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Keep It Up!

10 ways for students to maintain positive momentum all school year

By Christina Katz

Ah, the first few weeks of school. Backpacks are bursting with new books. Lunch boxes are filled with nutritionally sound lunches and healthy snacks. Moods are upbeat and bouncy. Kids head off to the bus or the car with a bit of optimism in their step. Everything is new! Subjects are fresh challenges, teachers are as-of-yet unknown, and the year is filled with the promise of positive potential.

A few weeks into the school year, though, kids hit their first fatigue hurdle. Challenges crop up. Everything starts to feel a lot less new and shiny. Teachers are giving a lot of homework. Math is harder. Social circles may be in flux. Friends can all be together in other classes. Auditions and tryouts have come and gone with unexpected results. What happened to all of the optimism everyone had during the first week of school? More importantly, how can you help your child navigate the ups and downs that come as the school year clicks into gear? Here are ten ways to help your child maintain positive momentum throughout the school year.

Attitude check. The point of view you have towards school and teachers is going to be mirrored by your children. If you criticize and disrespect teachers and administrators at home, don't be surprised if your child does the same at school. Are you friendly with teachers? Do you volunteer at the school? Show your child that teachers deserve respect, support and appreciation and that school is a safe and fun place to learn. Attend parent-teacher night, meet your child's teachers, and make sure they know you are an education ally.

Notice moods. Kids should be reasonably happy to get out of bed each morning and go to school. If your child does not have at least one or two activities to look forward each week, address this together. The beginning of the school year, the change in season or after the holiday break are good times to get involved in new activities. Having fun, interactive activities to look forward to can significantly improve a child's mood. Getting enough sleep and eating three healthy meals plus snacks are also critical for maintaining a cheerful attitude and good health.



It is important that your children have down time to relax.

Imagine a happy future. Many parents cannot seem to talk about the future without causing kids to feel anxious or overwhelmed. This is a surefire way to instill a sense of doom and gloom in kids about their options. Instead why not simply ask detached questions about the future and listen. We need to allow children an opportunity to inform us how they view the world long before it's time to leave the nest. It may be tempting to correct their less practical inclinations, but don't. Let them have their hopes and be a safe space where they can evolve.

Ask about the day. Don't lose track of kids' emotional states. Ask and listen without phones within reach. Don't sacrifice a daily check-in for a too-hecktic schedule. Before or after dinner can be a good time to chat, especially when there are after-school activities and plenty of homework. In fact, the more hectic the schedule, the more important it is to increase family down time. Try to have longer conversations about how school is going on the weekends, while you kick back and relax. Be sure to spend at least a half to a full day each week relaxing.

Review annual goals. Help your student establish academic goals that serve their vision of the future at the beginning of the school year and revisit them intermittently as the year progresses. If you sense they are getting off track or distracted, simply say, "What are your goals for the year again?" Briefly chatting about goals can reinvigorate kids to put energy into achieving them. If kids are not keen on their goals, make sure they set their goals and not yours.

Make school a good fit. If your child is bored in school, maybe classes are not rigorous enough. On the flip side, if academics are too challenging,

your student may constantly be struggling to keep up. Talk to the school counselor to see what options you have for making adjustments. Placement in the proper level classes is crucial for student happiness at school. Don't let school become a breeze or a punishment.

Check grades regularly. It's wise to let students keep track of their own progress in school as much as possible. But touch base with them about grades often enough to help troubleshoot any problems that might crop up. The frequency of chats can vary depending on age and maturity level. Choose the routine that best supports your child's success. And then cut them some slack as they take on more responsibility. Encourage kids to talk to teachers at the first sign of an academic problem, instead of waiting for things to get worse. Asking for help from older adults is an important life skill, and self-advocacy is usually rewarded.

Keep social commitments in balance. We all know kids who keep their social calendars booked, rarely taking any down time. Try to remember that self-care is taught rather than innate, and don't allow your child's hypersocial friends to make them feel like they are constantly missing out. Be especially mindful if your child has friends who don't have enough parental guidance. For some kids, having a few close friends and hanging out one-on-one may be better than being part of an extended group that thrives on social drama. Make sure your child knows what "me time" means from a young age onward by setting a good example and helping prioritize self-care.

Be alert for bullying. Sometimes aggression between children is so subtle that parents don't pick up on it. Furthermore kids who are being

See *MOMENTUM* on page 4

Momentum from page 3

bullied may not realize it, or if they do, they may be ashamed to confide in parents or other adults. When your kids are younger, volunteer at school once in a while and check out the social dynamics. Even children who have known each other for years can suddenly turn on each other, especially if they sense popularity is at stake. With tweens and teens make sure to regulate screen time, social media use and check devices regularly. Make sure you train kids in empathy and assertiveness and reinforce those lessons, especially during the tween and teen years.

Watch for red flags. If your child has an appropriate schedule but is still showing signs of being disengaged or not wanting to get out of bed in the morning, get some help. As parents, we may not have all of the resources our children

need at our fingertips, and there is no shame in this. If your child is suffering from depression or anxiety, talk to a health care professional. Your general practitioner or family physician can ask the right questions and discuss treatment options to get your child back on track. Childhood anxiety and depression are on the rise, especially during the ages when kids leave home to attend college. Make sure your child is ready for that transition by instilling a positive attitude and encouraging slow and steady momentum that will pay off during the first twelve years of school and beyond.

Journalist Christina Katz has given her fair share of pep talks and lent plenty of shoulders to cry on. Parenting has taught her that life is Wabi-Sabi and isn't likely to become perfect any time soon.

Words of Wisdom

“Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you.”

—Robert Fulghum

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The Fine Arts Association's 2020-2021 theatre season offers something for everyone!

Miracle on 34th Street will open the holiday season at FAA (November 26–December 19, 2021).

Continue the holiday spirit with a Holiday Concert by the Cliff Habian Trio (December 11, 2021).

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe will ring in the new year (February 11–February 27, 2022), featuring chases, duels and escapes as the witch is determined to keep Narnia in her possession and to end the reign of Aslan.

Selected submissions received from all over the world, The Fine Arts Association's One Act Festival- Ten Below! will take place April 1–April 10, 2022). The festival is guaranteed to arouse post-theatre conversation.

Audiences will laugh and be amazed at the wit and humor of their young actors during Chili Con Comedy as they incorporate suggestions and chance into live performances on November 13, 2021,

February 5, 2022, and May 14, 2022.

The 2021–2022 theatre season concludes with Alice in Danceland (June 10–26, 2022), a brand new musical conceived and created by FAA staff. This is an exciting new venture as FAA combines their Theatre Department with their Dance Department.

The Fine Arts Association's New Artist Recital Series features acclaimed faculty members and renowned guest artists. Concertgoers can expect a wide variety of musical performances including classical piano, contemporary percussion, jazz, classical improvisation, and more.

For complete information and to purchase tickets for the 2021–2022 performance season, visit fineartsassociation.org or call FAA at 440-951-7500. Discounted group rates are also available. FAA is barrier free. Secure on-site parking is free. Sign interpreted performances are available on specific dates.



More magic & fewer meltdowns

Tips for trick-or-treating parents

By Christina Katz

Blisters abound, sugar levels soar, dehydration ensues, and next thing you know, what started as a fun, festive night feels more like a ghoulish nightmare.

The uncomfortable truth is that Halloween costumes are often flimsy and lack the insulation needed to stave off a brisk autumn chill. Kids' candy bags can quickly become over-stuffed to the point of creating a cascade of candy-and tears-as the evening wears on.

Before you turn into a witch or a warlock, parents, remember, the key to enjoying All Hallows' Eve is as simple as rallying the troops in advance, going over your expectations, and getting prepared for anything that might go amiss. Here are some tips from a mom who has literally been around the block a few times:

Split into age groups. Have one parent take one age group and the other parent take the other age group. Tweens like to run in packs and they move fast, so wear sneakers and layers you can lose, if you plan on keeping up with them. Toddlers and preschoolers may dawdle or tire quickly, so choose the more patient parent to accompany them. Or consider taking two shifts, one earlier in the evening for younger kids and another later in the evening for older kids, trading off who stays home to hand out candy.

Wear a backpack. Maybe it seems extreme to gear up as though you are going for an overnight hike just to walk a few blocks around the neighborhood. But the weather is fickle this time of year, and once you grab everything you need for a pleasant evening, you will be amazed by how much stuff you have to tote. And don't be surprised if your kids shed pieces of their costumes as the excitement heats up. A shoulder bag may feel fine for the first fifteen minutes of the night, but after two-hours, you will likely wish you had brought the backpack.

Invest in warm & dry. Your evening could end prematurely if there is a sudden windstorm or rain

shower. If your kids have on enough layers of tights and long underwear underneath their costumes, they won't falter even if they get a little wet. And if you are walking with a young child or children, bring a large umbrella, and keep a couple of compact umbrellas in your pack for older kids who will say they won't need them, but then might.

Eat a high-protein dinner. 'Tis the season for over-indulging in sugar, which means it's more important than any other time of year to emphasize three healthy high-protein meals a day. Be sure to give your kids limits on how much sugar they may consume between meals. Take their candy away and mete it out yourself if they don't comply with your limits or can't seem to wean themselves off the sugar roller coaster.

Practice their refrains. Commit to making the night pleasant for all. "Trick-or-treat!" and "Thank you!" are the only things young children need to be able to say their first couple of years out. But encourage older children to be more cordial especially to the older folks in the neighborhood, who will likely opt out altogether if they are offended by enough poorly behaved kids. How about making a chorus of "Happy Halloween!" or "Have a great night!" mandatory before the kids run off to the next house?

Be prepared. Plastic and paper bags for treats are out. They are the most likely to rip or tear. Pillowcases are better, but these too may split open when stuffed. So whatever you do, don't let the kids use your good set. Whatever they carry, stuff a few extra bags in your backpack in case you need replacements. Also carry band-aids for blisters, water for hydration, and cash on hand in case you come across a food cart selling something you might enjoy. And, of course, don't forget the camera.

Aim for the middle. If you are driving to another neighborhood to walk with a friend or friends, consider parking your vehicle in the middle of the neighborhood instead of on the edge or back at the friend's



house. This way, if you need to make an early exit for any reason, you'll be that much closer to your escape car. When bringing along very young children with older children consider bringing along a stroller or wagon. Even if the kids insist they don't need one, they might want one later after exhaustion sets in.

Use social sense. No one likes to feel left out, so encourage your kids to invite new or shy kids who might not already be part of a group to join you. Or, if you know that you will all have a better time if it's just you and your kids, don't feel bad about breaking off from a group.

Halloween is a great opportunity to teach kids about doing what works best for your family rather than always going along with the crowd. On the other hand, if there is a crowd you need to keep up with, now you will be ready. Happy Halloween!

Trick-or-treat preparedness:

- Umbrellas
- Water bottles
- Bandages
- Extra treat bags
- Lip balm
- Throat lozenges
- Cell phone/camera
- Protein snack like nuts or Go-Gurt
- Backpack or shoulder bag
- Stroller or wagon
- Flashlight



Christina Katz's favorite Halloween costume was the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz. She is proud to share that she made the costume herself.

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Fall fun at Geauga Parks

Snake Search

Saturday, October 9 • 1-3 p.m.
The West Woods, Nature Center
Snakes are fascinating, and before it gets too cold, they'll be on the move to find a warm spot for the winter. Hopefully with a bit of luck and a sharp eye, we can find these secretive serpents. Registration required.

Night Sky Viewing

Saturday, October 9 • 8-11 p.m.
Saturday, October 23 • 8-11 p.m.
Observatory Park
If skies are clear, observe the night sky through the Oberle telescope and other telescopes spaced out around the plaza. Wheelchair/stroller accessible.

Nature in Disguise

Saturday, October 16
12:30-1:30 p.m. & 2-3 p.m.
The West Woods
Follow us along the trail to meet different critters (volunteers in costume) and learn about their habits. Kid costumes encouraged. All attending, adults and children, must register. Registration required.

Howl-o-ween Hound Hike

Tuesday, October 19 • 5-6:30 p.m.
Chickagami Park
Pine Grove Shelter
Parade through the park with your favorite pooch by your side. Costumes (dog or human) optional. Entirely outdoors, so dress for the weather. Bring dog towels and a water bowl, poop scoop and bags for dog clean-up. Only one dog per handler, who must be fully able to control dog on leash at all times (8 ft. maximum). Aggressive behavior or excessive barking will result in participants being asked to leave. Registration required.

Weave a Snowman Basket

Saturday, October 30 • 12:30-6 p.m.
The West Woods, Nature Center
Learn the art of basket weaving while making your own snowman basket. Weave the basket, then take it home to decorate with a provided kit. Finished basket will be approximately 12"H x 10"W. Fee: \$50 Geauga residents, \$54 out-of-county residents. Wheelchair/stroller accessible. Registration required.
www.geaugaparkdistrict.org

Crossroads Health accepts clients as the only certified community behavioral health clinic in Lake County

Crossroads Health has expanded its services and is now a certified community behavioral health clinic (CCBHC), the only CCBHC in Lake County. A new service model, CCBHCs are designed to provide a full scope of integrated treatment for individuals living with mental health and substance use treatment needs. CCBHCs offer easy access to behavioral and primary health care, care coordination, and an increased intensity in services to support those with needs in many areas. Crossroads Health's expanded services include 24/7/365 mobile crisis services, evidence-based services for co-occurring disorders, intensive care coordination services, tailored care for active duty military and veterans, and integration with physical health care.

Crossroads Health services are available to any individual in need of care, including (but not limited to) people living with serious mental illness or emotional disturbances, addiction, complex physical health needs, recurrent involvement with law enforcement or difficulty managing care independently. Crossroads

Health provides care regardless of an individual's ability to pay, caring for those who are underserved, have limited incomes, insured, uninsured or receiving Medicaid or Medicare, and those who are active duty military or veterans.

Crossroads Health's care coordination involves deliberately organizing client care activities and information among all of the providers concerned with a client's care to achieve safer and more effective care. This means that client needs and preferences are known ahead of time and confidentially communicated at the right time to the right people, and that this information is used to provide safe, appropriate, and effective care to the client. Crossroads Health's main goal of care coordination is to meet client needs and preferences in the delivery of high-quality, high-value health care with better outcomes.

For scheduling appointments or general information on services, call 440-255-1700. Crossroads Health is located at 8445 Munson Road in Mentor. For more info visit www.CrossroadsHealth.org

Painesville Fall Fest Express

Painesville's favorite fall event is back! However, due to the rising COVID-19 cases among the younger population, we have decided to slightly alter our much loved annual Fall Fest.

Join us on Saturday, October 16 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Kiwanis Recreation Park for Fall Fest Express, a fall fun drive-thru experience.

Rec Park will be full of spooky decorations as you drive your way around the fishing pond collecting candy and goodies from different stations.

The first 500 kids also receive a free pumpkin and decorating kit! Be sure to wear your costumes to get in on the fun.

This is a completely free event and open to the whole community.

Today'sFamilyMagazine.com

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- Baby Guide
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Our site is keyword searchable and is mobile-friendly. Whatever local family information you need, you will most likely find it at www.TodaysFamilyMagazine.com!



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www.HorizonChildcare.com



Great Lakes Science Center opens new aerospace exhibition 'Above and Beyond'

Get ready to explore the future of aerospace technology and air travel with Great Lakes Science Center's newest exhibition, Above and Beyond, an interactive experience presented by Parker Aerospace.

Guests will launch into the future at Above and Beyond with 5,000 square feet of unprecedented interactive demonstrations of the advances in aviation and aerospace from the first powered flights to the newest innovations.

"The Science Center is thrilled to offer this incredible, interactive exhibition that highlights the science and wonder of flight," said president & CEO Dr. Kirsten Ellenbogen. "From the moment guests enter through an immersive theater experience they will feel the excitement and inspiration that has accompanied humanity's quest for flight."

Within the exhibition, guests will be able to step into a simulated space elevator that takes them to the edge of the universe, design and

test a supersonic jet to face off in a virtual high speed flying competition, experience a flight simulation with motion-sensing technology to get a sense of what it's like to fly like a bird, and discover concepts for future aircraft.

"Parker is proud to help bring this fascinating exhibition to northeast Ohio, a land of world-class technology, innovation and education and home to Parker Aerospace. It is more meaningful because it is in Cleveland, the community we call home," said Parker Aerospace President Roger Sherrard.

Above and Beyond runs through Sunday, January 2, 2021 and is included with general admission to the Science Center.

Visit greatscience.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

Fall hours will be 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday and noon–5 p.m. on Sundays. The Science Center will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays and for all home day Browns games.



Patterson Family Fun Fest

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

While the market is open year round, Patterson's add their Family

Fun Fest to the action for seven weeks in September and October. This area costs \$10 per person to enter and gives families of children preschool through elementary ages a place to enjoy hiking, sliding, playing in straw, climbing and "driving" tractors, viewing the world from the top of their tree house, disappearing in the silo and, in general, enjoying the outdoors filled with fun. No reservations needed. Just come when you have a few hours to spend with your family outdoors.

For more information, visit them online at pattersonfarm.com or call 440-729-1964.

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Pumpkins & Piranhas returns to Greater Cleveland Aquarium

Family-friendly event for kids of all ages

Pumpkins & Piranhas returns to Greater Cleveland Aquarium Wednesday through Friday, October 27–29 from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (last admission at 6 p.m.).

“Costumes are encouraged and very much appreciated,” says Education Coordinator Matt Debelak, noting that baby sharks, superheroes, princesses, scarecrows and seahorses roamed the galleries in 2019. “It’s funny to me to see a T-Rex reaching out to touch a stingray—an animal that predates that dinosaur.”

The family friendly fun days are included with general admission (\$19.95 ages 13+, \$13.95 ages 2-12, \$0 passholders and guests younger than 2) and feature extended hours, underwater pumpkin decorations, costumed SCUBA divers, a small, take-home treat bag for children, pop-up animal enrichment and I-Spy/trivia activities focused on some of the curious creatures residing at the Aquarium.

“Moray eels, poison dart frogs,

sharks and many of the animals we might think are scary are really fascinating and a little misunderstood,” explains Debelak. “Piranhas aren’t really a danger to humans, but an Amazon River basin expedition story President Theodore Roosevelt penned about seeing hungry piranhas in a feeding frenzy gave the fish a fearsome reputation.”

The Aquarium asks that guests purchase advance general admission tickets to ensure entry. “We are deliberately limiting attendance and timing arrival to ensure social distancing,” explains Debelak. “We wouldn’t want to disappoint anyone who came out in costume on a sold-out day.”

The Aquarium will also be hosting Pumpkins & Piranhas-themed videos leading up to Halloween

Greater Cleveland Aquarium is located in the West Bank of the Flats, 2000 Sycamore Street in Cleveland. For more information call 216-862-8803 or visit www.greaterclevelandaquarium.com.



NEW Eagle Zip Adventure ride

Takes guests to new heights above Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

What is the Eagle Zip Adventure Ride?

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to fly like an eagle? Ride the Eagle Zip Adventure Ride and find out. On this tandem zip ride, guests board on the ride platform next to Wade Hall. Once seated and strapped in they are pulled backwards over Waterfowl Lake and up to a tower that rises 150 feet above the Zoo where riders can see all the way to downtown Cleveland. After pausing at the top for a moment, riders are released for a thrilling 35 mile an hour zip ride back down to the starting platform. You’ll feel like an eagle soaring through the air on this exhilarating ride.

How many zip lines are there?

There are two lines that can be operated simultaneously. Tower #1 is 701’ long and Tower #2 is 739’ long.

How long is the ride?

Ride times may vary but the average time from loading to unloading is five minutes.

How fast is the ride?

When being pulled up to the tower, the cart moves at 20 mph. On the descent back to the loading platform, you will reach speeds up to 35 mph before automatically slowing down.

What are the requirements to ride?

- Minimum rider height is 42”.
- Riders between 42” – 47” tall must ride with a paying adult.
- Riders 48” or taller may ride alone.

- Maximum weight is 300 lbs. for a single rider and 450 lbs. for two riders. Riders will be weighed prior to boarding.
- Riders must not have an impairment which prevents a normal seating position or use of the safety restraints.

Can I purchase a souvenir picture of my ride?

A camera provided by Kool Replay is mounted on the ride cart and will automatically capture your experience. Once the ride is over, you can scan the QR Code provided to access your free preview or purchase to get the full content.

- Photo: \$8.00
- Video: \$12.00
- Combo: \$15.00
- Cameras cannot be disabled by the ride attendants.

What are the hours of the ride?

- 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily and during special events
- April 1 – December 31 (weather permitting)
- Ride cannot operate during thunder and lightning storms, rainstorms, snowstorms, and winds exceeding 33 mph.

How much does it cost to ride?

- \$7.00 for Cleveland Zoological Society Members.
- \$8.00 for the general public.
- \$22.00 for the Eagle Zip Adventure Pass – includes admission to the Zoo and The RainForest and one ride.

Visit www.clevelandmetroparks.com/zoo for more info.



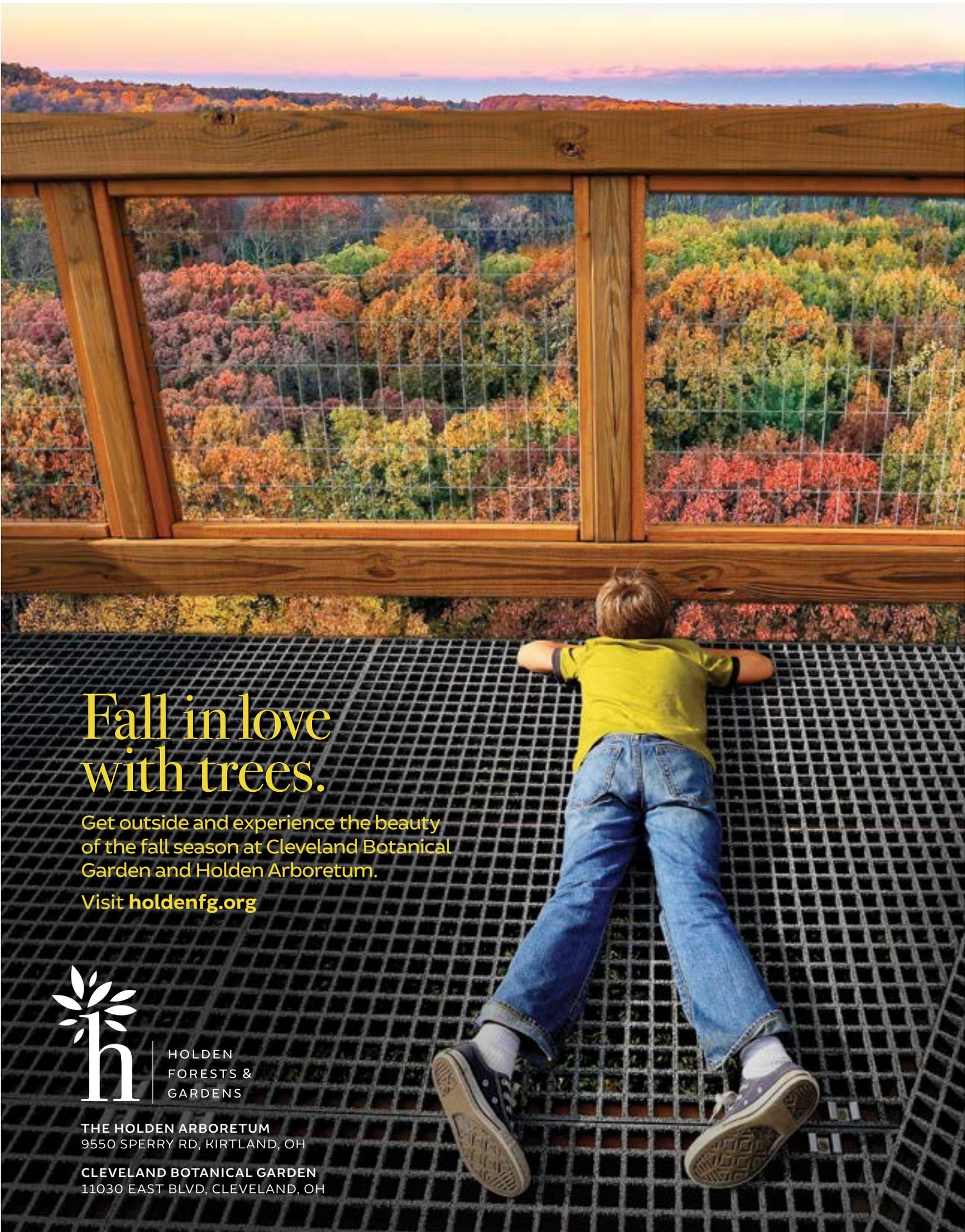
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Just For Laughs!

A young man agreed to babysit one night so a single mother could have an evening out. At bedtime he sent the youngsters upstairs to bed and settled down to watch football.

One child kept creeping down the stairs, but the young man kept sending him back to bed.

At 9 p.m. the doorbell rang, it was the next door neighbor, Mrs. Brown, asking whether her son was there. The young man brusquely replied, "No."

Just then a little head appeared over the banister and shouted, "I'm here, Mom, but he won't let me go home!"

Two kids are talking to each other. One says, "I'm really worried. My dad works 12 hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!"

The other kid says, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!"

The first kid says, "What if they try to escape?"

A 6-year-old boy called his mother from his friend Charlie's house and confessed he had broken a lamp when he threw a football in their living room.

"But, Mom," he said, brightening, "you don't have to worry about buying another one. Charlie's mother said it was irreplaceable."

George knocked on the door of his friend's house. When his friend's mother answered he asked, "Can Albert come out to play?"

"No," said the mother, "it's too cold."

"Well, then," said George, "can his football come out to play?"

36 northeast Ohio Girl Scouts earn highest award

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) is proud to honor 36 Gold Award Girl Scouts this year. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout senior or ambassador may earn. The Gold Award project challenges girls to identify an unmet need or core issue in their community, research and investigate it, recruit volunteers and build a team to create a plan to address the issue or need. Across northeast Ohio, members of the community are seeing great changes take place. Elementary schools are receiving valuable STEM resources. Places of worship are seeing improvements to their buildings and to the safety of their congregations. Animals have new habitats and resources to support their populations. These things were all made possible because of Gold Award Girl Scouts!

When compared to non-Girl Scout alums, Gold Award Girl Scouts soar when it comes to seeing themselves as leaders, providing service to others through volunteerism,



and having positive attitudes about themselves and the lives they lead. Over 90% of Girl Scouts not only attributed their success in life to Girl Scouts, but they also said they could not have had access to the same experiences anywhere else.

Nationwide, only five percent of eligible Girl Scouts go for the gold. This year, 36 Gold Award recipients from northeast Ohio will join the ranks of generations of young women who are recognized for making a difference, both locally and globally. It's not only Girl Scouts who understand the value of the Gold Award. Some universities and colleges offer scholarships unique to Gold Award recipients, and girls who enlist in the U.S. armed forces automatically enter the military one rank higher.

2021 Girl Scout Gold Award recipients in the Today's Family coverage area including city and project title:

- Elyse Ertel, Mentor, Cubby Clean Up
- Alexandra Fox, Mentor, The Instrument Initiative
- Meredith Mallon-Jeffrey, Gates Mills, H2O at SFA
- Brigit Morgan, Chardon, CMS Music Room Reno
- Alexis Ochi, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village Greenview Train Bluebird Houses
- Keira Oyen, Chesterland, Tubes of Love

Bios can be found at gsneo.org/goldaward.

Earning the Gold Award is just one of the amazing things girls can do as part of Girl Scouts. To join GSNEO, or learn more about volunteering, please visit gsneo.org.

TODAY'S family
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Mommy Chronicles

Halloween costume hijinks

By Stacy Turner

As new parents we looked forward to our child's first Halloween as yet another milestone and photo opportunity to be celebrated. We bought our tickets for Boo at the Zoo in advance and planned that first costume before the leaves began changing. It didn't matter that our little one was too young to enjoy most of the trick or treats.

And as a newly formed family of three, we wanted to be a part of the costume fun, too. Dressing our little one in a lion costume made of a fuzzy, light brown hooded onesie, we topped her head with a handmade yarn mane to keep our little cub toasty on that chilly fall night. And just in case the temperature dropped further, we wedged her into the stroller with enough extra blankets to cover the Serengeti. My husband and I wore vests, pith helmets, and binoculars, ready for the safari.

That's how my career in the family costume department began. The year little sister arrived, big sis wanted to be a flower, so it made scents (err, sense) for baby sis to go as a bumblebee. Since costumes couldn't be easily found, I created them using a mix of purchased clothing, fancy fabric, and some rudimentary sewing skills. As the years went by, the requests kept coming.

The year my eldest was Tinkerbell and the youngest was an alligator, our family was invited to a costume party. My husband vetoed the girls' suggestion he play Peter Pan, but appeased them by playing Captain Hook. Later, during the mortgage crisis, he and I dressed in business suits with name tags that read "Fredy Mac" and "Fannie Mae" while our girls dressed in cardboard houses, our own little foreclosures.

Another year, the eldest wanted to be a monarch butterfly. While

generic butterfly wings were easy to find that year, none were made with the specific markings of her chosen species, so I got to work again. Using a set of fairy wings as a base, I fashioned canvas wings that could be decorated with the distinct markings of that particular Lepidoptera. My husband and daughter spent hours hand-painting them; with the vision and all the extra effort, she was hopeful she'd win the costume contest at our small community gathering.

Meanwhile, our youngest had trouble choosing from the plethora of well-loved options in our dress-up box. Should she be a princess, and if so, which one? How about an OSU cheerleader, because the pom-poms were fun...or a doctor with a stethoscope? She finally settled on the Wizard of Oz Dorothy costume handed down from her cousin. Rummaging through her toys, she found a cute picnic basket and small stuffed Toto look alike. We bought a shiny pair of ruby slippers and she was ready for the Yellow Brick Road in no time flat.

As we headed to the costume party, Ms. Monarch was optimistic, while Dorothy busied herself sorting the candy she'd collected earlier that evening. And I'd like to say that all the planning and hard work paid off for my budding butterfly expert, but that's not how it worked out. The competition in her age group was pretty fierce that year. It seems residents of our tiny town were hitting Pinterest pretty hard. She lost out to a real-life American Girl doll walking around in a life-size, perfectly branded box. Ironically, our little Dorothy took the prize in her category, which made the event sting just a little more for our young entomologist.

Over the years, we've created a host of costumes that reflect a varied array of my kids' interests,



The Turner girls at 2½ years old and 7 months old.

from made-up personas like a candy corn fairy, to well-known characters including Captain America, Batman, and Minions. We made it through with a little creativity, basic crafting skills, and a lot of duct tape.

If there's a moral to the story, maybe it's to come up with an idea you love and just go for it. And even though those fancy wings didn't win a

prize, they hung on the wall throughout my daughter's butterfly phase, reminding her of the time she and her dad worked so hard to create her favorite species. And Dorothy's ensemble worked because my younger daughter had fun working with what she had. Or maybe the moral is this — that with the right shoes, you can accomplish anything.

Words of Wisdom

“When a child hits a child, we call it aggression.
When a child hits an adult, we call it hostility.
When an adult hits an adult, we call it assault.
When an adult hits a child, we call it discipline.”

—Haim G. Ginott

Geauga Park District invites you to find holiday decor & gift items for everyone on your list.

Two Saturdays!



A unique, Nature-themed juried craft show

November 6 & 13
10 AM - 4 PM

The West Woods
Nature Center

9465 Kinsman Road (Rt. 87)
in Russell Township

Also shop for handmade gifts & artwork made by youth artisans at the

Mistletoe Market



www.geaugaparkdistrict.org



Lake Humane Society expands Pets to Vets Program

Lake Humane Society has expanded the Cpl Joshua Harmon Pets to Vets program by partnering with Veteran Canine Connection, a local nonprofit organization that connects veterans with companion dogs. Dog trainers, who use positive reinforcement methods, will help choose a shelter dog from Lake Humane Society that is a good fit for the veterans they are working with. The dog will be adopted to the veteran and then go through a five-week training program. Not only is the training program beneficial to the veteran, the likelihood of a dog being returned to Lake Humane Society for behavioral reasons will be extremely low.

Veteran Canine Connection will pay the adoption fee, supply one year of flea, tick and heartworm medications, provide veterinary care for the first year of the adoption and conduct the training at no cost to the veteran.

Cpl Joshua Harmon was a combat medic for the U.S. Army and is a Bronze Star recipient.



Veteran Chris Harley and his dog

When returning from a mission in Iraq on August 22, 2007, Joshua, along with 13 fellow soldiers, lost their lives when their UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Multaka, outside of Kirkuk.

Joshua was a class of 2005 Mentor High School graduate and a devoted husband to the love of his life Kristin (Rathjen) Harmon. The Pets to Vets program was named after Joshua because of his lifelong love of animals.

Fairmount Center for the Arts & Fit Learning Cleveland

Offering FREE workshop for parents & kids

Fairmount Center for the Arts, a nonprofit community center for the arts, is pleased to announce a unique partnership with Fit Learning Cleveland to offer a FREE afternoon program for both parents and kids. It will take place on Saturday, October 16, from 1-2 p.m. at Fairmount Center for the Arts

For parents, Dr. Corinne Gist, owner and director of Fit Learning Cleveland, will present a session on “back to school during COVID-19: tips for supporting your child’s academic growth and success.” Dr. Gist shares that, “Going back to school can be difficult even in the best of times. Returning during a pandemic can make it even harder.” Dr. Gist will discuss the possible effects of the pandemic on student achievement, how these effects can be mitigated by developing fluent academic skills, and tips for keeping your child academically engaged during these unprecedented times.

Held at the same time as the parent workshop, children ages 4-8 years, will be invited to participate in a “SymFUNNY” Music workshop which will be held upstairs. Children will have fun exploring and creating music as they will explore a

variety of musical concepts through creating, listening to and discovering music and a variety of musical instruments. Additionally, children will experience the French horn and then even create a musical instrument of their own. Workshop will be led by Jeannie Fleming-Gifford, the executive director of Fairmount Center for the Arts and co-author of the book “SymFUNNY.”

Fit Learning Cleveland, is an academic skill-building program designed for every type of learner: average, struggling, gifted, or learning disabled. Fit Learning Cleveland is an approved Autism Scholarship and Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship provider.

Celebrating its 50th year of business, Fairmount has been serving the residents of northeast Ohio through arts enrichment and programming in an effort to preserve the past and reimagine the future.

To register to attend this free program visit www.fairmountcenter.org/workshops/ or call 440-338-3171.

The workshop will take place at Fairmount Center for the Arts is located at 8400 Fairmount Road in Novelty, OH.

Painesville Fall Fest

Express!



Saturday, October 16

3:00-6:00 PM

Recreation Park

301 Latimore Street, Painesville

More info at www.painesville.com/recreation



Great Lakes Mall opens newly redesigned children’s play area

The newly redesigned play area at Great Lakes Mall features a variety of stations throughout, all which encourage imaginative play and exploration. Stations include a clinic, firehouse, florist, farmers market, lighthouse, bakery and more. The design was a collaboration between Great Lakes Mall and Cleveland Clinic Children’s and offers an opportunity for children and families to enjoy interactive play during their visits to Great Lakes Mall.

“The new Cleveland Clinic Children’s Play Area is one of the many amenities that can be found at Great Lakes Mall and is part of its continued commitment to creating a true town center for the community, where guests can shop and enjoy a variety of modern dining options, engaging events and activities.” said Scott Creel, general manager at

Great Lakes Mall.

Great Lakes Mall remains focused on providing a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. All activations will adhere to a rigorous cleaning and disinfectant practices. They ask all guests to conduct themselves in a safe and respectful way in accordance with all federal, state, and local regulations, recommendations and mandates, while also adhering to each individual retailer’s policies.

Great Lakes Mall continues to focus on offering guests meaningful, safe ways to create memories year-round. Throughout these events, friends and families can experience all the town center has to offer in a safe, community centered environment.

For additional information visit <http://shopgreatlakesmall.com>.

CALENDAR

Art on the Bus

Friday, October 8

Three sessions: starting at 10 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

Mentor Public Library
Main Branch
8215 Mentor Ave.
440-255-8811
www.mentorpl.org

Preschoolers can have fun making art with clay. Cathi Mezzopera, the founder of A Kid at Art for the Heart, will work with the kids to create art pieces in her mobile classroom that will then be displayed in the library's Children's Department. Due to seating, availability for this program is limited. Registration is required. Call 440-255-8811 ext. 220 to sign up. This program is for preschoolers. No younger or older siblings, please.

Hispanic Heritage Festival

(Festival de la Herencia Hispana)

Saturday, October 9 • 1–5 p.m.

Morley Library
184 Phelps Street, Painesville
440-352-3383
www.morleylibrary.org

Celebrate Hispanic culture and heritage! Join Morley Library and community friends and partners for games, traditional dance performances, local artisans, music, food vendors and so much more! This event is free and will take place in the back parking lot of the Job & Family Services Building adjacent to the library. Parking is available in the Morley parking lot.

Spine-tingling Tales with the Tri-C Ghost Hunters

Tue., October 12 • 6:30–8:00 p.m.

Willoughby Public Library
30 Public Square
440-942-3200
www.we247.org

Join Greg Feketik of the Tri-C Ghost Hunters to hear spooky tales of paranormal investigations, pumpkin-painting party. Registration required.

Sweetest Day Dinner

October 16 • 6–10 p.m.

LaMalfa
5783 Heisley Road, Mentor
LaMalfa.com

21 and over. Enjoy dinner and dancing with Nick Costa. Visit website for details and to make reservations.

Haunted Peeps Diorama

Saturday, Oct. 16 • 2 p.m.

Mentor Public Library
Lake Branch
5642 Andrews Road
440-257-2512

Tweens (ages 9–13) can make a Haunted Peeps Diorama using a shoebox, peeps, and other candies and craft supplies that the library will provide. Registration is required and opens Oct. 2.

Trick or Treat Bags

Tuesday, Oct. 19 and 26 • 4 p.m.

Mentor Public Library
The HUB at Mentor High School
6477 Center Street
(440) 974-5300

Kids (ages 4–12) can customize their trick-or-treat bag at The HUB. Registration required. Two sessions of this program are being offered. Please only register for one to make room for as many kids as possible.

Pumpkin Painting Party

Monday, Oct. 25 • 6:30 p.m.

Mentor Public Library
Headlands Branch
4669 Corduroy Road
(440) 257-2000

Kids (ages eight and older) can enjoy a spook-tacular Halloween pumpkin-painting party. Registration required.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating

Sat., October 30 • 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

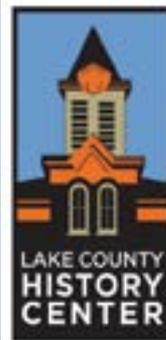
Fairport Harbor Library
335 Vine Street
440-354-8191
www.fairportlibrary.com

Stop in dressed in your costume if you like and choose a sweet treat or spooky trick. Prizes will be given to extra creative costumes! All current safety protocols will be followed.

Halloween Party

Sat., October 30 • 6–midnight

LaMalfa
5783 Heisley Road, Mentor
LaMalfa.com
21 and over. Dinner buffet, costume contest, video DJ. Visit website for details and to make reservations.



Holiday Events For All Ages!



Home for the Holidays Group Day

December 2

Bring your group to the most spectacular display of holiday trees and decorations in Lake County. Enjoy the sound of our "Magical Musical Machines." Find one-of-a-kind gifts and stocking stuffers from vendors & shop our Mistletoe Market. Have an early lunch in the Candy Cane Café. Call for times.  Groups of 7 or more – \$18 per person

Home for the Holidays

December 2–22

If you haven't decorated and love Christmas trees, you will be enamored with our displays. Enjoy the magical wonders of the holidays with a tour of the beautifully decorated Lake County History Center.  \$7 per person

Breakfast or Lunch with Santa

December 5, 11, 12, 18, 19

Have breakfast or lunch in your PJs with Santa in Heritage Hall. Visit the land of misfit toys in our event barn and make an ornament to take home!!!  

Breakfast 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes & fresh fruit. 

Lunch 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Lemon chicken, redskin potatoes, mac & cheese, chicken fingers, pizza & green salad.

\$16 adults • \$13 for 4–12 yrs • \$4 for 3 & under

Limited seating! Book early & bring your camera!!

Holiday Tea

December 11

Take time from your hectic holiday schedule to relax, enjoy friends and family and a delightful treat of tea and sandwiches, fruit and delicious sweets.  Special Presentation: "Twelve Days of Christmas" \$18 member • \$20 nonmember • \$12.50 for 4–12yrs

New Years at Noon

December 31

Elvis will be in the building! Come and bring in the new year at noon with heavy appetizers and entertainment with one of Ohio's leading Elvis impersonators. Menu: Trio of canapes, bacon-wrapped chestnuts, Asian chicken skewers, artichoke & spinach bruschetta, bourbon meatballs & pizza. \$35 member • \$40 nonmember 

Registration begins October 12, 2021 for members and October 26, 2021 for nonmembers.

Call 440-639-2945 or sign up on Eventbrite.com

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, all programs and special events are subject to change or cancellation.

Lake County History Center

415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township



(440) 639-2945

www.LakeHistory.org

**STAY
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Fall Sports and Fun at LNSP East!

LIL KICKERS

Fall 2021 Session: August 31–November 20

(Not too late to join — prorated prices available!)

12 weeks • \$180 per child

Choose one day per week to attend consistently

- Innovative child development program based on soccer.
- Focus is on kids from 18 months–6 yrs.
- Classes run 50 minutes per session, once a week.

Contact: Sarah Bals, Sarah@LNSportspark.com



LIL SLUGGERS

Fall session: September 18–November 20

(Not too late to join — prorated prices available!)

- Introduction to baseball for kids 2–5 years old.
- 10-week program for \$150 • Saturdays 9 am or 10 am
- Nationally franchised child development program;
- Low student/instructor ratio (usually 4–6 kids per instructor).

For registration contact: EStrauss@LNSportsPark.com



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.

Fall session: September 28–November 20

(Not too late to join — prorated prices available!)

Ages: 2–3 (with parents) and 4–5 (without parents)

For info/registration contact: Sarah@LNSportsPark.com



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For information contact: EStrauss@LNSportsPark.com



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

440-602-4000

www.LNSportsPark.com



Clark Family Activity and Learning Center An all-inclusive playground at Broadmoor School

The Deepwood Foundation, in partnership with the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood, celebrates the opening of the Clark Family Activity and Learning Center. The all-inclusive accessible playground is located at Broadmoor School, 8090 Broadmoor Road in Mentor

The project has been in development for the past year and a half and is funded from private sponsors and donations within the community to the Deepwood Foundation. The playground is available for all individuals with developmental disabilities who are eligible for services through the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Development consists of three phases; the initial two phases are now complete. Construction of phase 3 will begin in spring 2022.

“Children benefit in many ways from outdoor play. However, not all children have the ability to play on existing playgrounds due to physical or developmental disabilities,” said Rikke Coach, executive director of The Deepwood Foundation.

“Through the creativity and inspiration of the Broadmoor School teachers, committee members and CT Consultants, we have developed an accessible learning center that has a shelter to protect students from weather elements, and is bordered with accessible gardening planters so that students can participate in gardening and growing plants from seed. The Rotary Club of Mentor provided and installed the planters.”

Phase 2 features the activity center/playground, which includes all-accessible equipment, along with auditory and visual components so that everyone can be included in the fun and activity. The activity center will offer safe, endless play opportunities for individuals of all ages and all abilities in one accessible spot.

“Outdoor play stimulates speech, cognition, gross motor skills, fine motor skills and social skills more efficiently than any other method of instruction,” said Linda DeRosa, LCBDD children’s service’s director/Broadmoor principal. “The play space will also promote self-empowerment and imaginative play for all kids, while allowing children with disabilities to play safely alongside their peers.”

The project will eventually include phase 3 — The Leisure Center — which is planned to be a calming place with activities such as bocce, shuffleboard, swings, and picnic shelters for older students and adults.

For more than 25 years, The Deepwood Foundation has been committed to enriching the lives of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through participation in activities, education, and lifelong inclusion.

Those interested in learning more about the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood’s programs and services can visit www.lakebdd.org or connect on social media. Learn more about the Deepwood Foundation at www.deepwoodfoundation.org.



Cleveland Metroparks Zoo 2nd annual Trick-or-Treat Fest

The daytime Halloween celebration returns this October

Tickets are now on sale for the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the 2nd annual Trick-or-Treat Fest presented by Citizens. Bring your family in costume for this year's family-friendly Halloween event at the Zoo, Fridays through Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning October 8 through October 31.

"We're excited to continue the tradition of celebrating Halloween at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo," said Kelly Manderfield, Cleveland Metroparks chief marketing officer. "Thanks to the support of our sponsors and positive community feedback, we are able to bring back this popular daytime event."

Trick-or-Treat Fest includes meet-and-greets with costumed characters, access to 15 trick-or-treat stations on Wayside Furniture Way, and the return of the Monster Mash Dance Party at the Zoo's amphitheater. This add-on ticketed experience also

includes unlimited rides on the carousel courtesy of MetroHealth. The first 1,000 guests each day receive a complimentary trick or treat bag courtesy of Meijer.

"Halloween at the Zoo has become a tradition at Citizens," said Jim Malz, president, Citizens. "We're proud to partner again with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to offer the community a safe, fun and engaging event where families can make lifelong memories."

Trick-or-Treat Fest will have timed ticketing and tickets are limited. Guests are strongly encouraged to purchase their tickets in advance and must adhere to the time selected. Tickets for Trick-or-Treat Fest, which includes Zoo general admission, are \$19.95 for nonmembers and \$9.95 for members. Children under 2 enter free. Tickets are available now at www.FutureForWildlife.org/trickortreatfest.

Great Harvest Haunt Experience at Holden Arboretum

From Saturday, October 2 through Sunday, October 17, visitors are invited to participate in a not-so-spooky story trail on the grounds of The Holden Arboretum.

Follow Ty the Turkey as they search for food to fill this season's cornucopia. As they talk to different trees/plants along the path, help Ty answer mini riddles to gather nutritious foods required for this turkey's survival through the winter. Each stop along the trail will highlight a different tree or plant, and the food source they provide to turkeys.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Children 2 and under are free. Visit holdenarb.org to purchase your tickets and reserve your time slot. If you have questions, call the guest services team at 440-946-4400, Tuesday through Sunday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

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Kid's Stuff with Previous Experience

MENTOR COLONIAL PLAZA

7537 Mentor Avenue

440-951-7222

Mon.–Sat. 10 am–6 pm • Closed Sun.



WESTLAKE

25028 Center Ridge Road

440-899-1100

Mon.–Sat. 10 am–6 pm • Closed Sun.

Private School GUIDE



Finding the right private school for your family

By Jan Pierce

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

In general, private schools exist to provide smaller class sizes with greater individual attention to each student and a safe, focused environment free of discipline problems. They tend to set a higher bar than public schools in academics, and build

a culture of shared values. They offer a strong sense of community and may tailor lessons to the needs of the student.

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

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

1. What are your educational priorities?

Some private schools are faith-based and some are not. You'll want to decide as a family your basic priorities. Is it most important to find high academic standards, or more important to support your family's faith? Do you expect accelerated programs such as advanced placement classes or extensive access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs? How important are extracurricular activities? Are you comfortable with homework policies and school rules?

2. What is the culture of the school?

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

Continued next page

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For boys, Junior K-12

Private School GUIDE

3. What role do parents play in the school?

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

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

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

5. Is the staff credentialed and the school accredited?

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

6. Is the curriculum up to date?

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

7. Does the school provide transportation?

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

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

If a particular school offers classes such as K-6 or K-8, do they work closely with a sister high school? What provisions are made to make a smooth transition from one school to another? If students transfer into the school either at the beginning of a year or mid-year, what provisions are made to welcome them? How do children fare when they need to move from this school to another?

9. What is the school's reputation?

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

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

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

When you've narrowed your search to several schools, be sure to take the time for a personal visit. Talk with an administrator, take the tour and gather any written information they've prepared for prospective students. Discuss pertinent questions and voice any concerns you may have about your child's specific needs.

Selecting the perfect private school is well worth the time it takes to research, visit and finally make your selection. This is the place your children will make important friendships, learn and grow, and pave the way to their bright futures.



Ask about our:

- Transportation options
- Scholarship opportunities
- Financial Aid application

IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Huntsburg Campus: 10 am-12 pm

Concord Campus: 1-3 pm



Huntsburg Campus
Virtual Open House with Q&A
November 16th | 6-7:30 pm.

CONTACT US TODAY!

Birth - 12 Years

10229 Prouty Rd.
Concord Twp., OH 44077
440-357-0918

12 - 18 Years

11530 Madison Rd.
Huntsburg, OH 44046
440-636-6290



Montessori education encourages students to follow their innate interests, engage in deep intellectual inquiry, and reach academic mastery. Self-awareness of the student's potential is expanded, allowing them to confidently construct their future. The student develops a strong sense of self and personal expression, developing agency of their own voice. Montessori education promotes leadership, responsibility, self-discipline, independence, adaptability, resilience, curiosity, and a passion for lifelong learning.

Register to attend an Open House or schedule a personal visit at admissions@hershey-montessori.org.

Virtual tours are available on our website.
www.Hershey-Montessori.org

- CHILD CENTRIC
- SCIENTIFICALLY ALIGNED
- LEADERSHIP BUILDING
- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- PROJECT BASED STUDIES
- CRITICAL THINKING
- SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS
- COMMUNITY ORIENTED
- NATURE CONNECTIONS

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

Develop Skills for Life

Experiential learning is woven through the curriculum daily. On any given day, our Lower School students can be found in a small-group music lesson, working with practicing scientists or engineers, or learning the intricacies of coding. Living a lesson rather than just reading about it allows for the deepest levels of engagement.

Lower School Highlights

Intentionally Small Class Sizes

Average number of students is 12 per classroom

Best-in-Class Technology

Programming and Robotics instruction beginning in Kindergarten.

18 Months - Preschool Montessori

Cultivate curiosity and perseverance in strategically designed learning environment

Nature-Based Learning

Our 144-acre campus is a real-life learning laboratory where students get their hands dirty in practical applications of the curriculum, while learning to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Weekly Wellness Program

Includes financial literacy; academic, physical, social emotional and spiritual wellness; and mindfulness

Weekly Ice Skating & Swimming Lessons

Included in PE program

Interdisciplinary Immersion Experiences and Enriching Field Trips

Tuition Assistance

Average Lower School tuition assistance award is \$10,500

The Lorraine and Bill Dodero Center for Performing Arts

Gilmour's new state-of-the-art facility is home to its fine and performing arts programs.

Drama, music (partnership with Piano Cleveland) and dance (partnership with Cleveland Ballet) instruction

The CPA features a professional stage (with fly space), a black box theater, scene and costume shops, as well as designated practice space for the speech and debate program.

New this year!

Non-Montessori Kindergarten classroom.

This move to a stand-alone kindergarten classroom best prepares our students for the transition into first grade. This adjustment allows for an even more personalized academic experience for our kindergarten students with an emphasis on literacy development.

Lower School Open House Sunday, Oct. 24, 12-2 p.m.

Register at gilmour.org/openhouse

Personalized one-hour tour with a member of our Admission team.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.



Private School GUIDE

Gilmour Academy

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

*The Advantage of Being
Independent and Catholic*

As an independent, Catholic school, Gilmour Academy stands alone in its ability to prepare students who thrive. Their mission is rooted in educating the mind and empowering the heart, ensuring that every student develops to their fullest potential. From 18 months to 18 years, everything at Gilmour – from the curriculum to the academic extension programs to extracurriculars – is focused on cultivating four enduring competencies that are most important in developing students as leaders of their generation. Those enduring competencies are effective communication, critical thinking and problem solving, leadership and moral responsibility. These are introduced in the Montessori preschool programs, and then expanded upon and developed

throughout the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. Gilmour graduates emerge primed for the next step and confident in their ability to make the world a better place.

Hawken School

www.hawken.edu

Lyndhurst Campus

(Preschool–Grade 8)
5000 Clubside Road
(440) 423-2950

Gates Mills Campus

(Grades 9–12)

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

The Birchwood School of Hawken

(Preschool–Grade 8)

4400 West 140th Street, Cleveland
(216) 251-2321

The Mastery School of Hawken

(Grades 9–12)

11025 Magnolia Drive Cleveland
(440) 423-8801

Hawken School is an independent, coed day school of over 1,500 students, toddler through grade 12, located on two cam-

pus 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, opened in 2020, which takes the school's problem-based programming to scale.

Hawken was founded in 1915 as an educationally progressive school, and they remain academically progressive— because that's what it takes to prepare students to thrive in a changing world. From recognizing the value of a co-educational 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 non-traditional schedules support partnerships with world-renowned institutions that provide real-world learning opportunities, including honors-level engineering and entrepreneurship programs and STEM internships. These experiences instill in students the skills needed

to thrive in an increasingly complex and dynamic world.

Hershey Montessori School

www.Hershey-Montessori.org
(440) 357-0918

Concord Campus

10229 Prouty Road

Huntsburg Campus

11530 Madison Road

Hershey Montessori School prepares students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

The Montessori approach to education is scientifically geared toward the psychological stages of the student at every phase of their natural development. This allows the student to discover their strengths and master challenging concepts based upon individual growth and interests.

Hershey provides a world-renowned education that integrates academics with financial literacy, leadership, entrepreneurship, and other important real-life skills. Special emphasis is placed on embracing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), ensuring stu-



At this time of Thanksgiving, we are thankful for our school, our churches, our community, our students, our families, and our teachers and staff that together make Our Shepherd Lutheran School an exciting and inspiring educational experience!

Our Shepherd continues to serve kindergarten through eighth grade students and families in Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties with academic excellence built on the foundation of Christ!

High academic standards, low student-to-teacher ratios, and innovative teaching platforms provide students exceptional learning as well as life skills.

Please contact the admissions director for more information:

Admissions@OSLpainesville.org



A Great Place To Grow.

508 Mentor Avenue, Painesville

(across from Lake Erie College)

440.357.7776 • oslpainesville.org

Email: admissions@ oslpainesville.org

Private School GUIDE

Hershey Montessori cont'd

dents are emotionally, academically, and skillfully empowered for life. DEIB are Montessori-aligned skills that give students necessary tools to navigate the social complexities of our current society and to make a positive impact in the communities among them.

Hershey's Concord Campus educates children from birth through 6th grade. The Huntsburg Campus educates adolescents from 7th to 12th grade.

Tuition assistance, boarding, transportation, and scholarship opportunities are available.

Mater Dei Academy

29840 Euclid Avenue, Wickliffe
(440) 585-0800
www.materdeiacademy.us

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

Catholic moral values.

The well-rounded, innovative and challenging curriculum provides students the opportunity to discover their own unique talents in a nurturing environment. With the help of dedicated educators, students are prepared spiritually, intellectually, and socially to achieve in the classroom and become active in the community. Mater Dei students are accountable for their actions while caring for others and demonstrating responsibility for the world around them.

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

Campus tours can be scheduled by calling the school office at (440) 585-0800.

Listings continue on page 22



HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED

Plan your visit today:

Lower & Middle School Toddler – Grade 8, Lyndhurst Campus
Parent Visit: Thursday, 10/21/21, 9:00 am
Open House: Sunday, 11/21/21, 1:00 pm

Birchwood School Preschool–Grade 8, Cleveland-West Campus
Open House: Sunday, 10/24/21, 2:00 pm

Upper School Grades 9–12, Gates Mills Campus
Parent Visit: Thursday, 10/14/21, 6:30 pm
Open House: Sunday, 11/7/21, 1:00 pm

Mastery School Grades 9–12, University Circle Campus
Parent Visit: Tuesday, 10/19/21 1:00 pm
Open House: Sunday, 11/14/21, 1:00 pm

Events will be virtual if they are unable to be held in person.

To RSVP and for more information, call 440.423.2950 (Lower & Middle School), 216.251.2321 (Birchwood School), 440.423.2955 (Upper School), 440.423.8801 (Mastery School), or visit hawken.edu/admissions.

On-campus and virtual tours are available. Call to schedule!

HAWKEN
SCHOOL

COEDUCATIONAL,
TODDLER – GRADE 12

Lyndhurst Cleveland–West Gates Mills University Circle



welcome home!



to two award-earning schools, one great community:
Learning Loft Preschool & St. Gabriel School



Newly renovated junior high rooms

A few words from our families...

“What I love most about the Learning Loft is they have a welcoming atmosphere and Christ-centered curriculum. As a family, this is our first school experience. We were pleasantly surprised how easy they made the transition and how happy he is. Thank you Learning Loft for making our experience a great one.” ~ Carly K., mom of 3 y.o.

“Our three children have thrived at SGS. Each one of them is unique and has different needs. It was a big decision for us to transfer them. I am thrilled to see their transition smooth, their needs met, and my children welcomed into such a loving school culture. I am amazed at their success and happiness!” ~ Carrie K.



Welcoming Christ-centered culture



Weekly Mass



Well-rounded preschool focused on kindergarten readiness



STEM-designated school by ODE



9935 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Concord Township

For open house info and registration:

St-GabrielSchool.org

For part-time 2- to 5-year-old programs: Call 440-354-7574

For full-time 4/5-year-old to grade 8: Call 440-354-7858

Private School GUIDE

Notre Dame Elementary School

13000 Auburn Road, Chardon
(440) 279-1127
(440) 279-1129 (Admissions)
www.ndes.org

Notre Dame Elementary School, recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, inspires students every day. On the 450-acre campus of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Elementary and Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin educate over 1100 students in preschool–12th grade. The school provides a strong foundation to students to pursue their dreams, achieve academic excellence, realize their full potential, and helps them to make a transformational difference in the world.

Strong academics, leadership, spirituality, service and the development of individual gifts and talents define Notre Dame.

Recognized twice with the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research, NDES has a distinct focus on critical thinking and

problem-solving skills. Students engage in the learning process through collaboration, technology integration and artistic creativity.

Notre Dame's community spirit exudes warmth and care among students, parents and staff, as well as its deep relationship with the Sisters of Notre Dame.

Contact Barbara Williams in admissions to schedule a tour or shadow day.

Our Shepherd Lutheran School

508 Mentor Avenue, Painesville
(Across from Lake Erie College)
(440) 357-7776
www.oslpainesville.org

Joyfully serving the communities of Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula for four decades, Our Shepherd Lutheran School's highly-educated and caring staff engages students with new and innovative programs, ideas, instruction, and hands-on learning while remaining dedicated to the faith formation of students in a loving, Christ-centered environment.

They are a private kindergarten through eighth grade Christian school located across the street from Lake Erie College and housed in the Zion Lutheran Church campus. A low teacher-student ratio means greater focus on individual student's needs.

They are nationally accredited by National Lutheran School Association (NLSA) and recognized by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). They feature full-day, five-day kindergarten; weekly STEAM programs; computer technology with robotics, iPads, Chromebooks, and a dedicated computer lab; Smartboards in the classrooms; science lab; middle school enrichment program; K–8 Spanish; and enhanced library/media center.

Open enrollment to the community begins February 1, 2022. Classes fill quickly!



St. Gabriel School & St. Gabriel Learning Loft Preschool

9935 Johnnycake Ridge Road
Concord Township
(440) 354-7858
www.St-GabrielSchool.org

St. Gabriel School and Learning Loft Preschool have been molding students in Lake County through faith, learning, and love for over 50 years. Both are award-earning schools staffed with teachers who make a difference in their students' lives. Their compassion, dedication, and expertise, challenge students to think independently and ignite their love of learning. St. Gabriel School is a STEM designated school that instills a strong sense of purpose and service. A proud participant in Cleveland Diocese's Better Together initiative, they strive to serve all students and meet each child's individual needs. The St. Gabriel Learning Loft Preschool has been voted best of Mentor five years running. They foster a warm and nurturing environment for



NOTRE DAME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

Be a Forever Lion!



Faith Formation

School Liturgy & Prayer Services
Good Shepherd Program
Junior High Campus Ministry

Teaching & Learning

Junior High Academic & Special Electives
STEM
K - 8 Spanish
Challenge Gifted Program
Outdoor Education with Outdoor Classroom

Technology

1:1 Devices
Schoology and Seesaw Learning Management Platforms
Lego Robotics Club

Safety

K - 8 Social - Emotional Learning Program
Strong Partnership with Munson Fire Department

Communication

Weekly Friday Focus
Open Parent - Teacher Communication

Contact Us Today!

Barbara Williams, Director of Admissions
bwilliams@ndes.org | 440.279.1129
www.ndes.org

Sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame

Private School GUIDE

St. Gabriel School cont'd

students just starting their educational journey.

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

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 are growing quite fast physically, mentally, and emotionally. University School's junior kindergarten and kindergarten programs invite, inspire, and cultivate a boy's curiosity. The teachers understand boys and this important stage of development.

Campus and classroom spaces were designed by teachers and are housed in the primary building and on its 32-acre site in Shaker Heights. These spaces are ideal for young, active boys and the hands-on academic program.

The low student-to-teacher ratio is possible because each classroom has full-time licensed lead and associate teachers. Boys enjoy the resources of the extensive physical education, performing arts, outdoor, and maker spaces.

University School is a wonderful community to launch a young

boy's lifetime love of learning. Having a strong knowledge base and desire for learning in the youngest years is key to future educational success.

Schedule a personal family tour or join them for an upcoming in-person or virtual open house. Learn more at www.us.edu/visit.

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

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

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School is a Catholic, comprehensive college-preparatory school and the only school in the world cosponsored by the Ursuline Sisters and Marianist Brothers. VASJ is committed to helping students grow in their faith, be challenged academically, follow their passions, and create high school memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

The family spirit is felt by all who enter the school and makes VASJ a special place to learn and grow. If you're looking for a school that feels like a family, they invite you to contact the admissions department to request a private tour. Tours provide an opportunity to meet students and teachers and learn about the school's unique academic, campus ministry and athletic programs. They'd love to have you be part of the VASJ family!

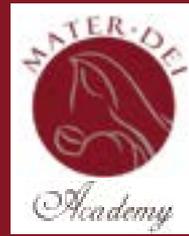


Join us for our next Admissions Open House:
Thursday, November 4 at 6 p.m.

vasj.com/admissions • 216-481-8414 ext. 285



WHERE
FRIENDS
BECOME
FAMILY



Moral Values Discovery Achievement

Ohio Designated STEM School!



Mater Dei Academy students are empowered to grow spiritually, academically and socially through worship, a challenging curriculum, service and extracurricular activities.

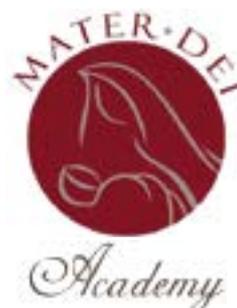
Mater Dei Academy offers kindergarten through grade eight and all-day pre-K. In addition, Mater Dei Academy offers: advanced/honors coursework; individual ChromeBooks for grades 4-8; ActivBoard technology in classrooms; STEM lab; weekly physical education, art, music, and Spanish classes. Tutoring and remedial help, hot lunch, and extended care are also available.

We offer a comprehensive course of study fully accredited by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Catholic Schools Accrediting Association.

EdChoice and Jon Peterson scholarships are accepted.

Welcome Back To School!

Interested in a Catholic education for your child?
Call the school office at 440-585-0800 for more info.



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



Scan the QR Code to start her
Girl Scout adventure today!

girl scouts 
of north east ohio

It's
time to
press
play.



Fun with friends. New adventures. Making a difference.
You're ready to go and Girl Scouts is ready for you.

Join us today at gsneo.org/join

gsneo.org | 800.852.4474 | customercare@gsneo.org