

# TODAY'S family

October 2025

Lake Geauga

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See page 7 for info

## Magic

Why learning magic can  
spark creativity, confidence,  
and connection

Halloween  
Happenings

## Trick or Treat!

The story behind  
Halloween and its  
sweet traditions

Private  
School  
Guide

**Plus**  
Book Club  
Fun Events  
Humor Essay

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# ABRACADABRA!

Why learning magic can spark creativity, confidence, and connection

By Dan Miller

When I was growing up, Saturday mornings weren't just about cartoons — they were about commercials that promised 25 amazing tricks in one box. Marshall Brodein's smiling face convinced thousands of kids (myself included) that we could amaze our friends with a coin vanish or card trick. And if you were really hooked, prime-time magic specials with stars like Doug Henning and David Copperfield made the art feel larger than life. Later came David Blaine's street magic and Penn & Teller's edgy comedy twists, each inspiring a new wave of kids to pick up a deck of cards.

Fast-forward to today: the national spotlight on magic has dimmed. Big network specials are rare, and there aren't many household names drawing kids in by the millions. Instead, magic lives online in YouTube tutorials, TikTok tricks, and Netflix series. The stage may have changed, but the wonder is still there — waiting for kids to discover it in a new way.

### Why magic still works

Magic has a timeless appeal. It's portable, it fits in a pocket, and with a little practice it can create a gasp of delight from friends. For kids, it's more than entertainment — it's a confidence booster. Performing a trick teaches storytelling, public speaking, and quick thinking. And in a world where everything is on-demand, there's something refreshing about a skill that takes patience and practice.

Even better, magic is social. Instead of sitting alone with a device, kids get to share their tricks with family, classmates, and friends. That sense of connection is something children — and parents — are craving more than ever.

### Where to learn today

While magic shops are rare, getting started has never been easier. Affordable starter kits are sold online on Amazon, usually including trick cards, vanishing coins, and sometimes even a wand (cape optional!).

The internet has also become the new "Saturday morning magic show." World-renowned magician Rick Smith Jr. recommends starting with online tutorials and beginner kits. His YouTube channel @RickSmithJr features step-by-step lessons, and creators like @SeanDoesMagic make learning approachable and fun. For higher-quality gear, PenguinMagic.com is one of the most trusted resources, offering everything from simple tricks to professional-grade illusions. Libraries are another hidden gem, often stocked with beginner books filled with clear illustrations and easy-to-follow instructions.

Parents who want more structure can even enroll their kids in virtual classes to learn directly from working magicians — a perfect blend of modern tech and old-fashioned showmanship.

### Tricks to try first

The best part of magic is that kids don't need a stage, a top hat, or even much equipment. A few classics they can learn in an afternoon include:

**Disappearing coin** – Make a coin vanish under a handkerchief.

**Pick a card** – The classic "force" trick that never gets old.

**Rubber band escape** – A simple illusion that always gets a laugh.

Starter kits and household items like coins or rubber bands are more than enough to launch a child's magical journey. The real magic comes when kids make the tricks their own.

### Bringing back the wonder

Magic won't replace video games or cell phones, but it can add balance. It gives kids something tangible, creative, and social to carry with them — whether it's a quick trick at the lunch table or a mini show after dinner.

Maybe it's time to dust off those old routines or surprise your kids with a starter kit. Because in the end, the real magic isn't the disappearing coin — it's the look on a child's face



The floating pencil is an easy trick that costs nothing. A quick online search will show you how it's done.

when they realize they can be the one to create wonder.

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# halloween happenings



## BOO AT THE ZOO

Boo at the Zoo, the family-friendly after-hours Halloween celebration, begins October 2 and will be held Thursdays through Sundays from 5–9 p.m. through October 26.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will be transformed after dark, with immersive Halloween displays and photo opportunities. Guests can enjoy trick-or-treating at a dozen candy stations, meet-and-greets with costumed characters, dance the Monster Mash Dance Party and enjoy free rides on the Boomerang train. The first 1,000 guests each night receive a complimentary trick-or-treat bag.

Boo at the Zoo tickets are on sale now at [FutureForWildlife.org/Boo](http://FutureForWildlife.org/Boo). Tickets are \$21 or a four-pack is \$76. Children under two enter free.



## SKELETON GROVE at Holden Arboretum

Now through November 2

This fall, the forest comes alive in the most unexpected way. Wander through Skeleton Grove at the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, where towering, artist-designed skeletons strike playful poses among vibrant fall foliage.

A group of twelve-foot skeletons has found a new home in the main display garden, creeping towards the Corning Visitor Center. The horticulture team insists they're friendly, but you'll have to find out for yourself. Each skeleton has its own style and personality. Come find your spooky best friend! Included with admission. Tickets available now at [holdenfg.org](http://holdenfg.org).



## HALLOWEEN DRIVE-THRU Lake Metroparks Farmpark

Travel Farmpark's trails and roadways after dark in the comfort of your own vehicle and experience many playfully frightful sites throughout the park—some that you have come to love and some new surprises. Tickets are sold online only at [lakemetroparks.com](http://lakemetroparks.com).

Event dates are October 10–12, 17–19, 24–26 • 6:30–8:30 p.m. each evening. The event runs rain, snow or shine!

Lake Metroparks Farmpark is located at 8800 Euclid Chardon Rd. (Rt. 6) in Kirtland.

FREE FAMILY EVENT!

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Logos for PEG, GHETT2, and MBI MAR BAL are visible at the bottom.

## PUMPKINS & PIRANHAS at Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Get ready to explore Lake “Eerie” and the deep “BOO” sea at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium’s Pumpkins & Piranhas. This not-too-spooky experience the whole family can enjoy runs from 6–8 pm on October 17, 18, 24 and 25 with a special sensory-friendly Sunday evening on October 19.

Eventgoers can dive into the Halloween spirit with a variety of festive activities, including a four-page activity book, themed décor and music, underwater jack-o'-lanterns, scuba diver interactions and encounters with the friendly landshark mascot, Finn. Kids can take part in a make-and-take pumpkin craft, get temporary tattoos and collect a treat bag.

Adults and children are invited to come costumed for this after-hours event as long as their attire is family-friendly and does not obstruct their field of vision.

A KultureCity Sensory Inclusive™ certified venue, on October 19, Greater Cleveland Aquarium is offering a Pumpkins & Piranhas sen-



sory-friendly Sunday evening where noise is limited, lighting softened and activities adjusted to provide a comfortable environment for those who could benefit from a reduction in external stimuli.

Capacity is limited. Advance registration is strongly suggested to ensure entry and enough take-home treat bags for all costumed kiddos. Admission is \$15 for adults and children, \$5 children and free for guests younger than 2.

Visit [greaterclevelandaquarium.com](http://greaterclevelandaquarium.com) for details and tickets.

# TRICK OR TREAT

## The sweet story behind Halloween traditions

Every October, kids across the country slip into costumes, grab their buckets, and head out to collect piles of candy. But have you ever wondered how this tradition started? The history of Halloween and trick-or-treating is a colorful mix of ancient customs, old-world superstitions, and modern-day marketing.

### Ancient roots

Halloween's story begins more than 2,000 years ago with the Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). Celebrated at the end of the harvest season, Samhain marked the start of winter and was believed to be a time when the boundary between the living and the dead was thinnest. People lit bonfires, wore disguises to ward off wandering spirits, and left out offerings of food to keep the ghosts happy.

When Christianity spread through Europe, many pagan traditions were blended into church celebrations. November 1 became All Saints' Day (or All Hallows), and the night before was known as All Hallows' Eve—which eventually became Halloween.

### Costumes and mischief

By the Middle Ages, people in Ireland, Scotland, and parts of England kept alive the practice of dressing up and going door-to-door. Instead of candy, children and poor adults performed songs, recited prayers, or told jokes in exchange for food or money. This was called "souling" or "guising." Mischief was also part of the fun—youngsters would play pranks, often blamed on mischievous spirits roaming about.

### Crossing the Atlantic

When Irish and Scottish immigrants came to America in the

1800s, they brought these customs with them. At first, Halloween in the U.S. looked more like a rowdy community party, complete with games, pranks, and ghost stories. Costumes grew more popular by the late 19th century, but they were often handmade and inspired by spooky folklore—think sheet ghosts, witches, and scarecrows.

### The birth of trick-or-treating

The phrase "trick or treat" didn't appear until the 1920s and 1930s. At the time, Halloween mischief was getting out of hand—broken windows, vandalism, and noisy antics were a real problem in many towns. Communities began promoting a friendlier tradition: instead of causing trouble, kids were encouraged to go door-to-door in costume and receive candy as a reward.

By the 1950s, with the postwar baby boom in full swing, trick-or-treating became a family-centered activity across America. Candy companies quickly jumped in, launching Halloween-themed packaging and advertisements. The rest is sweet history—today, Americans spend billions of dollars each year on costumes, decorations, and, of course, candy.

### Fun facts to share with your kids

- The top-selling Halloween candies in the U.S. are Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, M&M's, and Skittles.
- Orange and black became Halloween's signature colors because orange represents harvest and black symbolizes the "dark side" of the season.
- The world record for the largest pumpkin ever grown weighed over 2,700 pounds!

### Bringing back the spirit

While costumes and candy get most of the attention, Halloween has always been about community and creativity. From carving pumpkins together to hosting neighborhood parades or trading candy at the kitchen table, these traditions connect us to centuries of history—reminding us that sometimes the sweetest moments are the ones we share.

~Article by Dan Miller

### Halloween by the Numbers

- **\$12.2 billion** – Estimated U.S. spending on Halloween in 2024
- **\$3.6 billion** – Amount spent just on candy
- **160 million** – Number of Americans who participate in Halloween
- **41 million** – Estimated trick-or-treaters (ages 5–14) hitting the streets
- **\$35.04** – Average household candy spend
- **2,749 pounds** – Weight of the world's largest pumpkin (2023 record!)



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## Cleveland Orchestra 2025 Halloween Spooktacular

The Cleveland Orchestra is thrilled to announce its 2025–26 Family Concert Series and Music Explorers Series at Severance Music Center.

Family Concerts, aimed at children ages 7–12, offer performances that blend education and entertainment in the beautiful Mandel Concert Hall.

Kicking off the season is the Halloween Spooktacular on Sunday, October 19, 2025. This beloved annual event offers a spooky, family-friendly twist on classical music, giving families the chance to enjoy an afternoon of thrilling music and whimsical fun. The concert encourages

kids to wear their Halloween best and join the orchestra for an afternoon filled with musical treats and playful tricks. Pre-concert activities begin an hour before the performance, ensuring an immersive experience for attendees. There are two performances. The first performance at 1 p.m. is sensory friendly with a limited audience size, and the second performance begins at 4 p.m.

For tickets, please visit [www.clevelandorchestra.com](http://www.clevelandorchestra.com) or call the Severance Music Center ticket office at 216-231-1111. The ticket office is open Monday–Friday from 9 a.m.–6 p.m.



"I think it's our son, but I can't be sure until the results of the DNA testing are in."

### HALLOWEEN JOKES

Why shouldn't an angry witch take her broom trick or treating? She might fly off the handle.

Why didn't anyone want to go trick or treating with Dracula? Because he is a pain in the neck.

What do birds give to trick-or-treaters? Tweets.



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**NOVEMBER 27, 2025**  
**Lake County YMCA**  
In Person w/Virtual Option



# Dear Readers

Do you know someone who deserves a little spotlight?

If so, let us know about them and we will thank you with

## FOUR FREE MOVIE TICKETS!

We're always looking to share inspiring stories—whether it's a young entrepreneur chasing a dream, a child who's pushed through challenges, a teacher making a lasting difference, or just a feel-good story. If you have a story idea, we'd love to hear from you!

Got someone in mind? Just send us a quick email about who you think deserves a little recognition. If your idea is a fit, we will have one of our writers reach out to do an official article.

And as a "thank you" we will send you four tickets to Atlas Cinemas along with some vouchers for concessions! Please note: if more than one person suggests the same idea, the tickets will go to whoever sent it in first.)

SCAN FOR EMAIL



## Patterson Family Fun Fest runs through November 2

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

While the market is open year round, Patterson's adds their Family Fun Fest to the action September 13 through November 2, 2025. This area costs: \$8 per person weekdays (10

am–6 pm) for children and adults; \$12 per person Saturday–Sunday (10 am–5 pm). Seniors are \$7 every day. Children 2 and under are free every day. Note: NEOEA Day is Friday October, 10, 2025. While our educators are hard at work away from the classroom, this is a perfect day to bring the kids out.

This gives families of children preschool through elementary ages a place to enjoy hiking, sliding, playing in straw, climbing and "driving" tractors, viewing the world from the top of their tree house, disappearing in the silo and, in general, enjoying the out-of-doors filled with fun. No reservations needed.

For more info, call 440-729-1964 or visit [pattersonfarm.com](http://pattersonfarm.com).

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# Today's Family BOOK CLUB



## Doctor Bedtime's SLEEP MAGIC: Superpowers for Super-Sleepers

By Dr. Roger Washington, MD and Scarlet Nickho

Follow the sleep journey of a diverse, multicultural cast of characters, including babies, toddlers, young children, tweens, and teens. Throughout the story, children will learn about the 'wonders and magic' of sleep, including how it helps them grow, heal, energize, and learn. Ages 1-10 years.



## Robot's First Snow

Written by Billy Sharff  
Illustrated by Hannah Abbo

Meet Robot: he spends all day and night stacking and sorting at the factory. He wishes the other bots could go and play but all they do is work, work, work... But one day, Robot notices something strange falling outside. His sensors detect SNOW!

Robot's First Snow is a beautifully illustrated picture book that will delight young readers as they follow Robot's adventurous journey to experience the magic of winter, making new friends along the way. Available October 7, 2025. Ages 4-8.

## 3rd annual Trunk-or-Treat at ReStore in Eastlake

Lake-Geauga Habitat for Humanity is thrilled to host its 3rd annual Trunk-or-Treat on Thursday, October 16 from 5-7 p.m. at the Lake-Geauga ReStore located at 34225 Vine Street, Eastlake.

This free, family-friendly Halloween event brings the community together for a safe and festive evening of fun. Families are invited to walk through a parking lot filled with creatively decorated trunks, collect treats, and enjoy an evening of laughter, costumes, and community spirit.

Highlights include:

- Safe and festive trick-or-treating for kids
- Free donut giveaway from Amish Door Bakery (while supplies last)
- Music and lively Halloween atmosphere
- Free Halloween-themed craft area for kids to get creative
- Costume contest for children
- Best Decorated Trunk contest
- Full access to shop the ReStore, open during the event with unbeatable deals



"This event is about more than just candy—it's about community," said Chad Collins, executive director of Lake-Geauga Habitat. "It's an opportunity for families to enjoy a safe, inclusive Halloween experience while also exploring what Habitat and ReStore have to offer."

Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are also invited to participate by decorating a trunk. It's a great way to promote your company and join in the fun while supporting a great cause.

Want to decorate your trunk and join the fun?

Email [info@lakegeaugahabitat.org](mailto:info@lakegeaugahabitat.org) to sign up today!



[www.lake-geaugahabitat.org](http://www.lake-geaugahabitat.org)

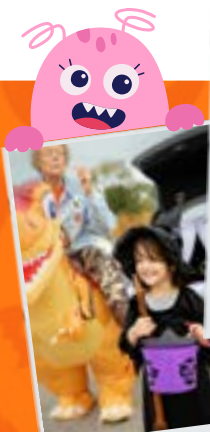
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## UPCOMING EVENT: 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT

OCT. 16<sup>TH</sup> | 5-7 PM  
34225 VINE ST.



- Free Event at ReStore
- Costumes Encouraged
- Donuts & Craft Area
- Costume Contest
- Safe Trick-or-Treating



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**Donation Drop-off Hours:**

**Tuesday: 10AM - 3PM**

**Wednesday - Saturday: 9AM - 4PM**

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# Stories Too **BIG** TO PRINT!

Sometimes our print edition just can't hold it all. This month, a few gems spilled off the printed page and landed online—where they truly shine. From breaking free of people-pleasing habits, to one mom's hilarious memory of Halloween costumes gone wrong, to practical tips for raising lifelong readers, these "exclusively online" stories are ready for you to enjoy. Visit [www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com](http://www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com) today!



## Breaking free from people-pleasing

Ever feel like you have to keep everyone else happy just to be okay yourself? Certified life coach and Cleveland area mom Rebecca Fellenbaum shares five powerful steps to help you move past people-pleasing and into real, authentic connection.



## Memories of Halloween's Past

From stiff vinyl suits and sweaty plastic masks to today's movie-quality costumes, Halloween has changed a lot since the days of pillowcases and homemade getups. Stacy Turner takes us back to the good, the bad, and the itchy of childhood trick-or-treating—and wonders what the next generation will remember.



## Raise lifelong readers

From baby's first board book to preschool audiobooks and cozy kindergarten reading nooks, the path to a lifelong love of reading starts early. This guide shows parents how to nurture curiosity, confidence, and joy at every age—turning "have to read" into "want to read."

[WWW.TODAYSFAMILYMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.TODAYSFAMILYMAGAZINE.COM)

**NEW TODAY'S FAMILY ADVICE COLUMN!**



# LIVING WELL

with Rebecca Fellenbaum



Heartfelt advice to help you enjoy this time in your life.  
Scan the QR code to learn more!



## Indoor Sports and Fun at LNSP East!

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Begins September 9 • (11 weeks)

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  - Ages 18 months–12 years old
  - Payment plan available!
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- Cost: Kickers \$18/class • Skills \$20/class



Contact Paul Liotta | [PLIOTTA@LNSPORTSPARK.COM](mailto:PLIOTTA@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)



### Lil Sluggers

#### FALL SESSION

Begins September 9 • (11 weeks)

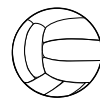
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Contact Noah Koscho | [NKOSCHO@LNSPORTSPARK.COM](mailto:NKOSCHO@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)

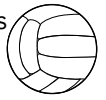
### Adult Co-Ed Volleyball League



#### Fall 2025 Season

Oct 5–Dec 21 • Sundays 6:00-10:30 pm

- Cost: 6v6 – \$255/team plus \$12 per game ref fees
- Season: 10 games guaranteed plus playoffs
- Registration deadline: October 2



Contact Ed Strauss | [ESTRAUSSM@LNSPORTSPARK.COM](mailto:ESTRAUSSM@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)

### Flag Football



#### YOUTH

November 1 –December 20

Saturdays, noon–7 pm • Sundays 8 am–noon

Division: kindergarten, 1st/2nd (will split if we can), 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, girls 6th–8th

- Cost: \$750/team (jerseys/flags not included)
- Teams can use jerseys and flags from outdoor session.
- Flags will also be available at desk on game days



#### ADULTS

Winter session: Begins November 1

League Nights: Saturdays 6–11 pm

Cost: \$700 per team (10 games), plus \$35 per game referee fee  
Registration Deadline Oct 27

Contact Ed Strauss | [ESTRAUSS@LNSPORTSPARK.COM](mailto:ESTRAUSS@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)



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



## The Leaf-Raking Olympics

Every October, as the trees turn glorious shades of orange and red, my yard transforms into the world's least glamorous sporting arena: the Leaf-Raking Olympics. Competitors (otherwise known as homeowners) spend entire weekends training for the grueling events of Pile Building, Bag Stuffing, and Blower Wrestling.

I remember my first "competition" as a kid. My parents convinced me that raking leaves was fun because the pile could be used to stuff a scarecrow. The idea sounded magical: a life-sized figure propped up in our yard, waving at neighbors and terrifying squirrels. I spent hours dragging armfuls of leaves into a mound, sweating through my sweatshirt, only to discover that stuffing pants and shirts with crinkly leaves was neither magical nor fun. My scarecrow sagged in the middle, leaked leaves from every opening, and eventually blew into the street. In hindsight, I think my parents just needed the yard cleaned and used the scarecrow as bait.

Now, as an adult, I understand their genius. Leaf raking is less about art projects and more about survival. If you don't keep up, your yard quickly becomes a crunchy carpet that swallows small pets. Worse, neighborhood kids see a massive pile and take it as an open invitation to leap into it, scattering your hard-earned progress like confetti.

Modern technology has introduced new Olympic events. Leaf blowers, for instance, promise efficiency but often deliver chaos. I've spent more than one Saturday chasing a rogue leaf that refused to budge, only to watch it triumphantly swirl back to its original spot the second I turned off the blower. Bagging leaves is another endurance sport. The official rules seem to require one more leaf than the bag can hold, ensuring that every final scoop results in an eruption of debris.

And then there's Pile Jumping — still the crowd favorite. Even after swearing that I was too old for it, I admit there's something irresistible about running full speed into a mountain of leaves, feeling them cushion the landing, then realizing too late that you just flattened hours of work. Judges (neighbors leaning on rakes) deduct major points for this maneuver.

The truth is, raking leaves is a yearly ritual that combines equal parts frustration, exercise, and nostalgia. Sure, the piles don't last, the bags never close right, and the scarecrows sag. But there's a certain satisfaction in stepping back, surveying a leaf-free lawn, and breathing in that crisp October air. For a moment, you feel like you've conquered nature itself.

Until, of course, the next gust of wind resets the scoreboard.

~Article by Jeannine Todd

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Call the Foster Care line at:

**(440) 350-4218**

or email:

**[Eugene.Tetrick@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Eugene.Tetrick@jfs.ohio.gov)**

**Lake County Department of Job and Family Services**

# 6 tips to help save money, common HVAC & plumbing bad habits

Taking proper care of your HVAC and plumbing is essential to maintaining high efficiency and avoiding future costly maintenance. There are a variety of bad habits that homeowners can unintentionally have regarding their HVAC system and plumbing. These common mistakes can add up over time if you are not careful. Completing annual maintenance and taking a proactive step to fight against future costly issues are some of the most important things that you can do to save money on plumbing and HVAC.

**Not changing your filter:** There are a variety of issues that stem from not changing your filter, inefficiency, and rising energy bills among them. Most homeowners are unaware that the air filter for the HVAC system should be replaced around once every other month, depending on usage. If your filter is not replaced, it can become clogged with dirt, dust, and debris. A clogged air filter can even damage essential parts of your HVAC unit, which can result in costly fixes.

**No regular maintenance:** Forgoing regular maintenance on your HVAC system may seem like an easy way to cut costs, but the damage of doing so can quickly add up over time. Catching any issues with your unit early can help prevent long-lasting damage, as well as ensure that your unit is running at maximum efficiency.

**Blocking airflow:** Proper airflow is one of the

most important things that your HVAC system requires to function efficiently. If this airflow is blocked, multiple issues can arise. Many homeowners are tempted to hide their outdoor HVAC units with plants and shrubs to boost curb appeal. However, placing plants too near the unit can disrupt the ventilation. Plants could also become a home for pests and rodents, which can damage the unit as well. Air flow can also be blocked by furniture, not just foliage, so be sure to keep any lawn chairs or other items away from your system.

**Actively look for drips:** Drips add up over time—and can also signal a larger problem at hand. Loose valves, cracked pipes, or even flooding are all issues that a few small drips can warn homeowners about. These issues, if left untreated, are far more costly than a simple leak. Dripping water can slowly add up in your energy bill. The water can also cause harmful mold to grow if not quickly handled.

**Upgrade your water heater:** Heating water requires a lot of energy; by upgrading to a more effective, energy-efficient model, you can save a lot of money over time. Water heater models that are over ten years old might be due for a replacement soon. A good model to consider is an on-demand



water heater, which quickly heats water when necessary, rather than continuously heats water throughout the day.

**Check your water meter:**

Take a quick look over your water meter to be sure that your water flow is running normally. Located somewhere accessible outside of your home, your water meter indicates water usage. If water is not running to your home but the meter indicates water is still flowing, that can often

be a sign of a major water leak somewhere in your pipes.

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# PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

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Parents considering private school for their children have an overwhelming number of choices. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, there are over 34,500 private schools in the USA. Some major metropolitan areas have well over 1,000! These schools belong to dozens of different associations, religious and nonreligious. Each association has its own feel or flavor, and the schools within them do, too.

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



**FEEL THE VIKING SPIRIT!**

**JOIN US AT OUR FALL OPEN HOUSE:**  
**Sunday, October 12**  
**12-2 PM**

## Lawrence School Knows Great Minds Don't Think Alike

### Is Your Child's School Supporting Their Learning Style?

Every student learns differently, especially those with dyslexia, ADHD, or other learning differences. If your child feels lost or unsupported, it may be time to ask new questions about their school environment.

Lawrence School partners with families to explore whether their student's needs are being met in ways that ignite confidence and success—supporting self-esteem, equipping teachers with specialized training, and providing evidence based reading instruction such as Orton-Gillingham.

For families who want to explore a better fit, Lawrence School is here to help. Our mission is to empower students who learn differently with the instruction, community, and confidence they need to thrive. Your student's learning style matters. And when schools recognize that, everything can change.

CONTACT US: [ADMISSIONS@LAWRENCESCHOOL.ORG](mailto:ADMISSIONS@LAWRENCESCHOOL.ORG)  
 | 440.526.0717 | [WWW.LAWRENCESCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.LAWRENCESCHOOL.ORG)

### OPEN HOUSE EVENTS:

**Upper School (7-12):**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 29**  
**9:00 - 10:30 AM**

**Lower School (2-6):**  
**Thursday, Oct. 30**  
**9:00 - 10:30 AM**



GRADES 2 - 6 / BROADVIEW HEIGHTS • GRADES 7 - 12 / SAGAMORE HILLS

JOIN US FOR OUR

# OPEN HOUSE

**Sunday, November 2**

**Mass**  
10am

**Open House**  
11am - 1pm

*They Chose Benedictine*  
 — See Why:

For admission related questions, please contact  
**Mike Stircula** at [admissions@cbhs.edu](mailto:admissions@cbhs.edu) or 216.421.2080 ext. 325.

# Finding the right private school for your family

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

## 2. What is the culture of the school?

In a faith-based setting the culture of the school will place



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

## 3. What role do parents play in the school?

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

## 4. 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 extracurricular 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.



**PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE**

**All Saints of St. John Vianney School**  
 28702 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe  
 (440) 943-1395  
 www.allsaintswickliffe.org

All Saints of St. John Vianney School in Wickliffe is a vibrant elementary and middle school attracting students from Mentor, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, Wickliffe, Willowick, Eastlake, Euclid and various other communities in the area. With a history of academic excellence, All Saints develops independent leaders and thinkers who are academically prepared and effective communicators.

Located on the campus of the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe, the school offers a faith-based, technology-enriched learning environment for students in preschool through eighth grade.

Their core curriculum includes religion, math, language arts, social studies, science and computer science. Spanish, STREAM, music, art, and physical education are also offered, in addition to middle school supplemental courses, all day pre-K and extracurricular CYO

sports and activities. The school's highly experienced teachers and staff are dedicated to helping students achieve their fullest potential and meet the diverse educational needs of students and their families.

All Saints School is committed to preparing 21st-century thinkers and learners, as well as good stewards of the Catholic church, empowering students to thrive in high school, college and beyond.

**Benedictine High School**  
 2900 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.  
 Cleveland  
 (216) 421-2080  
 www.cbhs.edu

Benedictine High School has been a cornerstone of academic excellence and faith formation since 1927. Located in Cleveland, Ohio, Benedictine offers a transformative, all-boys Catholic education rooted in the Benedictine hallmarks: community, hospitality, humility, prayer, work, and discipline. Through rigorous academics, competitive athletics, and a vibrant arts program, students are empow-



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 Grades 7-12  
 Sun., Oct. 26 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
 Optional info session 11 a.m. - noon  
[gilmour.org/openhouse](http://gilmour.org/openhouse)

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



**PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE**

**Benedictine High School cont'd**  
 ered to excel in their pursuits while growing spiritually and emotionally.

The school's innovative Beacon Program and Pathways initiative guide students before, between, and beyond their high school years, fostering leadership, critical thinking, and a commitment to service. With personalized learning plans, leadership development through the Heroic app, and unique pathways in fine arts, entrepreneurship, STEM, & vocations (construction/manufacturing, healthcare, and technology), Benedictine prepares young men to thrive in college, careers, and life.

Join a brotherhood of tradition, faith, and success at Benedictine High School, where boys become Men of Benedictine and leaders in their communities.

**Gilmour Academy**

34001 Cedar Road, Gates Mills  
 (440) 473-8050  
[www.gilmour.org/admissions](http://www.gilmour.org/admissions)  
[admissions@gilmour.org](mailto:admissions@gilmour.org)

Gilmour Academy is home to students from 18 months to 18 years.

Founded by the Brothers of Holy Cross, the school welcomes all faiths, encouraging critical thinking, tough questions and spiritual growth. With small class sizes and real-world learning, Gilmour delivers a personalized education that develops the whole person through rigorous academics, experiential learning, leadership and service.

The Montessori program fosters curiosity and independence, while Lower School students engage in hands-on learning through nature-based instruction, energy research, robotics, music and more. Middle Schoolers test new passions, access advanced coursework and join Upper School clubs for a seamless transition.

Upper School students pursue electives from molecular genetics to entrepreneurship and engage in unique experiences like semester-long science internships. The signature VECTOR program blends coursework, mentoring, and professional networking, preparing graduates with real-world portfolios. As the only inde-

pendent, Catholic, coed school in northeast Ohio, Gilmour is uniquely qualified to educate the mind and empower the heart of every student.

**Hawken School**

[www.hawken.edu](http://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 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 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.



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 216.464.0946

**Lyman Campus Open House  
 Grades 6-12**

**October 9 | 5:00-7:00 pm**  
 Shaker Heights, Ohio

**Butler Campus Open House**

**October 23 | 5:30-7:00 pm**  
 Novelty, Ohio

**LAUREL**  
[LaurelSchool.org](http://LaurelSchool.org)



**PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE**

**Hershey Montessori School**  
 (440) 357-0918  
[www.Hershey-Montessori.org](http://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 EdChoice. Transportation, full and partial boarding options, and financial aid are available.

**Laurel School**

[www.LaurelSchool.org](http://www.LaurelSchool.org)  
 (216) 464-0946  
Lyman Campus

1 Lyman Circle, Shaker Heights  
Butler Campus  
 7420 Fairmount Road, Novelty

Laurel School, founded in 1896, is a nationally-recognized college preparatory, independent

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 Saturday, 11/22/25, 10:00 am, OPEN HOUSE  
 Toddler – Grade 8 | Lyndhurst Campus

*Upper School*

Thursday, 10/9/25, 9:00 am, Parent Visit  
 Saturday, 11/1/25, 1:00 pm, OPEN HOUSE  
 Grades 9 – 12 | Gates Mills Campus

*Birchwood School*

Sunday, 10/19/25, 2:00 pm, OPEN HOUSE  
 Preschool – Grade 8 | Cleveland-West Campus

*Mastery School*

Tuesday, 10/14/25, 7:00 pm, Parent Visit (virtual)  
 Saturday, 11/8/25, 1:00 pm, OPEN HOUSE  
 Grades 9 – 12 | University Circle Campus

**HAWKEN SCHOOL** COEDUCATIONAL, TODDLER – GRADE 12 [hawken.edu](http://hawken.edu)

Lyndhurst Cleveland-West Gates Mills University Circle



**OPEN HOUSE**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 25  
 11 AM TO 1 PM**

*Faith. Family. and Future Leaders*

- Take a tour of our beautiful campus
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- Get information on our various scholarship opportunities including EdChoice
- Learn about our curriculum and the many clubs and extracurriculars we offer



**28702 Euclid Ave, Wickliffe, OH 44092**

**[www.AllSaintsWickliffe.org](http://www.AllSaintsWickliffe.org)**

**440.943.1395**

**PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE**

**Laurel School cont'd**

day school for girls, kindergarten through grade 12, with a coeducational early childhood school. Laurel is a top all-girls school in Ohio as ranked by Niche.com. Its 11-acre Lyman Campus is in Shaker Heights and its 150-acre Butler Campus is in Novelty. The Butler Campus is home to competitive athletics, full-time outdoor experiential learning for grades 3–5, northeast Ohio's first outdoor prekindergarten, and the new 10,000-sq.-ft. Ruhlman Family Center, opening in January 2026!

Laurel's Center for Research on Girls (LCRG) was established in 2007, drawing on the school's long history as a site of pioneering research on girls. LCRG conducts and sponsors original research on girls, harnesses existing research to shape the day-to-day education of girls, and connects parents and teachers with research findings relevant to raising and educating girls.



**Lawrence School**

www.lawrenceschool.org  
admissions@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  
(330) 908-6800

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.

Every child learns differently—and the right school environment can make all the difference. If you've ever wondered whether

your child's school understands how they learn best, you're not alone. 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.

See their ad on page 13 for upcoming open house events.

**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. The middle school students are offered the opportunity for advanced classes, which can earn high school credit. Their curriculum also includes supplemental classes in art, religion, economics, literature, and health. Mater Dei students learn leadership skills while caring for others and demonstrating responsibility for the world around them.

Mater Dei Academy also offers after-school activities to help students further develop their interests. Mater Dei is proud to partner with Our Lady of Mount Carmel for CYO sports and a variety of other activities.

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



**2026 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE**

- JANUARY 21** 6 - 8PM
- JANUARY 25** 12 - 2PM
- JANUARY 28** 6 - 8PM
- MARCH 11** 6 - 8PM

**MORAL VALUES**  
**DISCOVERY**  
**ACHIEVEMENT**

**\*VISIT US AT OPEN HOUSE OR CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR A PERSONAL TOUR!**



**29840 EUCLID AVE, WICKLIFFE, OH ● WWW.MATERDEIACADEMY.US ● 440-585-0800**

**PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE**

**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-Gabriel-School.org.

**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 the diversity, and it shows in their school pride and the family spirit that makes Viking Village something truly special.

Learn more about VASJ by attending their upcoming open house on October 12, 2025.



**YAY! Fall Fun at Wade Oval Saturday, October 18 • 1-6 p.m.**

Looking for an easy, family-friendly Saturday plan? YAY! Fall Fun has everything in one place: kids' activities, live entertainment, local food, and plenty of space to spread out and enjoy the season, all for FREE!

YAY! Fall Fun will feature participation from local institutions and organizations, including The Music Settlement, NASA Glenn GVIS, the Cleveland History Center, The Cleveland Orchestra, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Sears think[box], and so many more, all of whom will provide engaging activities and performances throughout the day.

**Here's what you'll find around Wade Oval this year:**

- STEM Zone – build, create, and innovate with hands-on science activities
- Arts & Culture Zone – enjoy live music, theater, and dance
- Discovery Zone – explore the wonders of nature and history
- Play Zone – jump, run, and play in an open-air grassy area
- Enjoy live performances all day and an outdoor showing of Hotel Transylvania at 4:30 PM. Plus: the Kids' Costume Parade is back – no registration needed!

Visit [www.universitycircle.org](http://www.universitycircle.org) for more info.

**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





Where

Confidence

Grows



● **Join today and watch her:**

- ✓ Make new friends and create lifelong memories
- ✓ Observe the stars and reach for them
- ✓ Go on unexpected adventures and surprise herself

● Ready to see her become the person she's meant to be? She'll learn new skills with best friends by her side—discovering she can rise to any occasion.

Join Girl Scouts today and watch her thrive.



**Join Girl Scouts today!**

**girl scouts**   
of north east ohio

Scan the QR code to join today! Questions?  
Contact Customer Care at 800-852-4474,  
customer care@gsneo.org, or via live chat  
at gsneo.org

