

TODAY'S family

October 2026 Cuyahoga



When A Cough Won't Quit

When is it time to
see the pediatrician

A Barometer for Boundaries

When saying yes
feels like too much,
resentment may be
telling you to speak up

A Clear Vision

High school students start window
cleaning business that has grown
to six figures in revenues

HUMOR

The Great Halloween Negotiation

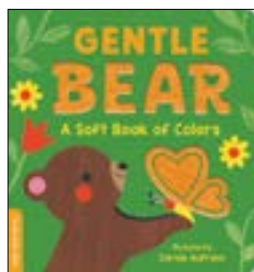
The annual debate
over costumes,
candy, curfews and
common sense

Halloween Events

Plus

Fall Fun
The Reading Corner
Mommy Chronicles

The Reading Corner



Gentle Bear

A Soft Book of Colors

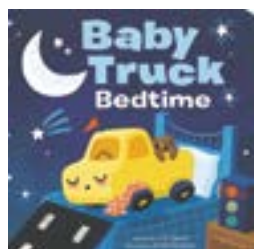
Duopress Labs • Author
Carole Aufranc • Illustrator

(\$9.99 | Ages 3 and up | Release date Nov. 3)

Meet Gentle Bear—a sweet and friendly bear ready to explore the world of colors with your little one. From red tomatoes to yellow bumble-

bees, green leaves to pink flamingos, each page introduces a new color through simple language and comforting visuals.

Featuring soft felt accents and playful die cuts, this board book offers a rich sensory experience that invites babies and toddlers to touch, feel, and discover. Designed to support early color recognition and sensory development, *Gentle Bear* is perfect for ages 3–4 and makes a calming, cuddly addition to any board book collection.



Baby Truck Bedtime

J. D. Davis • Author

Erica Sirotich • Illustrator

(\$8.99 • Baby to 4 years • Release date Oct. 6)

The first title in a pitch-perfect, character-led new board book series about *Baby Truck*, a little yellow pickup truck whose days are filled with

exhilarating activities that are familiar to babies and toddlers—and who, like them, is learning, growing, and having so much fun! The *Baby Truck* series brings humor and energetic rhyme to an audience of little ones who love things that go.



Baby Massage: Sweet Dreams

A Gentle Bedtime Routine

Duopress Labs • Author
Christine Haeseler • Author
Julia Seal • Illustrator

(\$9.99 • Baby to 3 years • Release date Oct. 6)

Baby Massage: Sweet Dreams is a gentle, practical board book that helps families create a peaceful bedtime routine using the growing trend of baby massage. More and more parents are searching for natural ways to help their babies relax and sleep better, and this book offers an easy way to get started.

Created with Christine M. Haeseler, a certified educator of infant massage, this book stands out for its expert guidance made simple. Each page shows parents exactly how to comfort and calm their baby with clear step-by-step motions, soothing words to say, and sweet, inviting illustrations.

Do you know someone who deserves the SPOTLIGHT?

We're always looking to share inspiring, heartwarming stories. If you know someone whose story would inspire or uplift Today's Family readers, please send us an email and tell us about them!

SCAN TO EMAIL US!



contents

5 A CLEAR VISION
High school students turn a summer idea into a six-figure window cleaning business

7 MOMMY CHRONICLES
The case for a little boredom

8 A BAROMETER FOR BOUNDARIES
When saying yes feels like too much, resentment may be telling you to speak up

9 GUIDING OHIO'S YOUNG DRIVERS
How the state is helping families navigate the road ahead

10 WHEN A COUGH WON'T QUIT
When is it time to call the pediatrician? A local doctor weighs in.

11 WHY KIDS LIKE TO BE SCARED
Being scared is fun when the child feels in control

13 THE GREAT HALLOWEEN NEGOTIATION
A humorous look at the annual give and take between parents and kids

14 PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE
10 questions to ask when choosing a private school



Now
in our
22nd
year!

TODAY'S family
Lake, Geauga & Cuyahoga Counties



Publisher/Advertising

Kim Miller

kim@todaysfamilymagazine.com

Publisher/Editor/Online

Dan Miller

dan@todaysfamilymagazine.com

Writers

Justin Daniels
Sophia Filipiak
Dan Miller
Stacy Turner

P.O. Box 7316

Eastlake, Ohio 44097

TodaysFamilyMagazine.com

440-223-0936

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 2026
Direct Market Publishing, LLC
All rights reserved.

Today's Family Magazine is distributed free of charge for families living in and around Cuyahoga County.

Cover Photo

Adobe Stock / Any Grant



Subscribe to
our monthly
**EMAIL
NEWSLETTER**



Like us on
Facebook!



GYMNASTICS

for kids & adults!

Now in our 23rd year of helping gymnasts to reach their goals!

Tumbling Turkey Camps

Friendsgiving Camp • Wed., November 25 2026

Black Friday Camp • Fri., November, 27 2026

- Pre-registration is required.
- 10 am–2 pm
- Ages 4–14 yrs
- \$60 first registration. Each additional sibling, relative, or friend registered & paid from the same account is ½ price!
- Open Gym 2–3:30 pm, all ages, \$10 per participant



Adult Gymnastics Class

What you'll get:

- Flexibility training
- Conditioning exercises
- Basic skills & drills in tumbling, bars, balance beam, and vault

Why join?

- Fun & supportive environment with amazing coaches
- Meet classmates who are just as passionate as you are!
- Perfect for nervous beginners and experienced adults who want to refine their skills

Mon. & Wed. 7:15–8 p.m.

COST: \$15 per class

JOIN ANYTIME!

ADULT OPEN GYM

DAYS: Mon. & Wed. • **TIME:** 8–9 p.m.

COST: \$10 per date or only \$5 when added to a class participation date

Twisters & Flips

Developmental Programs

20 months to 17 years

SIX-WEEK SESSIONS

You choose the day & time that your gymnast will attend their weekly lesson.

- 45-min class, 1x per week
\$130 per session
- 1-hour class, 1x per week
\$145 per session
- 1.25-hour class, 1x per week
\$165 per session

Fall Session 2

October 4 – November 14

Winter Session 1

November 15, 2026–

January 16, 2027

Closed on:

Thanksgiving Break: Nov 22–28, 2026
Camps & open gym available!

Winter Break: Dec 20, 2026–Jan 2, 2027
Camps & open gym available!

No make-up classes needed. All days off are factored into the calendar session.



✓ Develop strength, flexibility, coordination & confidence

✓ Great preparation for all sports and gymnastics success

Birthday Parties

Our coaches will tailor the party activities to the age of the birthday child. All guests are sure to enjoy our gymnastic games and equipment, including our 50 feet of trampoline and in-ground foam pit! Party guests will enjoy organized and loosely-structured instruction on the gymnastic equipment.

An hour of gym time and a half-hour of celebration time
\$195 for 10 children; \$20 for each additional child. JSG provides white paper plates, forks, tablecloths, napkins, and clean-up.



Jump! Start Gymnastics

START HERE...JSG WILL GET YOU THERE

23700 Mercantile Road, Beachwood
(216) 896-0295

Website: jsgymnastics.com

Email: jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com

Pumpkins & Piranhas Brings Halloween Fun to the Aquarium

Greater Cleveland Aquarium's annual Halloween celebration returns this October with Pumpkins & Piranhas, an after-hours event featuring creatures from Lake "Eerie" and the deep "boo" sea.

The event takes place from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 23, 24 and 30, with a members-only night Oct. 22 and a sensory-friendly evening Oct. 25.

Admission includes full Aquarium access along with Halloween-themed activities throughout the galleries.

Guests can see underwater jack-o'-lanterns, skeletons and seasonal décor, interact with costumed scuba divers and enjoy animal encounters. Children can also take part in crafts and activities and receive temporary tattoos and take-home treat bags.

Guests of all ages are encouraged to wear family-friendly costumes that do not obstruct their vision. Since the celebration takes place indoors, families can enjoy Halloween fun without worrying about cold temperatures, rain or squeezing costumes over winter coats.

Greater Cleveland Aquarium is a



KultureCity Sensory Inclusive-certified venue. During Sensory Friendly Sunday on Oct. 25, attendance and noise levels will be reduced and lighting softened to create a more comfortable environment for guests who may be sensitive to external stimuli.

Advance tickets are strongly encouraged.

Admission is \$19.95 for adults ages 13 and older, \$18.95 for children ages 2-12, and free for children younger than 2.

Visit greaterclevelandaquarium.com for details and tickets.

Boo at the Zoo

Boo at the Zoo, the popular family-friendly after-hours Halloween celebration at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, will return Thursday through Sunday evenings from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., October 1 through October 25.

After dark, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will be transformed with immersive Halloween displays and photo opportunities throughout the Zoo. Guests can enjoy trick-or-treating at a dozen candy stations, meet-and-greets with costumed characters, the Monster Mash Dance Party, and free rides on the Boomerang train.

The first 1,000 guests each night will receive a complimentary trick-or-treat bag. Additional entertainment includes the Kooky Cellists, Rockin' Robots, performances by



magician Rick Smith Jr., a hay maze and more.

Costumes are encouraged, and guests can enjoy all Boo at the Zoo activities with admission. Tickets are on sale now at FutureForWildlife.org/Boo. Guests can save by purchasing tickets in advance. The advance discounted cost is \$22 per person or a 4-pack for \$77. Limited same-day tickets can be purchased online or at the box office for an increased cost. Children under age 2 enter free.

Funny Bus Halloween-inspired Tours

Offered all month long, these tours offer an alternative route from our standard tours, highlight some of Cleveland's haunted houses and scary locations, and feature Halloween music and games.

Highlights include Franklin Castle, Erie Street Cemetery, the haunted

theatre district, and Edgewater Park.

Guests are cautioned that the Halloween-inspired tours are NOT a haunted experience. The Funny Bus is a comedy bus – we do funny, not spooky!

Visit www.funnybus.net/cleveland or call 216-404-7786 for tickets/info.



October 4, 2026

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

Come and Join Us for Prayer, Good Food, and Fun!

Mass: Chapel 8 AM | Grotto: 9:30 AM & 1 PM

Gift Shop: Opens after the 8 AM Mass until 4:30 PM

Breakfast: 10:30 to 11:30 AM (dining room)

Lunch: Noon to 2 PM • Chicken Meal (dining room)

Outdoors there will be a Sausage and Pizza Stand,

Bake Sale, Crafts, Basket Raffles, and Games

Rosary and Benediction: 4 PM



Outdoor Mass | 9:30 AM

Every Sunday through October 2026.

Breakfast served in the dining room afterwards.

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

Owned and operated by the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity

21281 Chardon Road, Euclid

www.srstrinity.com

Convent: 216-481-8232 • Gift Shop: 216-481-0900

Explore the deep BOO sea!
A family Halloween celebration

Fri & Sat, October 23, 24 & 30
Sensory Friendly Night - October 25

**PUMPKINS
PIRANHAS**

**DIVERS!
TREAT BAGS!
FAMILY
ACTIVITIES!
COSTUMES!**

216.862.8803 | greaterclevelandaquarium.com
Advance tickets required.

Clear Vision

High school students turn a summer idea into a six-figure window cleaning business

By Dan Miller, Today's Family Editor

I live in a two-story colonial and quickly learned one frustrating lesson after moving in: upper windows are not easy to clean.

The lower windows were simple enough, but the top sashes of the upstairs windows do not tilt in. The only way to clean them was from the outside with an extension pole, mop and squeegee. The pole was clunky, the process awkward and the results worse than the windows I was trying to clean.

Then, while I was cutting the grass one afternoon, two young men approached me. I had already seen them cleaning windows across the street, so I had a pretty good idea why they were there. At first, I wasn't especially interested. But their friendly, professional approach disarmed me within a minute.

We walked around the house, they explained their service and gave me a price that seemed reasonable. Remembering my streak-covered upstairs windows, I decided to give them a shot.

As they were leaving, I realized they seemed even younger than I first thought. It turned out they were heading into their senior year of high school.

Meet James Harman (University School) and Sullivan Knaack (Bay Village High School), owners of Aquashine Window Cleaning LLC.

What began as a simple service idea has grown into a real business with professional equipment, employees, repeat customers and six figures in revenue.

James first came up with the idea during the summer of 2024. He wanted to start his own business and was looking for a service he could realistically offer as a high school student.

"I decided to try window cleaning and started by doing a few jobs for family and friends," James says. "Once I saw that there was potential, I brought my friend Sullivan Knaack into the business. From there, we started going door-to-door together to find customers and grow Aquashine."

Window cleaning made sense. It

did not require a huge amount of startup money, it was a skill they could learn and improve, and nearly every homeowner was a potential customer.

The first version of Aquashine was basic. Once Sullivan joined him, the two began knocking on doors, selling jobs and doing the work themselves with mops, squeegees, buckets, towels and extension poles.

Door-to-door sales were uncomfortable at first.

"Knocking on a stranger's door and asking them to pay for our service was completely different," James says. "We heard plenty of no's, but we kept going."

With repetition, James became more comfortable talking to people, answering questions and handling rejection. Sales eventually became one of his favorite parts of running the business.

"I learned that selling isn't really about memorizing a perfect script," he says. "It's about listening to what someone is saying, understanding why they might be hesitant, and being able to respond confidently without being pushy."

As the customer base grew, so did the company's ambitions. The boys reinvested thousands of dollars into professional water-fed poles and an RO/DI purified-water system. The system removes minerals and impurities that would otherwise leave spots behind, allowing exterior windows to air-dry without streaking. For interior windows, they use professional mops, squeegees and microfiber towels.

The investment allowed Aquashine to work faster and take on more jobs. But both James and Sullivan say homeowners judge a business by more than the final shine on the glass.

"We learned that professionalism is about much more than just whether the glass is clean," Sullivan says. "Showing up when you say you will, communicating with the homeowner, taking care around their property, wearing professional clothing, keeping equipment organized and checking your work all affect how a customer views the company."

That lesson became even more im-



James Harman and Sullivan Knaack, owners of Aquashine Window Cleaning

portant as Aquashine expanded beyond the two friends doing every job themselves. The company has hired other high school students, including several of James' friends from school, to complete jobs on both the east and west sides of Cleveland.

Managing friends has been one of James' biggest learning experiences.

"Working with friends can be fun, but once you're paying someone to represent your company, you also have to hold them accountable," he says. "I've had to learn how to clearly explain what I expect, train people properly and give feedback when something isn't being done correctly."

The business also required adults to take them seriously, which was not automatic.

"At first, some people definitely saw us as high school students trying to make some summer money rather than as an actual company," James says. "We had to prove ourselves through the quality of our work."

Professional equipment, organized communication, uniforms and customer referrals helped establish credibility. Aquashine now has repeat customers and a 5-star rating on Google.

James says the business idea came before his involvement with University School's Young Entrepreneur Institute, but the program has helped him think more deeply about entrepreneurship, leadership and growth.

Ilene Frankel, executive director of the Young Entrepreneur Institute, says Aquashine stood out because it went beyond the typical student business, requiring "direct selling, specialized equipment and multiple years of continuity."

"Being an entrepreneur and being the boss are serious jobs," Frankel says. "James and Sullivan are responsible for customer acquisition, payroll, cash flow, operations, marketing and equipment. That's significantly more than a typical summer job."

As they enter senior year, James and Sullivan plan to slow the business during the school year and focus on academics and other responsibilities. But they also have larger goals for Aquashine, including purchasing company trucks, strengthening their online presence, investing in online advertising and adding exterior cleaning services such as pressure washing.

Whether Aquashine continues long-term or becomes the foundation for something else, both students say the experience has already changed how they think.

"Start before you feel completely ready," James says. "You're going to make mistakes, but you learn much faster by actually doing something than by waiting until you have the perfect idea or perfect plan."

Sullivan offers similar advice.

"Don't overcomplicate the beginning," he says. "Find something people actually need, figure out a way to provide it, and start asking people if they want it."

Not bad advice from two high school students who walked across a lawn, made a pitch and left behind cleaner windows — and a much bigger story than expected.

Aquashine Window Cleaning LLC can be reached at 216-800-6242, aquashinewindows@gmail.com, or aquashinewindows.com.

Fall is back at the Holden Forest & Gardens

CLEVELAND BOTANICAL GARDEN

Beautiful seasonal displays will be showcased throughout the indoor and outdoor gardens.

Boo-tanical Bash

On Saturday, Oct. 24, from noon–3 p.m., families can enjoy a DJ dance party, games and storytime, with storytime taking place from 12:30–2:30 p.m. Families looking to add even more Halloween fun can purchase a children's activity wristband, which includes bag decorating outside the Hershey Children's Garden, a Trick-or-Treat Trail through the garden and access to a craft room featuring hands-on crafts and coloring pages.

Activity wristbands are \$15 and are required for children participating in the trick-or-treat trail and craft activities. Adults and other guests do not need an additional wristband. Advance ticket purchase is strongly encouraged.

Leaf Discovery Trail

Appreciate the beauty of fall color by learning about the leaves and trees at the Botanical Garden! Follow the Leaf Trail, a leaf identification activity that teaches you how to identify 10 deciduous trees, including sugar maple, pawpaw, and river birch, marked with signs on the grounds.

The Botanical Garden is open from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from noon



–5 p.m. Sunday. The garden is closed Mondays. Admission is \$21 for adults, \$15 for children ages 3 to 12.

HOLDEN ARBORETUM

Enjoy seasonal displays, striking fall color and more.

Skeleton Grove

Through Sunday, November 1

Nature will come alive in the most unexpected way this fall. Wander through Skeleton Grove at the Holden Arboretum, where 14 artist-designed 12-foot skeletons strike playful poses among vibrant fall foliage. Guests can find these towering pieces throughout the Main Display Garden and in front of the Corning Visitor Center. Skeleton Grove is equal parts spooky and spectacular! This exhibit is included with admission.

Kalberer Emergent Tower

This fall favorite is not to be missed! Experience fall color from a new perspective at the Arboretum. The Kalberer Emergent Tower is 120 feet or approximately 12 stories tall and provides a breathtaking view of the surrounding area all the way to Lake Erie. The tower is open 10 a.m.–4:45 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday until the end of October. Through November it is open weekends only (weather permitting) from 10 a.m.–3:45 p.m. Free with admission.

Murch Canopy Walk

Immerse yourself in warm autumn hues with the Murch Canopy Walk where guests can stroll along a 500-foot-long elevated walkway that rises 65 feet above the forest floor. Walk among the treetops, it is the best place to see Instagram-worthy fall foliage. The walk is open 10 a.m.–4:45 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday until the end of October. Through November it is open weekends only (weather permitting) from 10 a.m.–3:45 p.m. Free with admission.

The Holden Arboretum Visitor Center is open Tuesday–Sunday from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; members can enjoy the grounds from dawn to dusk.

Admission is \$21 for adults, \$15 for children ages 3 to 12.

Visit holdenfg.org for more info on both.



CuyahogaDD.org

Here for your whole life

Call 216-736-2673
for Eligibility



C U Y A H O G A C O U N T Y
Board of Developmental Disabilities

Cuyahoga DD serves more than 15,000 county residents of all ages and is primarily supported by a property tax levy last approved by voters in 2005.

The Case for a Little Boredom

By Stacy Turner

In a world of constant notifications, digital overload can be mentally exhausting. For many people, 2026 has meant a return to analog activities. Instead of doomscrolling to pass the time in waiting rooms, at school pickups or whenever they have a few spare minutes, they're pulling out a book, craft project or journal and pen instead.

With endless scrolling, that sense of limitlessness can be unsettling. There's always another post to see, another video to watch or another level to reach. By contrast, analog activities have a natural stopping point: You can finish a chapter, complete a puzzle, win or lose a game and move on. They provide boundaries and limits — something children especially need to learn.

As a Gen X, it feels like growing up without the internet has become something of a superpower. As kids, we had to figure out what to do during those long, unstructured stretches of time. Without devices, streaming platforms, AI and social media, we learned to make our own fun. We could ride our bikes or roller-skate. If we could round up enough kids, we'd play ball in the yard. If the weather didn't cooperate, we could play a board game, read a book or make up a new game to occupy our time.

We also had chores that helped family life run more smoothly — laundry, dishes, cooking or



cleaning — and gave us a head start on adulting. And we could read and write cursive, which seems almost like a secret code to those who don't know it today.

Research suggests that as kids learn to handle boredom and frustration without a digital fix, they build resilience and strengthen their ability to focus. Spending more time face-to-face with parents, siblings and friends also gives kids — and adults — more opportunities to build social skills.

Maybe that's why some parents today are returning to those same activities with their children, a trend sometimes called "analog parenting." It's something we started with our kids before we knew it had a name.

According to our kids, no one they knew had chores, and absolutely everyone in the world had a smartphone before they did. They complained when we set limits on phone use. But they survived

— thrived, even. Instead of relying on a device to entertain them, they found countless (and sometimes pointless) ways to entertain themselves.

They enjoyed being outside, whatever the weather: jumping in puddles, having water wars, taking turns on the tire swing and leaping into piles of leaves. When the weather was bad, they built blanket forts inside. They read books, drew pictures and made countless crafts.

We also took regular camping trips each summer and early fall. Without electricity or devices, we had time to swim in lakes, notice lizards, find fossil rocks and pick out shapes in the clouds overhead. On one trip, my youngest found clay near a stream and tried to "fire" it in the campfire that night. On another, a tent pole broke as we were setting up camp, and my eldest and husband engineered a solution that allowed us to put up the tent anyway rather than end our trip before it had really begun.

Problem-solving, simple pleasures, s'mores and stargazing — those have become some of our favorite family memories.

Don't misunderstand: We haven't stuck our heads in the sand and sworn off technology. Instead, we try to be more intentional about balancing when and how we use it. It isn't always easy, and we don't always get it right, but we keep at it.

The results have been worth the effort. And if you're on this journey, too, maybe you've found the same thing.

Fall Fun Awaits in Lakeside, OH

Fall along the shores of Lake Erie brings a different kind of fun to Lakeside Chautauqua. With crisp days, colorful scenery, festive weekends and family traditions that stretch into winter, there are plenty of reasons to plan a getaway long after summer has ended.

Just an hour from Cleveland on the Marblehead Peninsula, Lakeside offers a setting that makes slowing down easy. Stroll past hundreds of colorful Victorian cottages, grab a bite at a local restaurant, browse seasonal shops, catch a movie or concert, or simply spend the day playing along the lake.

Fall Favorite: Lakeside-Marblehead Lighthouse Festival | Oct. 10

This beloved fall tradition offers a full day of family fun, from browsing more than 100 arts and crafts vendors to taking a hayride or exploring the farmers' market.

Kids can enjoy crafts and inflatables, while history buffs can tour the iconic Marblehead Lighthouse and Wolcott Keeper's House. With fall colors, seasonal treats and activities around every corner, it's an easy

way to turn a crisp October day into a memorable family outing.

Make Spirits Bright:

Lakeside Christmas | Dec. 4–5

Lakeside takes on a little extra sparkle during Lakeside Christmas, when twinkling lights, holiday music and festive traditions fill the community. Gather the family for the tree-lighting ceremony, watch a Christmas movie, visit Santa, enjoy a Community Christmas Dinner and get a head start on holiday shopping.

It's the kind of weekend that invites you to slow down, make memories and embrace the magic of the season together.

Ring in 2027: New Year's Eve Donut Drop | Dec. 31

Forget the ball drop. Lakeside rings in the new year with a giant inflatable donut. On New Year's Eve, meet at the Lakeside Pavilion to watch the oversized sweet treat descend at midnight. Enjoy music, free donuts from The Patio Restaurant, hot chocolate and a blessing for the year ahead.

See lakesideohio.com to plan your visit.

**Waterfront hotel, shopping, dining,
700 ft. dock, pool and live entertainment ...
it's all in Lakeside.**

EDUCATION ARTS RELIGION RECREATION

Lakeside has been a family vacation destination on the Lake Erie shoreline for more than 150 years. As one of the original Chautauqua communities, Lakeside has been a center of spiritual renewal, education, cultural arts and recreation. Make this the year you experience all Lakeside has to offer.

Lakeside
CHAUTAUQUA

(866) 952-5374 • lakesideohio.com
Plan your family vacation, weekend, or day-trip today.

Ohio THE HEART OF IT ALL. ohio.org

Resentment: A Barometer for Better Boundaries



By Rebecca Fellenbaum

I learned I needed better boundaries while standing in my kitchen.

When my kids got home from school, they would plop down in front of the TV and ask me to get them a snack. I wanted to be nice, and this became our routine. Yet I felt increasingly annoyed that these perfectly capable kids were relaxing while I waited on them.

I felt resentful. Yet I kept saying yes even though I wanted to say no.

Then I reflected on the work I do helping clients set boundaries. I realized I had another option. Instead of silently doing things I didn't want to do and then stewing about them, I could say something.

So I did. I told my kids they were capable of getting their own snacks. I was happy to help when they needed me, but I wasn't going to cater to them while they relaxed.

Were they happy about it? No. Was I perfectly calm and consistent? Absolutely not. Was it better than letting resentment build until I snapped at everyone? Yes!

That experience taught me to use resentment as a barometer for my boundaries. Now, when I'm asked to do something or notice resentment creeping in, I check in with myself: Am I doing

this because I genuinely want to, or am I going to feel resentful?

Resentment gives us useful information. It can tell us when we're saying yes when we want to say no, doing more than we have capacity for, hoping someone will read our mind or ignoring our own needs and preferences. It can be a sign that we need to set a boundary with ourselves or someone else.

When you notice resentment, try these four steps:

- **Notice.** Something feels off. That's your resentment barometer.
- **Feel.** What's the emotion? It might be resentment, anger, loneliness, hurt or feeling misunderstood.
- **Check in with your needs.** Ask yourself: What do I want or need here?
- **Use your voice.** What needs to be said? Ask for help, make a request, say, "I can't do that this week," or simply, "No, thanks."

Using your voice doesn't guarantee someone will like your boundary. Boundaries aren't about controlling someone else's behavior. They're about knowing where you end and someone else begins, expressing what's true for you and taking responsibility for your side of the relationship.

Close relationships require us to let people know who we are — our feelings, needs, preferences and limits.



After years of practice, boundaries haven't made me less generous. They've helped me give more genuinely. When I say yes, I mean it. When I need help, I ask. And I don't expect the people I love to magically know what I need. I tell them.

So the next time resentment starts bubbling up, don't just push through. Check your barometer. Get curious about what you need and use your voice to express it.

Your relationships may be better for it.

Rebecca Fellenbaum is a life and relationship coach, writer and Cleveland-area mom who helps individuals and couples feel better and enjoy their lives and relationships. Find her at rebeccafellenbaum.com.

She shows up.
She shines bright.

girlscouts 
of north east ohio



Play, create, explore,
and more. Girl Scouts
is where belonging feels
easy, while confidence
blooms from the inside
and shines on
the outside.

Join Girl Scouts today!

At Girl Scouts, she'll:

- ✓ Make long-lasting friendships
- ✓ Try activities that make her smile
- ✓ Build real-world skills through fun, hands-on experiences



Scan the QR code to
join today or find a FREE
event near you!
www.gsneo.org/join



Guiding Ohio's Young Drivers

How the State is Helping Families Navigate the Road Ahead

For many Ohio families, teaching a teen to drive is one of the most exciting — and nerve-racking — milestones they'll face together. Between navigating Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) requirements, understanding crash risks and finding safe opportunities for supervised practice, parents often wonder where to start. The Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, offers three initiatives designed to help: the Teach Your Teen to Drive campaign, the RoadReady Ohio mobile app and the Drive to Succeed scholarship program.

Together, these efforts aim to make learning to drive safer, more accessible and less stressful for Ohio families.

Helping Parents Become Confident Driving Coaches

OTSO's Teach Your Teen to Drive campaign encourages parents to take an active role in the 50 hours of supervised driving practice required

before teens can earn a probationary license. The campaign compares those hours to the time teens devote to extracurricular activities — reinforcing that driving, like any skill, takes practice and patience. Families can visit the Teach Your Teen to Drive website for tools including the Teen Driver Roadmap, featured videos, online safety courses and the Teen Crash Dash, which highlights key teen crash data.

OTSO aims to make that coaching role easier with clear resources that guide families from the temporary permit phase through full licensure.

RoadReady Ohio: Bringing Driving Practice into the Digital Age

One of the biggest hurdles for families is tracking the required 50 practice hours — and ensuring those hours are meaningful. The free RoadReady Ohio app helps driving supervisors and teens log each session while receiving feedback on braking, acceleration, turning and speed.

The app uses telematics to score drives and offer suggestions for improvement, helping teens build safer habits. More than 54,000 users have created accounts statewide.

Once practice hours are complete, the app automatically generates the official Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) driving log and affidavit, saving families time and meeting updated documentation requirements.

Making Driver Training Accessible Through Drive to Succeed

For many Ohio families, the cost of driver education — often \$350 to \$650 or more — creates a real barrier. OTSO's Drive to Succeed program helps remove that obstacle by providing scholarships for eligible drivers under age 21. Since the program's launch, about 10,000 teens have received scholarships to enroll in certified driver training programs across the state.

In 2025, OTSO expanded the program with \$6 million in fund-



ing, enough to support new drivers through 2027. Scholarships are distributed through regional educational service centers, giving teens in all 88 counties access to training — especially important now that Ohio has expanded mandatory driver education requirements for first-time license applicants ages 18 to 20.

Supporting Parents, Empowering Teens,

Crash data underscores why these resources matter: Ohio recorded 97 teen-related fatal crashes in 2024, with 69% attributed to the teen driver.

OTSO's programs help families understand these risks and equip parents with tools to guide teens safely through the learning process.

Download the app at otso.ohio.gov/programs/ohio-driver-training-for-drivers/parents-and-teens.

Experience "The Land" from the Water this October

Lady Caroline offers a relaxing way to experience Cleveland and its waterways from a whole new perspective. The four-deck, 120-foot ship features more than 15,000 square feet of passenger space, including three fully enclosed, climate-controlled decks and a sky deck with a covered bar and panoramic views of the city, river and lake.

October brings seasonal cruises for families and adults looking for something a little different.

On Friday, Oct. 16, Lady Caroline hosts a Murder Mystery Dinner Cruise from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., with boarding at 6:30 p.m. Guests can step back into the 1950s for a sock hop with a deadly twist, following clues and trying to identify the culprit while enjoying dinner and dancing. Costumes are encouraged. Tickets are \$64.95 to \$79.95, plus taxes and fees.

Families can join the fun on Saturday, Oct. 24, during the Monster Bash from noon to 2 p.m., with boarding at 11 a.m. Young ghouls, goblins and superheroes are invited



to come in costume for a not-so-spooky afternoon cruise featuring onboard trick-or-treating. Tickets are \$25 to \$37, plus taxes and fees.

Later that evening, adults can get into the Halloween spirit aboard Caroline's Cursed Cruise, sailing from 7 to 10 p.m., with boarding at 6 p.m. The night includes a costume contest with prizes for the winner and runner-up. Tickets are \$67.99, plus taxes and fees.

Lady Caroline departs from the Nautica Waterfront District, 1153 Main Ave., Cleveland. For tickets and additional info, visit ladycaroline.com or call 216-696-8888.

LADY CAROLINE

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Friday, October 16

MURDER MYSTERY CRUISE

A '50s Sock Hop Gone Sour!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

BOURBON TASTING CRUISE

Saturday, October 24 - 12pm

MONSTER BASH

Saturday, October 24 - 7pm

CAROLINE'S CURSED CRUISE

Visit ladycaroline.com
to get your tickets today!

When a Cough Won't Quit

What that cough may be telling you—
and when it's time to call the pediatrician

By Dan Miller, Today's Family

It starts with a snuffle. Then comes the cough.

A few days later, the runny nose may be gone, your child's energy is back and everything seems normal—except for that cough that just won't leave.

Coughing is one of the most common reasons parents call the pediatrician, particularly as children return to school and respiratory illnesses begin making their seasonal rounds. While most coughs are nothing to worry about, the sound, timing and symptoms that accompany them can offer clues about what may be going on.

"Parents often expect a cough to disappear as soon as the rest of a cold gets better, but sometimes coughing can linger. The important thing is looking at the whole child—how they are breathing, how they are acting and eating and whether the symptoms are improving or getting worse," says Dr. Laura Caserta of Senders Pediatrics in South Euclid.

Why do we cough?

Although annoying, coughing serves an important purpose. It is one of the body's ways of clearing mucus, irritants and other material from the airway.

In children, a cough is most commonly caused by a viral respiratory infection. Even after the infection itself has passed, irritated airways and lingering mucus can keep a child coughing for days or sometimes a few weeks.

Postnasal drainage from colds or allergies can also trigger coughing, particularly when a child lies down

at night.

Not every cough is caused by a simple viral cold.

A persistent nighttime cough or coughing during exercise, for example, can sometimes be associated with asthma. Children with allergies may cough because of drainage or airway irritation. Less commonly, prolonged coughing may result from pneumonia, pertussis—commonly called whooping cough—or another condition that requires medical treatment.

Dr. Caserta says, "A cough by itself usually doesn't tell us exactly what is causing it. We want to know when it started, whether there is fever, whether the child is wheezing or short of breath and whether certain things such as exercise or lying down make it worse."

Does the sound matter?

Sometimes.

A harsh, barking cough—often compared to the sound of a seal—is commonly associated with croup, which causes swelling around the upper airways and is especially common in younger children.

Wheezing is different from coughing. It is usually a high-pitched or whistling sound produced while breathing and is associated with irritation in the lungs or lower airways. In young children, coughing can be indistinguishable from wheezing in a viral condition called bronchiolitis.

A severe coughing spell followed by a gasping or "whooping" sound can occur with an unusual bacterial illness called pertussis or whooping cough, although not every child with pertussis develops the classic whoop.



Helping a child feel better

For an uncomplicated viral illness, comfort measures may be all that is necessary. Encourage fluids, which can help thin mucus and keep the throat moist. A cool-mist humidifier may make dry air more comfortable. And a Neti-Pot which helps wash out sinuses can often help eliminate the post-nasal dripping

For children older than age 1, a teaspoon of honey can soothe an irritated throat and may reduce nighttime coughing. Honey should never be given to babies younger than 12 months because of the risk of infant botulism.

Dr. Caserta says, "Parents should be cautious with over-the-counter cough and cold medicines. These products are not appropriate for every age and provide limited benefit, so in general it is best to avoid them"

When should parents call?

A cough deserves medical attention when it is accompanied by difficulty breathing, persistent or significant wheezing, high or prolonged fever,

unusual tiredness, signs of dehydration, chest pain or symptoms that are clearly worsening instead of improving.

Parents should also contact their pediatrician if a cough continues for several weeks, repeatedly interferes with sleep or activity, or disappears and then returns.

Seek emergency care for severe difficulty breathing, bluish or gray coloring around the lips or face, or other signs that a child is not getting enough oxygen.

Dr. Caserta adds, "Eating and drinking appropriately is a good sign of health. If the coughing impairs your baby's ability to drink from the breast or bottle, or affects your child's appetite, make sure to let your pediatric provider know about it."

Most of the time, the most reassuring treatment is simply patience.

That intermittent but stubborn cough following your child from breakfast to bedtime may be frustrating, but in many cases it is simply the last guest to leave after a respiratory virus has moved on.

**Subscribe to our monthly
EMAIL NEWSLETTER!**

**TODAY'S
family**
Lake, Geauga & Cuyahoga Counties



**BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS OFFERS
THEATER CLASSES FOR ALL AGES.**

ENROLL TODAY AT BECKCENTER.ORG

**Beck
Center
—FOR THE—
arts**

Why Do Kids Like to Be Scared?



There's something wonderfully strange about Halloween. Children who insist there is a monster under the bed suddenly want to walk through a yard filled with skeletons, ghosts and glowing eyes. They beg to hear spooky stories, watch scary movies and visit haunted houses — then occasionally spend the ride home insisting they weren't scared at all.

So why can being frightened actually be fun?

One reason is that Halloween offers children a safe kind of fear. Their heart may race when a motion-activated witch suddenly screams, but somewhere in the back of their mind they know Mom or Dad is nearby and the witch runs on batteries.

That difference between real danger and make-believe lets children experience the physical excitement of fear without actually being threatened. There's anticipation, a sudden scare and then relief — often followed by laughter and the desire to do it again.

Fear itself is also a normal part of childhood. Accord-

ing to the Child Mind Institute, a nonprofit organization focused on children's mental health and learning disorders, "Being afraid sometimes is a normal, healthy part of growing up." Learning to manage ordinary fears can help children develop confidence and self-regulation.

Halloween gives them plenty of opportunities to practice. A child may cautiously approach a spooky porch, discover that the skeleton isn't real and leave clutching a miniature Snickers and feeling considerably braver than when the journey began.

Pretend play adds another layer. Costumes allow children to temporarily become the very things that might normally frighten them — witches, monsters, ghosts or superheroes capable of defeating all three. Psychologist Kathryn L. Keough, PhD, of the Child Mind Institute notes that dressing up encourages imagination while requiring children to think from another character's perspective.

Of course, there's a big difference between fun-scared and genuinely terrified. Very young children may have difficulty separating fantasy from reality, and children with anxiety or sensory sensitivities can find Halloween decorations, masks and loud noises overwhelming. Experts recommend following the child's lead rather than forcing a scary experience because adults think it should be fun.

That may be the real secret to Halloween fear: Kids enjoy being scared when they still feel in control. They can hide their eyes during the spooky part, hold a parent's hand or decide they've had enough.

And five minutes later, of course, they may ask to do it again.



Discover the Strange and Curious at Squire's Castle

Get into the Halloween spirit at Curiosities at the Castle on Saturday, October 24, from 5–8 p.m. at Squire's Castle in North Chagrin Reservation. This free, family-friendly event invites guests to take a lantern-lit walk around and inside the iconic castle while exploring its history and legends, meeting mysterious creatures of the night, and uncovering curiosities from nature.

Bones, taxidermy, and other natural oddities will be on display during this eerie autumn evening, which also features food trucks and vendors. Costumes are encouraged for guests looking to add a little extra Halloween fun to the experience. The event includes paved and natural surfaces and a steep hill, with a total distance of up to one and a half miles.

We provide choices for people to live independently in the place they want to call home.



Western Reserve
Area Agency on Aging

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE NETWORK:

The starting point for community services and support.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM:

Information, community support, respite, counseling and other services for family caregivers.

Serving Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties.



For more information, call 216.621.0303 or 800.626.7277
Visit www.areaagingsolutions.org

25300 Al Moen Dr, Suite 300 North Olmsted, OH 44070





Phone: 440-729-7144
8765 Mulberry Road, Chesterland

**Open Daily
Sept. 16 – Nov. 1**

For families to enjoy
spending time together having
creative fun in the out of doors!

**Patterson's Farm Market
OPEN DAILY!**

Phone: 440-729-1964
11414 Caves Road, Chesterland

Pick Your Own Apples,
Pumpkins Galore,
Crunchy Apples, Fresh Cider,
Pies, Donuts & Fritters!

www.pattersonfarm.com

6 Tips To Help You Save Money

Common HVAC & plumbing bad habits

Proper HVAC and plumbing care can improve efficiency, prevent costly repairs and help homeowners avoid problems caused by common maintenance mistakes. Annual service, along with a few proactive habits, can go a long way toward protecting your systems and saving money over time.

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-last-

ing 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 near the unit can disrupt 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. 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.

Call today (440) 285-9125 or (440) 286-6002. Visit www.Debordinc.com or see the ad below for additional information and special offers!



We have The BEST Warranty in Town...

Enjoy our 12 Year Parts & 12 Year Labor Warranty!

UP to \$2000 OFF HVAC Optimum or
Premium System Purchase & Installation.

...Do not Delay, Call Today, LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Refer to our article for more information

**EVERYBODY'S
TALKING ABOUT
Us, WE'RE THE
TALK OF THE
TOWN!**

- 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



Code: TF200

\$200 OFF
HOT WATER TANK
Purchase & Installation

Code: TF50

\$50 OFF
SUMP PUMPS
Purchase & Installation

Coupon valid toward installation only and cannot be combined with any other offer. Must be presented at time of service. Limited 1 per customer, per visit. Total payment due upon completion of work. (financed thru DeBord approved lenders qualifies as payment.)

- Air Conditioning Service & Installation
- Water Treatment Systems
- Well Pumps
- Indoor Air Quality
- AND MORE!

LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED

Plumbing & HVAC QR Code



100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE!
Our professionals are here for YOU, Day or Night

(440) 285-9125 / (440) 286-6002
www.Debordinc.com

Serving Lake, Geauga, and Surrounding Areas. OH Lic. #12292

The Great Halloween Negotiation

The annual debate over costumes, candy, curfews and common sense

By Dan Miller, Today's Family Editor

Halloween has always been a holiday built on negotiation. As kids, we negotiated how late we could stay out, how far from home we could roam and how much candy we were allowed to eat before our parents started using words like "stomach-ache" and "tomorrow."

Then there was the weather. Growing up in Northeast Ohio, Halloween costumes were often designed with absolutely no consideration for the possibility that it might be 40 degrees and raining sideways. I remember one year when my mother sewed me a vampire cape. It was magnificent. I had the teeth. I had the cape. I was ready to terrorize the neighborhood.

Then my mother looked at the thermometer. Her position: I had to wear a winter coat. My position: Dracula did not wear a winter coat. After intense negotiations, a compromise was reached. I wore the winter coat underneath the cape.

Instead of looking like a sleek, mysterious vampire, I looked like Dracula after somebody hooked him up to an air compressor. The plastic vampire teeth weren't much better. They seemed like an essential part of the costume until I discovered that they made talking nearly impossible and produced enough saliva to qualify as their own weather system. "Trick or treat" came out sounding like something spoken by a heavily sedated walrus. Eventually the teeth went into my pocket, where most elaborate childhood costume accessories ultimately ended up.

One year my younger brother was sick and couldn't go trick-or-treating. My parents sent me out carrying a second bag so I could collect candy for him. This required another level of negotiation.

At every house, I had to explain that the extra candy wasn't for me.

"My brother is sick."

Sure he is.

"He really is."

Of course.

I could see the skepticism in people's faces. Apparently I was the first child in America ever to discover the brilliant strategy of inventing an ill

sibling to double his candy haul. Still, most people gave me a second piece.

When I got home, I naturally attempted to negotiate a percentage of my brother's candy as compensation for my labor. I had walked the miles. I had endured the suspicion. I had carried the bag. My proposal was rejected. Childhood labor laws were apparently much different then.

Years later, when I became a parent, I discovered that Halloween negotiations had not disappeared. I had merely changed sides of the table. My kids wanted to know exactly when trick-or-treating started, how long they could stay out and why we couldn't drive to another neighborhood after ours was finished. There were negotiations over costumes, candy consumption and whether wearing a coat would "ruin everything."

Apparently my mother had passed the weather argument directly to me.

Then there was the house that gave out full-size candy bars. Every neighborhood has one. Kids talk about that house with the reverence adults reserve for five-star restaurants.

My children eventually came up with what they considered an ingenious plan: Go to the full-size candy-bar house, return home, change costumes and go back. They believed this demonstrated initiative. I believed it demonstrated fraud.

Their argument was that the homeowner would never know. My argument was that if you have already received a full-size Snickers bar from a stranger, perhaps you should simply be grateful and move along. I won that one.

There were plenty of other negotiations. How much candy could be eaten that night? Could candy be taken to school the next day? Were Reese's Cups considered one piece of candy or two because there were two cups in the package? Did a fun-size bar technically count as an entire candy bar?

And, of course, there was the parent tax. Parents spend years feeding, clothing and housing their children. Halloween provides one small

opportunity for reimbursement in the form of miniature peanut butter cups. Children rarely recognize the legitimacy of this tax.

Eventually, though, the negotiations end. Kids get older. Costumes disappear. The plastic pumpkin buckets are put away. Nobody argues about coats or curfews or whether they can have just one more piece of candy before bed.

And strangely enough, you miss it. You miss watching them race from house to house. You miss inspecting the candy pile on the living room floor. You even miss the ridiculous negotiations. Because Halloween was never really about the candy. It was about an ordinary October night when children got to become somebody else for a few hours, neighbors opened their doors and families made memories without realizing they were doing it.

Although, for the record, I still believe I deserved at least 20 percent of my brother's candy.





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!*

- 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



America's #1 Selling Generator

GENERAC | **POWER PRO PREMIER** | 

Powering You With Comfort and Security For Over 35 Years

TODAY'S family
Lake, Geauga & Cuyahoga Counties

Subscribe to our monthly
EMAIL NEWSLETTER!



Geauga Park District Family Fun

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides

Sunday, October 4, 11, 18, 1-5 PM

Swine Creek Reservation

Enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of fall with a horse-drawn wagon ride! First-come, first-served boarding. Limited seating. No pets. Rides last about a half hour and are canceled by bad weather. Last ride leaves at 4:30 PM. No registration required.

Spectacular Spiders: Eight-Legged Fun!

Saturday, October 17, 1-3:30 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Join Nora the Explorer for some eight legged-themed fun for all ages featuring spider games, a spider craft, a spider-themed indoor scavenger hunt and time observing live examples of Geauga's resident arachnids! No registration required. Wheelchair/stroller accessible.

Wildlife Detective Bingo

Saturday, November 28, 2:30-4 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Grab your family and friends for a fun nature twist on traditional BINGO! Animal clues like tracks, feathers and more will be shown,

and the first one who makes a BINGO with the correct animals wins! Nature themed prizes will be awarded. Snacks provided. Registration required. Wheelchair/stroller accessible.

Ho Ho Ho Hiking with Santa & Buddy the Elf

Friday, December 11, 10-11:30 AM

Saturday, December 12

10-11:30 AM & 1-2:30 PM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Discover the wonders of the season on a magical hike with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Buddy the Elf! Santa will also be available after the hike for photos and wish lists. Registration required for all attending.

Drop-in Nature Craft

Sunday, December 27, 10-11:30 AM

The West Woods, Nature Center

Drop in to create a fuse bead snowflake, available while supplies last. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required. Wheelchair/stroller accessible.

For more on Geauga Park District offerings, call 440-286-9516 between 10 AM and 4 PM or visit them at www.geaugaparkdistrict.org.



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.

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



Geauga Park District
invites you to this
**unique, juried
Nature-themed
craft show**

**Friday, Nov. 6, 5-8 PM
& Saturday, Nov. 7,
10 AM-4 PM**

The West Woods Nature Center
9465 Kinsman Road (Rt. 87) in Russell Twp.

**More than 45 juried vendors
with food available!**

Plus, shop gifts and artwork
made by youth at the
Mistletoe Market

**Find
all your
handmade
holiday
gifts!**

 geaugaparkdistrict.org

10 Questions to Ask Before Choosing a Private School

Choosing a school is one of the most personal decisions a family makes. Academics matter, but so do friendships, values, extracurricular opportunities, support services, family schedules and whether a child simply feels comfortable walking through the door each morning.

Private schools can differ dramatically in philosophy, size, expectations, and culture, so a school that is perfect for one child may not be right for another. As families begin visiting schools and weighing their options, these 10 questions can help reveal what daily life there would really be like.

1. Is this a good fit for my child?

Start with the child rather than the school's reputation. Does your child thrive with structure or need more flexibility? Prefer hands-on learning or traditional instruction? Feel energized by a large, busy environment or more comfortable in smaller groups?

A highly regarded school can still be the wrong fit for a particular student. During a visit, try to picture your child in those classrooms, hallways and lunchrooms every day.

2. How does the school approach learning?

Look beyond curriculum lists and test scores. Ask how teachers actually teach.

Are classes primarily lecture-based or interactive?



Are students encouraged to collaborate, ask questions and solve problems? How much homework is typical? How is technology used?

Also ask how student progress is measured. Grades and standardized tests provide information, but projects, classroom participation and teacher feedback can reveal different strengths.

3. How well do teachers know the students?

One advantage many families seek in private education is a more personal learning environment.

Ask about class sizes and student-to-teacher ratios, but don't stop there. Find out how teachers communicate with families and what happens when they notice a child struggling academically, socially or emotionally.

During a tour, watch the interactions around you. Do teachers greet students by name? Do children appear comfortable approaching adults? Those small moments can say a great deal about school culture.

4. What happens when a child needs extra help — or an extra challenge?

Even strong students hit rough patches, and children who struggle in one subject may excel in another.

Ask what resources are available for reading, math, organization or other learning needs. How are parents brought into the conversation? Does the school offer enrichment or advanced work for students who need greater challenges?

The goal isn't to find a school where children never struggle. It's to understand how the school responds when they do.

5. What values shape the school community?

Every school has a personality. Some emphasize faith and service. Others place particular importance on leadership, innovation, the arts, character development or global awareness.

For families considering a religious school, ask how faith is incorporated into everyday school life. Is it primarily part of religion classes and worship,

Continued on page 16

HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED

Get ready to do school differently!

Plan your visit this fall!

Early Childhood, Lower, and Middle School

Toddler – Grade 8 | Lyndhurst Campus

Thursday, 10/22/26, 9:00 am, Parent Visit

Saturday, 11/21/26, 10:00 am, **Open House**

Upper School

Grades 9 – 12 | Gates Mills Campus

Wednesday, 10/7/26, 9:00 am, Parent Visit

Saturday, 11/14/26, 1:00 pm, **High School Open House**

Birchwood School

Preschool – Grade 8 | Cleveland-West Campus

Sunday, 10/18/26, 2:00 pm, **Open House**

Mastery School

Grades 9 – 12 | University Circle Campus

Tuesday, 10/20/26, 7:00 pm, Parent Visit (virtual)

Wednesday, 11/4/26, 7:00 pm, Parent Visit (virtual)

Saturday, 11/21/26, 1:00 pm, Program Preview

HAWKEN SCHOOL

COEDUCATIONAL,
TODDLER – GRADE 12

hawken.edu

Lyndhurst

Cleveland-West

Gates Mills

University Circle

SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for 11 years!

Fall Open House

Thur., November 19, 2026

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Enriching Minds...Nourishing Souls

Preschool through 8th Grade

To register, contact us at 440-442-6766 or office@saintpaschal.com

5360 Wilson Mills Road, Highland Heights, OH 44143 • www.saintpaschal.com

or does it influence service projects, relationships and expectations for student behavior?

Families of different faith backgrounds may also want to ask how the school welcomes and includes students who do not share its religious tradition.

6. What opportunities are available beyond academics?

Some of the experiences children remember most happen after the final bell.

Ask about athletics, music, theater, art, clubs, student government, service projects and other activities. Can students explore several interests, or are programs highly competitive?

For younger students especially, having opportunities to try something new without already being good at it can help build confidence and uncover interests that might otherwise remain undiscovered.

7. What is the social environment really like?

Brochures can describe a school as welcoming, but parents should try to see that culture for themselves.

Ask how the school handles bullying, conflict and discipline. What are expectations for student behavior? How are new students helped to become part of the community?

Talking with current parents can be especially helpful. Ask what surprised them after enrolling, what their children enjoy most and what they wish they had known beforehand.

8. How will this school fit our family's everyday life?

A school can seem perfect during an open house and become much less perfect during a rushed Tuesday morning in February.

Consider transportation, commute time, school hours and before- and after-school care. Ask about homework expectations, parent volunteer commitments and evening or weekend activities.

Families considering a school farther from home should also think about friendships. Will attending birthday parties, sporting events and playdates require significant travel?

Sometimes the right school is worth the extra miles. It's simply better to understand what those miles will mean before enrolling.

9. What will it really cost?

Tuition is only part of the equation.

Ask about registration fees, uniforms, technology, transportation, field trips, athletics, clubs and other expenses. Families should also ask about financial aid, scholarships and payment plans.

In Ohio, it's also worth asking whether the school participates in the state's EdChoice scholarship programs. EdChoice Expansion provides income-based scholarships for Ohio students in kindergarten through 12th grade to attend participating private schools, while the traditional EdChoice program serves students who meet other eligibility requirements. Scholarship amounts and eligibility can vary, so families should ask the school what assistance

may be available and how to apply.

Schools are accustomed to these questions, and parents shouldn't hesitate to discuss finances early in the process. Knowing the full picture makes it easier to determine whether a school is sustainable for the family over several years.

10. Can I picture my child being happy here?

After collecting information, asking questions and comparing programs, there is still something to be said for instinct.

During a visit, notice the little things. Are students engaged? Do classrooms feel lively or tense? Are children's individual projects displayed, or does everything look exactly alike? How do adults speak to students — and how do students speak to one another?

If possible, bring your child for a visit. Children often notice things adults miss and may have an immediate sense of whether they feel comfortable.

No school is perfect, and no parent can predict everything a child will need several years from now. The goal is not to find some universally "best" school. It is to find a place where your child can feel safe, challenged, supported and known.

The right questions can help families look beyond the brochure and discover whether a school truly feels like the right place to grow.



Proudly Accepting EdChoice & Cleveland Scholarships



Excellence in Catholic Education

Historic New Partnership for CCA!

Now a Notre Dame ACE Academy

Notre Dame ACE Academies partners with Catholic schools to strengthen faith-based education, improve classroom instruction, support teachers and school leaders, and help schools grow enrollment and remain financially strong. Through this partnership, schools receive support in academics, Catholic identity, leadership, marketing, governance, and family access to scholarship opportunities.

Come experience the Corpus Christi Academy Difference!



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

Tours Available. Register Today!

PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

Benedictine High School

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

For 100 years, Benedictine High School has been preparing young men for lives of faith, purpose, leadership, and excellence.

Benedictine is more than a school. It's an authentically Catholic brotherhood committed to forming the whole man — mind, body, and spirit.

Through challenging academics, faith formation, athletics, service, and countless opportunities to lead, Benedictine prepares young men not simply for graduation or their next step, but for life. Their Pathways program provides every student with personalized learning plans, leadership development, and unique pathways in fine arts, entrepreneurship, STEM, & vocations (construction/manufacturing, technology, and soon healthcare).

Benedictine High School, 100 years strong. Built for what's next.

Corpus Christi Academy

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

Corpus Christi Academy is a welcoming, family-friendly Catholic school serving students in pre-K through 8th grade in Lyndhurst and surrounding communities. At CCA, children are encouraged to grow in faith, discover their unique gifts, and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Their small class sizes allow caring, dedicated teachers to know each child and provide individualized support for their academic, social-emotional, and spiritual growth. Their 1:1 technology program inspires creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

They offer full- and part-time pre-K options to meet the needs of today's families.

CCA is now affiliated with Notre Dame ACE Academies, providing additional support in academics, Catholic identity, leadership, enrollment, and access to scholarship opportunities.

At Corpus Christi Academy, your child will be known, valued, supported, and inspired to reach their God-given potential.

Hawken School

www.hawken.edu

Lyndhurst Campus

Early Childhood, Lower, and Middle Schools (Toddler–Grade 8)
5000 Clubside Road
(440) 423-2950

Gates Mills Campus

Upper School (Grades 9–12)
Mayfield and County Line Roads
in Gates Mills
(440) 423-2955

Cleveland-West Campus

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

University Circle Campus

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.

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 STEMM internships. These experiences instill in students the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and dynamic world.



benedictine
High School

YOUR SON'S FUTURE STARTS HERE.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT

Register today and discover the Benedictine difference.

SCAN TO REGISTER

The Future is NOW

Don't Wait to Explore It.

HMS WEBINAR SERIES

Everything your child will need tomorrow is being developed today. Join us to see how.

Oct. 8: Why Hershey?
Nov. 12: Montessori for Teens
Dec. 12: Residential Life
Jan. 14: Beyond Graduation

Register or sign up for an upcoming Open House by scanning the QR code.

Serving Birth-12th Grade!

SCAN ME!

HERSHEY
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Call for information:
440-636-6290

admissions@Hershey-Montessori.org | www.Hershey-Montessori.org

Hershey Montessori School

(440) 357-0918

www.Hershey-Montessori.org

Concord Campus
10229 Prouty Road

Huntsburg Campus
11530 Madison Road

Hershey Montessori School is where children truly become their best selves.

It's an educational model that does more than prepare students for the next grade level. It helps them discover who they are, what they value, and how they can make a meaningful impact in the world.

Hershey Montessori students experience an authentic Montessori approach to education from infancy through twelfth grade.

At their Concord Campus, young learners thrive in carefully prepared classrooms and natural outdoor environments where curiosity and creativity flourish.

At their Huntsburg Campus, adolescents engage in purposeful, project-based learning on a 97-acre campus. Students apply

their knowledge through hands-on, real-world experiences. They seamlessly grow as responsible leaders and in self-discovery.

Hershey is for parents seeking an education that develops not only academically strong students but also thoughtful, capable, and compassionate human beings. Contact them to learn how your child or teen can flourish there.

Lawrence School

www.lawrenceschool.org

Lower School Campus
(Grades 2–6)
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 was BUILT for students that learn differently—and does

what other schools simply cannot. Lawrence provides a comprehensive elementary school program for grades 2–6, and an upper school program serving students in grades 7–12, which features specialized and personalized attention, organizational strategies, 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.

Montessori School of University Heights

23599 Cedar Road, Lyndhurst

(216) 200-5295

www.ms-uh.org

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

- Providing comprehensive, individualized opportunities for growth. Each child is introduced to the materials as the child becomes ready for the concepts that the material embodies. Children develop order, concentration, coordination, independence, and self-discipline.
- Engaging children in a caring, supportive community. Their multi-age environment, serving children ages 3 through 6 years old, provides a family-like atmosphere. Children develop compassion and confidence.
- Respecting each child's developmental abilities and person-

An environment for active and engaged learning.

At University School, boys thrive in an environment with the freedom to explore, create, and play. Visit US to find out why we are the #1 Private School in Ohio!

www.us.edu/visit



UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL

For Boys, Junior K - Grade 12

Montessori School of Univ. Hts.

ality. Montessori children enjoy choosing their own work each day guided by adults who are sensitive to each child's unique personality. Children experience joy in learning.

They warmly encourage interested parents to schedule a personal tour.

Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic School

5360 Wilson Mills Road
Highland Heights
(440) 442-6766
www.saintpaschal.net

Recipient of the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for eleven years, Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic School educates students in pre-K through grade 8. Their mission is to focus on Christ-centered values and to develop the unique potential of each student through a rigorous and engaging curriculum.

Offering a program that prepares students for their secondary education and beyond, the faculty and staff recognize each student as an individual with unique gifts. They truly care about their students and are dedicated to helping each child succeed and attain his or her academic and spiritual potential.

The academic program is aligned with diocesan, state, and national standards. In addition, Saint Paschal Baylon offers daily religion instruction, Spanish (pre-K through 8), fine arts, service learning opportunities, cocurricular activities, gifted education classes, as well as psychological, speech/language, intervention, and learn-

ing disability services. Visit their open house on November 19 from 6–7:30 pm or call to schedule a tour.

University School

www.us.edu

Junior kindergarten to grade 8

20701 Brantley Road
Shaker Heights
(216) 321-8260

Grades 9 to 12

2785 SOM Center Road
Hunting Valley
(216) 831-2200

Young boys have boundless curiosity and energy. At University School, boys thrive in an environment with the freedom to explore, move, create, and play. Their teachers understand the needs of young boys and small class sizes allow students and teachers to build close and trusted connections.

The 32-acre campus in Shaker Heights, for boys junior kindergarten through grade 8, includes an arboretum with outdoor class spaces, and a play park with climbing structures, a turf field and new tennis courts. Indoors, facilities include a pool, two libraries, a woodshop, and two makerspaces. Their expanded middle school opened in fall 2025 and includes a newly constructed three-story wing with common areas designed for collaboration and state-of-the-art classrooms supporting learning from art to science.

University School is a vibrant and welcoming community. Schedule a visit to discover how your son can thrive at US. Learn more at www.us.edu/visit.

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

Learn more about VASJ by attending their upcoming open houses on October 25, 2026, noon–2 pm or March 23, 2027, 6–7:30 pm.

Inspirational Quotes

"To educate is an act of love, it is to give life." — *Pope Francis*

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

— *Nelson Mandela*

"Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education."

— *Martin Luther King Jr.*

"One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world." — *Malala Yousafzai*

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

— *George Washington Carver*

"The highest result of education is tolerance." — *Helen Keller*

"Education demands... the utilization of the inner powers of the child for his own instruction."

— *Maria Montessori*

"Of all the civil rights...the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental." — *W.E.B. Du Bois*

"YOUR CHILD IS ALWAYS GOING TO STRUGGLE IN SCHOOL".

LAWRENCE SCHOOL WAS BUILT TO DEFY THAT STATEMENT.



We help students with learning differences thrive.



Expert teachers. Proven approach. Vibrant campus life. Individualized support.



The first step toward real confidence starts here.

AND WE ARE THE BEST AT WHAT WE DO.



Lawrence School
Great Minds Don't Think Alike

Upper School Campus
10036 Olde Eight Road
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067
Grades: 7-12

Lower School Campus
1551 E Wallings Road
Broadview Heights, OH 44147
Grades: 2-6



Contact us: admissions@lawrenceschool.org | 440.526.0717 | LawrenceSchool.org



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

FEEL THE VIKING SPIRIT!

FALL OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, October 25, 2026
NOON–2 PM

SPRING OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, March 23, 2027
6:00–7:30 PM

VASJ.COM/ADMISSIONS

MONTESSORI

SCHOOL OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

FOUNDED 1968

WWW.MS-UH.ORG

23599 CEDAR ROAD | BEACHWOOD, OH

CALL FOR A PERSONAL TOUR
216-200-5295



"The most important period of life is not the age of university studies but the first one, the period of birth to age six. For that is the time when man's intelligence itself, his greatest implement is being formed."

Dr. Maria Montessori, The Absorbent Mind



THREE YEAR PROGRAM
BEGINNING AT AGE THREE

