

TODAY'S family

February 2025

Lake Geauga

FREE!

Black History Month

10 Black inventors
and scientists who
shaped our world

5 things only a mom would say on Valentine's Day

Humor essay

Building the perfect snowman

Humor essay

How to help
your teen
be more
productive

Peanut allergies

Causes and why they
are on the rise

Summer Camp Preview

PRIVATE
SCHOOL
GUIDE

CUYAHOGA • LAKE & GEAUGA COUNTIES



Today's Family BOOK — CLUB —

Here are a few of our February faves for your #TBR list! Enjoy these bookishly fun new releases that are filled with wonder, new adventures, and sweet friends.



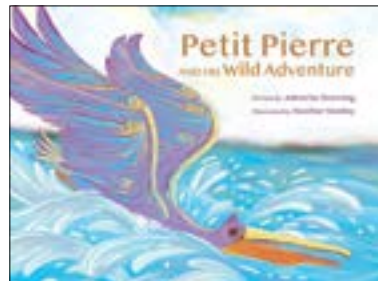
Sofia in Rome

By Maria Castellucci Moore
Readers will love following Sofia on this epic journey through Rome as she discovers the sights, smells, tastes, and sounds of the city that make her feel alive. What better place to discover new things and appreciate the smaller things than in the Eternal City? This second book in this traveling book series unites curiosity and wonder through exploring new places. Sometimes it's the littlest things that bring you the greatest joy.



Let it Glow

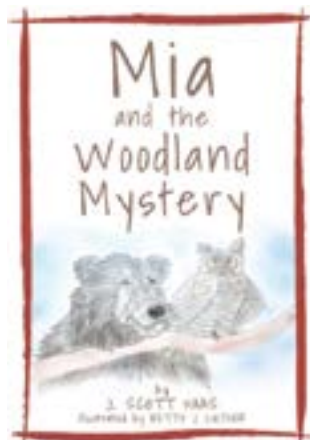
By Marissa Meyer
When Aviva Davis and Holly Martin meet at the holiday pageant tryouts for their local senior's center, they think they must be seeing double. While they both knew they were adopted, they had no idea they had a biological sibling, let alone an identical twin! The girls secretly trade lives, planning to stage a dramatic reveal to their families. Readers will enjoy this charming tale of sisterhood, family and holiday cheer as two virtual strangers swap homes causing lots of havoc.



Petit Pierre and His Wild Adventure

By Johnette Downing

Petit Pierre has made a home for himself on the coast where Louisiana meets Mississippi, and now it is time for him to learn how to plunge-dive. Brown pelicans typically pick up this behavior by watching others do it. Will a new friend help Pierre learn how to dive? Young readers will follow his progress and, along the way, find out more about Gulf of Mexico marine life. Parents will love lessons on perseverance!



Mia and the Woodland Mystery

By Scott Haas

Deep in the heart of the woods, an exciting mystery is afoot! Join a lovable bear, a wise old owl, and many of their other forest friends on an inspiring adventure filled with friendship and teamwork. As they unravel the mystery surrounding the people-family living at the bottom of their mountain, they show young readers that when we work together, we can accomplish anything. Readers will love this enchanting tale filled with animals, nature, and the power of friendship.

This list was compiled by Alysson Bourque, an award-winning, bestselling children's author and industry expert. All these books are available at Amazon.com.

contents

- 4 TEENS**
How to help your teen to be more productive
- 6 VALENTINE'S DAY**
Humor: Five things only a mom would say on Valentine's Day
- 7 SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW**
10 tips for choosing the right summer camp. PLUS, a listing of local camps
- 11 BLACK HISTORY MONTH**
10 Black inventors and scientists who shaped our world
- 12 WINTER FUN**
Humor: Tips and tricks for building the perfect snowman
- 15 HEALTH & WELLNESS**
The rise of peanut allergies: causes and detection in children
- 20 PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE**
Tips for choosing a private school, PLUS, listings of local schools



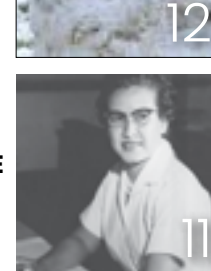
4



12



6



11



15

TODAY'S
family
Lake, Geauga & Cuyahoga Counties

Publisher/Advertising

Kim Miller

kim@todaysfamilymagazine.com

Publisher/Editor/Online

Dan Miller

dan@todaysfamilymagazine.com

Writers

Deanna Adams

Justin Daniels

Sophia Filipiak

Stacy Turner



Subscribe to
our monthly
**EMAIL
NEWSLETTER**

Visit TodaysFamilyMagazine.com
and sign up today!

The link is in the upper left corner
of the home page.



**Like us on
Facebook!**

P.O. Box 7316
Eastlake, Ohio 44097
TodaysFamilyMagazine.com
440-799-8882

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not constitute an endorsement by the Today's Family Magazine® staff or our advertisers. All contributors and advertisers assume responsibility and liability for the accuracy of statements and claims in advertisements and press releases. **All readers assume responsibility for actions or decisions they may make as a result of reading this publication.** We reserve the right to refuse any advertising. Submission of articles does not guarantee publication. All submissions are subject to editing.

Copyright 2025
Direct Market Publishing, LLC
All rights reserved.

Today's Family Magazine is distributed free of charge for families living in and around Lake & Geauga counties.

Cover Photo

© Yevgen Rychko
Dreamstime.com

Confessions of an ex Tooth Fairy

By Pam Molnar

Parents wear many hats – comforter, teacher, disciplinarian – but only a few of them are as fun as the Tooth Fairy. When I imagined our lives with children, I thought about my role as the Tooth Fairy. I knew which parts I would keep from my own childhood and dreamt of ways that I could make the character even more magical.

I remember the excitement of the Tooth Fairy's first visit to our house. She wrote a sweet note explaining how things worked in the Land of the Lost Tooth. Next to the note, my daughter found a silver coin left for a special first tooth and a new dollar bill saved for such an occasion. My daughter proudly showed her younger siblings what the Tooth Fairy had left for her. They all stared at the coin as if it was the Hope Diamond and my daughter placed it in her jewelry box for safe keeping.

As planned, the Tooth Fairy took the tooth back to the Land of the Lost Tooth and carefully placed it in an envelope with my daughter's name and the date. Mission accomplished.

Soon, our other children started losing their teeth. They got the same note, coin and treatment for their first tooth. Every tooth thereafter was collected before the Tooth Fairy retired for the



Photo credit: By EvgeniiAsArt / Adobe Stock

evening and each tooth was given the same care as the first one.

About five years after the Tooth Fairy's first trip to our house, something changed. She didn't leave notes anymore, she stopped putting dates on the envelopes and sometimes, she didn't come for the tooth until right before the kids woke up. One time, she left four quarters instead of a dollar bill. How lame! What happened to the magical character in my dreams?

When I discussed this with the Tooth Fairy in the bathroom mirror, all I heard were bad excuses – working mom, traveling husband, exhausted from carpools and coming up with dinner ideas. To make matters worse, she claimed that she was overwhelmed with the two extra kids we added

to her route. The Tooth Fairy even suggested that our kids were eating hard candy as they were losing teeth at an alarming rate. I was appalled!

Things went downhill from there. By the time my youngest child started losing his teeth, his sisters started working for the Tooth Fairy. She often came to our house unprepared and had to ask the girls to borrow singles to pay for their brother's tooth. At the end, a lost tooth would sit in the Tooth Fairy pillow for a couple of days. I lied for the Tooth Fairy and told my son, "You lost the tooth too late in the day and you weren't on her schedule last night" or "She sent me a text and said she was running behind and would pick the tooth up while you were at school." Sadly, my son believed me.

Until he didn't believe anymore and the Tooth Fairy was out of a job. At our exit interview, I asked the Tooth Fairy how she thought we did. She told me that the kids will remember the good things, like the silver coin and the notes. Yes, but what about the quarters and the forgotten teeth, I wondered. The Tooth Fairy told me that they will remember those, too. One day, they will be the one holding the wand and fairy dust and it will be a reminder that the Tooth Fairy is only human.

Pam Molnar is a former Tooth Fairy and mother of three.



OHIO'S CENTER
FOR
ORAL • FACIAL • IMPLANT SURGERY

TRUSTED PROFESSIONALS FOR
Wisdom Teeth

Now booking consultations!

WISDOM TEETH | DENTAL IMPLANTS | PEDIATRIC CARE
FACIAL COSMETIC SURGERY | BOTOX & FILLERS
TEETH IN ONE HOUR | TMJ & MORE

WWW.OHSURGERY.COM

Board Certified Surgeons

KEITH M. SCHNEIDER, MS, DMD, FACS | DONALD P. LEWIS JR., DDS
JILL M. WEBER, DDS | MAX G. BEUSHAUSEN, DMD, MD | MARIA A. DELEONIBUS, DMD

Bainbridge

17747 Chillicothe Road #203

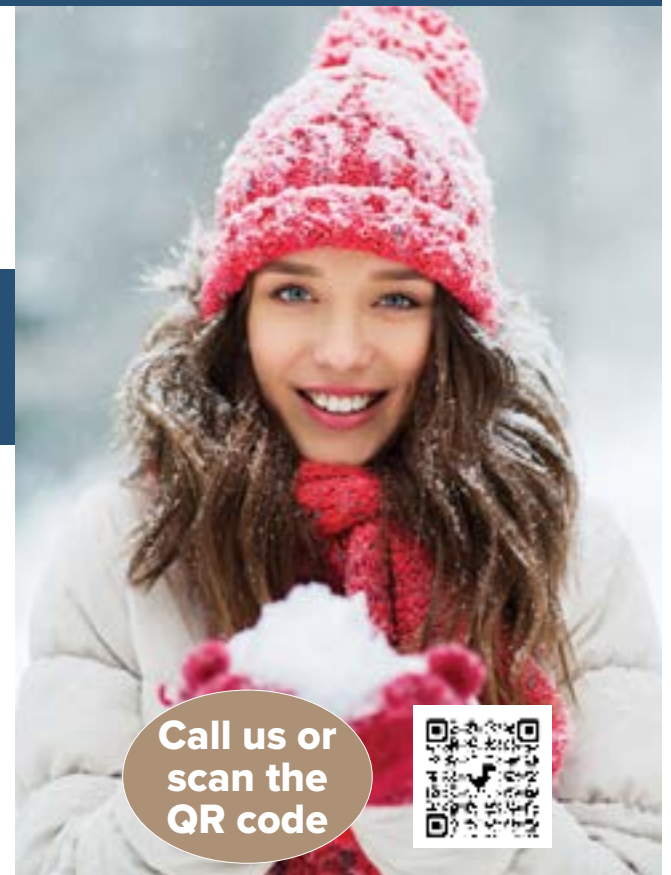
Mentor

7207 Hopkins Road

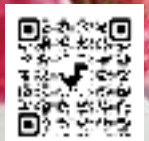
Highland Heights

6151 Wilson Mills Road #110

Call us today at 440-255-3700



**Call us or
scan the
QR code**



How to help your teen be more productive

By Cheryl Maguire

"It is eleven o'clock. You should go to sleep now."

"But I haven't finished my homework yet."

This common exchange between my 13-year-old daughter and me occurs more often than I care to admit. Even though she gets home at 2 p.m., she often procrastinates completing her homework until right before bedtime. She is also a repeat offender of waiting until the last minute to start research projects.

Being productive when completing homework or in a job is an issue for many teenagers who are easily distracted by electronics, socializing or other fun activities.

Put away devices

"The best tip for teens to improve productivity is to put their phone away. Our smartphones can be exceptionally useful tools, but they can also be exceptionally distracting," says Emily Price, author of the book, "Productivity Hacks: 500+ Easy Ways to Accomplish More at Work-That Actually Work!" Price wrote the book based on fifteen years of interviewing people ranging from low-level employees to CEOs. Price says, "Everyone and every company has a different approach to 'how to work.'"

Price recommends that teens put their phone in another room when they are trying to be productive. If they need their phone for homework, then she suggests using "Do Not Disturb" mode to limit the distracting sounds of a "pinging phone." She says, "Being disconnected for a few hours can make a tremendous difference to your productivity."

Have a dedicated workspace

Price also suggests a dedicated workspace. She says, "Having an 'office' or a place where you traditionally do your work can be great for a number of reasons. First, it can help put you in the mindset for 'work' when you sit down. Secondly, it can be a signal to other people in your home that you're busy working and shouldn't be disturbed."

"The most important thing when it comes to teens being productive in school and with homework or

any jobs is making sure that they are intrinsically motivated," says Maria Sanders, a licensed social worker and certified parent coach.

Have your teen create their own plan

Sanders explains that you can help your teen become motivated by allowing them to feel competent, connected and autonomous. She says, "It is important for teens to come up with their own plan of action of how they can be productive rather than having the parent dictate the best tips and strategies."

If a teen can be involved in their decision-making process of how to be productive then it is more likely that they will follow through with their work. While they are thinking of a productivity plan have them consider any obstacles or challenges that will be barriers to their productivity along with their strengths and resources.

Eat breakfast

Price and Sanders agree that starting the day by eating breakfast helps the mind to become more alert and provides energy to be productive in school. Since most teenagers get up early for school, eating breakfast can be a challenge. If this is an issue due to time, then Price suggests drinking a smoothie or eating a protein bar. She says, "Breakfast doesn't have to mean eggs and bacon, but it should involve enough calories to kick-start your metabolism and keep you full until lunch time."

Sanders explains that if your teen isn't eating breakfast then ask questions like, "Do you think skipping breakfast is working for you? Do you have enough energy during school?" These questions can help teens to feel part of the decision-making process and think about their choices.

Get enough sleep

Another key factor in being productive is getting enough sleep which is often an issue for most teens who like to stay up late and need to get up early for school. Price says, "One of the best things you can do to boost your productivity is to get enough sleep."

Price suggests that teens should



© Photo credit: Fizkes I Dreamstime.com

"Having an 'office' or a place where you traditionally do your work can be great for a number of reasons... it can help put you in the mindset for 'work' when you sit down...it can be a signal to other people in your home that you're busy working and shouldn't be disturbed."

not sleep in the same room as their phones which can disrupt or prevent them from going to sleep. She also says that taking a warm shower before going to bed can relax your muscles and prepare your body for sleep.

If your teen isn't getting enough sleep at night then Sander encourages parents to ask questions like, "Do you feel tired in the morning or during the day? How can you improve the amount of sleep you are getting at night?" These questions can help them to figure out a way to improve their sleep schedule.

Use a productive app

In Price's book, she recommends various apps that can help increase productivity. Some apps that she thinks teens would find beneficial are:

RescueTime: This app will track how much time you spend on certain websites and certain apps on your computer. You can use this information to be more aware of the time spent on social media and then change it by setting a timer when using social media if necessary, to be

more productive.

Just Read: is a Chrome extension that will remove things like flashy webpage styles, pop-up ads, and comments, and turn the article into a simplified text which helps to prevent distractions while reading.

Forest: This app grows virtual trees when you're not using your phone. When you launch an app or browse the Internet, the trees wither and die. Using this app will make you more aware of how much you're using your phone and encourage you to put it away so your virtual trees and productivity can grow.

Grammarly: This web and mobile app can read through the text you write and look for any spelling or grammar errors.

FocusWriter: is a minimalist word processing app for Windows, Mac, and Linux that forces you to focus on something you're writing by preventing you from doing other things on your computer. The app blocks programs and websites that might take your attention away from your writing, and it allows you to set timers to break up your work into sessions so you're not working too much at once.

• • • • •

When you take care of your physical health by having proper nutrition and sleep, then you can focus on two key factors to improving productivity which is motivation and preventing distractions.

Sanders says, "It is important to understand how powerful our children are when they are motivated."

Cheryl Maguire holds a Master of Counseling Psychology degree.

Open your heart and your home to a child in need

Become a Foster Parent!



Your home can make a difference!

Foster homes give children safety, security and supervision.

You can help protect children from abuse or neglect by providing a caring environment for them until they can return to their parents or be adopted by a foster parent.

Contact the LCDJFS to learn more about becoming a foster parent.



Call the Foster Care line at:

(440) 350-4218

or email:

Eugene.Tetrick@jfs.ohio.gov

Lake County Department of Job and Family Services

5 things only a mom would say on Valentine's Day

By Cheryl Maguire

On Valentine's Day, long before your mommy days, you probably dined by candlelight in some swanky restaurant. Once you give birth to those sweet little munchkins, your meal is more likely to involve baby spit up or chicken nuggets. Besides the lack of a romantic dining experience you may also find yourself saying the following:

1. "Thank God this holiday doesn't entail elves, fairies, leprechauns or any other magical night creatures."

I'm not sure who came up with the brilliant idea of having "magical night creatures" but I can guarantee it wasn't a mom. At night moms are counting down the seconds until she can go to sleep. The last thing on a mom's mind is remembering to move an elf, retrieve a tooth or paint green leprechaun footprints on the floor. Plus, who would want to create a "leprechaun mess" knowing who will have to clean it up later—definitely not a mom! We have enough messes we already clean daily. So please don't create a magical "cupid" that comes in the night—we already have more magic than Harry Potter at our house—thanks but no thanks.

2. "I know you already have five Valentine's Day T-shirts but I couldn't resist buying another one."



er one. I mean what other time can you wear a shirt that says, 'Love-a-saurus' with an adorable red dinosaur on it?"

Valentine's Day kid shirts are adorable. And let's face it, your teen isn't going to let you dress them up in a "Love-a-saurus" shirt so I'm going to dress them up in as many as I can while I still can. Some of my favorites besides "Love-a-saurus" are "More Spice than Sugar," "I Choo-Choo Choose You," and "You Have a Pizza of My Heart."

3. "I just need about ten more hours on Pinterest to find the perfect Valentine's Day craft, cupcake and card."

Pinterest is a black hole that will suck all of the hours out of your day. Just when you think you found the perfect craft, cupcake or card to repli-

cate for the twenty-five kids in your child's class, you will see another one and then another one and before you know it the whole day is gone and you still haven't picked up a glue gun or spatula.

4. "Roses are red, violets are blue, I'll give you some candy if you go number 2—in the potty this time."

Oh, the joys of potty training on Valentine's Day! Enough said.

5. "I think a fair cut of your Valentine's Day school candy would be half since I wrote all twenty-five of your Valentine Cards."

Not only do you have to write each kid's name on the Valentine's card but then you have to lick each envelope and then put a candy or sticker on it. If you are lucky enough to have three kids that is seventy-five cards in one night since, of course, you waited until the night before to do this "work." Surely this warrants at least half of the candy take if not more—actually 60/40 is probably a fairer cut.

Once that Hershey kiss starts melting in your mouth, that hand cramp will be a distant memory—until next year.

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



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**GET LOST
IN THE RIGHT
DIRECTION
DAY CAMP 2025**

**WEST END Y
Willoughby
440.946.1160**

**CENTRAL Y
Painesville
440.352.3303**

**EAST END Y
Madison
440.428.5125**



CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

www.lakecountnymca.org

10 tips for choosing a summer day camp

Choosing the perfect summer day camp for your child can feel overwhelming with so many options available. A well-chosen camp provides children with a safe environment to learn, grow, and have fun, while also giving parents peace of mind. Here are some essential tips to help you navigate this decision and find the best fit for your family.

1. Identify your goals and priorities

Before diving into camp brochures or websites, take time to identify what you and your child hope to gain from the experience. Are you looking for a camp that focuses on academics, sports, arts, or outdoor adventures? Does your child want to make new friends or improve a specific skill? Clarifying these priorities will help narrow down your options and ensure you choose a camp that aligns with your expectations.

2. Consider your child's interests and personality

Each child is unique, and their preferences and personality should play a significant role in selecting a camp. For example, an introverted child might thrive in a smaller, quieter setting, while an extroverted child may enjoy a bustling camp with diverse group activities. Engaging your child in the decision-making process can also help them feel excited and invested in the experience.

3. Research camp options thoroughly

Begin your search by gathering recommendations from friends, family, and online reviews. Many camps have websites or social media pages where you can find detailed information about their programs, schedules, and staff. Look for camps accredited by organizations like the American Camp Association (ACA), which ensures they meet high safety and quality standards.

4. Assess safety and supervision

Safety is paramount when choosing a day camp. Check the camper-to-staff ratio and ensure it aligns with industry standards. Ask about staff qualifications, including background checks, certifications in first

aid and CPR, and relevant training. Inquire about the camp's protocols for handling emergencies, illnesses, and injuries.

5. Evaluate the schedule and activities

Review the daily schedule and activity options to ensure they align with your child's interests and energy levels. A good camp will offer a balance of structured activities and free time, catering to various age groups and skill levels. If your child has special interests, such as coding, dance, or swimming, look for camps with specialized programs in those areas.

6. Consider the location and hours

Logistics are an essential factor in choosing a summer day camp. Consider the camp's proximity to your home or workplace and whether the hours fit your family's schedule. Some camps offer extended care options, which can be a lifesaver for working parents.

7. Visit the camp in person

If possible, arrange a visit to the camp before enrolling your child. A tour allows you to see the facilities, meet the staff, and observe the environment. Pay attention to cleanliness, the condition of equipment, and whether the atmosphere feels welcoming and inclusive. This firsthand experience can provide valuable insights that you won't get from brochures or online descriptions.

8. Review costs and budget

Day camp fees can vary widely, so it's essential to understand the costs upfront. Ask about what the tuition covers and whether there are additional fees for meals, field trips, or supplies. Some camps offer discounts for early registration or multiple children, as well as financial aid for families in need.

9. Seek feedback from other parents

Talking to other parents who have experience with the camp can provide honest insights. Ask about their child's experience, the camp's strengths and weaknesses, and whether they would recommend it. Online parenting forums and



local community groups can also be valuable resources for reviews and recommendations.

10. Trust your instincts

Finally, trust your gut feeling. If something about a camp doesn't feel right, keep looking. The right camp should give you confidence in its ability to provide a safe, enriching, and enjoyable experience for your child.

Choosing a summer day camp is

an important decision that requires careful consideration. By identifying your goals, understanding your child's needs, and thoroughly researching your options, you can find a camp that offers a rewarding and memorable summer experience. With the right preparation, summer day camp can become a highlight of your child's year, fostering growth, learning, and lifelong memories.

~Article by Justin Daniels

SUMMER CAMPS AT FAIRMOUNT

- Art
- Dance
- Music
- Theatre

Registration opens JANUARY 27
 Save 5% with code "EarlyReg" before MARCH 1
FairmountCenter.org
(440) 338-3171

FAIRMOUNT CENTER
for the Arts

Camps located minutes from Bainbridge / Chagrin Falls / Chardon / Kirtland / Solon

THE FRAGILE FOUNDATION Ohio Arts

SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

Busy Bees Pottery & Arts Studio

Great Lakes Mall
7850 Mentor Avenue, #554B
Mentor
440-290-7767
mentor.busybeesart.com/
kids-camp

At Busy Bees Pottery & Arts Studio in Mentor they offer Art Camp during the summer, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or 9 a.m. to noon, or 1 p.m.–4 p.m. You can enroll for five full days or five half days per week. Children must be between ages of 6–13 (your child must have completed kindergarten and know how to cut with scissors).

Each day of the week revolves around a specific medium. Your child will create one to three pieces of artwork each day using but not limited to the following mediums; clay, pottery, glass fusing, and mosaics pieces. When they are not creating, they are candle making, playing games, journaling, and having lots of fun! Space is limited. Sign up now!

Fairmount Center for the Arts

8400 Fairmount Road, Novelty
(440) 338-3171
www.fairmountcenter.org

Create a summer of fun and creativity for your child at Fairmount Center for the Arts! Fairmount offers summer camps incorporating dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts. Children have the opportunity to grow over the summer and explore the arts through thoughtfully curated half- and full-day camp options. Camps are designed for children in preschool through 8th grade. Whether your child is a budding artist, an up-and-coming actor, an inspiring dancer, or simply looking to dig into the arts, there is a camp for them.

Registration is now open

Gilmour Day Camps

34001 Cedar Road, Gates Mills
(440) 473-8000 ext. 2267
www.gilmour.org/summercamp

Camp Gilmour is back and better than ever with a variety of options for you to choose from! Try Fun with Drones, CSI: Crime Scene

Investigation, Budding Entrepreneurs, Video Game Animation, Sweet Delights Baking Camp, Sky High Adventure Camp, or the new six-week Theater Intensive! These specialty camps are in addition to Preschool Camp (3–5), Day Camp (5–12) and sports camps.

Before- and after-care are available 7:15 a.m.–6 p.m.

Camps offered June 2–August 1.

Lake County YMCA

(440) 354-5656
www.lakecountyyymca.org

The Lake County YMCA Day Camp is designed for kids of all ages. Their day camp offers a fun, safe, and nurturing environment where children can explore their interests, build confidence, and create lifelong friendships.

Every child deserves a summer filled with exciting activities and personal growth. From arts and crafts to swimming, and nature exploration, there's something for everyone. Their experienced staff are dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging and ensuring each camper has a positive and enrich-

ing experience.

Conveniently located in Painesville, Madison and Willoughby along with flexible scheduling options, the Lake County YMCA Day Camp is the perfect solution for busy families. Their affordable rates and financial assistance programs make summer camp accessible to everyone. Join the Lake County YMCA Day Camp today by visiting lakecountyyymca.org.

Lost Nation Sports Park

38630 Jet Center Drive
Willoughby
(440) 602-4000

www.lostnationsports.com

Mike Moran Basketball Camps

Open to boys and girls ages 6–14

- Session #1: June 16–20
 - Session #2: June 23–27
 - Weeklong program (M–F) 9 a.m.–3:15 p.m.
 - Weekly tuition is \$195
 - Early registration discount is only \$180 (by May 1, 2025)
 - All campers receive a T-shirt
- Call (440) 338-8092 for more information or visit morancamps.com for easy registration.



Summer Art Camp Registration is Open!

Includes:

- All materials/supplies for projects.
- Small class sizes.
- Introduction to various types of art.
- Sign up by the week.
- Full week, full day 9 am–4 pm; \$299.
- Full week, half day 9 am–noon OR 1 pm–4 pm; \$199.

**Ages
6–13**



For details and registration visit:
<https://bit.ly/21artcamp>
Promo Code CAMP35 to get \$35 off!

Great Lakes Mall, Mentor
440-290-7767

www.mentor.busybeesart.com
mentor@busybeesart.com



Like us for updates and specials!

Paint Your Own
Canvas • Pottery
Glass Painting • Board Art
Create Your Own
Mosaics • Clay Hand Building
Glass Fusing • Candle Making
Also Available
Workshops • Parties • Outings

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

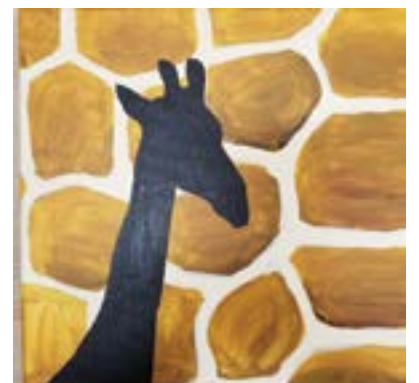
\$35 off per week

When signed up by April 30, 2025.

Call 440-290-7767 to register.

Or visit <https://bit.ly/21artcamp>

Promo Code: CAMP35



Choosing the right summer day camp

Types to consider for your child

Summer day camps provide children with opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills, and make lasting memories. For parents, choosing the right camp can feel overwhelming given the variety of options available. To make the process easier, it's essential to consider your child's interests, needs, and goals. Below are the primary types of summer day camps parents can explore.

1. Traditional day camps

Traditional camps offer a classic summer experience, typically including a mix of outdoor activities, arts and crafts, sports, and games. These camps are perfect for children who enjoy variety and socializing with peers. They foster teamwork, independence, and problem-solving skills. Activities like hiking, swimming, and team sports ensure a balance of fun and personal growth.

2. Sports camps

Sports camps cater to athletic kids who are passionate about specific activities like soccer, basketball, tennis, or gymnastics. They often feature skill-building sessions led by professional coaches or athletes. These camps help children refine their techniques, enhance physical fitness, and develop a competitive spirit in a supportive environment.



Whether your child is a beginner or an experienced player, sports camps can be tailored to various skill levels.

3. Arts and performing arts camps

For creative kids, arts camps are an excellent choice. These camps focus on activities such as painting, sculpting, photography, theater, music, and dance. Performing arts camps may culminate in recitals or performances, giving children a chance to showcase their talents. These programs encourage self-expression, confidence, and creative thinking while allowing children to connect with like-minded peers.

4. STEM and academic camps

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) camps engage curious minds with hands-on projects like robotics, coding, and chemistry experiments. Academic camps, on the other hand, may focus on specific subjects such as writing, math, or foreign languages. These camps are ideal for children who enjoy problem-solving and exploring innovative ideas. They foster critical thinking and can provide a head start in school-related topics.

5. Nature and adventure camps

Nature-focused camps immerse children in outdoor exploration, teaching them about environmental conservation, wildlife, and survival skills. Activities like hiking, kayaking, and rock climbing encourage physical fitness and an appreciation for nature. Adventure camps provide thrilling experiences that can boost confidence and resilience while fostering a love for the great outdoors.

6. Specialty camps

Specialty camps cater to niche interests, such as cooking, horseback riding, or even video game design. These camps allow children to dive deeply

Continued on page 10

The Official Camp of Summer Fun!

GET THE MOST OUT OF SUMMER AT CAMP GILMOUR!

With nine weeks of new offerings and old favorites, Camp Gilmour has something for everyone. From June 2 – August 1, campers can enjoy weekly field trips, special guests, arts and crafts, swimming lessons, sports camps, and lots of opportunities and activities designed to make new friends.

No wonder Gilmour is the Official Camp of Summer Fun!

REGISTER TODAY

LIMITED AVAILABILITY
DUE TO HIGH DEMAND

Visit gilmour.org/summercamp



GILMOUR
ACADEMY

PRESCHOOL
AND DAY
CAMPS

NEW
6-Week
Theater
Intensive



34001 Cedar Road | Gates Mills, Ohio 44040



Indoor Sports and Fun at LNSP East!

Lil Kickers & Skills Institute



WINTER SESSION (THROUGH 3/8/25)

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN!

SPRING SESSION (12 WEEKS)

Registration opens February 10, 2025

- Youth soccer development program
- 50-minute classes, one day a week (Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays)
- Ages 18 months–12 years old

• Payment plan available! • Register anytime
Cost: Kickers \$17.50/class • Skills \$19.50/class

Contact Paul Liotta | PLIOTTA@LNSPORTSPARK.COM



Try a class for FREE or register today online!

Lil Sluggers

SPRING SESSION (12 WEEKS)

Registration opens February 10, 2025

- Nationally franchised youth baseball development program
 - 50-minute classes, one day a week (Tues, Thurs, or Sat)
 - Ages 2–6 years old • Payment plan available! • Register anytime
- Cost: \$17.50/class

Contact Noah Koscho | NKOSCHO@LNSPORTSPARK.COM



Mike Moran Basketball Camps



June 16–20 & June 23–27 • 9:00 am–3:15 pm

Camp Fee \$195

Early Bird Fee \$180 for campers registering by May 1, 2025

Each camper receives a camp T-shirt

For more info and/or to register please visit

www.morancamps.com or call (440) 338-8092

NOW OPEN!

Indoor Links



Monday–Friday, 9 am–4 pm • \$28/hour | \$15/half hour

Monday–Friday pm–close \$38/hour | \$20/half hour

Saturday & Sunday \$38/hour | \$20/half hour

Contact Bob Dame for tee times or any questions.

440-602-4000 ext. 229 | BDAME@LNSPORTSPARK.COM

Birthday Parties

Custom design your own birthday party package!

Includes your choice of sports activities, plus exclusive use of our party room. Sports include soccer, baseball, batting cages, basketball, virtual reality golf and volleyball. Contact Marilyn for pricing options and more info.



MARILYN@LNSPORTSPARK.COM or 440-602-4000 ext. 223



Photo credit: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Winter Wonder Weekends at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is hosting their new Winter Wonder Weekends experience with enhanced shuttle service through the Zoo, free carousel rides and special programming and keeper chats each weekend now through March 2, 2025. The added amenities are designed to enhance the guest experience through the colder months.

In addition to extra weekend activities, the new “Zoo Loop” is now operating seven days a week from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. with enhanced shuttle service and added stops across Zoo grounds, including at the Welcome Plaza, African Elephant Crossing, African Savanna, Wilderness Trek, Circle of Wildlife Carousel, Primate, Cat & Aquatics and Australian Adventure. The Zoo Loop is designed to connect guests with several of the indoor buildings and experiences throughout the Zoo.

“While The RainForest is closed for the construction of Primate Forest, we’re excited to offer the new Winter Wonder Weekends experience with special keeper chats, enhanced programming and more at

no added costs for all of our guests,” said Dr. Chris Kuhar, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo executive director. “In addition, the Zoo Loop will provide improved transportation throughout the Zoo, connecting guests to the many indoor buildings through winter so guests can stay warm while still seeing and learning about all of their favorite animals.”

In addition to the Zoo Loop, rides on the heated Circle of Wildlife Carousel will be free seven days a week through March 2.

Ahead of each weekend throughout Winter Wonder Weekends, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will announce a new series of exclusive opportunities. Each weekend will also have special keeper chats where guests can learn more about what it takes to care for wildlife around the world including tigers and primates. See their website for more details.

Winter Wonder Weekends will also include family-friendly crafts and activities.

Visit clevelandmetroparks.com/winterwonderweekends for more information.

Types of summer camps from page 9

into a specific passion, offering expert guidance and advanced learning opportunities. Specialty camps can be a fantastic way for kids to explore hobbies or consider future career paths.

7. Camps for special needs

For children with special needs, there are inclusive camps designed to provide personalized care and adaptive activities. These camps focus on creating a supportive and accessible environment, ensuring that all children can enjoy enriching summer experiences. Staff

are typically trained to work with children with disabilities or medical conditions, offering peace of mind to parents.

• • • • •

Selecting the right summer day camp involves understanding your child’s interests and comfort levels. Whether they are aspiring athletes, budding scientists, or creative dreamers, there’s a camp to match their personality and needs. By choosing thoughtfully, parents can ensure their children have a memorable and rewarding summer filled with growth, fun, and discovery.



38630 Jet Center Dr., Willoughby
North of Rt. 2 off Lost Nation Road

440-602-4000

www.LostNationSports.com

10 Black inventors and scientists who shaped our world

Throughout history, Black inventors and scientists have made groundbreaking contributions that have shaped our modern world. Despite facing systemic barriers, their achievements have paved the way for innovations in fields ranging from medicine to technology. Here are ten remarkable individuals whose work continues to influence our lives today.

George Washington Carver (1864-1943)

Often remembered as the "Peanut Man," George Washington Carver was an agricultural scientist and inventor who developed over 300 products from peanuts, including dyes, plastics, and gasoline. His pioneering work in crop rotation and soil conservation transformed agricultural practices in the southern United States, improving sustainability and food production.

Granville T. Woods (1856-1910)

Dubbed the "Black Edison," Granville T. Woods was an inventor who held more than 50 patents. His most notable invention was the multiplex telegraph, a device that allowed train stations and moving trains to communicate, significantly improving railway safety. His contributions to electrical engineering laid the foundation for modern communication systems.

Madame C.J. Walker (1867-1919)

Born Sarah Breedlove, Madame C.J. Walker was an entrepreneur, inventor, and philanthropist. She developed a line of hair care products specifically for Black women and became one of America's first female self-made millionaires. Her innovative marketing strategies and commitment to empowering Black women left a lasting legacy.

Dr. Charles Drew (1904-1950)

Dr. Charles Drew revolutionized medicine with his groundbreaking work in blood storage and transfusion. He developed methods to preserve plasma, leading to the establishment of large-scale blood banks during World War II. His innovations saved countless lives and

remain critical to modern medical practices.

Katherine Johnson (1918-2020)

A mathematician whose calculations were instrumental to NASA's space missions, Katherine Johnson broke barriers as one of the "Hidden Figures." Her work on trajectories and orbital mechanics enabled the success of missions like John Glenn's orbital flight and the Apollo Moon landing.

Percy Julian (1899-1975)

A pioneering chemist, Percy Julian synthesized important medicinal compounds, including cortisone and physostigmine. His work made these treatments more affordable and accessible, benefiting patients with conditions like arthritis and glaucoma. Julian's achievements in chemical synthesis have had a lasting impact on pharmaceutical science.

Dr. Patricia Bath (1942-2019)

Dr. Patricia Bath was an ophthalmologist and inventor who developed the Laserphaco Probe, a device used to treat cataracts with precision. She was also the first Black woman to receive a medical patent. Her advocacy for community ophthalmology helped bring vision care to underserved populations.

Mark Dean (b. 1957)

A computer scientist and engineer, Mark Dean holds three of the original nine patents for IBM's personal computer. His work on the ISA bus and color PC monitor has been instrumental in shaping modern computing. Dean's contributions underscore his role as a trailblazer in technology.

Dr. Mae Jemison (b. 1956)

Dr. Mae Jemison made history as the first Black woman to travel to space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in 1992. A physician, engineer, and NASA astronaut, Jemison's multidisciplinary career continues to inspire generations of scientists and explorers.



Katherine Johnson works with an adding machine and a celestial training device—a sort of globe-within-a-globe to help calculate space navigation—at NASA's Langley Research Center in 1962.

Garrett Morgan (1877-1963)

An inventor with a diverse portfolio, Garrett Morgan is best known for creating the three-position traffic signal and a safety hood, a precursor to the modern gas mask. His innovations improved public safety and have saved countless lives over the years.

These ten individuals represent just a fraction of the Black inventors and scientists who have profoundly influenced our world. Their perseverance, creativity, and groundbreaking contributions continue to inspire innovation and progress across generations.

~Article by Janine Todd
~Photo credit: NASA



NO POWER AGAIN?

WELL IT'S NOT OVER!

You CAN Control When Your Power Comes On!

WITH GENERAC AUTOMATIC STANDBY GENERATORS

Generac's Highest Reviews in Ohio. Before You Sign Anything, Call Us!



America's #1 Selling Generator

- Home or business
- Permanently installed on natural gas or propane
- 24/7 protection

GeneratorPros.com

Shepp Electric Co., Inc.
Sales, Parts & Service
877-423-9010







Powering You With Comfort and Security For Over 32 Years

Frosty fun: tips and tricks for building the perfect snowman

Picture this: a crisp winter morning, the yard blanketed in fresh snow, and you armed with nothing but determination and a carrot. Making a snowman is one of winter's greatest joys. It's an activity that combines creativity, engineering, and the occasional emotional breakdown when the carrot nose keeps falling off. If you're ready to build your frosty masterpiece, here's a humorous step-by-step guide to help you roll with it—literally.

Step 1: Dress for success

Before you step outside, remember: snow is cold. (Who knew?) You'll want to bundle up in layers that make you resemble a marshmallow. Add a hat, gloves, and sturdy boots—and if you're prone to overestimating your snow-tolerance, maybe pack a flask of hot cocoa. Bonus points if you look like a winter adventurer who's just conquered Everest.

Step 2: Scout the perfect spot

Not all snow is created equal. You'll want to find the elusive "Goldilocks" snow—not too powdery, not too icy, but just right for packing. If your yard resembles Antarctica's dry deserts or a melted slushie, you may have to settle for a very, very small snowman. (Think snow gnome.)

Step 3: Start rolling

Begin with a small snowball. Pack it tightly, then roll it across the ground. Snow will magically cling to it (as well as grass and mud), growing it larger with every turn. This is also where you discover that your yard isn't nearly as flat as it looks, and you'll spend half your time chasing your runaway snow boulder.

Pro tip: Avoid rolling near the dog's favorite spots unless you want your snowman to have a "unique" texture.



REALITY→

FANTASY

We all dream of making the perfect snowman, but sadly they typically end up looking like this fella.

Step 4: Stack with precision

After creating your three snowballs (small, medium, and XXL), it's time to stack them. This step requires the strength of a bodybuilder and the balancing skills of a circus performer. Don't worry if they're slightly lopsided—a wonky snowman has more personality. Plus, it'll match your posture after lugging those heavy snowballs around.

Step 5: Add features

Here's where your snowman comes to life—figuratively, unless you're working with some enchanted snow. Use a carrot for the nose, coal or buttons for the eyes, and sticks for arms. If you don't have coal lying around (who does?), improvise! Bottle caps, pebbles, buttons or cookies work too—though cookies may mysteriously vanish before the snowman's face is finished.

Don't forget a scarf and hat to keep your snowman stylish. Sunglasses? Sure, if he's cool enough. Remember, this is your chance to express your inner fashion designer.

Step 6: Celebrate (and mourn)

Step back and admire your creation. Take a million pictures for social media, because this moment is fleeting. Literally. Your snowman's lifespan depends on the weather and your neighbor's rogue snowball fight.

Optional: Give your snowman a name and backstory. For example, "Sir Frostington III, retired arctic explorer, now living his best life in suburban tranquility."

Step 7: Embrace the chaos

Building a snowman is as much about the process as the end result. Sure, you'll lose feeling in your fingers, your snowman might look more like a snow blob, and you'll find snow in places you didn't know it could get... but that's all part of the charm. The imperfections make it perfect.

So go ahead, channel your inner sculptor, and enjoy the frosty fun. After all, your snowman won't judge you—he's just happy to be here. At least until spring.

~Article by Janine Todd

TRY A CLASS FOR FREE!

Check out our weekly schedule online.

Stop in anytime and check out as many different programs as you'd like.

No reservation needed.

The first session in each program is free!

It's that simple. No obligations!

**Self Defense, Physical
Fitness, & Competition**



GRIFFONRAWL
COMBAT SPORTS & FITNESS

6090 PINECONE DRIVE, MENTOR

440-358-9371 ♦ OHIO-MMA.COM

MR. MOVER
Celebrating Over 28 Years of Excellent Service!



Home
Office
Apartment

FREE ESTIMATES

mrmoverohio.com 440.951.4979

Family fun to fill the long winter days!

Eurographics Puzzles

www.eurographicspuzzles.com

Eurographics is a world-leading art publisher and puzzle manufacturer. They are known for their wide selection of quality products and outstanding customer service. Their puzzles are made with strong, high-quality puzzle pieces from recycled board and printed with vegetable based ink. Visit www.eurographics.com to see the huge selection they offer!



Ocean Cottage



Puzzling Cats



History of Trains



Lighthouse



World of Sports (Animals)

Benjamin Franklin Plumbing & DeBord's One Hour HVAC

Why should you hire Benjamin Franklin Plumbing and DeBord's One Hour HVAC? You are hiring an industry leader that offers the highest level of service and warranties.

When we arrive "on time" at your home, we will ALWAYS call when we are on our way and you'll recognize our signature blue and yellow trucks which are fully stocked. We refer to them as our "warehouse on wheels". Although we cannot stock every item on our trucks, in most cases, we are able to address repairs that same day. We understand that your time is very valuable.

All our service professionals are background checked and randomly drug tested. They also go through regular, rigorous training and all our repairs are done to the state of Ohio code. We always quote our repairs up front before we begin any work. It is very important to us that our customers know exactly what we will be doing and exactly what it will cost before we begin any work.

In addition to our industry leading manufacturer warranties, we also

offer an in-house, two-year warranty on all parts and workmanship (some restrictions apply). This is very rare these days, We stand behind what we do!

Benjamin Franklin Plumbing and DeBord's One Hour HVAC has been servicing northeast Ohio since 1986. We are a full-service plumbing and HVAC company offering a wide variety of services. Call us today for help with well pumps to septic systems and furnaces/boilers to indoor air quality and then some. Don't forget to ask your service professional about our preventative maintenance service contract as an opportunity for additional savings!

When calling us you will always have a live person answer your call — never a recording or an answering machine.

Call us today at (440) 285-9125 or (440) 286-6002.

Visit www.BenjaminFranklinPlumbingNEOhio.com or www.Debordinc.com for additional information and special offers or see our ad below for money-saving coupons.

HOME EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT?

Financing Available
Payments as low as
\$59 a month!
(with proper qualifications)



FREE WATER ANALYSIS!

LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED

Your Heating and Plumbing Teams Are Here to Assist!

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE! Our professionals are here for YOU, Day or Night
A+ Rating with the Better Business Bureau, and a Proud Partner of the Children's Miracle Network!

(440) 285-9125 / (440) 286-6002

www.Debordinc.com • www.BenjaminFranklinPlumbingNEOhio.com

Serving: Lake, Geauga, and surrounding areas. OH Lic. 12292.



- Furnace & Boiler Service & Installation
- Gas, Electric & Oil
- Heat Pump Service & Installation
- Water Heater Installation & Repair
- Video Inspection of Pipes & Sewer Lines
- Gas Line Installation & Repair
- Drain Cleaning & Repair



- Drain Repiping & Relining
- Septic & Aeration Systems
- Air Conditioning Service & Installation
- Water Treatment Systems
- Well Pumps
- Indoor Air Quality. . .AND MORE!

Present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid on prior services or with other offers.

\$400
TRADE-IN VALUE
ON ANY USED SOFTENER
WITH THE PURCHASE
OF A NEW SOFTENER
SYSTEM

RECEIVE UP TO \$800 OFF
ON A TOTAL WATER CARE
PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES
AN R.O. SYSTEM FOR
CLEAN DRINKING WATER
AT YOUR TAP AND A WATER
SOFTENING SYSTEM

UP TO \$2171
Towards Your New Equipment
SELL US YOUR HEATING & A/C SYSTEM
Total of All Incentives Equal UP TO \$2171
SAVE LIKE NEVER BEFORE! (Valid when purchased & installed thru our company)



Cleveland indie band Kultures plays on a sunny and brisk day at the 2024 Brite Winter festival. Visit www.kulturesmusic.com for more info on the band and their latest album, Dreamstacks, now streaming on Spotify and YouTube.

Enjoy live music, art and more at Brite Winter

A typical February evening on the West Bank of the Flats is pretty quiet. Not so much during Brite Winter. The nonprofit festival brings together people of all ages, incomes and backgrounds, allowing them to discover new music and art, enjoy their community, while helping them to embrace the cold winter months.

Spanning 16 years, three locations, tens of thousands of guests, hundreds of bands and artists, and temperatures as low as 8 and as high as 69 degrees—Brite Winter is the premier Cleveland event between New Year's Eve and St. Patrick's Day and a showcase for northeastern Ohio's artists, musicians, and creative culture.

The festival features three outdoor stages, a heated art and performance tent, fire pits, local food and beverages, and more.

This year's event takes place Saturday, Febru-

ary 22, 2025, from 1–11 p.m. with some indoor activities beyond that. Kid-friendly programming is concentrated from 1–4 p.m.

Tickets start at \$12. Kids under 12 get in free and can accompany their grownups into all ticketed spaces. Kids must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Brite makes an effort to be more accessible to people with mobility impairments with accessible parking, restroom facilities, and viewing platform for the main stage.

Doggies are welcome! They must be leashed and you need to pick up their poop, of course, but your very good boys and girls are welcome and sure to have a good time as well.

For a list of entertainment and to purchase tickets, visit their website at www.britewinter.com.



Just For
Laughs



Cool Snowman Jokes

What's a snowman's favorite drink? Iced tea.

What do you call an old snowman. Water.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a baker? Frosty the Dough-man.

Why didn't the snowman get married? He got cold feet.

How do snowmen pay their bills? With cold hard cash.

join our team!

WE ARE HIRING

Universal Metal Products is a metal stamping manufacturer with locations in Wickliffe and Eastlake.

We have full-time positions available in the following areas. Experience needed.

- Tool & Die Makers
- Die Setter
- Fourslide Setup Person

Email resume to:

hr@ump-inc.com

For more information, visit us online at:

www.universalmetalproducts.com



The rise of peanut allergies

Causes and detection in children

Peanut allergies have become a significant public health concern over the past two decades, with prevalence rates in children doubling in some Western countries. For instance, a 2020 study estimated that approximately 2.5% of children in the United States are now affected by peanut allergies, underscoring the growing scale of the issue. This rise has left many parents and researchers wondering about its underlying causes and how to identify if a child is at risk.

Why are peanut allergies increasing?

Several theories attempt to explain the surge in peanut allergies, often attributing it to a combination of environmental, dietary, and genetic factors.

Hygiene hypothesis: One of the leading theories is the hygiene hypothesis, which suggests that modern living environments are overly sanitized. Reduced exposure to bacteria and viruses during early childhood may prevent the immune system from developing properly, increasing the likelihood of allergic responses to harmless substances like peanuts.

Delayed introduction of allergens: Historically, parents were advised to avoid introducing peanuts and other allergens to infants until later in life. Recent studies, such as the landmark LEAP (Learning Early About Peanut Allergy) trial, have shown that this delay might have contributed to the rise in allergies. Early introduction, particularly between 4 to 6 months of age, has been shown to reduce the risk of developing a peanut allergy.

Environmental factors: Changes in diet and food processing, along with exposure to pollutants, might also play a role. Some researchers suggest that refined and processed foods could alter gut microbiota, influencing immune responses and increasing allergy susceptibility.

Genetic predisposition: Although genetics alone cannot account for the rapid rise in peanut allergies, children with a family history of allergies or eczema are more likely to develop them.

Signs and symptoms of a peanut allergy

Detecting a peanut allergy early can help prevent severe allergic reactions. Parents should be vigilant for symptoms, especially after introducing peanuts into their child's diet, as reactions often occur within minutes to a few hours of consumption. Common signs include:

Mild symptoms: Hives, redness around the mouth, or itching in and around the mouth and throat.

Digestive issues: Vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach cramps shortly after consuming peanuts.

Severe reactions (anaphylaxis): Difficulty breathing, swelling of the throat and tongue, dizziness, or a sudden drop in blood pressure. Anaphylaxis is life-threatening and requires immediate medical attention.

How to confirm a peanut allergy

If you suspect your child has a peanut allergy, consult a pediatrician or allergist for an accurate diagnosis. Common diagnostic methods include:

Skin prick test: A small amount of peanut protein is introduced into the skin to check for an allergic reaction.

Blood tests: These measure the presence of specific antibodies (IgE) associated with peanut allergies.

Oral food challenge: Under strict medical supervision, the child is given small amounts of peanut to monitor for a reaction.

Preventing and managing peanut allergies

Preventive measures, such as introducing peanuts early under pediatric guidance, can lower the risk of allergies. For example, pediatricians often recommend starting with peanut-based foods like diluted peanut butter or peanut-containing baby snacks, ensuring they are age-appropriate and safe for infants. For children already diagnosed, parents should:

- Avoid all peanut-containing foods and carefully read ingredient labels.
- Keep epinephrine auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPens) on hand.
- Educate caregivers and teachers



about the child's allergy and emergency protocols.

Can children outgrow a peanut allergy?

Some children can outgrow a peanut allergy, though it depends on the severity of their condition and individual factors. Research shows that about 20% of children with peanut allergies eventually become tolerant, often by early adolescence. Regular monitoring by an allergist, including

controlled oral food challenges, can help determine if the allergy has resolved. However, continued caution and medical guidance are essential.

The rise in peanut allergies is a complex issue influenced by modern lifestyles and dietary habits. By understanding the risks, symptoms, and preventive strategies, parents can better safeguard their children against this growing health concern.

~Article by Justin Daniels

space for your
lifestyle



New construction and/or remodels

- Kitchens
- Additions
- Decks
- In-Law Suites
- Bathrooms
- Garages
- Basements
- Tiny Homes

Home Offices | She Sheds | Art Studios | Music Rooms | In-Law Cottages

LivingSpace
CONSTRUCTION

440-510-8884

LivingSpaceConstruction.net



Love is in the air at Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Weedy seadragons' graceful dance moves help them match up with the perfect mate. Poison dart frogs make a distinctive trilling sound to attract that special amphibian. Red-eared sliders flutter their claws to impress a potential partner. Pheromones and fin biting both have roles to play in the nurse shark's biennial attempt to connect. Clearly love is in the air—and underwater—at Greater Cleveland Aquarium, so add a splash of romance to winter Friday, February 14–Monday, February 17, 2025.

Throughout “That’s A-Moray Weekend,” the Aquarium is offering all guests animal courtship facts, oversized animal pun Valentine’s Day cards and a little mood music in the galleries. Anyone who completes a love-themed animal activity sheet while visiting will be entered for a chance to win a gift shop basket, original artwork painted by one of the resident turtles and an annual pass. “Winning a membership will give you a year’s worth of opportunities to hold hands in the seatube, see the Aquarium’s young green and starry moray residents mature and birdwatch along the boardwalk,” says GM Stephanie White.

On Friday, February 14, Greater Cleveland Aquarium is staying open

an additional two hours (10 a.m.–7 p.m.) and adding an optional evening cash bar (5–7 p.m.) for anyone 21+ who would like to enjoy an adult beverage and a little more time to stroll the galleries. “Whether it’s for pre-dinner date cocktails or an after-work adventure with family or friends, mid-February is the perfect time to warm up indoors while connecting with the animals you adore and the people you love,” says White.

With the exception of Friday night cocktails, all That’s A-Moray Weekend activities are included with regular Aquarium admission which is \$19.95 (ages 13 and older), \$13.95 (ages 2–12) and free for passholders and children younger than 2.

And on Sunday, February 16, members can visit early (8:30–10 a.m.) for a special “We Love Our Passholders” morning that includes additional crafts, activities, diver appearances, photo opportunities and the chance to meet the Aquarium’s newest ambassador animals. Aquarium passholders must be logged into their accounts to secure \$2 advance tickets for this exclusive member event.

For more info call 216-862-8803 or visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com.



Help us feed our community's hungry children.

One dollar can help provide four nutritious meals.



Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Donate today at
GreaterClevelandFoodBank.org

Girl Scout Cookies season is here!

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) kicked off the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie season on January 13, 2025.

Girl Scout Cookie season is a beloved annual event when Girl Scouts and their troops rally their communities to support the world’s largest entrepreneurial program for girls.

Every box of cookies sold provides invaluable experiences for Girl Scouts such as service projects, troop travel, and summer camp for girls across the country.

Girl Scouts acquire a host of invaluable entrepreneurial skills by participating in the cookie program, including goal setting, money management, decision-making, people skills, and business ethics.

Each box of cookies sold allows Girl Scouts to develop an inextinguishable entrepreneurial spirit, gaining courage, confidence, and character as they conquer new feats and embark on new adventures.

Girl Scouts also obtain transferable life skills as they earn a variety of badges and awards, including Cookie Business badges, Financial Literacy badges, Cookie Entrepreneur Family pins, and Entrepreneur badges.

Unbox the Future is this year’s returning theme because with each box of cookies sold, Girl Scouts are doing so much more than just spreading sweet treats. Girl Scouts are learning how to be entrepreneurial powerhouses creating a more equitable future for themselves and the world!

“The Girl Scout Cookie Program is not simply about selling cookies. It’s a program that creates opportunities for Girl Scouts to learn, grow, and thrive,” said Jane Christyson, CEO of GSNEO. “From learning how to interact with customers to creating budgets and taking orders, participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches Girl Scouts invaluable skills that they’ll need to succeed throughout their lives. Troops work together to set their cookie selling goals, and use the proceeds towards programs and experiences for their troops.”

In 2024, more than 12,000 Girl Scouts participated in the Girl Scout Cookie Program in northeast Ohio, with over two million boxes sold.



This season, cookie lovers will enjoy the full assortment of Girl Scout Cookies, including Thin Mints®, Samoas®, Do-si-dos® and more.

How to purchase Girl Scout Cookies this year

- If you know a registered Girl Scout, reach out to her to find out how she’s selling cookies in ways that meet local and state safety protocols.
- Don’t know a Girl Scout? Visit gsneo.org/findcookies and submit a customer cookie request form to be connected with a local Girl Scout troop.
- Beginning February 21, consumers can enter their zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.gsneo.org/findcookies to purchase cookies online from a local troop for direct shipment.

Fun Facts

- Girl Scout Cookie sales kicked off in 1917 with cookies initially being home baked by girl members with moms volunteering as technical advisers.
- Girl Scout Cookies began being mass produced by bakers in 1936.
- Thin Mints, the most popular Girl Scout Cookie, were originally known as Cooky Mints and began being offered in 1939.
- Digital Cookie, the online ordering system, was launched in 2014.
- All Girl Scout Cookies are both kosher and Halal certified. There are vegan (Thin Mints) and gluten-free (Toffee-Tastic) varieties too!



Great Big Home + Garden Show returns January 31–February 9

The Great Big Home + Garden Show is set to inspire homeowners with more than 475 exhibits at Cleveland's I-X Center, Jan. 31 to Feb. 9.

During the 10-day event, shop, compare and save with trusted local experts in kitchen and bath, landscaping, décor, flooring and more.

Find ideas to add to the curb appeal of your home's front entrance when you step into Doorway to Spring; explore six feature gardens in the Garden Showcase; and experience the latest home design trends as you walk through the JDM Homes Waverly Idea Home, Weaver Barns Backyard Oasis and Xtend Technologies Theater Barn. Also, don't miss HGTV's Mina Starsiak Hawk of Good Bones and Dave and Jenny Marrs of Fixer to Fabulous, who will be appearing on the main stage.

2025 Show Dates & Times

Fri, Jan. 31 • 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sat, Feb. 1 • 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sun, Feb. 2 • 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Mon–Thu, Feb. 3–6 • 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Fri, Feb. 7 • 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sat, Feb. 8 • 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sun, Feb. 9 • 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Ticket Information

\$15 box office (adult admission)
\$13 online at (adult admission)
\$11 seniors 65+ with ID
(Monday–Thursday only; tickets must be purchased at show box office)
\$10 group tickets (minimum 20)
\$5 children ages 6–12 years
FREE children 5 and under

Visit GreatBigHomeAndGarden.com for a list of special events and to purchase a discounted ticket.

Membership in moments, benefits for all stages of life

Cardinal Credit Union is structured to support your family through all stages of life, from big milestones like your teen's first checking account to everyday transactions that help build your credit score and retirement savings. We're here to grow with you, your kids, and your parents with a personal, guided approach to banking.

Big decisions – like taking on an education loan or planning for retirement – can seem scary without an expert on your side. We meet your family's unique needs with personal care and attention that you won't find at a big bank. Conventional banks make lending decisions based on numbers and ratings alone. We take into account our members' stories, where they've been and what they want to accomplish so we can help fund their futures.

Our support doesn't stop once members open an account. Cardinal members always have a financial counselor in their corner to help

make sound financial decisions. Our team of certified financial counselors make it easy to tackle household budgeting, debt management, credit repair, or financial problem solving – all at no charge!

"We're excited to make it easier than ever to help you make the switch to Cardinal for a better bank-

ing experience," says Cardinal Credit Union CEO, Christine Blake. "Instant membership is quick and convenient, without the complicat-

ed application process at a typical bank."

Visit CardinalCU.com to apply for instant membership in three simple steps and learn more about the ways we support you and your family through every stage of life.

Cardinal is a member-owned, full service financial institution open to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Lake, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Ashtabula, Portage, Summit, Mahoning, Trumbull, and Columbiana counties.

money matters



Subscribe to our monthly EMAIL NEWSLETTER!

Featuring, updates, featured events, articles, and more! Visit TodaysFamilyMagazine.com and sign up today! The link is at the upper left corner of the home page.

THE GREAT BIG
HOME + GARDEN SHOW
PRESENTED BY
 **OHIO .com**

JAN. 31-FEB. 9
CLEVELAND'S I-X CENTER

INSPIRATION GROWS HERE.



Don't miss **Dave & Jenny Marrs** of HGTV's *Fixer to Fabulous* on Feb. 8 & 9! Sponsored by **Absolute Roofing & Construction Inc.**



Stroll through the **Doorway to Spring** sponsored by **Berlin Gardens**, and explore this year's **Garden Showcase**, sponsored and **Dollar Bank**.

buy online & SAVE \$2
VALID ON ADULT ADMISSION ONLY.
GreatBigHomeAndGarden.com | MARKETPLACE EVENTS

➤ **Hometown banking for all of our neighbors, since 1953**

➤ **Instant membership with any account**

➤ **All are welcome**

**Savings | Checking | Home Mortgage
New/Used Auto Loans | VISA | Home Equity**

Cardinal Credit Union membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Portage, Summit, Mahoning, Trumbull, or Columbiana counties.



Cleveland Botanical Garden's Orchids: Love in Bloom opens February 14

Opening on Friday, February 14 and running through Sunday, March 30, fall head over heels for the enchanting beauty of orchids, a perfect celebration of love and romance.

This year's show will highlight the classic charm of love with vibrant displays of heart shaped arrangements and romantic backdrops. Romance blossoms with species like Dendrobium, Oncidium and Phalaenopsis in hues of pink, purple, and yellow. Guests will be surrounded by orchids throughout the indoor gardens and glasshouses, a dreamscape for flower lovers, and endless photo opportunities for all.

Displaying over 100 distinct types of orchids, Orchids: Love in Bloom will display more than 3,000 flowers from exotic blooms to well-known varieties.

Admission is \$20 per adult and \$14 per child ages 3–12 (free for children 2 and under).

The Botanical Garden is at 11030 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio. Indoor parking is available for a fee based on availability.

For complete details about Orchids: Love in Bloom including hours, special events and classes, visit holdenfg.org.

~Photo courtesy of Holden Forests & Gardens



The Museum's Visitor Hall is free for all and displays some of their most iconic objects including Haplocanthosaurus (Happy) pictured here.

Cleveland Museum of Natural History Come and see the transformation for yourself!

For more than a century, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History has encouraged visitors to look outward at the magnificent nature that surrounds them and inward at the connections that bind them to it. And this December, the Museum revealed the most sweeping transformation in its history.

New galleries and completely re-imagined exhibits await you. The Museum's transformation features more than 375,000 square feet of new and expanded spaces and more than two acres of outdoor visitor areas. (If you consider the size of the average T.Rex, more than 900 of them would fit in the new and expanded spaces!)

The Museum's new Visitor Hall showcases some of their most iconic objects and specimens, including Haplocanthosaurus (Happy), Balto,

Dunkleosteus (Dunk), Lucy, the Moon rock, and more. This community space is free to all.

In addition, a general admission ticket will give you access to:

- Smead Discovery Center – a hands-on space for young learners
- 3D movies, now playing in Murch Auditorium
- The Thelma and Kent H. Smith Environmental Courtyard
- The live animal ambassadors in the Ralph Perkins II Wildlife Center & Woods Garden
- All current exhibits

Advance ticket reservations:

Both members and nonmembers can reserve or purchase tickets online at cmnh.org or by calling 216-231-4600.

Dogs! A Science Tail exhibit now open at Science Center

Experience the extraordinary way a dog sees, hears and smells the world through fun and unique hands-on exhibits. From lovable companions to loyal protectors, dogs have evolved over thousands of years from ancient wolves into the cuddly canines that live and work alongside us today.

Explore how science is helping us better understand our tail-wagging companions and what makes our relationship one of the most successful interspecies partnerships of all time. Train a virtual dog to heed your commands, clock your running speed against the world's

fastest dogs, and unearth replica fossils of wolves and dogs to reveal their surprising similarities. Guests will also enjoy walking an invisible



dog through a neighborhood maze, listening to hidden sounds that dogs can hear but humans can't, playing a special game of "pup culture" Jeopardy, and exploring the various careers that

involve these intelligent animals.

Dogs! A Science Tail is included with a general admission ticket to Great Lakes Science Center. Tickets are \$19.95 per adult and \$14.95 per youth (2–12). For tickets and more info visit www.greatscience.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, February 22 • 6–8 p.m.
Black History Month Event
Registration required.

Saturday, March 22 • Noon
**35th Annual Women's
History Month Luncheon**

April 5, 6, 12, 13 • 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Brunch with the Easter Bunny

More information can be found on lakehistorycenter.org or lakehistory.eventbrite.com or call 440-639-2945

Lake County History Center
415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township
(440) 639-2945
www.LakeHistory.org

Weathering winter well: it's all in your perspective

By Stacy Turner

Whether you love it or hate it, there's no denying winter is here. And while you have no control over how low the thermometer may drop or how much snow may fall, you do have control over how you choose to weather the season. When my kids were younger, on wintry days or the extra special no-school snow days, they'd be out in the yard dressed head to toe in warm weather gear – from the tops of their tassel-hatted heads to the soles of their winter boots. Whether building snow people, practicing bellyflops on their sleds, or trying to stay upright on snowboards, one of the only ways to get them to come back inside and out of cold, wet clothes was the offer of hot cocoa with marshmallows. "Snow days are the best days ever!," they would cheer.

On a winter hike one Saturday, our dog walked along the edge of a frozen stream. When she heard the ice begin to creak, instead of retreating to the bank, she ran forward, toward the center of the frozen stream. Unfortunately, the ice was thinner there, and she broke through to the icy water below. While I held onto our small girls, daddy the hero jumped in after our dog, not realizing the water was waist deep. He quickly dragged himself and our terrified dog to the bank where they collected themselves, shivering and wet. Definitely



not what we had hoped for that snowy afternoon. Before the icy water could freeze on their legs, they hiked twenty minutes back to the car in double time, anxious for dry clothes and warm snacks.

A few weeks later, we ventured out for another winter hike – this time, with a short leash on the dog. The girls walked along the winding trail through the woods near a river. Though not too near the river, as we had all learned from our last hike. Only a few minutes from the car, each tried to be the first to find a frozen puddle which they would then stomp on, delighting in the sound of shattering ice. This was great fun until the youngest located one and stomped down, only to realize the puddle was deeper than she thought. And

also not completely frozen. The icy water splashed up her legs and inside her boots, at which time our brief hike was over. She declared, "This is the worst day ever!" On the brief walk back to the car, I reminded her that her daddy and dog had a much colder and wetter time of it on our last hike. Undeterred, she noted, "Well, that was their worst day ever."

In her book, *How to Winter: Harness Your Mindset to Thrive in Cold, Dark, or Difficult Days*, author Kari Leibowitz shares research that supports the idea that our perspective, more than our circumstances shapes our experiences. Spending our time complaining about the cold or the snow does nothing to change either. In fact, this negative mindset makes the season seem endless. Studies show that when we embrace the shift in season, not just by addressing our physical needs with warm clothing and shelter, but by settling into what can be a slower, cozy time, winter can be enjoyable and even restorative.

By focusing on those winter routines and activities that fill up our best days, we can counter the not-so-great parts. Whether that means drying soggy boots and gloves after an epic snow day or after unexpectedly breaking through the ice. No matter what happens, why not pull on some cozy clothes, grab some hot cocoa with extra marshmallows, and weather the season well?

**HOME
VISITING**



**Department of
Children & Youth**
Help Me Grow

**EARLY
INTERVENTION**



**Pregnancy
and Parenting
Support**

CONCERNED
about your child's development?
ACT EARLY!



(800) 755-GROW (4769) • www.helpmegrow.org

Introducing the **Sparkler: Play for Parenting app!** **FREE** for Ohio families.

The app has a **built-in Ages & Stages Questionnaire** that lets you screen your child's developmental milestones quickly and easily. You'll get personalized results and expert advice from a developmental screening specialist.



Scan to learn more



HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED

Get ready to do school differently!

Plan your Open House visit this spring!

- Early Childhood, Lower, and Middle School**
 Saturday, 4/5/25, 10:00 am, OPEN HOUSE
 Toddler – Grade 8 | Lyndhurst Campus
- Upper School**
 Saturday, 5/3/25, 1:00 pm, OPEN HOUSE
 Grades 9 – 12 | Gates Mills Campus
- Birchwood School**
 Sunday, 4/27/25, 2:00 pm, OPEN HOUSE
 Preschool – Grade 8 | Cleveland-West Campus
- Mastery School**
 Saturday, 4/26/25, 1:00 pm, OPEN HOUSE
 Grades 9 – 12 | University Circle Campus

COEDUCATIONAL,
TODDLER – GRADE 12

hawken.edu

Lyndhurst Cleveland–West Gates Mills University Circle

Providing children the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.

BIRTH-12TH GRADE



Contact Us to Learn More
440-357-0918
 Accepting EdChoice | Offering Financial Aid
WWW.HERSHEY-MONTESSORI.ORG

Scan for Open House dates.

**PRIVATE
SCHOOL
GUIDE**

CUYAHOGA • LAKE & GEAUGA COUNTIES

Selecting the right private school is worth the time it takes to research, visit and make your selection. This is the place your children will learn, grow, make lifelong friends and pave the way to their bright futures.

Read on for tips on selecting a school for your child and for a listing of participating schools.

St. Helen School
 12060 Kinsman Road • Newbury, OH 44065
 440.564.7125 • www.st-helen-school.com

Making a Difference
 St. Helen Catholic School is a faith-filled community which nurtures spiritual development, promotes academic excellence and fosters leadership skills for students in Preschool - Grade 8.

Call today to register your child or schedule a personal tour.

Finding the right private school for your family

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

In general, private schools exist to provide smaller class sizes with greater individual attention to each student and a safe, focused environment free of discipline problems. They tend to set a higher bar than public schools in academics, and build a culture of shared values. They offer a strong sense of community and may tailor lessons to the needs of the student.

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



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

1. What are your educational priorities?

Some private schools are faith-based and some are not. You'll want to decide as a family your basic priorities. Is it most important to find high academic standards, or more important to support your family's faith? Do you expect accelerated programs such as advanced placement classes or extensive ac-

cess to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs? How important are extracurricular activities? Are you comfortable with homework policies and school rules?

2. What is the culture of the school?

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

3. What role do parents play in the school?

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



CREATING EXTRAORDINARY FUTURES
A LAKE CATHOLIC
Education is Now More
Affordable than Ever

SCAN THE QR CODE TO DISCOVER ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN VISIT LAKE CATHOLIC!



PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

4. Is the staff credentialed and the school accredited?

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

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

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

6. Is the curriculum up to date?

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

7. Does the school provide transportation?

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

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

If a particular school offers classes such as K-6 or K-8, do they work closely with a sister high school? What provisions are

made to make a smooth transition from one school to another? If students transfer into the school either at the beginning of a year or mid-year, what provisions are made to welcome them? How do children fare when they need to move from this school to another?

9. What is the school's reputation?

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

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

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

of business. You'll want to find a school that makes parents welcome and is proud to show them around.

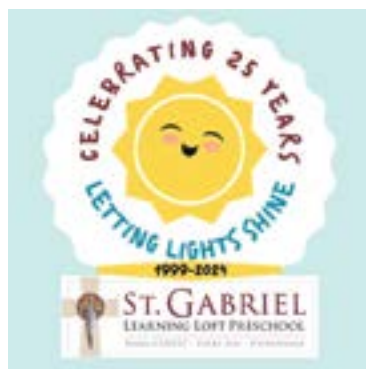
When you've narrowed your search to several schools, be sure to take the time for a personal visit. Talk with an administrator, take the tour and gather any written information they've prepared for prospective students. Discuss pertinent questions and voice any concerns you may have about your child's specific needs. Above all, gauge your "feel" of the school. Is it the right place for you and your family?

Selecting the right private school is worth the time it takes to research, visit and make your selection. This is the place your children will learn, grow, make lifelong friends, and pave the way to their bright futures.



Shaping Hearts, Minds, and Souls

Our Faith, Their Future



St-GabrielSchool.org

For part-time 2 to 5-year-old programs call Ann Silvester at 440-354-7574

For full-time 4/5 year-old - grade 8 call Alicia Henrikson at 440-354-7858



PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

Gilmour Academy

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

Gilmour's Montessori Toddler and Preschool programs teach children how to learn.

Students then move seamlessly into Grades K-6, where they are provided endless possibilities to grow, with opportunities ranging from robotics to learning a new instrument each year, to service and nature-based learning.

Students then progress to the Middle and Upper Schools to expand on this foundation.

As an independent, Catholic school, Gilmour is rooted in its mission to educate the mind.

Hawken School

www.hawken.edu
Lyndhurst Campus
(Preschool–Grade 8)
5000 Clubside Road
(440) 423-2950
Gates Mills Campus
(Grades 9–12)

Mayfield and County Line Roads
in Gates Mills
(440) 423-2955

The Birchwood School of Hawken
(Preschool–Grade 8)
4400 West 140th Street
Cleveland
(216) 251-2321

The Mastery School of Hawken
(Grades 9-12)
11025 Magnolia Drive, Cleveland
(440) 423-8801

Hawken School is an independent, coed day school of nearly 1,600 students, toddler through grade 12, located on two campuses in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland, a campus on Cleveland's west side, and a campus in University Circle that is home to the Mastery School of Hawken, which takes the school's problem-based programming to scale.

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

students for a promising future.

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

Hershey Montessori School

(440) 357-0918

www.Hershey-Montessori.org
Concord Campus
10229 Prouty Road
Huntsburg Campus
11530 Madison Road

Hershey Montessori School's Concord Campus serves children from infancy through sixth grade. The 13-acre campus includes beautiful classrooms intentionally designed and prepared with Montessori materials. Students regularly enjoy time outdoors in the gardens, wooded trails, and open green spaces.

Their elementary program cultivates children's imagination, reasoning skills, social development, and intellect by providing individualized and small group lessons and projects.

Beyond the academic curriculum, students benefit from lessons with specialists in music, art, movement, and Spanish.

Morning and after-care, as well as extracurricular options and summer camps are available.

Hershey's 97-acre Huntsburg campus serves adolescents in 7th through 12th grade. Students enjoy integrated and project-based studies designed to give a comprehensive understanding of relevant topics and their academics. Experiential learning causes students to grow and to develop deep understanding, critical thinking, and self-construct their individual identity, interests, and passions. Students enjoy choosing their extracurriculars and journeying through their individualized College and Career Counseling program.

Hershey accepts Ohio Ed-Choice. Transportation, full and partial boarding options, and financial aid are available.

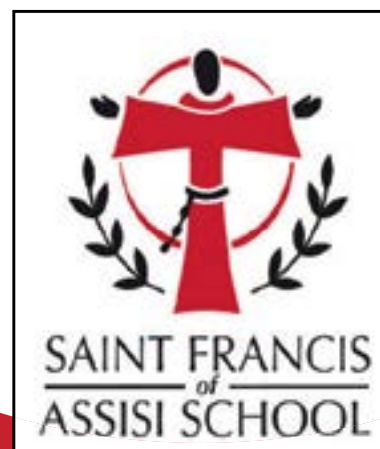


Call Today to Schedule a Tour

Preschool - Grade Eight

Our school is committed to academic excellence through the Three Pillars of St. Francis of Assisi School—Faith, Education, and Community.

- Faith-based lessons, service projects, and community outreach
- Showing compassion and respect for others
- Student-led initiatives
- Academic competitions and clubs
- Families come from 21 cities
- STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, Math) integrated throughout the curriculum



6850 Mayfield Road, Gates Mills 44040
440-442-7450
www.sfaschoolgm.org



Lawrence School
Great Minds Don't Think Alike

**Opening Doors,
Changing Lives.**



OPEN HOUSE EVENTS:

Lower School
(Elementary-Grade 6)
Wednesday, March 12
9:00 - 10:30 AM

Upper School (7-12):
Thursday, March 13
9:00 - 10:30 AM



"Lawrence School was the key that opened the door to our child's success. He feels confident and inspired to learn."

- Parent of a Lawrence School student

LOWER SCHOOL BROADVIEW HEIGHTS | UPPER SCHOOL SAGAMORE HILLS
LAWRENCESCHOOL.ORG/VISIT

**GEAUGA COUNTY'S ONLY
STEM DESIGNATED SCHOOL**

401 North St. Chardon, OH 44024

School Office: 440-286-3590

info@stmaryschoolchardon.org

www.stmaryschoolchardon.org

CALL OR EMAIL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!

PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

Lake Catholic High School

6733 Reynolds Road, Mentor
(440) 578-1020
www.lakecatholic.org

Life at Lake Catholic High School is more than classwork and exams. It's building you into the person you want to be spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally, and socially.

It's meeting friends who you will talk to long after you graduate. It's participating in classes that are not only good for your future, but also good for your soul: religious classes where discussions ground you, academic classes that challenge you, PLUS all those little extras that spark your interests: athletics, drama, robotics, music, art and more.

And it takes you out of the classroom too. Football on Friday nights. A world-class play on Saturday. A service project on Sunday with fellow Cougars by your side.

To be a Cougar means being a part of it all and building memories that last a lifetime. This is their green and gray family. Come discover all the ways you can create your extraordinary future.

Lawrence School

www.lawrenceschool.org

Lower School Campus
(Grades K-6)

1551 E. Wallings Road
Broadview Heights
(440) 526-0003

Upper School Campus
(Grades 7-12)

10036 Olde Eight Road
Sagamore Hills

Lawrence School is among the best schools in the United States for students with dyslexia and language-based learning differences. Lawrence provides a comprehensive elementary lower school program and an upper school program serving students in grades 7-12, which features specialized and personalized attention, organizational strategies and aids, mutual accountability, encouraged self-advocacy, and an engaged faculty of learners.

Students are at their best when learning differences are understood and accepted, appropriate

accommodations are made available, and, most importantly, when their strengths as learners are defined, affirmed, and cultivated.

For more than 50 years, Lawrence School has been opening doors and changing lives by delivering academic excellence to northeast Ohio students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD.

Visit Lawrence School at one of these open house events:

Lower School

(Elementary to grade 6)

Wednesday, March 12

Upper School

(Grades 7-12)

Thursday, March 13

Mater Dei Academy

29840 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe
(440) 585-0800

www.materdeiacademy.us

Mater Dei Academy, an ODE STEM designated school, is committed to providing an excellent education in a safe, loving, faith-filled environment. Students aged 3 years through grade eight are given the opportunity to discover and achieve while building on their Catholic moral values.

The well-rounded, innovative and challenging curriculum provides students the opportunity to discover their own unique talents in a nurturing environment. With the help of dedicated educators, students are prepared spiritually, intellectually, and socially to achieve in the classroom and in the community. Their junior high students are offered the opportunity for honors classes, which can earn high school credit. They also include supplemental classes such as robotics, psychology, TedTalks and health. Mater Dei students are accountable for their actions while caring for others and demonstrating responsibility for the world around them.

In addition, after-school activities help students further broaden their horizons. Mater Dei is proud to offer CYO sports and a variety of other activities.

Campus tours can be scheduled by calling (440) 585-0800.



PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

Saint Francis of Assisi School

6850 Mayfield Road, Gates Mills
(440) 442-7450
www.sfaschoolgm.org

Saint Francis of Assisi School, a preschool through eighth-grade school, is centered on helping students grow in faith and academics. Students learn about God's world and what they can do to make it a better place. As a result, St. Francis of Assisi School offers students opportunities to participate in an entrepreneurial class, aquaponics gardening in which students raise trout and release them into the Chagrin River; the sustainability club, where the students reuse items for a new purpose, and service projects to help others in need.

Due to the opportunities offered, students view themselves as partners in their education and express how they would like to help shape the school and parish community. St. Francis of Assisi School is committed to ensuring that their students have all they need for success including dedicated teachers who are fully certified and chosen for their vision of guiding academic, social, and spiritual growth.

They encourage you to set up a private tour by calling Cindy at (440) 442-7450.

Saint Gabriel Learning Loft Preschool & St. Gabriel School

9935 Johnnycake Ridge Road
Concord Township
(440) 352-6169
www.St-GabrielSchool.org

St. Gabriel School and Learning Loft Preschool have been molding students in Lake County through faith, learning, and love. Both are award-earning schools with teachers who make a difference in their students' lives. Their compassion, dedication, and expertise, challenge students to think independently and ignite their love of learning.

St. Gabriel School just celebrated 60 years of being a leader in Catholic education in Lake County and Learning Loft Preschool is currently celebrating its 25th anniversary. A proud participant

in Cleveland Diocese's "Better Together" initiative, they strive to serve all students and meet each child's individual needs. Their Learning Loft Preschool has been voted "Best of Mentor" six years running. They foster a warm and nurturing environment for students just starting their educational journey.

Discover these award-earning schools and how they will enrich your child's future. For My Buddy & Me (2 yo) and part time 3–5 yo preschool call (440) 354-7574. For full-day preschool (4/5 yo) and grades K–8 call (440) 354-7858 or visit St-GabrielSchool.org.

Saint Helen School

12060 Kinsman Road, Newbury
(440) 564-7125
www.st-helen-school.com

St. Helen School provides a loving family environment that will help students preschool through 8th grade to grow to become successful leaders and faith-filled children of God. St. Helen's mission statement articulates a commitment to respecting the dignity of each person and developing leadership skills. A fully-trained and accredited staff, excellent academic and religious programs, and numerous extracurricular activities continue to provide a solid foundation that ensures success in future educational endeavors.

For a tour or to register, call (440) 564-7125 or email SMartin@sthelen.com.

Saint Mary School Chardon

401 North Street, Chardon
(440) 286-3590
www.stmaryschoolchardon.org

St. Mary School students learn and thrive beyond a traditional Catholic school education. Inspired by a vision of academic excellence rooted in a foundation of faith, and as the first and only Ohio Designated STEM School in Geauga County, their students from preschool through junior high are exceedingly prepared both academically and spiritually for their futures. They strive to develop each student's unique potential through an environment of faith, in cooperation with the family, and with a vision for the future.

Saint Mary of the Assumption School & Early Education Readiness Program

8540 Mentor Avenue, Mentor
(440) 255-9781
www.stmarymentorschool.org

St. Mary of the Assumption School in Mentor has been a model of excellence and virtue to the children of northeast Ohio since 1952. St. Mary's provides a warm, safe, supportive, and nurturing Christ-centered environment. They provide opportunities for children to learn and grow in their faith both academically and socially.

Their curriculum provides students with an education that challenges them to live faith-filled lives and succeed in high school and beyond. Students have access to the latest technology including a STEM class for students in grades K–8, iPads, Chromebooks, 3-D printers, and Google Classroom.

Students can begin their education with preschool at the Early Education Readiness Program and continue to their fully accredited, coed Catholic school for grades K–8. Tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities are available.

Please call to schedule a tour of the Early Education Readiness Program, K–8 classrooms and to meet the administration, faculty and staff.

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

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

When you become a student at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, you become a member of a family where everyone knows you. It is a place where you can grow in your faith, be challenged academically, follow your passions, and create high school memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

As the only school in the world that is cosponsored by the Ursuline Sisters and Marianist Brothers, a VASJ education is uniquely different. Their students proudly embrace their diversity, and it shows in their school pride and the family spirit that makes their Viking Village something truly special.

Learn more about VASJ by attending their upcoming open house on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Inspirational Quotes for Students

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."
—Albert Einstein

"Never let the fear of striking out stop you from playing the game."
—Babe Ruth

"The man who does not read books has no advantage over the one who cannot read them."
—Mark Twain

"Procrastination makes easy things hard and hard things harder."
—Mason Cooley



Villa Angela-St. Joseph
HIGH SCHOOL
Faith. Family. Future.

FEEL THE
VIKING
SPIRIT!

JOIN US AT OUR SPRING
OPEN HOUSE:

Thursday, March 20
6-8 PM

VASJ.COM/ADMISSIONS

The history of private schools

Private schools, also known as independent schools, have a rich and complex history that reflects the evolution of education and society itself. These institutions, funded and operated independently of government control, have long played a significant role in providing education to specific communities, offering unique curriculums, and fostering academic excellence. The history of private schools spans centuries and continents, highlighting their impact on educational development.

Early Beginnings

The concept of private schooling dates back to ancient civilizations, where education was often reserved for the elite. In ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome, private tutors educated the children of wealthy families in subjects such as philosophy, mathematics, and rhetoric. These early forms of private educa-

tion were tailored to the needs of the ruling and affluent classes, emphasizing leadership and intellectual development.

During the Middle Ages, the role of education was closely tied to religion. Monastic schools, often established by the Catholic Church, served as the primary centers of learning in Europe. Although these schools were not "private" in the modern sense, they catered to a select group of students, primarily those pursuing religious vocations or belonging to noble families. Simultaneously, in the Islamic world, madrasas provided education in religious and secular subjects, becoming centers of intellectual activity.

The Renaissance and Early Modern Period

The Renaissance (14th to 17th centuries) marked a turning point in the history of private education. The period's emphasis on humanism and



the revival of classical knowledge inspired the establishment of schools that focused on a broader curriculum, including literature, science, and the arts. Private academies emerged in cities like Florence and Paris, offering education to the sons of merchants and aristocrats.

In England, the foundation of "public schools" such as Eton College (1440) and Harrow School (1572) exemplified the evolution of private education. Despite their name, these institutions were independent and primarily served the elite. They emphasized a classical education, discipline, and character building, setting a model for private schooling worldwide.

Colonial and Post-Colonial Expansion

The expansion of European empires during the 17th and 18th centuries brought private education to colonies in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Missionary schools played a significant role in spreading education, often blending religious instruction with Western academic traditions. In the United States, private schools were established to cater to specific religious or cultural communities, such as Quaker schools in Pennsylvania or Catholic schools in Maryland.

During the 19th century, the industrial revolution and the rise of a middle class created new demand for private education. Schools began to

**We teach the child.
We reach the heart.**

Gilmour empowers students to achieve their goals and discover their passions.



As Northeast Ohio's only independent and Catholic school, Gilmour creates endless possibilities for students to not only learn about the real world, but how to positively impact it.



Gilmour Academy is an independent, Catholic, coed school in the Holy Cross tradition. Grades K-12 and Montessori (18 months - PreK)

PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

cater to families seeking alternatives to public education, offering specialized curriculums and smaller class sizes. Prestigious private institutions, such as Phillips Exeter Academy (founded in 1781) and Phillips Academy Andover (1778), gained prominence in the United States.

20th Century Developments

The 20th century witnessed significant changes in private education, shaped by social, political, and economic factors. In many countries, private schools expanded to serve a more diverse student population, reflecting shifts in societal values and aspirations. In the United States, the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954 led to a surge in private school enrollment, as some families sought to avoid desegregation in public schools.

Globally, private schools began to offer innovative approaches to education, including Montessori and Waldorf methods, which emphasized experiential and individualized learning. The rise of international schools, offering curriculums like the International Baccalaureate (IB), catered to

expatriate families and emphasized global citizenship.

Contemporary Landscape

Today, private schools continue to play a vital role in the global education system. They vary widely in mission, size, and cost, serving diverse communities and educational philosophies. Some focus on academic rigor and college preparation, while others emphasize religious instruction, arts, or sports. In developing countries, private schools often fill gaps left by underfunded public systems, providing opportunities for quality education.

The digital age has further transformed private education, with many schools adopting technology-driven learning and offering online programs. This adaptability ensures that private schools remain relevant in an ever-changing educational landscape.

The history of private schools is a testament to their enduring importance in society. As education continues to evolve, private schools will undoubtedly play a crucial role in meeting the challenges and opportunities of the future.

St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program



Ohio licensed preschool, pre-K, and junior kindergarten programs

Our Philosophy

Children in the St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program will explore their world through a variety of quality curriculum and center-based learning experiences.

We strive to provide a warm, safe, nurturing, Christ-centered learning environment to promote the spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth of children.

Faculty & Staff

The staff in our program hold master's degrees, bachelor's degrees, and licenses from the state of Ohio.

Curriculum & Programming

- Phonics in Motion®
- Creative Curriculum®
- Use of technology (ActivPanels)
- Library, music, STEM and physical education classes
- Social-emotional lessons/activities
- Community service projects
- Community visitors
- Daily prayer and spirituality
- Daily snack provided for all classes
- Junior kindergarten students experience a hybrid curriculum to prepare them for kindergarten
- Full-day students enjoy recess, lunch, rest time, and enrichment activities

Questions? Please contact Elizabeth Looman at
elizabeth.looman@stmarysmentor.org.

8540 Mentor Avenue, Mentor | 440.255.9781
stmarymentorschool.org



Visit our Spring Open House

March 12 - 6pm

* Learn about our challenging curriculums for both preschool and K-8th grade

* Collect information on the various scholarships we have available, including EdChoice

* Personal tours can be scheduled any time by contacting the school office



HOME OF THE KNIGHTS!

Mater Dei Academy is dedicated to fostering a vibrant Catholic education that inspires students to become compassionate leaders, empowered learners, courageous innovators, and faithful stewards of God's gifts.

We strive to create a haven of spiritual growth, academic excellence, and mutual respect.

29840 Euclid Ave.
Wickliffe OH 44092
440-585-0800

www.materdeiacademy.us



MORAL VALUES
DISCOVERY
ACHIEVEMENT

girl scouts
of north east ohio



It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!
gsneo.org/findcookies