

# TODAY'S **family**

April 2021

Lake & Geauga

**FREE!**

**Earth Day  
is April 22**

**Water and  
Boating Safety**

Spirit of America offers  
free programs for kids

**Lake Erie College  
Therapeutic  
Riding Center**

**Grief Camps  
for Kids**

**Preschool  
Guide**

**Mike Moran**

Legendary basketball  
coach has taught and  
inspired thousands of  
area boys and girls



# CONCERNED

about your child's **development?**



### ACT EARLY!

Contact Ohio Early Intervention at **1-800-755-GROW** or visit **www.OhioEarlyIntervention.org**

### CALL LOCALLY:

**(216) 930-3322** or **(440) 389-3322**



## Sanitize Your Home for Spring!



### Clean carpet has numerous health benefits:

- Removes unhealthy mold growths
- Eliminates dust mites
- Improves air quality for easier breathing
- Eliminates harmful pollutants like pet dander and allergans

### Call Today for our Spring Specials!

Mention that you saw us in Today's Family Magazine!



**440.946.8082**

7595 Tyler Blvd. • Mentor  
info@mdcarpet.com  
www.MDCarpet.com

**We Clean:** Carpet • Area Rugs • Oriental Rugs • Upholstery  
**We also offer:** Carpet Repair & Stretching • Fine Fabric Specialists  
Leather Cleaning • ScotchGard™ • Tile & Grout Cleaning  
Boat & Car Interiors • Clean Up Pet Dander  
Stain & Pet Odor Removal • 24 Hour Water and Fire Damage Service

# TODAY'S family

Lake, Geauga & Cuyahoga Counties

P.O. Box 7316, Eastlake, Ohio 44097  
**www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com**  
info@todaysfamilymagazine.com  
(440) 799-8882

### Publisher/Advertising

Kim Miller

### General Manager/Editor

Dan Miller

### Writers

Deanna Adams  
Mary Flenner  
Stacy Turner

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.

Copyright 2021,

Direct Market Publishing, LLC  
All rights reserved.

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



@todaysfamilymagazine

### Photo/image credits:

Cover: iStockPhoto / Maica  
Page 7: Shuttertsicok / By Jacob\_09  
Page 15: Shutterstock / By Africa Studio  
Page 18: Shutterstock / By Fh Photo

## contents



### Grief camps

Page 4



### Spirit of America

Page 12



### Lake Erie College Therapeutic Riding Center

Page 14



### Preschool Guide

Pages 18-24

### PLUS

### Playing with Others

Page 6

### Celebrating Earth Day

Page 7

### Coach Mike Moran

Page 8

### Mommy Chronicles

Page 17

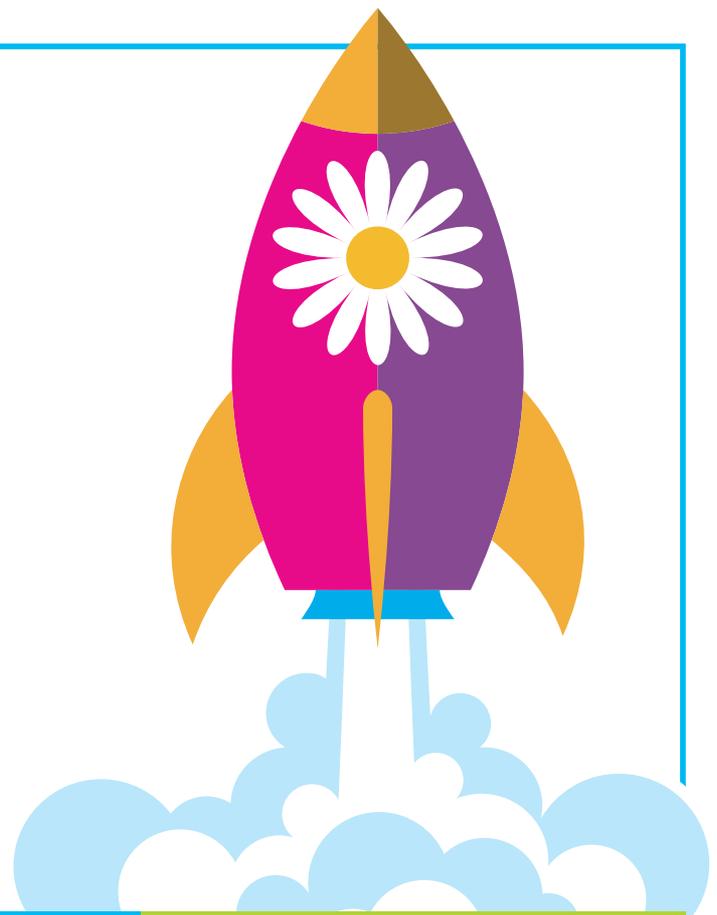
## Subscribe to our monthly email newsletter!



Featuring easy-to-enter contests with great prizes, updates, announcements, featured events and articles, and much more! Visit [TodaysFamilyMagazine.com](http://TodaysFamilyMagazine.com) and sign up today! The link is in the upper left corner of the home page.



# Learn. Grow. Explore. Girl Scouts.



Your girl can try new and exciting things in Girl Scouts. With the help of caring adult volunteers, she'll unleash her imagination, make friends, grow in confidence, and build skills that will help her in and out of the classroom. The best part? You'll get to join the fun right alongside her as she plays, learns, and grows. Start this great new journey together, today!

**JOIN NOW at [gsneo.org/launch](https://gsneo.org/launch)**

© 2019 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved.



# Grief Camp

## Hospice of the Western Reserve

By Deanna R. Adams

**H**ospice of the Western Reserve has a long and renowned history for helping people cope with illness, death and grief. So it's no surprise that they also help children deal with complicated emotions after the death of a loved one.

Their annual grief support camps offer a safe environment for grief-stricken children to best manage isolated feelings, help them feel less alone, and express their grief in a healthy, constructive, and supportive setting.

"We bring kids together who share a unique understanding, a common thread. They can relate to what each other is going through," says Karen Hatfield, director of Western Reserve Grief Services. "Our focus is helping them deal with their loss with new ways of expressing feelings, along with ways they can honor their special person. We address that, but we also allow them to have some fun, too."

The two summer camps include Camp Red Oak, for children ages 6-13, and Riding Through Grief Camp for ages 8-12, which offer horseback riding lessons (and fills up quickly). Both are led by trained bereavement professionals from the Western Reserve Grief Services and combine art, music, play and nature exploration to help with the healing process. They offer children a chance to learn about grief and give them permission to express it.

"We've been offering the camps for over 20 years and we've seen it make a big difference in how children grow through the experience, in an atmosphere of comfort and trust," Hatfield says. "Death is difficult for children. It can feel over-

whelming to them, but they often don't express it because they don't want to be a burden to their parents. This is a place they can get outdoors and sort out and learn to manage what we call the big feelings—anger, regret and guilt. We help them validate those feelings and teach them useful coping skills."

The three-day camp begins in the morning with therapeutic exercises that help the children share and articulate these complex feelings. They also participate in activities that honor their loved ones, such as artwork, memory jars and collages.

"The memory jars are always a favorite," says Hatfield. The jars fill up with a variety of items that honor the lost loved one, such as pictures, written memories, and personal artwork—anything the children want to include. A small candle is then placed inside to complete the memorial.

Things shift gears in the afternoon, however, from the more intense workshops to fun, camp-related activities where kids can merely enjoy being kids. This can include canoeing, swimming, and archery.

"We continue on like that, back and forth, until the final day when they all gather for the closing ceremony, which is a flower release to memorialize the person who died," Hatfield says. "The flowers symbolize a serious time when everyone comes together to share and honor their person. We then conclude with a community based activity to leave them all in a positive mindset."

Hatfield adds that all the staff is skilled in supporting children through grief and have gone through a detailed process and have met certain criteria prior to becoming counselors. "We all truly enjoy these camps. We get as much out of



it with them as they get from us," she says. "It's a very rewarding experience all around."

Support from the community allows Hospice of the Western Reserve to offer most programs and services at no cost to the participant. There is a nominal registration fee for camps, retreats, and art therapy programs.

To register or request an information packet, call (216) 486-6838. For a comprehensive list of community bereavement resources, visit [www.hospicewr.org/griefandloss](http://www.hospicewr.org/griefandloss).

### Camp Red Oak (ages 6-13)

9057 Kirtland-Chardon Road, Kirtland  
August 10-12 • 9 am-3 pm

This day camp is for children ages 6-13 who have experienced the death of a loved one.

### Riding through Grief (ages 8-12)

Fieldstone Farm  
16497 Snyder Road, Chagrin Falls  
June 21-25 • 9 am noon

\$75 per camper. Scholarships available. Through fun horseback riding lessons and unmounted activities with horses, children campers will explore grief issues.



# Tell ME

## To Boost My Self-Esteem

- I make you proud
- I am important
- I will do great things
- My feelings matter
- What to expect from my day so I feel secure



When you tell me these things, you help protect me from the risk of later drug use.

**Start Talking!** 

[StartTalking.Ohio.Gov](http://StartTalking.Ohio.Gov)



[BoldBeginning.Ohio.Gov](http://BoldBeginning.Ohio.Gov)

# By Playing with Others

By Dr. Colleen Russo Johnson

Watching your child play with others can be equally heartwarming and anxiety-provoking; we feel a swell of pride when they offer a toy to another child but cringe when they barrel through someone's carefully built tower!

Understandably, adults are often compelled to quickly intervene and "solve" the problem— however, if we pause and observe, we can empower children to reach resolutions on their own. Children will probably need some adult scaffolding (just the right amount of help) to notice other's feelings and think of resolutions. Even so, the more opportunities we give children to practice these skills (even if they might occur in cringe-worthy situations) the more children learn about social problem solving and kindness.

Children learn about the rules of play (compromise, turn-taking, and having fun) with their caregivers first. The give-and-take interactions of a dinner conversation and shared joy in one-on-one play support children's abilities to play cooperatively with others and build lasting friendships.

## The transition from associative play to cooperative play 3–4 years

- Children have typically moved from parallel play (playing near another person, but not with them) to associative play. Associative play looks more social — children in this stage interact with other peers in the same area around a similar activity, but are working towards different goals and not necessarily coordinating with each other. For example, two children may be sharing space and utensils while cooking in a pretend kitchen and talking to each



- other, but have a different focus.
- Children will need more grown-up support at this stage for sharing materials and managing social conflicts.

## 4–5 years

- Play shifts from associative to cooperative, which involves a more coordinated social approach. Children in this stage talk to each other, begin problem-solving, and work together towards a common goal. In the play kitchen example, this could look like children discussing who will be the cook and who will be the dishwasher, making a plan for the meal, and carrying out the plan together.
- Children advocate for themselves and their ideas in play with others. Play is a push and pull process — children are still working to balance assertiveness and flexibility.
- Children begin learning social problem-solving skills through conflict. Although conflict is often uncomfortable, it presents great opportunities for children to work together to communicate and solve a problem.

## 5–6 years

- Cooperative play can become lengthier and extended throughout different days and contexts. Kids are able to pick up where they left off and either keep going or agree to change course.
- Children verbally communicate the connection between their feelings and actions when solving a problem with another person. For example, "I am mad! You keep moving my blocks. The tower is supposed to stay here."
- Coordinated play within a larger group starts to emerge: AKA teamwork!

## Supporting cooperative play at home

- **Engage in cooperative play!** Obvious, right? Play soccer in the backyard with predetermined rules, play a board game, or work together to construct a castle with blocks.
- **Support difficult emotions.** When conflicts (inevitably arise) support your child's emotion regulation by offering comfort or talking through it. Children's abilities to regulate their emotions are strongly related to social competence and parental emotional support is important to build this skill.
- **Practice patience.** Practice makes perfect, but it's not always easy! When giving your child space to problem solve with another child it might take some patience and deep breaths.
- **Help recognize emotions.** Children might need to be nudged to notice that their playmate is looking disappointed or frustrated while in the thick of play. Emotion recognition helps children understand that others have different feelings than their own.
- **Have fun.** This is an easy one that you are already familiar with, have fun with play: openly express joy, laughter, and be silly! Not only does it feel amazing, it also helps foster children's love for play and for building lasting friendships.

*Dr. Colleen Russo Johnson is a nationally recognized developmental psychologist with an expertise in children's media and technology and the Co-founder of OK Play, a free app built to inspire the next generation of creators through child-led, interactive storytelling (available on iOS or Android). She holds a PhD from Vanderbilt University.*

# JOIN OUR TEAM

The City of Mentor is accepting applications to fill a variety of seasonal and temporary positions for summer 2021 in the following areas of the Parks & Recreation Department!

- City Pools
- Cemetery
- Marina
- Special Events
- Day Camps
- Golf Course
- Parks
- Wildwood

Learn more at [cityofmentor.com/employment](http://cityofmentor.com/employment) EOE/ADA



**CITY OF MENTOR**

# 30 easy ways to reduce, reuse and recycle on Earth Day

By Katy M. Clark

Every year on April 22 my family celebrates Earth Day along with millions of families around the world. Started in 1970, Earth Day encourages us to appreciate the environment and become more aware of the issues that threaten it.

There are plenty of ways that kids can commemorate the day, no matter how old they are. Check out the 30 ideas below for easy ways that everyone from preschoolers to teenagers can reduce, reuse, and recycle this Earth Day.

## Little ones

1. Teach your kids to turn off the water when brushing their teeth.
2. Recycle! Have young ones place items such as paper and aluminum cans into dedicated recycling bins rather than the trash.
3. Transform trash into treasure. Preschoolers can create beautiful works of art by reusing and repurposing bottles, yogurt cups, leftover fabric scraps and the likes.
4. Demonstrate to little ones how to cool your house on hot days by pulling the drapes closed instead of dialing down the air conditioning.
5. Likewise, bundle up in layers on cooler days rather than turning up the heat.
6. Teach little ones how to turn the lights off when leaving a room.
7. Have your kids play with eco-friendly toys and games, like wooden puzzles dyed with nontoxic stains or balls that are BPA- and phthalate-free.
8. Make bird feeders out of natural ingredients like pine cones and birdseed.
9. Engage them in planting a garden and growing vegetables that your family can eat.
10. Get a houseplant or two and talk about how plants improve the air we breathe.

## School-age kids

11. Elementary school kids can help with shopping for recyclable products. Have them look for

labels that say recycled content, pre-consumer and post-consumer.

12. Kids can place small recycling bins in each bathroom in the house. Bonus points if you can get them to empty them each week into the curbside recycling bin!
13. Show them how to use reusable rags instead of paper towels to clean up messes.
14. Create a compost pile, whether on the kitchen counter or in your backyard. Kids can throw in egg shells, coffee grounds, and most food scraps and wait for them to turn into rich soil for use with plants outside and in.
15. Encourage them to sign up to pick up trash from community spaces like playgrounds, parks or beaches.
16. Teach them to turn off the lights when they leave the room (again!)
17. Let the kids make signs in every room of the house that remind family members to turn off the lights.
18. Use reusable water bottles rather than single use plastic bottles.
19. Plant a tree at school or home.
20. Plant milkweed native to your area to help the monarch butterfly population.

## Tweens and teens

21. Bigger kids will enjoy visiting thrift shops to nab pre-owned pieces that otherwise may have ended up in the landfill.
22. Don't forget to encourage them to use reusable bags when shopping.
23. Have them unplug their electronics and chargers when not in use.
24. They can also turn off their desktop or gaming monitors when they aren't using them.
25. Ask them to devise ways your house can collect rainwater for use on houseplants or flowers.
26. Turn off the lights when leaving the room. (Yes, you'll probably still be working on this one with teens even though you've been preaching it since they were little!)



27. Recycle old cell phones. Make sure to take out SIM cards and erase the phones first, usually with a factory reset. Teens may also need to remove the battery and research how and where the battery can be recycled properly.
28. Use a timer to conserve water when taking a shower.
29. Remove makeup with cleanser and a reusable wipe instead of disposable wipes.
30. Host or volunteer at an e-waste collection event.

## LIFEGUARDS NEEDED

### Summer lifeguard positions available at Mentor City Pools for the 2021 season

Applicants must be responsible, dedicated, passionate about aquatics, and have commitment to action, leadership and service while ensuring the health and safety of patrons.

Not yet certified as a lifeguard? No problem! We offer a Lifeguarding Certification Course June 7 -11 for 15 yrs+ at Civic Center Pool. Get certified, learn to save lives, and have the coolest job this summer working for the City of Mentor.

Certification reimbursement opportunity for those who become employed by the City. Visit [cityofmentor.com](http://cityofmentor.com) for application or call (440) 974-5720 details.



**CITY OF  
MENTOR**

# Coach Mike Moran

Legendary basketball coach and summer camp guru has coached thousands of northeast Ohio youth to be better players

By Mary Flenner

If you were involved in the world of Cleveland youth basketball anytime over the last four decades, you probably recognize the name Mike Moran.

Moran was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020. With a prolific coaching career at St. Joseph High School (now Villa Angela St. Joseph), John Carroll University, and over 40 years of training youth at his Mike Moran Basketball Camps, he is one of the most renowned basketball coaches in Cleveland.

"I'm a Cleveland native. Growing up I played high school basketball and football at St. Joe's and played football at Xavier. I guess I wasn't tall enough to be a good basketball player," he laughs.

He looks back on what inspired him to get into coaching and says, "I think a lot of it was instilled by my dad. He was the athletic director of our elementary school, St. Catherine, when it was still around. I was lucky to have an older brother who let his little brother come around and play with the big kids. When you're in that position playing with older kids it improves your position and attitude toward the game."

"I've also been blessed with a lot of good coaches. Tom Banks and Bob Anderle were pretty influential and competitive. Being a part of a good high school that had a great winning tradition was important. Competition was great back then. I went to an all-boys Catholic School with over 2,000 boys in the school. It was a tremendous accomplishment just to make a team. More than 200 kids would try out for freshman football and over 100 would go out for basketball. It was very competitive. You had to be very dedicated and devoted to your game."

Moran started coaching basketball at Cincinnati Elder High School after he graduated college,

but quickly returned to his alma mater, St Joseph High School, where he was the head basketball coach for 11 years.

"I left St. Joe's in 1992 after winning the state championship in 1991 and 1992. When we won the state championship in 1991 it was the first time a Cleveland area team had won in about 50 years."

At St. Joseph his teams won nine district championships, four regional championships and two state championships. After he left St. Joseph High School, he went on to be the head basketball coach at John Carroll University, where he racked up 460 wins to just 230 losses. Moran led John Carroll University to 14 OAC titles, 12 trips to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament and one Final Four appearance.

Through the years he coached many players who later went on to play professionally, including Clark Kellogg, Elvis Grbac, Kevin Edwards, Stan Kimbro, Eric Riley, Travis and Jason Kelce, and Desmond Howard, who won the Heisman Trophy and then later won the Super Bowl MVP award.

Moran says he keeps in touch with many of his old players, including Elvis Grbac, London Fletcher and Clark Kellogg.

"We're very, very proud to be able to say that these guys came to our camps and knew them back when they were youth. It was great to watch them get better and better and blossom into professional athletes."

Which brings us back to the camps.

Soon after he returned to the Cleveland area and took the St. Joseph head coaching job, he started the Moran Basketball Camps, which at 40+ years are one of the longest running basketball camps in northeast Ohio.

"Our purpose was to offer an affordable camp that the average family could afford. Our goal was to make this a teaching camp where camp-



Coach Moran discusses strategy with his players and coaches at John Carroll University.

ers learned the game not just played it. Coach Bob "Baron" Straub and Clark Kellogg were early organizers who deserve a lot of credit.

"All of our camp instructors are guys who have been head coaches and other successful coaches. The type of people who have made their living coaching basketball. We take a lot of pride in the amount of instruction we offer. Our camp is really geared to kids who love basketball. We're going to break down the game and teach it to them. We're able to work with kids with higher level. Since 1978 till the present, we have instructed over 20,000 boys and girls."

The camps run each summer for boys and girls ages 6-14 and are open to players of all levels. They are held at the Lost Nation Sport Park in Willoughby. Call (440) 338-8092 or visit MoranCamps.com for more information or to sign your child up today.

Coach Moran has also coached golf for John Carroll for 29 years, a team which also boasts a successful record with national rankings as high as third and fourth in the country. "I'm very proud of our team's accomplishments. I'm just a very average golfer myself but over the years we've had a lot of All-Americans and have a great program."

Aside from coaching golf and leading his basketball camp, he stays busy with his six children and 20 grandchildren. Basketball remains a family affair for many of them.

Sons Pete and Pat Moran are the head and assistant coaches at John Carroll, respectively. His

*Continued on page 11*



## Mike Moran Basketball Camps

**2021 Boys/Girls Camp at Lost Nation Sports Park Willoughby**  
**June 14-18 | June 21-25**  
**June 28-July 2**  
 9:00 am-3:15 pm each session

- **Eligibility:** Camp is open to boys and girls ages 6-14.
- **Camp Fee:** \$185.00
- **Early registration** discounts and group rates available.
- **Each camper receives** a camp basketball and a camp T-shirt.

**Registration**  
**Phone:** (440) 338-8092  
**Online:** MoranCamps.com  
**Mail:** Brochures will be mailed out upon request.

### CAMP STAFF

**MIKE MORAN:** Inducted into Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020; former head coach at John Carroll University w/ 459 career wins; guided JCU to 14 OAC titles, 12 trips to the NCAA Tournament & one Final Four appearance; former VASJ head coach where his teams won two state championships.  
**PETE MORAN:** Head coach of John Carroll University.  
**PAT MORAN:** Assistant coach of John Carroll University.  
**MATT MORAN:** Head coach of Lake Catholic.  
**MARK CHICONE:** Former head coach of both Lake Catholic boys team and Mentor High School girls.  
**TONY REDDING:** Head coach of girls at St. Martin de Porres.  
**RYAN SCHNEIDER:** Head coach of boys at St. Martin de Porres.  
**JOHN GIBBONS:** Legendary coach.

# Willoughby Self Storage

Residential, Business, Commercial

SECURE STORAGE

ADT wired for added fire and theft protection!

440-269-3939

www.willoughbystorage.com

4507 Beidler Road • Willoughby OH 44094  
 Behind Target and the Willoughby Commons Shopping



# ODYSSEY PROGRAM

## AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

### Filmmaking Summer Camps For Teens

LEARN ACTING, DIRECTING, CINEMATOGRAPHY, EDITING, PRODUCING, SCREENWRITING, AND MORE FROM THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT THE SCHOOL OF FILM & MEDIA ARTS!

- Create your own original films using professional equipment in our sound stages and Mac editing labs
- Four sessions for ages 13–18
- 1 week and 3 week camps
- Residential and day camp options — Choose to commute or stay in CSU dorms!

### MAKE FRIENDS AND GAIN SKILLS FOR LIFE!

**Odyssey Program Experiential Three Week Summer Camp**  
June 14 – July 2

Odyssey Intensive: **Acting and Directing**  
July 12 – 18

Odyssey Intensive: **Documentary Production**  
July 19 – 25

Odyssey Intensive: **Postproduction**  
July 26 – August 1

For more information or to register, please contact the program coordinator by phone 216.687.5087, email [odyssey@csuohio.edu](mailto:odyssey@csuohio.edu), or visit [csufilmodyyssey.com](http://csufilmodyyssey.com).



**CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

**CSUFILMODYSSEY.COM**



# Just For Laughs

A boy asks his father, "Dad, are bugs good to eat?" "That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner," the dad replies. After dinner the father asks, "Now, son, what did you want to ask me?" "Oh, nothing," the boy says. "There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone."

It never occurred to me how much my parents favored my twin brother until they asked me to pick up the cake for his surprise birthday party.

One day Jimmy got home early from school and his mom asked, "Why are you home so early?" He answered, "Because I was the only one that answered a question in my class." She said, "Wow, my son is a genius. What was the question?" Jimmy replied, "The question was, 'Who threw the trash can at the principal's head?'"

Daughter: Mom, what's it like to have the greatest daughter in the

world?

Mom: I don't know. You'll have to ask grandma.

A kid asks his dad, "What's a man?"

The dad says, "A man is someone who is responsible and cares for their family."

The kid replies, "I hope one day I can be a man just like mom!"

My dad always taught me to share my toys with my siblings.

It wasn't that he wanted me to develop social skills, it's because he was a cheapskate that wanted to spend 50% less money on toys.

Dad told mom he wanted to keep us every other weekend.

Mom reminded him that they were still married and he would have to see us every day.

My professor asked everyone in class what book helped us the most in life thus far.

I chose my father's checkbook.

## Spring returns to the Cleveland Botanical Garden

To celebrate the arrival of spring in a big way, Holden Forest & Gardens presents Return of the Butterflies at the Cleveland Botanical Garden — a visual treat with more than 600 newly emerged butterflies in the Costa Rica biome beginning Saturday, April 3, 2021.

The butterflies will bring the Glasshouse to life — amazing, colorful, moving, exhilarating life and you'll see them actively searching for nectar as food sources, flying around as you interact with them while walking in the Glasshouse.

In addition to the butterflies, the acres and acres of outdoor gardens come to life during the month of April. Fragrant blooms of snowflake Viburnums, the charming pinwheel-like blooms of Creeping Phlox and the annual tulip display will all be able to be enjoyed later in the month.

Trees have their flowering season including the stunning Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry along with the ephemeral blooms of the Apple Serviceberry. In the Gateway garden be



sure to enjoy the subtle and compelling blooms of the Weeping Katsura tree. Just beyond the fence of White Oak Walk you can't miss the dramatic yellows of daffodils situated like golden curtains for an iridescent blue stage of Siberian squill.

A limited number of advanced reservations are available each day. Face masks must be worn in the interior and exterior gardens.

Visit [www.cb garden.org](http://www.cb garden.org) for more information.



## Summer Art Camp Registration is Open!

### Includes:

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

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

**Great Lakes Mall, Mentor**  
**(440) 571-5201**

[www.mentor.busybeesart.com](http://www.mentor.busybeesart.com)  
[mentor@busybeesart.com](mailto:mentor@busybeesart.com)



Like us for updates and specials!

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

### EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

**\$35 off per week**

When signed up by April 30, 2021.

Call **(440) 571-5201** to register.

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

Promo Code: **CAMP35**



## Mike Moran from page 8

son Matt Moran is Lake Catholic's head basketball coach. His daughter Bridget also played basketball. Moran's grandson Luke Chicone is nominated for the 2021 Mr. Ohio basketball award as a player at Mentor High School. "He's an outstanding player, we're very proud of him," Mike shares.

Mike even met his wife JoAnn, through basketball. "Her father was a coach. I met her through playing for her father Pat Flowers, he was kind of a legend in Cleveland when it came to CYO sports."

"Coaching is a very rewarding job. There's no better feeling than to work hard in preparation for games, and for the season, and having it come true. There are a lot of sleepless nights you have when you lose a game or things don't go well. But I've been blessed, I've had a lot of great talented kids. I think I'm the most spoiled coach ever in the Cleveland area."

## ICYMI

### In Case You Missed It!

Visit [www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com](http://www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com) to access hundreds of family-related articles and events. Our site is keyword searchable and is mobile-friendly. Whatever local family information you need, you will most likely find it at [TodaysFamilyMagazine.com](http://TodaysFamilyMagazine.com)!

**summer CAMP guide**

Published in our March 2021 issue.

## Wildlife Rescue: Miracles in Conservation exhibit at CMNH

What is it like to spend a day in the life of a wildlife rescuer? Find out in Wildlife Rescue: Miracles in Conservation, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History's eye-opening, inspiring, and wildly interactive experience for all ages.

Maintaining the health of all habitats and ecosystems on this planet is of vital importance. In fact, our survival depends on it. Visit the exhibit today, and gain a new appreciation for the interconnectedness of life on Earth.

In this traveling exhibition, you'll explore the innovative ways wildlife rescuers capture, raise, and release endangered species back to the wild, and care for animals after natural disasters. You'll even see a diverse living collection of animals that highlight endangered species and harrowing rescue stories.

Get hands-on experience with 15 interactive displays and simulations, including:

- Taking a simulated flight on an ultra-light to guide young whooping cranes along their first migratory route.
- Learning the methods used to milk lake sturgeon in order to breed and reintroduce the fish into the Great Lakes.
- Journeying to Africa and Indonesia at the Return to the Wild theatre and witnessing the dedicated efforts of caretakers to suc-



cessfully raise and release young elephants and orangutans to the wild.

- Watching fascinating live presentations at 11 different animal habitats.
- And so much more!

Visitors will receive complimentary stylus tools to press buttons, touch screens, turn cranks, and move objects safely throughout the exhibit.

Everyone has a role to play in the story of wildlife rescue—including you. Step into the shoes of those who dedicate their lives to animal conservation and begin your journey as a wildlife rescuer.

Advance tickets are required to visit the Museum. Entrance to Wildlife Rescue is included with general admission. Visit [cmnh.org](http://cmnh.org).

# APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

We are pinning our hopes on you during the community's

## BLUE RIBBON PIN & WRISTBAND CAMPAIGN!



Wear a blue ribbon pin or blue wristband every day in April to show your support for Lake County's Children!



Wednesday, April 14, 2021  
is Wear **Blue 2 Work Day**.

WB2W is a statewide awareness campaign which encourages Ohioans to wear blue to work, school, or a community event as a show of support for preventing child abuse and neglect.

We are hoping that you will still take a stand against child abuse... and wear blue on April 14 wherever you are!

If you know of a child who may be abused or neglected, please call the Child Abuse Hotline at:  
**(440) 350-4000**  
or  
**(440) 918-4000**  
then press 1

# Building Confidence on the Water

## Free boating programs for tweens and teens through Spirit of America

By Mary Flenner

Through the Spirit of America Foundation, some kids are learning to drive a boat before they are licensed to drive a car. Their 23-year mantra is, “no child left at the dock,” and strives to increase children’s self-esteem and teamwork skills through learning water skills and how to operate various boats.

The Spirit of America was established in Mentor in 1995 by Harry Allen, owner of Great Lakes Power Products. Allen had a race boat called the “Spirit of America,” which achieved five world-class records. Allen determined that he wanted to use the positive attention to give back to the community the way that he knew best, which was a combination of boating and educational opportunities for children.

These water and boating programs offer a nontraditional classroom setting that provides hands-on, educational programming. The best part

is that this great program is available free of cost in Lake County for kids aged 11–17.

“After proving ourselves with programming in 1995-1996, we continued growing the curriculum and moving out of our home in Lake County. We are now in 18 locations across eight different states and are in the process of opening additional programs. We have programs on the Pacific, Atlantic, Great Lakes and inland waterways,” says Cecilia Duer, CEO and president of the Spirit of America Foundation.

All of the Spirit of America programs across the country follow a similar format, although the timing varies based on their varying climates. Students first taking a written course, either in a classroom or near the water, followed by drowning prevention classes usually in an indoor pool.

After these water safety and educational programs are completed, students take to the water for a week



to learn to sail, maneuver power boats, canoes, kayaks, paddle boards and more. Students learn to operate personal watercrafts and large vessels as well. The entire program is a minimum of 40 hours.

Duer also shares, “The changes that we see in our young people are actually quite overwhelming. The increase in self-esteem, leadership, self-confidence and responsible behavior are the backbone of the program. Our young people need a program like this, especially over the last year that we’ve had, through the loss of social opportunities. The fact that we combine the program curriculum with the national education standard only serves to enhance young people’s ability to further their education in a nontraditional setting while becoming responsible young adults.”

Many graduates and family members are surprised at how much they can do in an environment that they may have never been introduced to.

“Parents are constantly surprised by the knowledge that our young people are gaining and their ability to be responsible for their crew and equipment. The opportunities that we have for them to become leaders are sometimes daunting at first, but throughout the program they gain the self confidence that they need to understand what important roles they play as leaders, team members and in our communities,” says Duer.

In Lake and Lorain counties they average about 140 students every summer, and to date Spirit of America has taught 16,000 graduates.

Colleen, a 2018 program graduate shared her experience:

“This program makes me feel so good. I love to go on the water. It’s so scary and so beautiful all at the same time. You learn to trust — trust yourself, trust your knowledge and trust the instructors. I was so afraid, but I got out there and I got to feel the wind and the breeze and when I got to steer, I picked it up so fast. I finished before I knew it and it was just amazing. I feel like I could’ve done that all day.”

Many students return to volunteer and become instructors and coordinators after they turn 18. “We are growing a new generation of safe, smart boaters and confident young adults,” says Duer.

Spirit of America is still in the process of finalizing their summer 2021 schedule, but you can find more info on their website at [SpiritofAmerica95.org](http://SpiritofAmerica95.org) and follow them on Facebook for updates.



### SOFT WATER VS HARD WATER | BENEFITS FOR YOUR HOME

Your Heating and Plumbing Teams Are Here to Assist!

**LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED**

- Furnace & Boiler Service & Installation
- Drain Repiping & Relining
- Gas, Electric & Oil
- Septic & Aeration Systems
- Heat Pump Service & Installation
- Air Conditioning Service & Installation
- Water Heater Installation & Repair
- Water Treatment Systems
- Video Inspection of Pipes & Sewer Lines
- Well Pumps
- Gas Line Installation & Repair
- Indoor Air Quality
- Drain Cleaning & Repair
- AND MORE!

**\$200 OFF**  
WATER SOFTENER  
Purchase & Installation

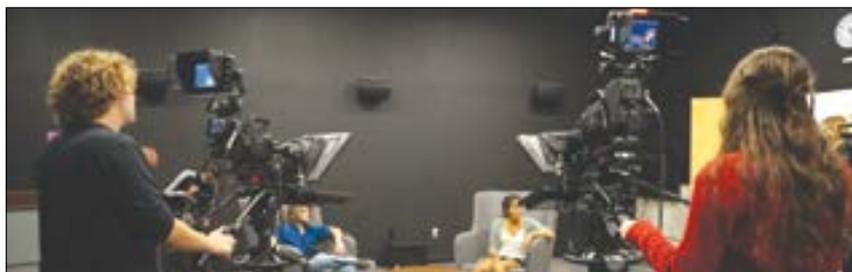
**\$75 OFF**  
REVERSE OSMOSIS  
SYSTEM

Code: TFBen200 | Code: TROHS

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.

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

**(440) 285-9125 • (440) 286-6002 • (440) 286-1004**  
[www.Debordinc.com](http://www.Debordinc.com) • [www.BenjaminFranklinPlumbingNEOhio.com](http://www.BenjaminFranklinPlumbingNEOhio.com)  
Serving Lake, Geauga, and surrounding areas. OH Lic. 12292.



## Filmmaking summer camps at Cleveland State University

The Odyssey Program at Cleveland State University's School of Film & Media Arts offers a variety of immersive summer camps for high school students (aged 13-18) interested in filmmaking.

During the in-person summer camps, students see behind the scenes and learn how the film industry actually works through special guest lectures and site visits to real-world media environments. Outside of class, residential students get a preview of college life by staying in Cleveland State University dorms and experiencing Cleveland's robust cultural offerings through scheduled trips and activities.

With access to the film school's professional soundstages, Mac editing labs, and vast inventory of film production equipment, expert instructors aided by CSU film student camp counselors help students hone their skills while finding their creative community and making friends during these activity-packed experiences.

All meals are provided for residential students and breakfast and lunch is provided for day camp students.

The summer includes an experiential three-week camp from June 14-July 2, followed by three one-week intensive camps that focus on acting and directing (July 12-18), documentary production (July 19-25), and postproduction (Jul. 26-Aug. 1). Day camp and residential options are available.

Learn more at [csufilmodyyssey.com](http://csufilmodyyssey.com)  
Contact: (216) 687-5087 or email [odyyssey@csuohio.edu](mailto:odyyssey@csuohio.edu).

### Odyssey Program Experiential

Three-Week Summer Camp  
June 14-July 2, 2021  
Residential: \$4,500  
Day Camp: \$3,600

Live, eat, sleep, dream, and create films with the students and faculty of the School of Film & Media Arts at this immersive summer film camp for students aged 13-18. Through

interactive workshops, lectures, film screenings, and focused activities, students learn storytelling, film literacy, screenwriting, acting for the camera, directing, shot composition, cinematography, lighting, editing and much more as they create their own original films in a fun and collaborative environment.

### Odyssey Intensive: Acting and Directing

Residential: \$1,500  
July 12-July 18, 2021  
Day Camp: \$1,200  
July 12-July 16, 2021

Nail your next audition and learn to work with actors as a director! Presented by the Cleveland State University School of Film & Media Arts, this new one-week intensive day and residential summer camp focuses on the crafts of acting and directing for students aged 13-18.

### Odyssey Intensive: Documentary Production

Residential: \$1,500  
July 19-July 25, 2021  
Day Camp: \$1,200  
July 19-July 23, 2021

Interested in telling stories about the world around you? Presented by the Cleveland State University School of Film & Media Arts, this new one-week intensive day and residential summer camp teaches the art of documentary production for students aged 13-18.

### Odyssey Intensive: Postproduction

Residential: \$1,500  
July 26-August 1, 2021  
Day Camp: \$1,200  
July 26-July 30, 2021

Learn how to mix creativity with technology and fix it in post with this new one-week intensive day and residential summer camp for students aged 13-18, presented by the Cleveland State University School of Film & Media Arts.

# Summer Camps and more!

at LNSP East!

## MIKE MORAN BASKETBALL CAMPS

### Three separate one-week sessions

Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-3:15 pm  
June 14-18 / June 21-25 / June 28-July 2

Tuition is \$185.00 per camper per session.  
Early bird tuition is \$165.00 for campers registering by May 1!

Register at [www.morancamps.com](http://www.morancamps.com) or call  
440-338-8092 to request a brochure or for info.



## CLEVELAND SOCCER ACADEMY SUMMER CAMP



### Half-day camps only

Monday-Friday, 9:00-11:30 am  
July 26-July 30

Boys and girls ages  
8-14

Contact Ali Kazemini, camp director,  
at [Kaz@LNSportspark.com](mailto:Kaz@LNSportspark.com).

## BATTING CAGES

### M-F 3:30-9 pm; Sat/Sun 9 am-9 pm

Social distancing is required. Masks must be worn while entering and exiting. Our staff will be sanitizing the facility and tokens. It is required to bring your own helmet and bat to use our cages.



NEW!

## JUNIOR HOOPERS ACADEMY

Junior Hoopers Academy is a NEW program for ages 2 through 5. These classes introduce toddlers to the game of basketball with fun activities that allow them to run, play as a group, shoot and dribble a basketball. They gain basic basketball skills while building fundamentals such as balance and coordination. Classes include activities that are focused on a child development with fun games incorporating parachutes, bubbles, noodles, cones, lots of basic dribbling and more.

**Date:** Eight-week program; spring session coming in April  
**Ages:** 2-3 (with parents) and 4-5 (without parents)

For registration and more info contact:  
[Sarah@LNSportsPark.com](mailto:Sarah@LNSportsPark.com).



38630 Jet Center Dr., Willoughby  
North of Rt. 2 off Lost Nation Road  
440-602-4000  
[www.LNSportsPark.com](http://www.LNSportsPark.com)

# Lake Erie College Therapeutic Riding Program

Helps improve cognitive & social skills  
and physical & emotional well-being of children  
with developmental disabilities

By Deanna Adams

**H**orseback riding is an enjoyable sport that has a surprising number of benefits—mentally, as well as physically. It's been known to reduce stress, improve balance and coordination, and even help develop problem-solving skills.

Horsemanship has also been proven as a great advantage in improving the lives of those with developmental difficulties. Interaction with horses is becoming widely acknowledged for its therapeutic effects. Horse therapy, or equine-assisted services, involves interactions between patients and

horses, treating a number of conditions, such as substance abuse, mental illness, and autism spectrum disorder.

Lake Erie College in Painesville has had much success with their Therapeutic Riding Program, which provides equine-assisted services to aid in cognitive, emotional, physical and social development. Their mission is two-fold: To guide, educate, and support emerging therapeutic horsemanship professionals, while serving as an alternative therapy for those with developmental disabilities. The program is open for adolescents, ages 8 to 14, who weigh under 150 pounds, and are ambulatory (able to walk on one's own).



Lake Erie College students, Madeline Long and Jessica Burley, assist with school horse, Willie and a therapeutic riding participant in a session.

And at the helm is Sarah Dwyer, certified therapeutic riding instructor, and a graduate of the Lake Erie College School of Equine Studies.

"The students gain a number of benefits through the program," Dwyer says. "They learn how to ride safely while working on their riding skills and in addition, they build physical strength, communication with the horse, hand-and-eye coordination, and ultimately learn social responsibility, and develop a relationship with the animal." She adds that eye contact with the horse is important to develop trust.

Activities include grooming, leading and riding the horses, always alongside the supervision of a certified instructor. As a result, children improve problem-solving skills, emotional awareness and social responsibility, while gaining independence and impulse control.

"The parents fill out a goal sheet ahead of time so we know exactly what to focus on," Dwyer says. "They learn all those range of skills: behavioral, emotional and physical."

Dwyer began her own equestrian path at an early age. "I'm from a nonhorse family but my parents noticed by age four that I was having a hard time focusing on one thing. They knew I loved animals so they enrolled me in horseback riding les-

sons. It became a big motivator."

That motivation never left her. In high school, Dwyer discovered she also loved working with children with special needs due to physical or learning struggles. When it came to choosing a college, it was an easy decision. Lake Erie College's School of Equine Studies was founded in 1955, and its reputation for distinguished employment success for its graduates is nationally known. Dwyer is a PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) International certified therapeutic riding instructor.

"Being an instructor, I get to facilitate between the horses and the students and it's incredible to witness the changes and progress in the students," Dwyer says. "Safety, of course, is our primary concern, but we let the horses do their jobs. They are trained for this, and seem to know what's required of them. Their demeanor is softer, more disciplined and calmer with the child rider."

Thanks to generous donors, Lake Erie College has expanded their Therapeutic Riding Program, and opened their new equestrian Inspiration Arena last August. The \$750,000 building provides a 250'x80' arena for equestrian students to practice. The new arena will also act as a warm-up space for com-

## Spring Tea

Saturday, April 24 • noon  
Lake County History Center Barn

### Quilts Tell a Story

Enjoy an afternoon tea with family & friends at the beautiful Lake County History Center. Savor tea and nibble scones, finger sandwiches, fresh fruit and cookies while you learn more about quilts throughout history. These handcrafted works of art have been used for more than just keeping warm. Monique Noonan, quilter-in-chief at Quilts and Sew Forth in Mentor, will share stories behind quilts from the past.



**\$20/member • \$18/nonmember**  
**\$12.50/child 4-11 • Free/child 3 & under**

Limited seating due to Covid-friendly environment.  
Masks required.

**Call or visit website to register.**

415 Riverside Drive • Painesville Township  
[www.LakeHistory.org](http://www.LakeHistory.org) • 440-639-2945



## Lake Erie from page 14

munity members when Lake Erie hosts competitions.

The school is currently looking for volunteers for the summer program. Volunteers assist in a number of tasks, including grooming, accompanying riders alongside their horses, as well as leading the horses during the riding sessions. Prior horse experience is helpful but not necessary. There is a minimum of two, 1½ hour orientation and training sessions prior to volunteering.

"It's always joyful to watch students and volunteers work with our community participants and the horses," Dwyer says, "It's truly a wonderful service, and honor, to provide these benefits for children with disabilities."

She adds that the careful early planning and execution of the school's COVID policies have allowed them to avoid the semester-long shutdowns which have plagued other schools. She encourages those interested to see their website for detailed information, and see the sign-up link for potential participants and volunteers.

For registration or volunteer information, visit them online at [www.lec.edu/therapeutic-horsemanship](http://www.lec.edu/therapeutic-horsemanship) or call them at (440) 375-7050.

# 2021 Top Baby Names

Names.org released predictions for the most popular baby names of 2021. The rankings were determined by analyzing the most recent data from the Social Security Administration, trends from the past five years, and current user interest from millions of visitors to the site.



## Top 10 Boy Names for 2021

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Liam   | 6. James    |
| 2. Noah   | 7. William  |
| 3. Oliver | 8. Benjamin |
| 4. Elijah | 9. Henry    |
| 5. Lucas  | 10. Matteo  |

### Just Outside the Top 10:

Sebastian, Theodore and Levi are just outside the top 10, rising in popularity and expected to make the list in the coming years. Ethan, Alexander, and Jackson also fall just short of the top 10, but are declining in popularity.

### Fastest Growing Names:

Miles, Luca, Theodore, Leo, and Maverick.

## Top 10 Girl Names for 2021

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Olivia    | 6. Sophia   |
| 2. Emma      | 7. Isabella |
| 3. Amelia    | 8. Mia      |
| 4. Charlotte | 9. Evelyn   |
| 5. Ava       | 10. Harper  |

### Just Outside the Top 10:

Luna, Camila, Penelope, and Aria are just outside the top 10, rising in popularity and expected to make the list in the coming years. Ella and Abigail also fall just short of the top 10, but are declining in popularity.

### Fastest Growing Names:

Luna, Emilia, Willow, Isla, and Violet.

Photos by Abby Smith

# GEAUGA PARK DISTRICT'S

## 2021 summer Camps

X-TREME DAY ADVENTURES  
AND/OR ONE WEEK-LONG CAMP  
for teens entering  
grades 8-10

# Get outside for some fun!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Hurry, space is limited! • 440-286-9516 • Visit <http://bit.ly/gpdcamps> for details

# Enter for a chance to win \$15,000

Fairmount Center for the Arts fundraiser

Fairmount Center for the Arts, a nonprofit arts organization, has launched an innovative fundraiser called the "Fairmount 500" that will provide the opportunity for an individual to win \$15,000. Only 500 tickets are available and sales have begun and will end August 25, 2021 at midnight (OR when all 500 tickets have been sold). Tickets are \$100 each.

Envisioned by Toby Maloney, board member, Toby notes that, "Participating in the raffle is a great way to support Fairmount and to dream big. Since we're limiting the number of tickets to 500, the odds are attractive and we hope our top prize of \$15,000 and runner-up prizes of \$2,000 and \$1,000 will be appealing to people."

The drawing will be held (winner need not be present) on the evening of Thursday, August 26, 2021 during the culminating reception of the 45th annual Fairmount Art Exhibition. This event is free and open to the public. Additionally, the drawing for the winning ticket will also be live streamed so all can join in the fun of this moment from wherever their location.

This is a great chance to win some extra cash and support Fairmount Center for the Arts who is celebrating 50 years of providing programs in dance, music, theatre and visual arts.

Fairmount is grateful for the support of the following sponsors of the Fairmount 500:



#### Gold Level Sponsor

Gloria and Alan Wright

#### Silver Level Sponsors

Aqua Doc

Lyndall Insurance

Shook Construction

#### Bronze Level Sponsors

ATG Originals

Evergreen Landscapes, Inc.

Patterson Fruit Farms

For complete information and/or to purchase one of these limited number of tickets, please visit [www.fairmountcenter.org](http://www.fairmountcenter.org).

Fairmount Center for the Arts is located at 8400 Fairmount Road in Novelty.

## Geauga Park District's Adventure Day Camps

Registration is open now – and filling fast – for Geauga Park District's Adventure Day Camps and X-TREME Adventures, with spots still available for teens who will be entering grades 8–10.

Kayaking, hiking, geocaching, biking, fishing, building and launching model rockets, and exploring stream life are just some of our anticipated adventures, depending on week of enrollment.

There's still room to sign up during the following camps: Adventure Day Camp at Affelder House (held entirely at The West Woods) the week of June 14, Park Explorer Adventure Day Camp (starting at a different park each day) the week of July 19, and one-day-long X-TREME Adventures on June 30 (kayaking), July 14 (high ropes) and July 28 (biking).

To sign up for summer fun, register ASAP at (440) 286-9516 or online at [www.geaugaparkdistrict.org](http://www.geaugaparkdistrict.org). Fees and additional details can also be found on the website under Activities, then Naturalist-Led Experiences.

# A rich, educational experience in a Christ-centered environment

Enrollment is now open to the community for grades K-8



Inspiring Excellence



A Great Place To Grow

- Small Class Sizes
- Daily Religion Class
- Reading Readiness
- Science
- Art
- Writing
- Social Studies
- Weekly Chapel Service
- Math
- Health
- Music/Vocal Choir
- Computer Technology
- Library/Media Center
- Physical Education

## Our Shepherd LUTHERAN SCHOOL

508 Mentor Avenue, Painesville  
(across from Lake Erie College)

440.357.7776 • [www.oslpainesville.org](http://www.oslpainesville.org)

Email: [admissions@oslpainesville.org](mailto:admissions@oslpainesville.org)



Joyfully serving Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties

## Pets = unconditional love

By Stacy Turner

We had our fair share of pets growing up that ranged from your typical dogs and cats to an assortment of birds, hamsters, guinea pigs, and fish. When one hamster died a few days before Easter, my older sister had us believing he'd be raised from the dead, something she'd learned at Catholic grade school. Sadly, no miracle took place that Easter — my sister was certain it was because she wasn't allowed to bring him to church. In addition to rodents of unknown theology, we always had at least one dog ready to play, go for a walk, or add to the overall chaos of family life. From a Saint Bernard to a French bulldog, a Scottish deerhound and several Yorkshire terriers, my growing up years included a United Nations of dogs. We also had outdoor cats that, for many years, weren't allowed in the house.

Dad wasn't a fan of felines. He explained that while he and his 10 siblings always wanted a dog, Grandma never allowed it. And with 11 kids, I can see her point. Dad explained that his mom always had a cat, since they could catch mice and fend for themselves. My dad and his ornery brothers tormented those poor cats, mostly because they weren't dogs. He told us from extensive experience that cats really do land on their feet, no matter how far they fall (or get dropped out a window).

Ironically, dad became a cat lover later in life when a quiet little kitty 'followed us home' and decided she belonged to him. The tough guy pretended to be irritated by her preference of him, but he wasn't fooling anyone, especially his new cat. Pets have an uncanny ability to love us in spite of our sometimes prickly exterior. Pets can see the best in us, even if we don't let it out much. And just like magic, when we open our hearts to our pets, these dogs and cats make us better humans.

Recently, my husband, a lifelong dog lover, joined the pro-cat bandwagon. Since our 100-pound diva dog, Tinker, prefers sunbathing on the porch, man's best friend is a scrappy 15-pound ginger cat. This dog-cat comes when called and follows my husband around the yard to 'help' him. As an added bonus, man's



new best friend also hunts rodents and pests, protecting our house and garden.

Our girly dog prefers being the center of attention — so much so that she's willing to sit still and let the girls make her beautiful. She's let them paint her nails, add multi-color 'beauty marks' to her face, and streak her coat with glitter to make her look "so pretty." As long as the girls are showering her with attention, she's willing to be their model, unless an actual shower or bath is involved. She cinched her role as favorite pet, however, when she burped and passed gas quite loudly and at the exact same time. In that moment, they declared her to be "the best pet ever." Admittedly the bar may be a little low at my house, but no matter the species, pets become cherished members of our families, and our lives become richer for it.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), having a pet can provide many health benefits. Regular walking or playing with pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels. Pets can even help manage loneliness and depression by giving us companionship. It's no wonder that a recent study by the American Pet Products Association reported that 11.38 million U.S. households have gotten a new pet during the pandemic.

We're also part of that number, having adopted two kittens during the pandemic. In the few months we've had them, they've added countless hours of joy with their playful antics and unconditional love. They follow our big ginger cat around like he's the best thing ever, and like hanging out with the rest of us, too. And while they're not exactly fans of our dog yet, with her hearty bark, pokey nose, and ginormous paws, they're getting used to their big canine sister, too. We're just one big family, whether on two legs or four. And we know that no matter what goes on in the outside world, that unconditional love from pets will help get us through it.



## Flexible, part-time hours for moms and dads

Universal Metal Products, headquartered in Wickliffe, Ohio, is a metal forming manufacturing celebrating its 75th anniversary!

We know the pandemic has caused uncertainty and struggles with families in Lake and Geauga counties, with many struggling to find work/life balance.

UMP has several part-time, light assembly/industrial positions available in our Eastlake manufacturing center. We work with moms and dads who need flexible, part-time hours.

Please visit our website at  
[www.universalmetalproducts.com/careers](http://www.universalmetalproducts.com/careers)  
today or email your resume to  
[hr@ump-inc.com](mailto:hr@ump-inc.com).



# Finding the right PRESCHOOL for your child



By Jan Pierce

When it's time to search for the perfect preschool for your little one, you want to be sure you're making the right decision. If you're lucky enough to have friends who've done their research and are happy with their choice, you're fortunate. You'll have first-hand recommendations.

Be aware of the difference between daycare and a functioning preschool. Daycare facilities provide custodial care, but don't always offer an educational curriculum. Daycares often take children of all ages and offer extended hours. A preschool usually has limited hours and may or may not offer before- and after-school care. In a daycare children of all ages may be grouped together while a preschool offers segregated age groups.

## Where to begin

There are many considerations before choosing, but be sure you start your search early. Many excellent preschools have long waiting lists. In general you'll be looking for a school that provides the following:

- The convenience of proximity to your home and/or your workplace.
- A solid reputation and up-to-date accreditation and licensing. The state has approved the school.
- Clear rules and regulations, health/illness policies, pickup and drop-off times.
- Clean, well-kept facilities with

adequate indoor and outdoor play areas.

- Qualified, caring staff.
- Stimulating curriculum and age-appropriate toys.
- A philosophy and climate pleasing to you and right for your child's temperament.

The NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) has a database of accredited preschools you can access at [families.naeyc.org/find-quality-child-care](http://families.naeyc.org/find-quality-child-care). This site lists currently accredited day cares and schools all across the nation and is updated weekly. Spend a little time on their website for top-notch thinking about early childhood education.

## Questions to ask

You'll want to do your homework to find the right school for your family. Here are some questions to ask before narrowing your search and visiting several schools:

- Is there currently room for my child? Is there a waiting list?
- What are the fees? How and when are we billed?
- How do you communicate with parents? (phone calls, emails, newsletters, website, etc.)
- What is your staff to student ratio? (NAEYC recommends one adult to every four to nine children as optimal at ages 2-3 and one to eight to ten for ages 4-5.)
- Do your staff members have credentials and training? Are they background-checked? Up to date on CPR? Receiving ongoing training?



- What is your educational philosophy? (academic-oriented, exploration, faith-based, etc. Some distinct philosophies include Montessori, Waldorf, or Reggio-Emilia.)
- What health/hygiene standards are enforced? (immunizations, sick child rules, hand-washing, etc.)
- How do you handle discipline?
- Are meals and snacks provided? Are naps taken?
- What safety precautions are in place? (strangers on-campus, release policies, sign-in/out)
- Can you give me a list of references? (be sure to follow up and call them.)
- Can you provide a sample of your weekly curriculum and activities? How often do you change the activities?

As you gather information you'll be able to narrow your list down to two or three good choices. When you're ready, go ahead and schedule a visit to the school. Decide whether you want to do this with your child or on your own.

You'll be looking for all of the above qualities of a good school, but more than that you want to get a "feel" for the school. Do you feel welcome? Are the children busy and engaged in work or play? Is the facility pleasing to the eye and orderly? Do you get the sense that you'd feel comfortable leaving your child in this school's care? Are the children happy?

Jot down your first impressions and any new information you find during the visit. You may want to use the Preschool Visit Checklist provided on the next page.

If for any reason, you don't feel comfortable with the school environment, trust your instincts and look for another school. It might be preferable to find a safe daycare situation and use that until you can locate a preschool of the highest standards.

You want the perfect preschool and your child deserves it. All the time and effort you put into your search will pay huge dividends in a happy, healthy, and well-cared for child.



# OUR FUN IS SECOND TO NONE.

We use fun learning activities to help your child become **school-ready**, **career-ready** and **life-ready**. Our wide range of enrichment programs, such as baby sign language, yoga, music, drama, art, chess and foreign languages, allow your child to learn through experience.

INFANT-KINDERGARTEN • BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL • LEARNING GARDEN • OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



THE  
**GODDARD SCHOOL**<sup>®</sup>  
FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**Enroll Today!**

**CONCORD TOWNSHIP • 440-350-1333**  
7645 Fredle Drive

**GoddardSchool.com**

NCA-CASI



The Goddard Schools are operated by independent franchisees under a license agreement with Goddard Systems, Inc. Programs and ages may vary. Goddard Systems, Inc. program is AdvancED accredited. License #305905 © Goddard Systems, Inc. 2021



## Pre-K Enrolling Now!

- 4- and 5-year-olds
- For the 2021-22 school year
- All day
- Extended care available



**29840 Euclid Avenue  
Wickliffe, OH 44092  
440-585-0800  
www.MaterDeiAcademy.us**



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**ENROLL TODAY!**

Give your child the tools they need

**Free Preschool  
Prescolar Gratis**

Limited Space Available. Call for details & eligibility.

**Summer Camp**

Summer camp is the perfect spot for your child to be physically active, gain confidence, develop life long skills, and make friends!



**FREE TRANSPORTATION**

**MENTOR**  
8303 Tyler Blvd.  
440-205-8420

**EUCLID**  
1050 E. 200th St.  
216-481-3830

**CLEVELAND**  
2285 Columbus Rd.  
216-344-3000



**www.HorizonChildcare.com**

### Starting Point

(216) 575-0061  
(800) 880-0971  
www.starting-point.org

Starting Point for child care and early education, a nonprofit agency, is northeast Ohio's child care and early education resource and referral source, serving families, early childhood professionals and the community. Starting Point works to:

- Link families with child care services.
- Increase the supply of child care.
- Improve the quality of child care.
- Stimulate early education alternatives.
- Address child care and early education issues.

The agency serves Ashtabula, Lake, Cuyahoga and Geauga counties.

### The Goddard School

7645 Fredle Drive, Concord Twp.  
(440) 350-1333  
www.GoddardSchool.com

For nearly 30 years, The Goddard School has been a trusted name among parents and families. Their classrooms are safe, nurturing environments for children 6 weeks to 6 years, offering age-appropriate opportunities to explore and discover.

At The Goddard School located in Concord Township their play-based F.L.EX.® Learning Program (Fun Learning Experience) is grounded in research on how children learn best—children experience the deepest, most genuine learning when they are having fun. It's designed to provide a well-rounded experience and ensure each child becomes confident, joyful and fully prepared in school and in life. For more information call or visit their website.

### Great Day Child Care Learning Center

**Madison:** 2471 Hubbard Road  
(440) 428-5993

**Middlefield:** 14810 Madison Road  
(St. Rt. 528), (440) 632-1832

**Perry:** 4325 Manchester Road  
(440) 259-8125

www.greatdaychildcare.com

Great Day Child Care Learning Centers provide the highest quality child care services to families in Madison, Perry, Middlefield, and

surrounding cities.

Their staff is trained and certified in CPR, first aid, communicable disease & child abuse recognition so you can rest assured they are in good hands.

In addition, the caring and compassionate environment will help your child to grow and have fun interacting with friends while learning new skills every day.

They have flexible scheduling, from drop in, to part-time to full-time care.

Their preschool program offers STEM, Spanish, music, math, reading, technology and social and emotional support for your child. Call a location near you to schedule a visit and see how Great Day Child Care is a place you will be confident to send your child to.

### Hershey Montessori School

10229 Prouty Road, Concord Twp.  
(440) 357-0918  
www.Hershey-Montessori.org

At Hershey, classrooms are called "communities" where students work in multi-age groups so they can learn from and interact with others of diverse ages and interests. These programs include the Parent-Infant Program (2 months to 12 months), the Young Child Community (12 months to 36 months), Children's House (3 to 6 ½ years), Elementary (6 to 12 years) and Adolescent Community (12 to 18 years). Students are given blocks of uninterrupted time to figure out a problem, to ask questions of their teachers, or share their passion for a subject with another student. They work and learn at their own pace and make choices regarding which activities they want to take part in. When children are given a choice, they are already naturally engaged and interested, so they are never bored.

For more information call (440) 357-0918, email admissions@hershey-montessori.org, or visit www.Hershey-Montessori.org.



**Horizon Child Development Center**

**Mentor:** 8303 Tyler Boulevard  
(440) 205-8420

**Euclid:** 1050 E. 200th Street  
(216) 481-3830  
www.horizonchildcare.com

Horizon offers a program for children 6 weeks to age 13. They have an enhanced preschool and pre-K program that includes Creative Curriculum. They are the only center in Lake County to receive a grant from ODE to provide free preschool, for qualifying children who are 4 years old, from 9:00 am–11:30 am, Monday through Friday. Their summer program stimulates enthusiasm through their piano lessons and educational field trips. They believe that given the right to progress, children become empowered to achieve multiple tasks and develop a willingness to learn.

Whether your children are marvelous at math or adore science, Horizon empowers them to learn through their own curiosity and sense of wonder. They provide ongoing professional development

by supporting an award-winning program. Contact their office for more information or to enroll your child.

**Lakeland Community College Teaching Learning Center/ Campus Kids**

7700 Clocktower Drive, Kirtland  
(440) 525-7500  
www.lakelandcc.edu/TLC

Lakeland Community College has an on-site early childhood child care program that serves as a lab school for the Early Childhood Education Department. There are three programs that are offered, all of which are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The Teaching Learning Center (TLC) is a year-round program that is open to the community, serving children 16 months through 5 years. Their TLC part-time program is for children ages 3 through 5. This program is also open to the community and runs

**Continued on page 22**



Laurel girls today.

**LEADERS**  
tomorrow.

In the classroom or virtually engaged in Laurel School@Home, Laurel girls are resilient. Through a demanding academic curriculum informed by our Center for Research on Girls and access to superior technology and unparalleled distance learning, girls at Laurel lead every day.

**Come see how Laurel girls lead.**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

**All School Open House**

Girls Kindergarten-Grade 12  
and Coed 18 months-PreK

**Saturday, April 17, 2021**  
10:30 am-12:30 pm

**Pre-registration is required.**

Space is limited. Visit  
LaurelSchool.org/OpenHouse  
to learn more and to RSVP.

**LAUREL**

Dream. Dare. Do.



**DISCOVER  
STARTING POINT!**

**SEARCH.**

For child care,  
early education,  
preschool and  
out-of-school  
time programs

**LEARN.**

About programs  
and activities  
for your child  
or teenager

**CONNECT.**

With experts  
who'll answer  
your questions  
and offer  
guidance



216-575-0061 | 800-880-0972



[starting-point.org/parents.html](http://starting-point.org/parents.html)

# Early Childhood Education at its Best at Lakeland Community College



## Part-Time Preschool

(a.m. classes)

**Now enrolling children aged 3–5 in our lab school preschool program.**

- NAEYC accredited.
- Professional teaching staff.
- Excellent facilities in a beautiful setting.
- Convenient location.
- Low teacher/child ratio.
- Special parent education programs.
- The latest early childhood teaching strategies.



## STEAM Summer Camp

Choose from four different one-week camps for children K-2. Each week will inspire curiosity, spark imaginations and enrich your child's summer in a safe environment. Camps begin June 7, 2021.

*Learn more about preschool and camps!*

Call or email Cristen Vanek:

**440-525-7500**

[cvanek@lakelandcc.edu](mailto:cvanek@lakelandcc.edu)

[www.lakelandcc.edu/tlc](http://www.lakelandcc.edu/tlc)

**Lakeland**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### Lakeland College cont'd

August to May, five days a week. Campus Kids serves all Lakeland Community College students' children ages 3 through 10.

New this year is K–2 Summer STEAM Camp. Choose from four different one-week camps for children K–2. Each week will inspire curiosity, spark imaginations and enrich your child's summer in a safe environment. Camps begin June 7.

They offer developmentally appropriate experiences. Using a discovery-based curriculum, learning is emphasized through guided exploration and play. They have low teacher-to-child ratio, and all teachers are experienced educators with degrees in early childhood education and Ohio teaching licenses.

### Laurel School

[www.LaurelSchool.org](http://www.LaurelSchool.org)

(216) 464-0946

Lyman Campus

One Lyman Circle, Shaker Heights

Butler Campus

7420 Fairmount Road

Russell Township

Laurel School, founded in 1896, is a nationally recognized college preparatory, independent day school for girls, kindergarten through grade 12, with a coeducational preprimary program. Its traditional Lyman Campus is in Shaker Heights and its 150-acre Butler Campus is in Russell Township. The Butler Campus is home to competitive athletics and outdoor experiential learning, including northeast Ohio's first outdoor pre-primary school.

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 Laurel parents and teachers with research findings relevant to raising and educating girls.

RSVP for the April 17 All-School Open House at [LaurelSchool.org/OpenHouse](http://LaurelSchool.org/OpenHouse).



### Mater Dei Academy Preschool

29840 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe

(440) 585-0800

[www.MaterDeiAcademy.us](http://www.MaterDeiAcademy.us)

Mater Dei Academy's prekindergarten program for ages 4 and 5 strives to provide a creative noncompetitive environment for the young child. Interaction with other children and adults in an atmosphere of Christian love and concern, promotes the healthy development of each child as an individual. Their philosophy is that learning experiences encourage spiritual, intellectual, social and physical growth.

The preschool program creates a setting where your child will develop a positive self-image and become aware of the fact that he/she is a child of God and will grow in His love while developing skills, increasing independence and experiencing accomplishments. Small class size allows for individual attention while allowing your child the enjoyment of being a part of a group and accepting the need to share and cooperate. Children develop math and early reading skills, and explore science through experiments.

For more information on their programs, please call the school office or visit their website.

### St. Gabriel Learning Loft Preschool & St. Gabriel School

9921 Johnnycake Ridge Road

Concord Township

(440) 354-7574

[www.st-gabrielschool.org](http://www.st-gabrielschool.org)

*Part Time Preschool and My Buddy & Me classes for 2.5-year-olds*

St. Gabriel Learning Loft preschool has been preparing graduates for life through faith, learning, and love for over 50 years. With state-of-the-art facilities and one-to-one technology, the preschool offers developmentally appropriate practices for young children that facilitates a deep love of learning to build a strong foundation.

Through compassion, dedication, and expertise, their teachers ignite learning and see their vocation as a ministry. It requires more than knowledge, but a heart with deep love for the children who



## Register now for preschool at Great Day Child Care!

### Curriculum includes:

- STEM
- Spanish
- Music
- Math
- Reading
- Technology
- Social & emotional

**We will beat any competitor's price!**

## Great Day Child Care Learning Centers

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



### MADISON

2471 Hubbard Rd.

440.428.5993

[greatday3@netlink.net](mailto:greatday3@netlink.net)

#### Hours:

Mon–Fri

5:30 am–6:30 pm

### MIDDLEFIELD

14810 Madison Rd.

(Rt. 528)

440.632.1832

[greatday1@netlink.net](mailto:greatday1@netlink.net)

#### Hours:

Mon–Fri

5:30 am–7:30 pm

### PERRY

4325 Manchester Rd.

440.259.8125

[greatday4@netlink.net](mailto:greatday4@netlink.net)

#### Hours:

Mon–Fri

5:30 am–6:30 pm

**St. Gabriel School cont'd**

God entrusted them with to find their gifts and talents to make the world a better place. Their school is a second home where children learn about the world around them and most importantly their wonder, awe, and love for Jesus and His Creation. The Learning Loft Preschool has been voted #1 preschool in Lake County for three years in a row.

There are still part time openings for the Learning Loft Preschool for 2021-22, call for a tour, (440) 354-7574 or visit St-GabrielSchool.org.

**University School**

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

University School's Junior Kindergarten boys engage in activities that encourage the development of early cognitive language

and math skills, along with science, language, art, music, physical education, and outdoor play. Their faculty encourage these youngest boys to develop the academic, social, and emotional skills needed to enter kindergarten the following year with self-confidence and independence.

Join them at camp this summer! Their Preschool Day Camp is designed for boys to explore, learn, and play in a creative and stimulating environment. Boys can enjoy one, two, or three weeks of explorations that guarantee a unique journey of discovery: "3-2-1 Blast off!," "Coding Fun," and "Think It, Create It, and Watch It Go!" The camp is run by their dynamic US teachers. Camp is held at the Shaker Heights campus, which features a primary wing designed for young boys. Group size is limited, so register early for this fun camp!



# Voted Best of Mentor Preschool!

*As presented by the Mentor Award Program*



## ST. GABRIEL LEARNING LOFT PRESCHOOL

BEING CHRIST · EVERY DAY · EVERYWHERE

*"The care and support the teachers provide and faith based education help our children to learn about themselves and the world around them. We could not be happier with our educational choice for our family."*

*~L. Dickinson, parent, Jan '21*



**Give your child the best, and watch them bloom!  
Educating 2-year-olds to 5-year-olds with amazing part-time preschool opportunities!  
Call today!**

**440-354-7574  
St-GabrielSchool.org  
Concord**

# HERSHEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

[admissions@Hershey-Montessori.org](mailto:admissions@Hershey-Montessori.org)  
[www.Hershey-Montessori.org](http://www.Hershey-Montessori.org)

Hershey Montessori School helps set the stage for children to build meaningful skills while promoting language, nutrition, coordination, and socialization.

Areas of focus include:

- Large and small motor skills
- Spoken and receptive language
- Social engagement
- Self-care and life skills

We understand a child's psychological, physical and social needs. Beyond guiding children through activities, we carefully and objectively observe your child and know when to provide support, allow independence, and offer a new challenge.

**Contact us for information or to register for our Open House.**

**(440) 357-0918**

## 2021 SPRING OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

Concord Campus: Birth - 6th Grade

10229 Prouty Rd., Concord Twp., OH 44077

**April 17th or May 15th | 1 - 3 p.m.**

Registration is required. Virtual tours are also available on our website.



Nurturing the spirit. Engaging the intellect. Inspiring creative thinking.

# THE FREEDOM TO EXPLORE, CREATE, AND PLAY.

JR. K-8 ON-CAMPUS EVENT

JOIN US FOR **BENEFITS OF  
A UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
EDUCATION**

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

[www.us.edu/visit](http://www.us.edu/visit)

At University School, each boy is inspired and mentored to build his personal strengths, harness his natural talents and blaze his own path to success and fulfillment.



**UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL**

*For boys, Junior K-12*



- #1 School for Boys in Ohio
- #1 STEM School in Cuyahoga County

