

# TODAY'S **family**

August 2023

Lake Geauga

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a foster  
parent**

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Today's Family Publisher

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Humor Essay

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P.O. Box 7316, Eastlake, Ohio 44097

[www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com](http://www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com)  
[info@todaysfamilymagazine.com](mailto:info@todaysfamilymagazine.com)  
440-799-8882

### Publisher/Advertising

Kim Miller

### General Manager/Editor

Dan Miller

### Writers

Deanna Adams  
Ante Logarusic  
Stacy Turner

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# 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 “ooing and ahing” at our new found friend, we must have “ooed” 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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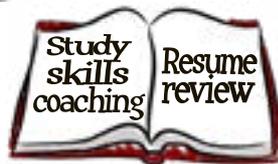
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### 1. Filtration efficiency

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### 2. Fresh air exchange

Incorporating energy recovery ventilators (ERVs) or heat recovery ventilators (HRVs), these systems bring in fresh outdoor air while expelling stale indoor air. This constant air exchange helps dilute pollutants and maintain a fresher indoor environment.

### 3. Proper ventilation

Well-designed HVAC systems ensure proper ventilation, promoting the circulation of fresh air throughout the building. This ventilation process



helps remove indoor air pollutants and replenish the air with clean, oxygen-rich air.

### 4. Air quality monitoring

Advanced HVAC systems include air quality monitoring capabilities, allowing real-time tracking of indoor air quality parameters. By continuously monitoring air quality, the system can detect any issues promptly and trigger appropriate actions to maintain optimal conditions.

### 5. UV lights

Some high-end HVAC systems incorporate UV lights to neutralize airborne pathogens, viruses, and bacteria. This additional layer of disinfection

contributes to improved indoor air quality and promotes a healthier living environment.

### 6. Customized zoning

HVAC systems with zoning capabilities enable customized control of temperature and airflow in different areas of a building. This feature helps maintain consistent air quality and prevents the spread of contaminants between different zones.

High-end HVAC systems in NE Ohio play a vital role in enhancing indoor air quality and promoting healthier living environments. Through advanced filtration, fresh air exchange, proper ventilation, air quality monitoring, UV lights, and customized zoning, these systems ensure cleaner and safer indoor air for residents. Investing in such HVAC systems is essential for maintaining optimal indoor air quality and supporting the well-being of individuals and families throughout NE Ohio.

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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](http://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

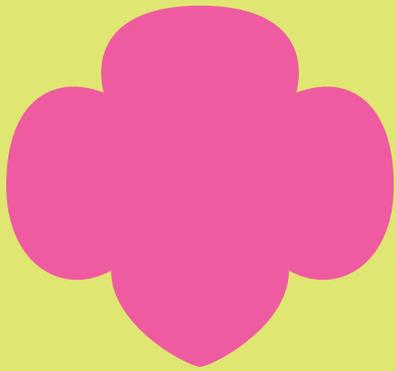
mice probably broke down with tears of joy knowing they would not have to search for food anymore.

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.*



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# Ideas for a great trip to Niagara Falls

By Kim Miller  
Today's Family Publisher

**M**y 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 kitchens 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 is 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](https://embassysuitesniagara.com)

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

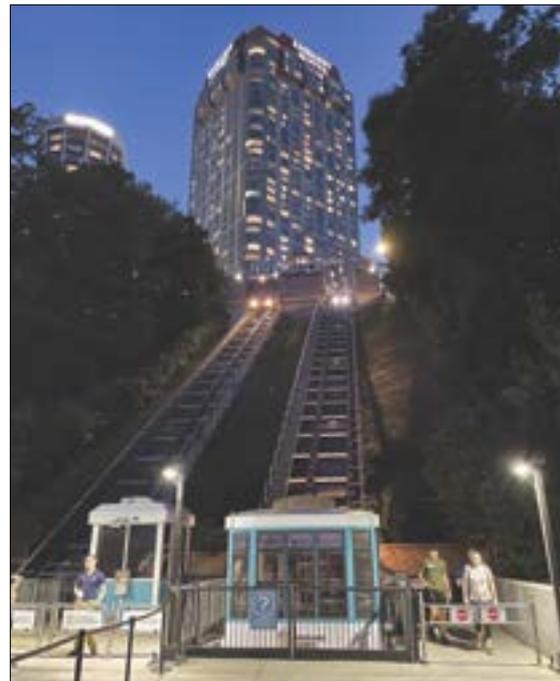
**Whirlpool Aero Car:** [www.niagarafallstourism.com](https://www.niagarafallstourism.com)

**Voyage to the Falls:** [www.cityexperiences.com](https://www.cityexperiences.com)

**Clifton Hill:** [www.Cliftonhill.com](https://www.Cliftonhill.com)

**Skylon Tower:** [www.skylon.com](https://www.skylon.com)

**Niagara Duty Free:** [www.niagaradutyfree.com](https://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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**money  
matters**



*Just For  
Laughs*

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.

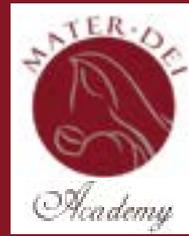
Mom: But I thought you were having a math exam.

Mark: That's right!

If there were no schools to take the children away from home part of the time, the insane asylums would be filled with mothers.

- Edgar W. Howe

My school was so tough the school newspaper had an obituary section. - Norm Crosby



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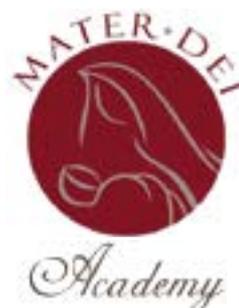
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## The ABCs of thrift shopping!

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 metronomes for the budding music student.
- Calculators and flash cards for the math student.



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](http://GoodwillGoodSkills.org) for a location near you.

### Goodwill Locations

#### Eastlake

33459 Vine Street  
440-942-6910

#### Chardon

425 Water Street  
440-901-0100

#### Painesville

2175 Mentor Avenue  
440-867-2716

#### Mayfield Heights

6605 Mayfield Road  
440-683-1602

#### University Heights

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

#### Landerwood Plaza Donation Center

30850 Pinetree Road  
Pepper Pike



## Dance classes for kids and grown-ups at Rabbit Run

Registration for fall dance classes is now open at Rabbit Run Community Arts Association in Madison. RRCAA is a comprehensive fine arts association offering instruction in the major disciplines of the fine and performing arts.

Dance classes are available for little ones starting at age three in creative movement, preballet and pretap. School-aged youth, whether just starting in dance or with some dance experience, may register for classes in ballet (including pointe), jazz/tap or hip hop.

Also available are modern dance,

and contemporary/lyrical dance. For adults looking to get back into shape adult ballet fitness or adult tap may be just the thing.

Looking to learn basic ballroom steps for an upcoming wedding reception? Ballroom basics is offered for all ages on Saturdays from 5-6 pm.

For specific class information or to register visit [www.rabbitrun.org](http://www.rabbitrun.org) or call RRCAA at 440-428-5913. RRCAA, 49 Park St., Madison, is a nonprofit organization that receives partial funding from the Ohio Arts Council.

## United Way of Lake County raffling off 2023 Nissan Sentra SV

United Way of Lake County (UWLC) is currently hosting a car raffle fundraiser to benefit Lake County children, families, and seniors in need.

The raffle winner will receive their choice of a 2023 Nissan Sentra SV (donated by Mentor Nissan) or \$15,000 cash.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each with quantity discounts available. They can be purchased online through

August 20, 2023, at [uwlc.org/wincar](http://uwlc.org/wincar), where complete details can be found.

Ten finalists will be drawn on August 25, 2023, and invited to attend UWLC's Campaign Kickoff Luncheon on August 30, 2023, at Springbrook Gardens in Mentor, where each will receive a key to the car's ignition. The finalist whose key turns on the car will win. The winner of the \$1,000 will also be drawn and announced at this time.

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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

**Y**ou 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 tatttle every time a sibling or playmate breaks a rule? Kids tatttle 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](http://huntingtonhelps.com/center/mentor). Call the Mayfield Heights location at 440-683-1784 or visit: [huntingtonhelps.com/center/mayfield-heights-oh](http://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

**Mentor native serves aboard U.S. Navy warship in Mayport**

Petty Officer 2nd Class Tiffani Harris, a native of Mentor, Ohio, is serving aboard USS Jason Dunham, a U.S. Navy warship, operating out of Mayport, Florida.

Harris, a 2015 graduate of Mentor High School, joined the Navy four years ago.

"I joined the Navy for the educational opportunities, to travel and to make new friends," said Harris. "In the Navy, I have traveled to 13 different countries and had the opportunity to meet and work with people from different backgrounds and cultures."

Serving in the Navy means Harris is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on strengthening alliances, modernizing capabilities, increasing capacities and maintaining military readiness in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The U.S. Navy is instrumental in maintaining the security of our borders," said Harris. "We are here to protect our coasts and the ideals of

freedom and democracy."

Harris and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"I'm proud of a couple of accomplishments," said Harris. "Professionally, I'm proud of being advanced to

petty officer second class because of how challenging it is and the advancement percentages are so low. Personally, I'm proud of my Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. I received that for rendering lifesaving aid to a civilian who had fallen and hit her head."

As Harris and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy.

"Serving in the Navy is a very humbling and rewarding experience," said Harris. "I do this for my family, friends and for everyone who would love to join the military but doesn't have the opportunity to do so."

-Photo by Bryan Niegel



Tiffani Harris

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[www.HorizonChildcare.com](http://www.HorizonChildcare.com)

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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## LIL KICKERS



**Fall Session: September 11–December 2**

- Class days/times will be Monday 5pm, Tuesday & Thursday 5pm/6pm, and Saturday 9am/10am/11am
- Innovative child development program based on soccer.
- Focus is on kids from 18 mos.–6 years.
- Classes run 50 minutes per session, once a week.
- Class fee of \$16.50/week.

Contact: Kylie Lee (KLEE@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)

## LIL SLUGGERS



**Fall Session: September 11–December 2**

- Introduction to baseball for kids 2–5 years old.
- Class days/times will be Monday 5pm and Saturday 10am
- Nationally franchised child development program.
- Low student/instructor ratio (usually 4–6 kids per instructor).

Contact: Kylie Lee (KLEE@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)

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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](http://www.cvsr.org) for more info.

## 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](http://GreatScience.com) to plan your visit.

## AUGUST 2023

### Concert in the Park

Saturday, August 5 • 5–9 pm  
Leroy Township Park  
13028 Leroy Center Road  
440-254-4235  
www.leroyohio.com

Bring your chairs and blankets, classic car parking available.

5 pm: Food truck, kids games.  
6–9 pm: InCahootz band, 50/50 raffle, basket raffles.

### 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.

### Nature & Arts Fest

Sunday, August 6 • 10 am–4 pm  
The West Woods  
9465 Kinsman Road (Rt. 87)  
Russell & Newbury Townships  
440-286-9516  
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org  
This awesome indoor/outdoor juried art show for the whole family features nature-themed/inspired art sales inside, plus nature exhibits and activities outdoors, interactive booths, nature hikes, live animals. Free admission.

### Chardon Arts Festival

Sunday, August 6 • 10 am–5 pm  
Historic Chardon Square  
100 Short Ct. St., Chardon  
440-285-8686  
www.chardonsquareassociation.org/events/arts-festival  
Free to attend and will feature over 100 artists providing an opportunity for a day of shopping and dining in a park-like setting. Free admission and parking.

### The Fest

Sunday, August 6 • noon–10 pm  
Center for Pastoral Leadership  
28700 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe  
216-202-3040  
www.thefest.us  
An inspiring day of faith, family and fun with live music, activities, crafts, inflatables, sponsor tents, entertainment, great food and drinks, fireworks, and free prize entries.

# CALENDAR

## FAIRS, FESTIVALS & EVENTS

### 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

### Concord Community Days

Saturday, August 12 • 4–10 pm  
Town Hall Campus  
7229 Ravenna Road  
440-354-7510  
www.concordtwp.com/community  
Food trucks, beer and wine, live music, basket raffle, craft vendors, fireworks and more. Kids World features bounce houses, DJ and karaoke, carnival games, face painter and live reptile show.

### 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.

### Super Star Party

Saturday, August 12 • 7–11 pm  
Penitentiary Glen Reservation  
8668 Kirtland Chardon Road  
Kirtland  
440-256-1404  
www.lakemetroparks.com  
Featuring engaging activities for people of all ages and interest levels including:  
• Night sky exploration using telescopes.  
• View the Perseid meteor shower.  
• Lunar crafts, intergalactic games, spaced-out contests.  
• Wild animal shows.  
• Popcorn, soda, and snacks for purchase.  
• Miniature train rides (weather permitting).  
Free. Registration is required.

### Mentor Cruise-In

Saturday, August 12 • 10 am–4 pm  
Mentor Civic Center Park  
8500 Civic Center Blvd., Mentor  
440-974-5735

The Mentor Cruise-In has been wowing crowds for nearly two decades. Now, it's bigger and better than ever with over 800 cars, 2,500 spectators, music, food and refreshments. Best of all – it's absolutely free!

Featuring classic cars, door prizes, goody bag & dash plaque (first 250) and live entertainment.

Cruiser registration 8 am–noon. No vehicles on-site before 8 am. No pets, alcohol, rollerblades or bicycles please.

### Last Stop Willoughby

Saturday, August 12 • 8 am–4 pm  
Downtown Willoughby  
www.heartofwilloughby.com  
A community event designed to

showcase the Historic Downtown District of Willoughby. The day starts early at 8 am with the Willoughby Outdoor Market. There are activities throughout the day including: parade at 2 pm, Kid-Zone, 10 am–2 pm, train displays and continuous showing of Twilight Zone: A Stop in Willoughby 10 am–4 pm at Willoughby Library.

### Mentor CityFest

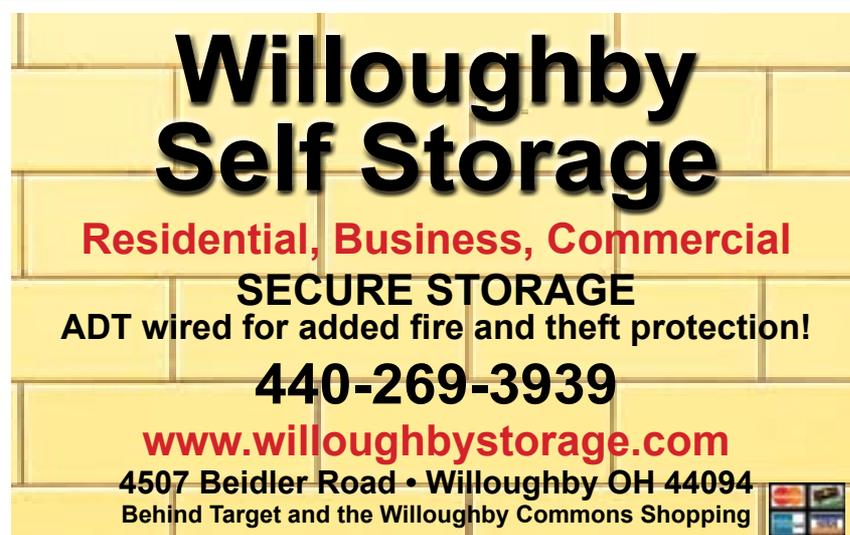
Friday, August 18 • 5–11 pm  
Sat., August 19 • noon–11 pm  
Civic Center Park  
8600 Munson Road, Mentor  
www.mentorcityfest.com  
Mentor CityFest is Lake County's premier family-friendly festival with activities, games, nonstop entertainment, live music, food, and more! Free admission.

The CityFest Kids Zone features giant inflatables and interactive games for kids of all ages. Civic Center grounds will be filled with bounce houses, giant slides, a warrior dash, 70' obstacle run, rock wall, zip line, an extreme trampoline, and a mobile ninja warrior course.

The Adult Zone features a beer trailer, cornhole and other games.



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### Auburn Art Festival

Friday, August 18 • 5–8 pm  
 Saturday, August 19 • 11 am–8 pm  
 Sunday, August 20 • 11 am–4pm  
 Reithoffer's  
 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.

### Milk and Honey Weekend

August 19–20 • 9 am–5 pm  
 Lake Metroparks Farmpark  
 8800 Euclid Chardon Road  
 Kirtland  
 www.lakemetroparks.com  
 Learn how milk becomes cheese, butter, or ice cream and watch the production process. Learn about bees and their role in pollination, how honey is harvested, pollinator-friendly plants, as well as how bees contribute to many products that we use in our daily lives. Free with Farmpark admission. \$9 ages 12–59; \$8 ages 60 and older; \$7 ages 2–11; children younger than 2 are free.

# CALENDAR

### 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 all.

### Old-Fashioned Picnic

Wednesday, August 23 • 4–7 pm  
 Painesville Township Park  
 1025 Hardy Road  
 Painesville Township  
 www.lakemetroparks.com

Come enjoy the warm sunshine and cooling lake breezes. Join in for a hot dog cookout (or bring your own picnic). Activities include fishing off the pier, flying a kite, hopscotch and cornhole. You can also give archery a try under the watchful eye of a certified instructor. Registration required.

### Painesville Township Family Fun Day

Sat., August 26 • 11 am–4 pm  
 Lake County History Center  
 415 Riverside Drive  
 Painesville Township  
 www.painesvilletwp.com  
 This family-oriented event features children's games, the Euclid Beach rocket car, music, face painters, Dr. Bubble, animal show, food, and much more. Bring the children and enjoy a fun day.

### 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 and more; Ohio craft brew tent; artist gallery and more. \$10 adults; \$5 seniors (65+), \$5 children 4–12 years old. Children under 4 are free.

### Snake, Turtles & More

Sun., August 27 • noon–4 pm  
 Penitentiary Glen  
 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road  
 Kirtland  
 www.lakemetroparks.com

This event will feature live reptiles and amphibians, have informational and activity stations, and will help reveal what makes amphibians and reptiles so special! Miniature steam train rides will be offered, courtesy of the Lake Shore Live Steamers (weather permitting). Free admission.

### 77th One World Day Festival

Sun., August 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 and parking.



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 chesterland@loveslearninglofts.com

www.loveslearninglofts.com

## Rube Goldberg exhibit ends Aug. 27

This exhibit 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 reimaged 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 perfect. 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"<sup>®</sup>

- 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,"<sup>®</sup> 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](http://www.maltzmuseum.org) for more info and hours.

# CALENDAR

## 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 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.

### 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, Kiddie Koncourse, 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.

### Fresh Fest Cleveland

Sat., September 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

Sat., September 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.

### Madison Septemberfest

Saturday, September 9 • 2–8 pm  
Bill Stanton Community Park  
5585 Chapel Rd. North, Madison  
facebook.com/septemberfest44057

Featuring local beer, wine and spirits along with food trucks, vendors, live music and games all located on the shore of Lake Erie.

Sampling tickets are \$30–\$40. See Facebook page for a link.

### Perry Fall Festival

Sat., September 9 • 11 am–8 pm  
Lee Lydic Park  
3965 Call Road, Perry

Family fun for all. Festival kicks off with a kids fishing derby at 9 am. Featuring vendors, exhibitors, pony rides, hayrides, inflatables for the kids, activity area for kids, magician, face painter, youth talent show, cake decorating contest, live music, food trucks, beer tent, and fireworks at dusk.

### Bug Day

Sun., September 10 • noon–4 pm  
Penitentiary Glen  
8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road  
Kirtland

www.lakemetroparks.com  
Adults and kids alike will enjoy the amazing bug exhibits designed to entertain, enlighten and educate about the importance of bugs in our lives. Children can earn their "Bugology" degree by participating in bug-themed activities, encouraging learning and play at the same time.

Miniature steam train rides will be offered from 1 to 3 pm weather permitting.

### 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 art-

ists selling their paintings, sculptures, jewelry, etc., live music, dance performances, children's village, and more. Rain or shine. Free admission.

### Eastlake Oktoberfest

Sun., September 17 • noon–4 pm  
Eastlake Senior Center  
600 East 349th Street  
440-951-2200 ext. 1001

Music by The Deutsche Musik Verein, German dancers, vendors, games for the kids. Food provided by the Gottscheer Club of Novelty—schnitzel, bratwurst, sauerkraut and potato salad! Pretzels w/cheese & beer. Something for everyone! Free admission and parking.

### 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 – Giveaway items, private bar, private bathrooms, exclusive pickle beer flavors, and more!

### 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

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.

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