelihood, the school is doing quite a bit of pushing. While we need to help our kids be responsible, we also need to give them opportunities to relax.

We can be the soft place to land when the world is pushing them on to succeed and do great things.

We can show our kids to be serious and focused while maintaining opportunities to lighten up.

Foster relationships

Middle school and high school can be a wild ride when it comes to friendships. There is no shortage of hormone-induced drama during these years. Finding ways to encourage solid, healthy friendships can be a lifeline for your child.

Make opportunities to have kids over. Start as

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soon as they start to make connections in pre-school or elementary school. Make your home a safe space to have fun with peers.

As they get older, take time to talk with your child about his or her friends. Remember this is not a time to try to dig up problems. Rather, these conversations offer opportunities for your child to talk with you. Special time is a perfect tool to use for creating space for your child to confide in you.

Laying this foundation is essential when he or she encounters a problem. Your child will feel more comfortable talking with you, allowing you to help him.

Spend time together

Making time to be together is something that you will appreciate, as your child is getting older. But your child will appreciate it as well. Your availability is key to her feeling secure as she faces these transitions.

Remember, she may appear to be independent and capable of conquering the world, but she still needs your presence, support, and advice.

This can and should be enjoyable for both of you. From reading the same book to letting them plan a day for the two of you, there are a variety of ways to make this fun. Find what works for you and your teen.

I like to have dates with my kids. I take one of them out for lunch at their favorite restaurant or we go to the museum or the park of their choice.

It doesn't have to be an elaborate and expensive affair. Just something that tells them they are special.

What's next?

There may be moments for your teen (and for you) that feel overwhelming. It's easy to look at high school as one giant thing you both have to face. When either of you feels overwhelmed the best place to start is with what's next.

When my daughter made her freshman schedule, she struggled to decide whether to keep taking band. She felt pressured to stick with it but also wanted space to try new things. Instead of thinking about band for four years, we talked about whether she wanted to do it for the first semester.

So often we lump high school together as one unit. Looking at the pieces, the years, the semesters, we can break things down and focus on the decision right in front of us instead of a four-year decision.

We don't need to figure out what they're going to do for a senior project the first day they walk through the door their freshman year. Just look at the next thing and face that together.

Two-minute action plan

Think about the stage your child is in. Look at all the pieces of where he or she is right now and begin to think about the trajectory toward high school. Don't use this as a planning time, rather, use this as a time to consider the stages to come

and the challenges and joys you will face together.

What is one responsibility you can give them today?

Look at your daily schedule. When can you fit in some special time? When can you take them out on a date?

Ongoing action plan

How are they doing on time management? What can you do to help them become more conscious about time? How can you help them determine their priorities?

How are you balancing the goal of giving them responsibility while letting them be kids? How can you do better?

Think about your own school experiences. How can you keep yourself from oversharing?

Who is someone in your family or friend circle that your child can relate to? How can you help to build the relationship between them?

Also, give yourself time and space to think about your feelings as your child gets ready for high school. Acknowledge your emotions and thoughts to help you both through this exciting process.



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Dinosaurs of the Sahara exhibit now open at Science Center

Great Lakes Science Center will take guests back to the prehistoric era with Dinosaurs of the Sahara, a whole new dinosaur experience, making its world debut here through September 4, 2023.

Created by Dr. Paul Sereno and the team at the University of Chicago's Fossil Lab, Dinosaurs of the Sahara brings the unique world of African dinosaurs to life with original fossils from the Sahara, one-of-a-kind mounted skeletons and flesh models, and a show-stopping giant 32-foot rearing long-necked Jobaria skeleton!

Guests will get to touch real fossils, including a SuperCroc skull, and relive the excitement and adventure of Dr. Sereno's recent ground-breaking Saharan expeditions with real footage from the field and an interactive dinosaur dig site. Get an up-close look at Africa's greatest predators, including spinosaurs and Africa's T-rex-sized predator, Carcharodontosaurus. Meet some of the most bizarre plant eating dinosaurs imaginable, like Ni-



gersaurus, nicknamed the Mesozoic cow, and see where and how these amazing creatures were discovered.

Look overhead at a pterosaur with a 12-foot wingspan and see mounted skeletons of the prehistoric predators Afrovenator and Suchomimus and skulls of other favorites like Spinosaurus and Rugops.

Since the early '90s, Sereno and his team have excavated more than 100 tons of fossils, bringing to light a menagerie of new species, many of which will be on exhibit.

Dinosaurs of the Sahara is included with general admission.

Visit GreatScience.com to plan your visit.

Create unforgettable family outings

Discover the beauty of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and create lasting memories with your family on an exciting journey along the Cuyahoga River.

A scenic adventure like no other

Immerse yourself in nature's wonders as you travel from picturesque cityscapes to the tranquil beauty of Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Experience the charm of Akron to Peninsula and witness the captivating views along the way.

Step back in time on vintage rail cars

Travel in vintage rail cars, providing a nostalgic touch to your journey. Sit back, relax, and let history come alive as you explore the rich heritage of the valley and learn about its past.

An adventure for everyone

CVSR offers an adventure for everyone. Hike, bike, or run alongside the Erie Canal tow path, hop on the train for lunch and a little shopping, or indulge in outdoor adventures that the whole family will enjoy. Their National Park Scenic excursion



and Explorer program ensures there's never a dull moment during your visit. The train operates five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday, with departures from Akron or Peninsula.

Membership has its privileges

An annual CVSR membership offers families a train load of railroad benefits including early access (at the \$125 and up level) to their signature North Pole Adventure™. This magical ride is a 26-mile excursion from Akron to the enchanting North Pole. Brace yourself for an unforgettable two-hour journey that will leave you spellbound! This magical experience is a holiday favorite, selling out each year.

Visit www.cvsr.org for more info.

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Call **216.838.3675** go to **ChooseCMSD.org** or scan here to enroll!



CALENDAR

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & EVENTS

AUGUST 2023

Twilight at the Zoo

Fri., August 4 • 7 pm–11:55 pm
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland
216-661-6500 ext. 4421
www.ClevelandZooSociety.org
Spotlights local bands playing pop, rock, dance, swing, country and blues. Admission for all partygoers includes cover charge, small bites, complimentary beer, wine and soda. 21 & over.
General admission party: 7 pm–midnight, \$100.

Vintage Ohio

August 4–5 • noon–9 pm
Lake Metroparks Farmpark
8800 Euclid Chardon Rd., Kirtland
440-466-4417
www.visitvintageohio.com
Sample Ohio wines, food, cooking school demonstrations, two stages of live music, artisans, shopping, and spectacular Friday fireworks. One-day samplers are \$37 per person (in advance), non-drinkers and designated driver tickets are \$14, children ages 4–17 are \$4.

Cleveland Puerto Rican Expo

Parade of Arts
Music & Cultural Festival
August 5–6 • noon–10 pm
MetroHealth Main Campus
Medical Center - QUAD PARK
www.puertoricanparade.org
International music artists and groups, local food vendors and artisans, health & wellness screening, more.

Meet the Machines

Sunday, August 6 • noon–4 pm
Legacy Village
25001 Cedar Road, Lyndhurst
216-382-3871
www.legacy-village.com/play
Children can explore construction, emergency and service vehicles of all makes and sizes in a fun, family-friendly environment with games, safety demos, music and vendors. Meet the Machines is free and open to the public.

Cuyahoga County Fair

August 8–13
Tuesday–Friday • noon–11 pm
Saturday • 10 am–11 pm
Sunday • noon–10 pm
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
440-243-0090
www.cuyfair.com

Little Italy

Feast of the Assumption

Sat., August 12 • 5 pm–midnight
Sun., August 13 • noon–11 pm
Mon., August 14 • 6–11 pm
Tue., August 15 • noon–10 pm
12021 Mayfield Road, Cleveland
216-421-2995
www.littleitalyfeast.com

Street festival featuring Italian foods, desserts, live music, shops, vendors, casino, raffle, rides and games. Free admission.

Auburn Art Festival

Friday, August 18 • 5–8 pm
Saturday, August 19 • 11 am–8 pm
Sunday, August 20 • 11 am–4 pm
Reithoffer's Art, Spirits
& Entertainment
17711 Ravenna Road, Chagrin Falls
216-333-8803

Shop and enjoy artisan crafts in an eclectic venue and wide-open outdoor space with food trucks, wine and beer made local and afar, and live music.

Rock The Block

Friday, August 18 • 6–11 pm
Saturday, August 19 • 2–11 pm
St. John Lutheran Church
4386 Mayfield Road, South Euclid
www.serocktheblock.com
Featuring food, live music and more. Visit website for more info. Free admission.

Milk and Honey Weekend

August 19–20 • 9 am–5 pm
Lake Metroparks Farmpark
8800 Euclid Chardon Rd., Kirtland
www.lakemetroparks.com
Learn how milk becomes cheese, butter, or delicious ice cream and watch the production process. Learn about bees and their role in pollination, how honey is harvested, and pollina-

tor-friendly plants, as well as how bees contribute to many products that we use in our daily lives. Demonstrations, garden tours and more. Free with Farmpark admission. \$9 ages 12 through 59; \$8 Ages 60 and older; \$7 ages 2 through 11; children younger than 2 are free.

43rd International Cleveland Kite Festival

Sunday, August 20 • 11 am–5 pm
Edgewater Park
6500 Memorial Shoreway (Rt. 2)
Cleveland
www.osekcleveland.org

Kite fliers from around the country will take to the skies at Edgewater Park. The event, put on by the Ohio Society for the Elevation for Kites, is free and open to the public.

Cleveland Garlic Festival

Sat., August 26 • noon–8 pm
Sun., August 27 • noon–6 pm
Historic Shaker Square, Cleveland
216-751-7656
www.clevelandgarlicfestival.org
Featuring a garlic gourmet alley, live music, kids area with a clown, obstacle course, pedal tractor maze, Ohio craft brew tent, artist gallery and more. \$10 adults; \$5 seniors (65+), \$5 children 4–12 years old. Kids under 4 are free.

77th One World Day Festival

Sun., Aug. 27 • 11 am–6 pm
Cleveland Cultural Gardens
MLK Drive, Cleveland
216-220-3075
www.clevelandoneworldday.org
A parade of flags, naturalization ceremony, beer garden, ethnic food, cultural performances with music and dance, children's village, activities, free admission.

23

Join Us!

Explore crystal caverns, soaring jungles, and relics of Cleveland's post-industrial past at **IngenuityFest 2023: Biologies & Geologies!**
Don't miss music & dance performances, immersive art installations, hands-on experiences, local vendors & more!

Tickets:

- \$10 weekend pass
- Kids 12 and under FREE!

bit.ly/ingenuityfest2023

Learn more:
ingenuitycleveland.org

Get in touch:
info@ingenuitycleveland.org

September 22-24, 2023
5401 Hamilton Ave, Cleveland, OH 44114

Geauga County Fair

August 31–September 4
Exhibits open at 10 am daily
Rides open noon daily
14373 N. Cheshire Street
Burton
440-834-1846
www.geaugafair.com

Exhibits, animals, rides, music, food, games, and shows. Ohio's oldest fair—since 1823. Daily general admission is \$10, children 6 and under are free each day.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Cleveland National Airshow

September 2–4
9 am–4:30 pm
Burke Lakefront Airport, Cleveland
216-781-0747
www.clevelandairshow.com

Featuring the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, USAF F-22 Raptor demo, USMC Harrier demo, U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute, Dronewerx, Aftershock Jet Fire Truck, C-130 Hercules, Metro Life Flight, Aeroshell Aerobatics Team, cockpit photos, Kiddie Koncourse,

Cleveland Aeromodeling Society, Meet a Hero, food vendors and more! Tickets available only in advance. No gate sales. General admission: \$30 for adults (\$35 after 8/28/23), \$20 for children ages 6–11 and FREE for children 5 and younger.

Cleveland Oktoberfest

Sept. 1–4 and Sept. 8–9
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds
www.clevelandoktoberfest.com
Live musical and artistic cultural performances, food, weiner dog races, fireworks (on the 4th), 5K bier run, and more. \$16 for general admission. Parking is free.

Lyndhurst Home Days

Fri., Sept. 8 • 5–9 pm
Sat., Sept. 9 • noon–9 pm
Sun., Sept. 10 • 1–8 pm
Lyndhurst Park (Behind City Hall)
1341 Parkview, Lyndhurst
440-442-5777
www.lyndhurstohio.gov
Filled with activities, rides, music, parade, vendors and lots of food. Free admission.

Fresh Fest Cleveland

Saturday, Sept. 9 • 1–9 pm
Rid-All Farm & Otter Park
8129 Otter Avenue, Cleveland
www.freshfestcleveland.com
Featuring an amazing line-up of music, and a full day of unforgettable performances, art installations, health and wellness activities, farmer's market, chef tastings, local vendors, hands-on activities, workshops, and a kids zone filled with fun for the family!

Waterloo Arts Fest

Saturday, Sept. 9 • noon–7 pm
Waterloo Arts/Entertainment District
15605 Waterloo Road, Cleveland
216-692-9500
www.waterlooarts.org/waf2023
Multiple stages of a great mix of local music, art vendors, food trucks, street performers and unique art activities for visitors of all ages. Attendees can also visit artist studios, galleries, shops, eateries and bars throughout the walkable Waterloo Arts & Entertainment District. Free admission.

Tremont Arts & Cultural Festival

Sat, September 16 • noon–7 pm
Sun., September 17 • noon–5 pm
Lincoln Park
1200 Starkweather Ave., Cleveland
www.experiencetremont.com
Over 100 vendors featuring artists selling their paintings, sculptures, jewelry, etc., live music, dance performances, children's village, and more. Rain or shine. Free admission.

Cleveland Pickle Fest

Sat., September 23 • noon–6 pm
Mall B – 300 St Clair Ave NE
Cleveland
www.clevelandpicklefest.com
With dozens of vendors, food trucks, contests, bands and attractions, and family fun, the Cleveland Pickle Fest is the perfect summer send off with proceeds benefiting Greater Cleveland Volunteers. \$5 general admission ticket (children 12 and under are free).
\$30 VIP ticket – Giveaways, private bar and bathrooms, exclusive pickle beer flavors, and more!



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FROM NOON TO 7PM

20th ANNIVERSARY

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- Placement Tests

CALENDAR

IngenuityFest 2023

Fri., September 22 • 6 pm–1 am
Sat., September 23 • 1 pm–1 am
Sun., September 24 • 1–6 pm
IngenuityLabs @

The Hamilton Collaborative
5401 Hamilton Avenue, Cleveland
www.ingenuitycleveland.com
Theme: *Biologies & Geologies*
Dedicated to a rebirth, and celebration of our singular planet's resources and wonders, this year's Fest will explore how human innovation interacts with communities across earth, air and water. IngenuityFest 2023 is a journey through crystal caverns, aquatic landscapes and more,

at once whimsical and wholly serious in its dedication to environmental stewardship, sustainability and innovation and human invention.

In addition to unique performance spaces, original works, and hundreds of exhibitors, performers and artisans, 2023 will see the return of festival villages Makers Mecca, Wellness Way, Inventors Emporium, Ideation Station and IndusTree Alley. Just \$10 gets you access for the whole weekend! Children under 12 are always free. Tickets can be ordered through the website.



Rube Goldberg Exhibit

The World of Hilarious Invention!

Created by the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh in partnership with the Heirs of Rube Goldberg, Rube Goldberg: The World of Hilarious Invention! Exhibit (on view now through August 27, 2023) showcases Pulitzer Prize winning humorist and inventor Rube Goldberg's iconic contraptions and celebrates his humorous storytelling and inventive cartoons.

Inspired by Rube's original illustrations, the exhibit contains a collection of new 3D, life-size machines and hands-on, interactive components that connect Rube's iconic cartoon contraptions to the way things work in the physical world. These experiences provide insight into the legacy of Rube Goldberg and how classic engineering principles can be reimagined as entry points for deeper exploration of STEAM concepts for 21st century learning.

Visitors can activate and create crazy chain-reaction contraptions that use everyday objects to complete simple tasks in the most overcomplicated, inefficient, and hilarious ways possible! Rube Goldberg machines are many things, but they aren't per-

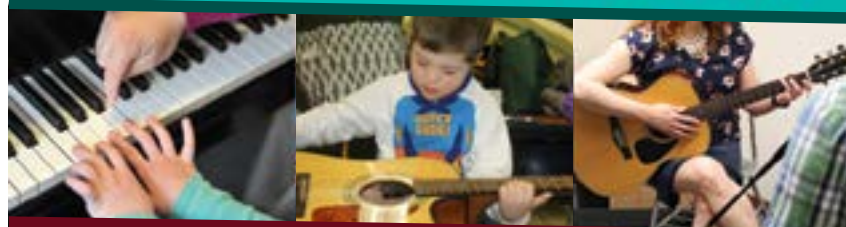
fect. Find the fun in failure, stepping into the role of illustrator, storyteller, and inventor. Exhibition highlights include:

- See a Rube-inspired way to paint a picture in the 3D version of Ed Steckley's "An Epic Way to Paint a Picture.ww"
- Move balls and ramps to trigger chain reaction machines in Wall Machines, then figure out how they work by resetting each part.
- Be inspired by Rube Goldberg's drawing techniques to create your own hilarious cartoon in the Art Studio and then see how it looks at the Revolvometer.
- Pull ropes to start a series of musical chain reactions in the large-scale sound animation Music Machine.
- Step into one of Rube's iconic wearables, "Self-Operating Napkin," for a photo op.

Adults \$12; seniors (ages 60+) and students (ages 12+) \$10; children (ages 5-11) \$5; ages 4 and under and Maltz Museum members are free.

Visit www.maltzmuseum.org for more info and hours.

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**Sunday, September 24, 2023
12:00-4:00 p.m.**

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For Tickets:

<https://clevelandmontessori.org/>

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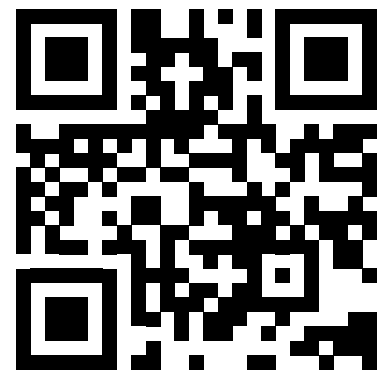
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