

FREE

Creative ways to tell your child Love You!

Summer Camp
Preview

Girl Scout
Cookies

The season is upon us!

Children's Museum of Cleveland

Free performances every month in 2023

Tips for breastfeeding mothers returning to work

Private School Guide

Teaching religious tolerance

"Quest for the Stars" exhibit now open at the International Women's Air & Space Museum

The International Women's Air & Space Museum (IWASM) is excited to announce the opening of its newest exhibit, "Quest for the Stars" (Quest). This project explores the experiences and impact of the women in the 1960s Woman in Space Program, a project not endorsed by NASA and commonly referred to as the Mercury 13, and women working within NASA itself in our early American space program.

Quest is the first step in the museum's effort to update exhibits to enhance engagement, representation, and visual appeal while also providing greater accessibility. Learn about the Woman in Space Program participants, the first Native American female aerospace engineer, 'hidden figures' such as Katherine Johnson and Annie Easley, and the 1978 NASA astronaut class with the first six female astronaut selections. To provide a fuller understanding of their experiences, the exhibit highlights the unique periods in



which the women lived. Hear in their own words these women's stories and engage with more content online thanks to the museum's newly launched YouTube channel via the QR codes in the exhibit.

Located inside Cleveland's Burke Lakefront Airport, exhibits are free of charge seven days a week from 8 am–8 pm. Guided tours are available M–F by appointment. Gift shop & offices open M–F 10 am–4 pm.

For more information, visit www. iwasm.org or call 216-623-1111. Closed for all major holidays.

Love Feels Like a GUND!

Shower little ones with hugs & kisses from adorable friends! For more than 125 years, GUND has set the industry standard for soft, huggable, lovable plush that are fun for kids of all ages and last a lifetime.





Mukki MSRP: \$25 | Age: 1+

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Scarlett Smooches January

P.Lushes Pets: Gem Stars

MSRP: \$12.99 each | Age: 3+

P.Lushes Pets are the one and only fashion-inspired plush collectibles. Each 6" designer chic plush pet is made with stylish fabrics, luxe finishes and sassy personalities.

Gem Stars features 12 brilliantly bejeweled characters, one for each month of the year with their respective gemstones as noses.

Available at GUND.com



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It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

girl scouts of north east ohio

To find cookies near you visit: gsneo.org/thinmint



Finding the best public school fit

In 2012, leaders developed Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools, a citywide improvement initiative to reinvent Cleveland's public education. Its goals are to affect lasting systemic change and strengthen educational outcomes for all students in Cleveland, both district and charter. The Cleveland Transformation Alliance (CTA) was created to oversee the implementation of the plan and is the only organization in Cleveland dedicated to informing families about public school quality and options.

Today, the Cleveland Transformation Alliance supports families by providing an interactive website at mycleschool.org and a printed school quality guide to help them select their child's best-fit CMSD or charter school by offering. Families can

search based on academic outcomes, special programs, location, and more. CTA has updated its website, and is now even easier to navigate. It is easy to use on your mobile phone and offers more information than ever.

If a parent or caregiver needs extra support in navigating the system, dedicated CTA staff can help support a family by talking through options, assisting with the enrollment process, and connecting to other support services.

Whether the child in your life is starting kindergarten, transitioning to high school, or you are exploring options, the Cleveland Transformation Alliance is here to help. CTA is here to help YOU find the best fit public school for your child. Just visit mycleschool.org to learn more.

5 tips for breastfeeding moms when it's time to return to work

By Ann Witt, MD, FABM, IBCLC

pproximately 60% of women working, or looking for work, have a child less than one year old. With over 80% of the parents planning to breastfeed, many families are balancing continued breastfeeding while working. Having worked with thousands of families at Breastfeeding Medicine of Northeast Ohio for whom continuing to breastfeed while returning to work is a top concern, we offer five steps to guide preparation and help with this transition:

1. Be mindful of your needs

Look at your anticipated daily routine. Acknowledge the transition and give yourself a cushion. If possible, consider part-time for your first week, or start mid-week to allow adjustment time.

2. Talk to your employer

You have need for protected time to express milk in a clean, private space (that is not a bathroom), and space to clean pump parts and store your breast milk. Breastfeeding improves the health of mother and baby, which reduces sick time, lowers health insurance costs, and overall helps with employee retention, so it is in everyone's best interest to support you. Plus according to Federal Labor Standards Act (www.dol. gov/agencies/whd/nursing-mothers), many businesses legally are required to provide these accommodations.

3. Talk with your child care provider

A breastfeeding supportive childcare provider facilitates feeding your infant on-site before or after work, provides space for you to express milk, knows about safe storage and handling of breastmilk, supports your decision to feed your child breast milk, and educates their staff on these policies.

4. Plan for milk expression

As a starting point, while working, plan to express milk as frequently as your baby feeds. In a typical 8-hour day, anticipate pumping 3 times, and then adjust as needed to match



your baby's intake. To help with milk expression, try meditating, looking at a photo of your infant, or keeping your infant's blanket nearby. Adding in hand expression to your pumping session can help express more volume in shorter periods of time. See www.bfmedneo.com/All-Resources/Education for more details on preparing for milk expression, pumping tips, and breast milk storage guidelines.

5. Take time for yourself

As a parent, you are juggling care for yourself, as well as your family. Combine this with responsibilities at work, and it is easy to forget about yourself. Planning for self-care like protecting exercise, sleep, and quiet time, along with creating special time to connect with your child before and after work is important.

If you are facing challenges, don't hesitate to reach out for further guidance. For free helpful videos, an online support group and helpful online educational materials visit bfmedneo.com.

About the author: Ann M. Witt, MD, FABM, IBCLC, a Board-Certified Family Medicine physician and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant, is the founder of Breastfeeding Medicine of Northeast Ohio. Founded in 2008, it is the first practice in the area to combine medical and lactation support to help families achieve their breastfeeding goals. Dr. Witt is a nationally recognized expert in the field of breastfeeding. She has conducted research, written articles, taught hundreds of professionals, and is a winner of Top Doctors awards.



Creative ways to tell your child 'I love you'

On Valentine's Day or any day of the year

By Kimberly Blaker

Talentine's Day is a perfect reason to show your child just how much he or she is loved. Try these creative ideas to show how much you care on Valentine's Day and throughout the entire year.

Edible ideas

A heart a day. Add a heart-shaped candy to your child's lunch box every day of the school year. Be sure to stock up during after-Valentine's Day clearances, so you don't run out.

Heart-shaped breakfast/lunch.

Use a large, heart-shaped cookie cutter to make heart-shaped sandwiches, toast, and other treats. Your kids will love the shape and that you've eliminated the crust.

A cupful of love. Give your child a "World's Greatest Son/Daughter" or "I Love You" cup. Then use it whenever you serve hot cocoa or graham crackers and milk.

Do lunch. Pick up your child from school for a surprise lunch date. Hit your child's favorite fast-food joint, go on a picnic, or have lunch together in the school cafeteria. (If you choose the latter, make sure your child won't mind or be embarrassed.)

The written word

A poet and didn't know it. You don't have to be a poet to write a poem for your child. If poetry isn't your thing, look up simple children's rhymes. Then make revisions, especially for your child. Poems can be serious or fun, but either way, your child will love them.

A valentine's welcome. Welcome your child home from school with a valentine banner across your front porch or entryway. Add cute sayings that remind your child why he's the greatest son. Create fun sentences by clipping words from magazine ads, and adding some valentine doodles.

Snail mail surprise. Kids love to get mail, so why not send your child a card, letter, or postcard? Don't for-

get to let your child check the mail to discover the greeting.

Say it with email. Send your child an email with a link to a fun website or a funny animated e-greeting. With the abundance of entertaining websites and free e-greetings, you can send your child something new every day of the year.

Scrabble greetings. Wish your child a "Happy Valentine's Day," congratulate him on a great report card, or show how much you appreciate your child's help with a scrabble message. For younger readers, spell out a simple phrase leaving a space between words. For older kids, make them figure out your greeting. Intersect the words as you would in playing Scrabble, and see if they can solve the message.

C is for.... Make a poster portraying your child's characteristics. Put your child's name at the top. Then list as many positive descriptive words as you can that begin with your child's initial. Use a thesaurus to find oodles of words. (Example: Cassandra, cute, caring, creative, crafty, curious.) When you finish, laminate or frame it, and hang it in your child's room.

Poetry praise. Give your child a poetry book written especially for sons or daughters such as "To My Son with Love or To My Daughter with Love on the Important Things in Life," written by Susan Polis Schultz. These books offer encouragement and a new understanding of your love for and commitment to your child. Don't forget to add your personal inscription inside.

Do it together

Love is silly. One thing kids love and do best is act silly, so loosen up, and join in the fun. If being silly isn't your style, take a few lessons from your child, and practice up. Letting loose is a great way to reduce stress and to let your children know they're fun to be around.

A gift of time. For today's busy parents, finding time to read to or play with your child isn't always easy. Fortunately, quality, rather than



quantity, is what matters most. Show your child you care by setting aside a few minutes each day to talk, read, or play together. You'll both reap the rewards.

A class connection. As kids grow, together-time becomes increasingly rare. Decide with your adolescent on an activity or hobby the two of you would enjoy together. Sign up for a class or set a regular schedule for the activity. Then mark it on your calendar. Treat it as you would any other commitment, not letting daily life interfere.

A trip down memory lane. Flip through photo albums or watch family videos together, and reminisce about favorite holidays, vacations, and family times you've had together.

Eventful gifts. Buy tickets to a concert, ice show, or sporting event your kids have been dying to see. But keep it a surprise. On the day of the event, just say you're all going out for dinner or some other concoction. Then catch your kids by surprise when you arrive at your actual destination.

Make a date. Plan a regular date with your child for one-on-one time. This works exceptionally well for families with more than one child. Each parent should take a turn with each child. You can go out for lunch or supper, play putt-putt golf, take in a movie, go roller skating, or spend an afternoon at the park. Set a regular schedule so your child can look forward to your dates together.

Gifts from the heart

Flowers for her. Cut fresh flowers for your daughter, to brighten her room and her day.

Race cars for him. Clip sports

cars from magazines for your son, and post them on a bulletin board in his room.

Engrave your thoughts. Have a necklace or bracelet engraved for your child. Be sure to include his name, your sentiments, and who it's from.

Van Gogh in the making. Sift through your child's art collection, and select a piece to display. Then matte, frame, and hang it in a room, other than your child's, for everyone to see.

Photos say a thousand words.

Choose several pictures of your child from infancy through the present. Then use paper-edgers and trim them into different sizes and shapes. Overlap and tape them to the backing of a frame using double-sided tape. Then add matting and frame the collage.

It's in the wrapping. Don't wait for a special occasion to give your child a gift. Kids love presents, so the next time you pick up something for your child, wrap it as a surprise. Don't forget the ribbon (so it takes longer to unwrap), and include a small gift card that says how much you appreciate her.

Scrapbookin' fun. Put together a memory scrapbook of your child. Use photos, locks of hair, vacation postcards, and ticket stubs. Dedicate each page to a special holiday, event, or theme. Include dates and any details you remember, along with cute sayings and stickers to fit the themes.



mommy chronicles

Things and experiences gain value when you have to wait for them

By Stacy Turner

rom healthcare to medicine, advances in technology make our lives easier in so many ways. A few quick clicks and Amazon can deliver that book, pair of shoes, or shiny new whatnot to your door — sometimes on the same day. Too busy to grocery shop? With a few clicks of a button, Instacart can deliver your items right to your door. You can sit on your couch and stream hours of entertainment in no time flat.

But perhaps there's still something to be said for delayed gratification. Remember as a child how you felt in the days leading up to holidays like Christmas? As a child, you had weeks to speculate exactly how Santa would deliver your pony down the chimney. Sure, you were disappointed when you didn't actually get a pony for Christmas. But in the end, the fact that the day ended equineless didn't really seem to matter, since much of the fun was in dreaming of what might be.

My kids were born in the time of digital photography. They are unaware of what it meant to point, click, and hope for the best. They had no idea we had to load film into our cameras, then shoot 24 or 36 photos without getting to see who blinked,

if a finger was in the way, or if the photo would be what we imagined. If you sprung for one-hour developing, you'd know soon enough. The rest of us filled out envelopes, sending our film out for processing, returning days later to pick up our prints and negatives. If we were lucky, a portion of photos were good. Filters weren't a thing — the best we had was a special pen to blot out inevitable red eyes from the harsh light of the camera flash. These days, however, we've all perfected our photo game, with a variety of filters, and a big screen to see and reshoot to make everything look picture-perfect.

That's why we were surprised when our daughter asked for a new camera for Christmas. "You've got one right there on your phone," we reminded her. "No, this camera is new," she told us, and went on to describe how the slim new device worked. Roughly the size of her phone, this invention bills itself as a digital-friendly replacement to disposable cameras. You know, those things we old folks used to buy on vacation or leave on tables at wedding receptions as an old-school way to share photos. Powered by rechargeable batteries, photos are stored on an SD card the user downloads to their computer to view. The maker promotes the

Paper Shoot Cameras make it easier for you to be in the moment, and check your images at a later time. Nearly 30 fun designs to choose from!



product's lack of screen or controls 'which allow you to live fully in the moment.' It really is true what they say about old things being new again.

Well, Santa left one for her under the tree, and she set out to capture the moments of her Christmas break. We witnessed her excitement about framing perfect shots and using the new gadget, learning more about light exposure, old-school terms like macro and sepia, and how our eyes adjust automatically to low light better than a camera can. She seems to enjoy the unpredictability as much as she enjoys the photo-taking process. It's like the anticipation of what she'll download is a built-in bonus of her Christmas present.

It seems to confirm what Harold Schweitzer, professor of English at Bucknell University and author of "On Waiting (Thinking in Action)," determined. "Things and experiences gain value when you have to wait for them." Now I know that technology isn't going anywhere, and most often, I'm glad of this fact. But it's nice to know that sometimes, the old ways can deliver something valuable, too. If only we're willing to wait for it.





How to Teach Kids Religious Tolerance

Accepting Diversity in a Changing World

By Kimberly Blaker

ccording to the latest FBI data, for the year 2021 alone, there were 7,262 hate crime incidents that involved 8,673 offenses reported. Because most hate crimes go unreported, the actual number is likely much greater.

Notably, young men under 26 are the perpetrators of a significant percentage of these violent acts, according to various agencies. Religious-based biases, as well as ethnic and racial biases, are learned during early childhood, explains the Leadership Conference Education Fund. Young children exposed to these prejudices hold numerous stereotypes by the time they reach the age of 12.

In a society as diverse as the United States, the misconceptions often held toward those who are different, including those of other religious faiths, is troubling. As parents and educators, we must strive to change these patterns, so our kids grow into kind and accepting adults.

Part of the problem is that kids, like adults, learn of violence perpetrated by individuals within a particular religion and come to believe that everyone within that faith is violent. So kids need to understand there will always be a few bad apples within any religion, even their own. Individuals who commit violence don't define the character of everyone or even a majority within that group or religion.

Tolerance begins at home

There are many ways to teach children religious tolerance. But we must first recognize that our own attitudes and actions toward those of

different faiths play a crucial role. Children are observant and catch even the subtlest stereotyping and discriminatory behaviors. According to experts, attitudes held by those living in the home will have the greatest impact on the way children perceive people who are different.

There are many ways you can encourage your child to accept those of other faiths and even those of no faith. If you haven't already, explain your beliefs to your child and why you hold your views. Then share factual, non-derogatory information about other religious beliefs as well.

"According to experts, attitudes held by those living in the home will have the greatest impact on the way children perceive people who are different."

Read books with your child on world religions, diversity, and tolerance. Have open discussions and encourage questions. Explain the importance of religious freedom for your own family and why it's also essential for others. Then make sure your child understands being accepting of another doesn't mean you must hold that person's beliefs as true.

Learning tolerance outside the home

Talk to your kid's school, as recommended by Tolerance.org, to make sure textbooks and curricula are up to date to reflect equity and multiculturalism. Ask teachers and staff if and how they approach the task of teaching tolerance in the classroom. If the school or class doesn't already include tolerance education in its program, try to help activate it. Ask if you can share ideas with staff. Also, learn other ways you can assist the school in promoting positive attitudes toward diversity.

Help your child develop acceptance by sharing the beliefs of relatives and friends who hold different views from your own. It often comes as a surprise, even to adults, to learn some family members hold very different religious beliefs. Ask those of other views to share with your child what they believe and why. Make sure these adults understand your purpose, so they won't attempt to proselytize your child or criticize your own beliefs. Instead, ask them to share their beliefs with neutrality. When your child discovers that good, well-respected family members and friends hold a wide range of beliefs, your child will be better equipped to accept others as well.

Fight Intolerance

Another recommendation by Tolerance.org is to encourage your child to fight stereotypes and intolerance actively. Help your child to form a club, study circle, or sponsor a walkathon for diversity. Your child will have the opportunity to meet kids of other beliefs while at the same time, learning the importance of social responsibility.

Also, confront biased behavior expressed by family and friends, especially if your child witnesses it. For example, if grandma complains that her "Jewish neighbors don't take care of their lawn," don't brush the comment aside. Otherwise, both grandmother and your child will perceive your silence as acceptance of the stereotype or prejudicial remark.

See RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE on page 8

There's Snow Easy Way to Say it—School's On!

By Cheryl Maguire

Trealize I may sound like a person who was born in the 1900s, with tales of walking 1,000 miles to school, but I am going to babble away anyway despite my dated references and occasional senility.

When I was growing up the only way we received a snow day was if there was actual snow on the ground— and massive amounts of it. At least six inches or more of real accumulated snow sticking to the street would be the only way we would be able to receive a day off from school.

Most of the time though, we got an hour delay and then we had to trek through the storm anyway. I have done an extremely scientific survey of other parents my age which entailed a complex method of responding to my Facebook post and they all agreed that snow days—back in the day—required actual snow that was almost as tall or taller than you were. So, I am not just some delusional mid-aged woman even though some people may disagree with that assessment (definitely don't ask my kids what they think.)

The school my children attend cancels school before a drop of any type of precipitation falls from the sky. Often it is canceled the day before a possible storm when it is sunny, and the roads are clear. As far as I am concerned, this is not logical thinking especially when more often than not, the meteorologists are wrong about their forecasts. I can think of

numerous times when there was an incorrect forecast because the storm moved in another direction, which resulted in no snow and no school and my kids basking in the sun, as if it was a summer school-free day.

My children have become so accustomed to having no school when it is not snowing that they are in a state of disbelief and denial when they have to attend. One morning there was, at most, a half of an inch of accumulation of snow on the ground when my 10-year-old son darted into my room.

"Mom, do we have school today?" my son asked, expecting to hear the word "no" (which is about the only time he actually wants to hear that word).

"Yes," I responded (again about the only time he actually does NOT want to hear the word "yes").

"Are you sure?" he asked. He continued with his line of questioning, hoping that somehow doubting me would result in a different answer.

"Yes, I know it is shocking, but you do have school today. Believe me I'm just as surprised as you are."

"Can you turn the TV on and make sure?" he asked persevering, without giving up hope.

I did as he requested only to see a reporter talking about the weather (big surprise), but in this case he was referring to a storm outside our region that was closing schools for several days.

"They are referring to schools to the south, not here," I immediate-



ly told my son before he got too excited.

"Oh, come on!" he said as he threw his hands up in the air, in disgust.

He then realized the blue strip at the bottom of the screen was displaying school closings near where we lived. Just to summarize in case you are feeling confused—a few schools near us, as well as south of us, were closed, so I can see why he might feel a little disappointed.

"Andover closed, Ashland closed, Bedford closed," he read from the screen.

"Mom is our school closed?" he asked again.

"No, you need to get ready for school."

"Ugh!" he yelled as stomped towards his room.

"At least with having school you

will get out of school sooner in the summer and you can go outside," I respond although I realize this is more of a positive for me then for him since he would much rather play video games all day.

As a child when I heard this annoying line of reasoning I thought, "I don't care, I want a day off now!" so I can sympathize with his plight.

But as a mom who walked 1,000 miles to school in two feet of snow, I'm positive my son can muster up the strength to trek through some snow sprinkles. Although when he tells his kids about it one day it will probably sound more like an avalanche.

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

Religious Tolerance from page 7

Confronting family and friends isn't easy but can be done tactfully. Don't criticize. Just nonchalantly but clearly acknowledge grandmother's frustrations with the unkempt yard. Then point out it has nothing to do with being Jewish. By doing so, your child will learn such biased comments are not necessarily valid. It also teaches your child not to be apathetic toward intolerance.

Also, if your child attends church, Sunday school, or other religious functions, talk with the leaders and teachers to learn their attitudes and levels of tolerance. Many are accepting of different religious views. Unfortunately, some religious leaders perpetuate intolerance by preaching

against nonbelievers, those of other faiths, or people or groups that don't adhere to their specific lifestyle guidelines. Other religious leaders may contribute to stereotyping in more subtle ways. Kids are very perceptive, though, and will recognize the biases all the same. If you do detect prejudiced attitudes, look for another church or denomination that's less biased.

Finally, talk with your church about ways it can teach and promote religious tolerance among its youth. After all, the desire for peace on earth is common among most of the world's religions.

Pancake Breakfast with the Birds

The Nature Center at Shaker Lakes and the Heights of Greater Cleveland Rotary Club continue their partnership by offering the annual Pancake Breakfast with the Birds to be held at the Nature Center on Saturday, February 25. Breakfast will be available from 8 am to noon and features plain, blueberry, chocolate chip or gluten-free pancakes served with northeast Ohio maple syrup. Breakfast also includes sausage, apple sauce, juice, coffee and tea.

In addition to a hearty breakfast, the Pancake Breakfast with the Birds provides the opportunity to learn about northeast Ohio's feathered friends. Discover the habits and habitats of birds with a guided adult bird walk at 8 am and guided family bird walks at 10 and 11 am. The owl presentations featuring birds from Lake Metroparks take place at 9:30 and 10:30 am.

The morning also features a raffle providing the opportunity to win a variety of themed gift baskets.

The cost of the event is \$10 for ages 5+ and \$5 for children ages 4 and under. Tickets may be purchased at https://shakerlakes.square.site/shop/pancake-breakfast-with-birds/9.

For more info visit www.shaker lakes.org or call 216-321-5935. The Nature Center is located at 2600 South Park Boulevard in Shaker Hts.



Free professional arts performances for families every month in 2023

At the Children's Museum of Cleveland

The Children's Museum of Cleveland (CMC) is bringing big acts to the small stage through their CMC Center Stage series! This program provides the region's youngest learners with early exposure to the arts in an approachable environment, with a series of mini performances designed to engage children ages 0–8.

Beginning in 2019, CMC Center Stage has welcomed countless groups including North Pointe Ballet, Talespinner Children's Theatre, and OPUS 216 to the stage to delight audiences with vibrant and interactive performances. The Museum is excited to announce that this program is growing, offering performances each month throughout 2023.

CMC works alongside arts groups to modify performances for an early childhood audience, promoting interactive elements that create an engaging experience for young children. The program is held in the Museum's Theater exhibit, offering performances by local theater, music, and dance groups showcasing different cultures and artistic practices. Floor seating accommodates the wiggliest of wigglers, and a family-friendly audience provides a space where giggling, dancing, and engaging with the art are both welcomed and encouraged.

The CMC Center Stage winter calendar includes performances by Abrepaso Flamenco, OPUS 216, Mojuba! Dance Collective, and Dancing Wheels Company, with many more performances to be announced throughout the year. All performances through this program are free with general admission, access program admission, and CMC membership.

Visit cmcleveland.org for info.

The Great Big Home + Garden Show returns February 3-12

The Great Big Home + Garden Show, presented by Carrier, is set to inspire homeowners with more than 400 exhibits at Cleveland's I-X Center, February 3-12. Find fresh ideas from hundreds of experts in kitchen and bath, landscaping, décor, flooring and more during the 10-day event.

Visitors will enjoy a hint of spring in the classic movie-themed Garden Showcase and experience the latest in home design trends as they walk through the Idea Home and Backyard Oasis. Joe Mazza from HGTV's "Home Inspector Joe" will also be appearing on the main stage.

The latest show information will be posted at GreatBigHomeAnd Garden.com.

Tickets are \$15 for adults (box office), \$13 online, \$11 seniors 65+ with ID (Monday-Thursday only; tickets must be purchased at show box office) and \$5 children ages 6–12 years.

Girl Scout Cookie season

Girl Scouts in northeast Ohio will soon be kicking off the 2023 Girl Scout Cookie season, a time when consumers can support local Girl Scout entrepreneurs by purchasing their favorite cookies. Every box of cookies sold provides invaluable experiences for Girl Scouts such as service projects, troop travel, and summer camp for girls.

New to the lineup this year is the Raspberry Rally[™] – a thin, crispy cookie infused with raspberry flavor and dipped in chocolaty coating. Raspberry Rally is exclusively offered through digital channels for direct shipping only beginning Feb 27.

Girl Scouts in northeast Ohio will sell and take orders in person, and can receive cookie orders through their Digital Cookie® site. Beginning February 27, consumers can enter their zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www. gsneo.org/findcookies to purchase cookies online from a local troop for direct shipment. And from March 10-26, consumers can purchase their favorite cookies like Thin Mints®, Samoas®, and Tagalongs® at Girl Scout Cookie Booths throughout northeast Ohio.

Every Girl Scout Cookie purchase fuels local Girl Scouts' adventures throughout the year: exploring what interests them, discovering their passions, and taking action on issues they care about. Whether they're using their STEM skills to solve a problem, changing a law to help their community, having a courageous outdoor experience, or starting an innovative nonprofit, Girl Scouts build a better future for themselves and the world. And through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including earning the new Cookie Business badges, girls get a taste of being



New Raspberry Rally Cookie

entrepreneurs and learn important online and offline business skills that set them up for success in life.

"This upcoming cookie season, I'm excited to see how our girl entrepreneurs innovate and take advantage of new technology and learn new, digital entrepreneurial skills," said Jane Christyson, CEO of Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO). "It's always fun to see the creativity that each girl uses in her cookie program. It's a reflection of her, her goals, and her desire to create something unique to her – that's what Girl Scouts is all about, empowering girls to be the best versions of themselves."

To purchase Girl Scout Cookies this season:

If you know a Girl Scout, ask how she's selling cookies via the Digital Cookie online platform.

Don't know a Girl Scout? Visit www.gsneo.org/findcookies and submit a customer cookie request form to be connected with a local Girl Scout troop.

Beginning February 27, enter your zip code into the Girl Scout Cookie Finder at www.gsneo.org to find a local cookie booth or to order online from a local troop. Whether picked up in person, shipped directly to your home, or donated to a local cause, you can support girls in your local community!



PRIVATE SCHOOL



Finding the right private school for your family

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

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

In reality, each private school is a world unto itself. It may or may not hold accredi-

tation 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 on page 20

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At Hathaway Brown, girls become their best selves as we prepare them not for school, but for life.

Our Signature Approach empowers high-performing students with our distinguished academics and experiential learning.



Now accepting applications.

For more about our Learn for Life Signature Approach, go to www.myhbgirl.com

Or contact our admission team at admissions@hb.edu or 216.320.8767



Cleveland Montessori

12510 Mayfield Road, Cleveland (216) 421-0700 www.clevelandmontessori.org

Cleveland Montessori is celebrating over 28 years of serving the children of Greater Cleveland. The school is located in the historic Alta House. Students in preschool through middle school thrive within this unique urban campus inclusive of Little Italy and University Circle. A Cleveland Montessori education looks at each child's individual potential academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Their students become independent thinkers with compassionate hearts.

The authentic Montessori curriculum incorporates a variety of opportunities to extend learning beyond the classroom to the culturally rich neighborhood of Little Italy. Their proximity to University Circle provides many extensions for cultural and scientific exploration, setting the stage for an experience rich in diversity, growth and joy. Cleveland Montessori

operates on a school year calendar, September to June.

Call to arrange a personal tour or visit their website for more information.

Corpus Christi Academy

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

Corpus Christi Academy is a family-friendly pre-K through 8th grade school serving Lyndhurst and the surrounding communities. At CCA, your child will develop the foundational knowledge to deepen their curiosity in learning, while enhancing their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

The school boasts a 1:1 technology program that supports student creativity and innovativeness in the classroom. Intimate class sizes encourage individualized learning plans for each student to deepen their spiritual, social-emotional, and academic accomplishments guided by a caring and dedicated faculty.

Full- and part-time pre-K options are available. For more info call (440) 449-4244.

Creative Playrooms Montessori & Child Care Centers

Solon (440) 248-3100 Independence (216) 524-8008 Parma (216) 898-9520 Strongsville (440) 572-9365 Westlake (440) 835-5858 Maple Hts. (216) 475-6464 www.creativeplayrooms.com

Creative Playrooms Montessori and Child Care Centers have been a part of the Greater Cleveland community for over 50 years. These unique learning centers provide families with Montessori and traditional programs, swimming lessons, cafeteria-like lunchrooms, and expansive outdoor play spaces.

They understand that today's active families need a partner that really understands the need for safe, reliable, and loving care. At the core of their schools, you'll find dedicated and highly-trained

staff who are deeply committed to providing children with the skills they need to reach their individual potential.

Additionally, Creative Playrooms is part of the Early Learning Academies (ELA) family, a network of trusted early childhood learning centers led by a team of seasoned and committed childcare professionals.

For more information about their six locations and program offerings, visit creativeplayrooms.

Gilmour Academy

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

As an independent, Catholic school, Gilmour Academy stands alone in its ability to prepare students who thrive. Its 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,



Gilmour Academy is an independent, Catholic, coed school in the Holy Cross tradition. Grades K-12 and Montessori (18 months - Prescho 34001 Cedar Road | Gates Mills, Ohio | 440



12

Gilmour Academy cont'd

everything at Gilmour - from the curriculum to the academic extension programs to extracurriculars – is focused on cultivating their eight graduation outcomes, designed to develop students as leaders of their generation. These outcomes call their students to be people of hope on a journey of faith; reflective, analytical thinkers; innovative, resilient problem solvers; authentic, effective communicators; courageous, collaborative leaders; empathetic, engaged global citizens; and curious, resourceful lifelong learners. 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.



Hathaway Brown

19600 North Park Boulevard Shaker Heights (216) 932-4214 www.HB.edu

Hathaway Brown is an all girls K–12 day school in Shaker Heights. Since 1876, HB has educated and empowered girls with the Learn for Life Signature Approach. The school's distinguished academics are nationally recognized and are valued by families, top colleges and universities, and employers.

The Signature Approach allows students to take ownership of their education with outstanding experiential learning opportunities such as the Storyline model in the Primary School, the Academies in Middle School, and the Fellowships for the Applied Studies in the Upper School.

HB's model, facilitated by an incredibly impressive and engaged faculty, empowers girls to rise boldly to the challenges of the times, achieve their goals and reach their utmost potential. →



We are excited to share the Ruffing Montessori community with you. Schedule your tour today by calling Julie or Rosie in Ruffing's Admissions Office at 216.321.7571.



18 months–8th grade • 3380 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights • ruffingmontessori.net



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



Tours Available - Register Now!



Early Childhood, Lower, & Middle School OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, 4/16/23, 1:00 pm Toddler – Grade 8 | Lyndhurst Campus

Upper School OPEN HOUSE

Sunday 4/23/23, 1:00 pm Grades 9 – 12 | Gates Mills Campus Mastery School **OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, 4/30/23, 1:00 pm **Grades 9 – 12** | University Circle Campus

For more information, call 440.423.2950 (Early Childhood, Lower & Middle School), 440.423.2955 (Upper School), 440.423.8801 (Mastery School), or visit hawken.edu/admissions





COEDUCATIONAL, **TODDLER - GRADE 12**







Gates Mills 📦 University Circle

Our Lady of the Lake School

Could be the BEST choice for YOUR child!

Now accepting registration for kindergarten through 8th grade



Accepting EdChoice and Cleveland **Scholarships**

- Engaged, caring environment.
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For more info email: Jenny Millett, Principal JMillett@OLLEuclid.org



East 200th Street • Euclid, OH 44119 • 216-481-6824 www.OLLEuclidSchool.org

PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

Hathaway Brown cont'd

For more information, visit HB.edu or contact the Admission office at (216) 320-8767.

Hawken School

www.hawken.edu Lyndhurst Campus (Toddler-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

Birchwood School of Hawken

(Preschool-Grade 8) 4400 West 140th Street Cleveland (216) 251-2321

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 campuses in the eastern suburbs of Cleveland, a campus on Cleveland's west side, and a campus in University Circle that is home to the Mastery School of Hawken, which takes the school's problem-based programming to scale.

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

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

Visit TodaysFamilyMagazine.com for more private school options!

Hershey Montessori School

www.Hershey-Montessori.org (440) 357-0918 **Concord Campus** 10229 Prouty Road **Huntsburg Campus** 11530 Madison Road

Hershey Montessori School's approach to education allows students to master the skills needed to adapt as the world changes, careers shift, and the demand on human ingenuity evolves. The transformative outcomes demonstrated by Hershey students exemplify why Hershey is revered as a world leader in Montessori education.

In conjunction with Hershey's robust academics, students learn about leadership, practical life, business, culture, and important societal issues, including embracing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Their Montessori model inspires students to learn - not memorize, to thrive academically, and to expand their interests. Hershey students are resilient, articulate, open to change, and ready to be challenged.

For more than 40 years, Hershey's education model has supported the scientific process of child development and serves students from two months of age through twelfth grade.

Contact Hershey Montessori School to learn more about how this education model can benefit your child.

Laurel School

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 early childhood school. Its traditional 11-acre Lyman Campus is in Shaker Heights and its 150acre Butler Campus is in Russell Township. The Butler Campus is home to competitive athletics, full-time outdoor experiential →

MONTESSORI

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FOUNDED 1968

WWW.MS-UH.ORG

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Apply early for the 2023-2024 school year. **Classes fill**

up fast!

THREE YEAR PROGRAM BEGINNING AT AGE THREE



Laurel School cont'd

learning for grades 3–5, and northeast Ohio's first outdoor prekindergarten.

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

Montessori School of University Heights

23599 Cedar Road, Lyndhurst (216) 381-8388 www.ms-uh.org

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

- Providing comprehensive, individualized opportunities for growth. Each child is introduced to the materials as the child becomes ready for the concepts that the material embodies. Children develop order, concentration, coordination, independence, and self-discipline.
- Engaging children in a caring, supportive community. Their multi-age environment, serving children ages 3 through 6 years old, provides a family-like atmosphere. Children develop compassion and confidence.
- Respecting each child's developmental abilities and personality. Montessori children enjoy choosing their own work each day guided by adults who are sensitive to each child's unique personality. Children experience joy in learning.

They encourage interested parents to schedule a personal tour.



Our Lady of the Lake School

175 East 200th Street, Euclid (216) 481-6824 OLLEuclidSchool.org

Our Lady of the Lake School, grounded in Catholic faith and values, provides a program of academic excellence in an environment that engages students, families, faculty and community. Small classrooms, individual attention and strong curriculum together provide exceptional learning opportunities, and advanced programs and educational partnerships challenge their students to excel.

Learning goes beyond the classroom. Students enlarge their world with service learning and field trips. Outreach programs bring a wealth of resources into the school, and students also engage in hands-on learning through technology, with interactive boards in every classroom, a cutting-edge makerspace, and iPads and Chromebooks for each student for curriculum use. Even

their youngest students take part, with preschoolers making full use of the gymnasium, art rooms, makerspace and library.

Students are also encouraged to develop their talents through art and a variety of clubs and extracurriculars. A fully-equipped gym hosts an array of sports and athletics. An active parent-teacher organization keeps the school community engaged and welcoming

Call today for a tour or to get more information.

Ruffing Montessori School

3380 Fairmount Boulevard Cleveland Heights (216) 321-7175 ruffingmontessori.net

Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights is more than just a school for children ages 18 months through 8th grade. It is a beloved community where bright and curious children are guided by experienced Montessori-trained faculty and immersed



Foundations for Lifelong Learning

A child's preschool experience should build a foundation for their education and lifelong skills of

perseverance independence confidence curiosity and finding joy in their own interests.

Located in the heart of Little Italy, our students grow and thrive in a learning environment that promotes a lifetime passion for learning. Unlock your child's potential with a solid foundation for life.

Applications are now being accepted for PreK through 8th grade. Call for information on tuition discounts for employees at select University Circle institutions.

Contact the Director of Admissions at 216-421-0700 or email at info@clevelandmontessori.org to arrange a personal tour.



CLEVELAND MONTESSORI

12510 Mayfield Road • Cleveland P (216) 421-0700 • clevelandmontessori.org

Ruffing Montessori cont'd

in a rigorous curriculum that prepares students to become independent thinkers and creative problem-solvers.

Walking through Ruffing's classrooms, you will see students working with purpose and joy, and excelling academically with confidence and compassion. A Ruffing education offers children a global perspective with an understanding of the profound impact they can have on the world, preparing them for high school, college, and life beyond.

Learn why Ruffing is the compelling school of choice by calling Ruffing's admissions office or scheduling a tour online at ruffingmontessori.net.



St. Francis of Assisi School

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

At Saint Francis of Assisi School, a 3-year-old preschool– eighth grade school, they learn, love and serve like Jesus.

Centered on their faith and academics, they learn about God's world and all that we can do to make it an even better place.

Their mission is to serve individual students and their God-given gifts and talents. As a result, their students help drive their programs such as the broadcast studio, the aquaponics garden and service projects.

Differentiation is more than a word at St. Francis. They strive every day to reach every child. Toward this goal, they provide specialists in art, music, technology, physical education, Spanish, enrichment, and intervention services.

Their classroom teachers are fully certified, but even more, they



SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for <u>10</u> years!



Catholic Schools Week Open House Sunday, January 29 | 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Sneak Peek and Gr. 1-8 Q & A

Thursday, February 2 | 8:30 a.m.

Education Fair

Thursday, March 9 | 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Or call to schedule a private tour.

Enriching Minds...Nourishing Souls
Preschool through 8th Grade

To register, contact us at 440-442-6766 or office@saintpaschal.com 5360 Wilson Mills Road, Highland Heights, OH 44143 • www.saintpaschal.com

Laurel girls today. Leaders tomorrow.











At Laurel, girls are leaders in the classroom, on the field and on the stage. Through a demanding academic curriculum informed by our Center for Research on Girls, our unparalleled public-speaking coursework and our beyond-the-classroom experiences, girls at Laurel lead every day.

Come see how Laurel girls lead.

SHAKER HEIGHTS | RUSSELL TOWNSHIP | est. 1896

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

18 months-Grade 12 Open House

Saturday, April 15, 9:00 am -12:00 pm RSVP today! Call 216.464.0946 or visit

RSVP today! Call 216.464.0946 or visit LaurelSchool.org/OpenHouse





St. Francis of Assisi cont'd

are chosen for their vision in guiding academic, social, and spiritual growth. To set up a private tour, call Cindy at 440-442-7450.

St. Paschal Baylon Catholic School

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

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

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

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

Call the school at (440) 442-6766 to schedule a tour.

University School

www.us.edu/visit

<u>Junior kindergarten to grade 8</u>
20701 Brantley Road, Shaker Hts.
(216) 321-8260
<u>Grades 9 to 12</u>
2785 SOM Center Road
Hunting Valley

Young boys are growing quite fast physically, mentally, and emotionally. University School's junior kindergarten and kindergarten

(216) 831-2200

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 immersive and 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 makerspaces.

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.

Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School

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

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

VASJ welcomes any student who would like to find meaning in Catholic traditions and has a sincere desire to develop a closer relationship with God as lived through the teachings of St. Angela Merici and Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade.

Learn more about VASJ by attending their upcoming Open House on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Visit TodaysFamilyMagazine.com for more private school options!



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

Children Need a Hershey Montessori Education Now More Than Ever

- World-renowned education
- Individualized approach
- Academic mastery
- Social and emotional learning
- Meaningful social connections
- Stress-reducing integration with nature
- Life readiness & college readiness

CONTACT US TO REGISTER OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION

440-357-0918

admissions@hershey-montessori.org

Ask about our transportation & boarding options!

OPEN HOUSE DATES

Registration is required

Concord Campus

(B-6th Grade) 10229 Prouty Rd. Concord Township, OH 44077

From 9-11 am on February 8 | April 12 | May 10

<u>Huntsburg Campus</u>

(7th-12th Grade) 11530 Madison Rd. Huntsburg, OH 44046

From 1-3 pm on February 9 or

From 9-11 am on February 13 | April 10 | May 8

Individual tours are available by request or take a virtual tour via our website.







Visit our website at www.Hershey-Montessori.org

Did You Know?

- One in four schools is a private school.
- One child in ten attends a private school.
- Private schools produce an annual savings to taxpayers estimated at \$50 billion.
- Private schools are racially, ethnically, and economically diverse. Twenty-seven percent of private school students are non-white; 27 percent are from families with annual incomes under \$75,000 (another 18 percent of families did not report income).

Source: Council for American Private Education (CAPE)



Early one morning, a mother went in to wake up her son.

- "Wake up, son. It's time to go to school."
- "But why, Mom? I don't want to go."
- "Give me two reasons why you don't want to go."
- "Well, the kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me, too!"
- "Oh, that's no reason not to go to school. Come on now and get ready."
- "Give me two reasons why I should go to school."
- "Well, for one, you're 52 years old. And for another, you're the principal."

When Dad came home he was astonished to see Vic sitting on a horse,

swered Vic, "That's why I'm here and that's why Sara's sitting in the goldfish bowl."

St. Francis of Assisi School



6850 Mayfield Rd. Gates Mills, OH 44040 440-442-7450

Preschool - Grade 8



- Student-led initiatives such as broadcast studio, aquaponics gardening & service projects
- **Prayer Partners**
- **Enrichment & Intervention** Opportunities
- Families come from 21 cities
- 100% of our graduating 8th graders are accepted to their first choice of high school



Finding a private school continued from page 10

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

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

Selecting the perfect private school is well worth the time it takes to research. This is the place your children will make friendships, learn, grow, and pave the way to a bright future.

Help Your Preschooler Thrive



LEARN MORE

Schedule a tour and see what we're all about.

creativeplayrooms.com or call 440-349-9111

Enrolling Now

At Creative Playrooms, our preschool programs help young learners explore their world through a variety of age-appropriate activities. With both Montessori and traditional offerings available, preschoolers will develop fine and gross motor skills, problem solve, build emotional skills, and

- Serving children from 6 weeks to 12 years
- 6 locations in the greater Cleveland area





How Children Find Their Purpose At Sleepaway Camp

By Sandi Schwartz

To be happy and successful. Would you believe that letting them spread their own wings—without us by their side—may be the most effective way to do this? Our job as parents is to give our children the tools they need to go out in the world and discover who they are and what they want to become—their purpose in life. A child can only truly grow if given some freedom and the chance to gain confidence by exploring new ideas and activities.

The gift of sleepaway camp

What better place for children to begin this process than sleep away camp? Sending children away for camp may seem daunting at first, but if you ask anyone who has spent several weeks bunking with their friends, they will tell you how it positively transformed their life and how lucky they are that their parents gave them that gift.

Michael Thompson, a clinical psychologist and author of "Homesick and Happy, How Time Away from Parents Can Help a Child Grow," says "...parents can sometimes seriously impede their children's development. As a parent, there are many things you cannot do for your children. You cannot give your child confidence, you cannot pick or manage his or her friendships, you cannot always be his or her advocate/ agent/manager/coach....and most important, parents have a hard time urging their children to take psychological risks."

Thompson goes on to explain how sleep away camp succeeds at doing all these things and how critical it is that children and teens have these experiences. He says that true independence is something parents cannot give their children; they must live it on their own.

Benefits of sleep away camp

There are five invaluable aspects of sleepaway camp that can lead children and teens to discovering their purpose:

Confidence

One of the most important

benefits of sleepaway camp is that children build confidence and self-esteem while living away from their parents. These positive attributes stem from belonging, learning, and contributing.

Camps provide many unique opportunities for children to succeed in these three areas:

they belong to a team and bunk;
 they learn from trying new activities and making new friends; and
 they contribute by helping during meals and serving as team leaders.

Camp also provides ways for children to feel a sense of accomplishment. When they succeed, they are empowered and have more confidence when faced with the next challenge. They also learn from their mistakes and failures, which only makes them more resilient in the future.

Also, the kind of encouragement kids receive at camp makes it the perfect environment for them to overcome setbacks, try new things, and see improvement. Some camp experiences even allow them to conquer their fears, whether it be learning to swim in a lake or climb a ropes course.

Finally, many children will purposely choose to attend camp where they do not know any other campers when they arrive. This special experience gives them the chance to start fresh and explore who they truly are in an unfamiliar environment. All of this confidence building brings them closer to figuring out their interests and goals.

Broader Perspective

At camp, children begin to see the world a bit differently. They are away from their comfort zone and exposed to new people and experiences that give them a new, broader perspective. They realize they are part of something bigger than themselves and their immediate family.

They meet people from different backgrounds, locations, and interests. They may participate in community service projects that they would have not otherwise had the chance to do. Sleepaway camp is so valuable in how it introduces children to fresh ways of seeing the world and themselves.



Community

Children benefit from being part of the special community found at sleepaway camp. It gives them a sense of belonging, which will ultimately improve their ability to cooperate, contribute, and serve their future communities as caring citizens. Campers also gain new social skills from being in a group setting. They must share a room with others, manage chores, resolve conflicts, communicate effectively, and be kind and accommodating to their fellow campers. Being part of a close-knit community can be challenging at times, but children who learn how to adapt and get along with others will benefit for a lifetime.

Peter Scales, Ph.D., a senior fellow with the Search Institute in Minneapolis, says, "Camp activities and group living in a natural environment are the tools used to create camp communities that provide for successful, healthy development... They learn to work together, make choices, take responsibility, develop creative skills, build independence and self-reliance, and gain confidence. All are necessary steps on a child's path to a healthy, productive life."

Skills

Sleepaway camp is chock full of unique activities and events that children can't find anywhere else. Going to camp allows them to learn new skills, whether it be in sports, art, or outdoor exploration. Being exposed to so many new programs enhances their knowledge and capabilities, allowing them to get closer to finding

what they enjoy most.

Camp also helps children become more independent. They learn how to make their own decisions without parents and teachers always telling them what to do. They are expected to manage daily chores, show up on time for activities, and keep their belongings neat and clean. These are lifelong skills that will help them succeed in whatever they do.

Self-Reflection

The school year is a busy time, but camp provides a chance for kids to slow down and listen to their own thoughts. Camp is the perfect environment for self-reflection and meditation because kids unplug and soak in the beautiful nature around them. When kids take a break from television, video games, texting, and surfing online, they become more mindful of their surroundings and their own emotions. They are able to focus on the simple things in life, like going for a hike, watching a sunset, singing around the campfire, and talking in depth to their friends.

Camp also provides a time for unstructured play. Campers are encouraged to use their creativity to solve problems and have fun. They learn how to keep busy with activities that have been used for centuries, such as swimming and boating in a lake, woodworking, and theater performances. This carefree living gives them a chance to relax and laugh without the pressures of their hectic, overly scheduled lives back home. This change of pace can lead to emotional and spiritual growth.

SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

ADRENALINE MONKEY

26800 Renaissance Parkway Cleveland (216) 282-3100 www.adrenalinemonkeyfun.com

Kick off your child's summer adventure with Adrenaline Monkey! They provide week-long adventure camps for kids ages 5–12 that feature activities on their ninja warrior-style obstacle courses, climbing walls, aerial ropes course, time in the arcade, and even outdoor activities to beat the heat! They also incorporate weekly themes that support ideas of teamwork, perseverance, and trying new things! Campers not only will improve their ninja skills and athleticism, but also become more confident, focused and empowered leaders. They look forward to hosting an adventurous experience for your child! They hope to see you this summer!



BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood (216) 521-2540 www.beckcenter.org

Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood is more than a nonprofit organization that combines professional theater with arts education. They create arts experiences through music, dance, theater, and visual arts all summer for ages 5–19 and you can enroll today. Throughout the year they offer classes and lessons for all ages, skill levels, and abilities.

Families bring their kids to experience all of the art forms. Yearround each child can immerse themselves in an art form that excites them, while growing new skills, and making new friends.

With a talented staff of award-winning instructors, they produce theater and arts education. Visit www.beckcenter.com for all their offerings.

In addition, Beck Center has free art exhibitions in the main building and Music & Creative Arts Therapies building and their professional theater productions offer high quality shows with tickets starting at just \$10, and student, and senior discounts are also available at www.beckcenter. org/professional-theater.

FALCON CAMP

Carrollton, OH (800) 837-CAMP www.falconcamp.com

Recognized throughout the Midwest as Ohio's premier summer camp since 1959. Falcon Camp has been chosen as a "Top Ten Camp in USA" and selected as the "Coolest Camp in Ohio." Falcon offers a beautiful lakefront setting, talented staff and wide variety of activities. Boys and girls ages 6–16 choose their own schedule within a general framework and daily activities are separate with planned coed events.

Horseback riding, sailing, swimming, riflery, crafts, tennis, drama, archery and much more.

Falcon has a strong reputation for making sure a camper's first

overnight experience is very positive. The noncompetitive environment is inviting to new campers while their awards system challenges more experienced campers. The 1:4 staff/camper ratio allows individual instruction and attention. Most of all it's great fun!

Falcon has a special intro program for campers ages 6–10. ACA accredited, many references available. Falcon is an outstanding opportunity for fun and learning.

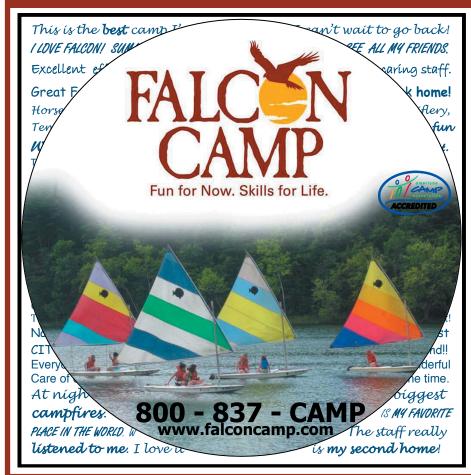
GILMOUR DAY CAMPS

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

The official camp of summer fun! With offerings that include outdoor adventure, drone, sports camps and the arts, Camp Gilmour has something for everyone! Camps offered June 5–August 4.

Preschool Camp (nine weeks available) delights children ages 3–5 as they explore an exciting theme each week. →→

Ohio's Premier Summer Camp



Traditional Resident Summer Camp (ages 6–16)

- Only 90 miles south of Cleveland Carrollton OH.
- For boys and girls separate activities with planned coed events.
- 2,- 4-, 6- or 8-week sessions.
- Horseback riding, sailing, swimming, arts, drama, archery, riflery, nature, sports, fishing and so much more!
- Campers choose own activities within broad framework.
- American Camp Association Accredited Camp since 1959.
- 1:4 staff/camper ratio allows excellent supervision and instruction.

Young Adventurers Summer Camp (ages 6–10)

- Special one-week intro sessions includes all camp activities.
- Designed to give first-time younger campers an outstanding 'first adventure.'
- 1:3 staff/camper ratio allows for extra attention with living habits, meals, bedtime and social skills.

AWARD WINNING!

Top 10 Camp in USA!

-EarlyChildhoodEducationZone.com

Selected as Ohio's "Coolest Camp"
-Philly.com

Program Excellence Award

-American Camp Association Ohio

Best Parenting Award 2019-2022

-Cincinnati Family Magazine

TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR

at www.falconcamp.com

DON'T MISS OUT!

Camp is filling now!

At Falcon, Good Things Happen by Design.





Hathaway Brown offers a wide array of summer programming for boys and girls, toddlers through college.

Browse through academic, athletics, adventure, theatre, and specialty camp options to create your own one-of-a-kind experience.

Visit hb.edu/summer





SUMMER CAMPS and CLASSES / To for Artists Like You!



DANCE, VISUAL ARTS, THEATER, MUSIC, AND CREATIVE ARTS THERAPIES

BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS

BY A STATE OF THE ARTS

REGISTER NOW AT BECKCENTER.ORG

Beck Center FOR THE arts

SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

Gilmour Day Camps cont'd

Day Camp (nine weeks available) is for children ages 5–12. Full- and half-days offered (can combine with other half-day specialty camps). Daily theme-based math and reading enrichment provided at no cost.

Basketball, cross country, football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer and tennis camps, hosted by coaches from Gilmour's state-ranked programs, provide campers the opportunity to hone skills.

Before- and after-care options from 7:15 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Register at www.gilmour.org/ summercamp. Questions? Contact (440) 473-8000 ext. 2267 or email summercamp@gilmour.org.

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



HATHAWAY BROWN

19600 North Park Boulevard Shaker Heights (216) 932-4214 www.HB.edu/Summer

Located in Shaker Heights, Hathaway Brown offers camps for boys and girls, toddlers through college. One of the many things that sets HB's camp programming apart is the ability to truly create your son or daughter's own summer adventures.

Visit HB.edu/Summer to register for academic, athletics, adventure, and specialty camps to have the best summer ever.

JUMP START GYMNASTICS

23700 Mercantile Road Beachwood (216) 896-0295 www.jsgymnastics.com

Jump Start Gymnastics offers eight weeks of summer camps for boys and girls ages 4–14 from June 12 through August 11, 2023.

Jump Start Summer Camp →→





GYMNASTICSFOR KIDS & ADULTS!



6-Week Sessions

- 1-hour class, 1x per week = \$140 per session
- 1.25-hour class, 1x per week = \$165 per session

Spring Session 1: February 26-April 15

Closed for spring break: April 5–April 11, 2023. No make-up classes needed—all off days are factored into the calendar session.

Spring Session 2: April 16-May 27

We also offer Jump Stars Prep Team & USAG Competitive Team, Boys Classes for ages 5–14.

Summer Camp 2023



JSG offers gymnastic camps for all ages, boys and girls, and all levels of gymnastics experience from recreational to competitive gymnastics. Gymnastic camp at Jump Start is a great way to explore and experience gymnastics for the first time, learn new skills, or build a solid competitive base for the next season. We coach all levels of new, experienced, and competitive gymnastics.

Flips Gymnastics Camp

Ages entering K–14 years

June 12–August 11

M–F: 9 am–noon *or* 9 am–3 pm

Twister Preschool Camp

3 & 4 years
June 13–29
Tue/Wed/Thur: 9 am–noon

CAMP SPECIAL!

Girls Free Leotard

Enroll in four full weeks or 20 daily camps.

Free Shorts + Leotard

Enroll in five full weeks or 25 daily camps.

Boys

Free Gym Bag

Enroll in four full weeks or 20 daily camps.

Free Gymnastic T-shirt + Gym Bag

Enroll in five full weeks or 25 daily camps.

EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT

2022 camp fee prices are in effect until March 15, 2023. 2023 camp prices start March 16, 2023.

Through March 15, 2023

Full-day camp is \$275 per week / \$60 per day Half-day camp is \$180 per week / \$40 per day

March 16, 2023 and after

Full-day camp is \$300 per week / \$65 per day Half-day camp is \$200 per week / \$45 per day

Daily after-care is \$10 from 3-5 pm

All camps must be paid in full at the time of enrollment.

Private Lessons

Jump Start is offering:

- Individual private lessons
- Semi-private lessons
- Small group lessons

Perfect for gymnasts, cheerleaders, dancers, Gymkata obstacle course fitness fun, small group classes or Gymnastic Strong conditioning training.

Saturdays and Sundays 2–6 pm with Coach Annmarie or Coach Dan

Email your requested day & time to:

jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com



Available in 30-, 45-, 60- and 90-minute sessions!

Birthday Parties



Jump Start is a great place to celebrate that special occasion! Our coaches will tailor the party activities to the age of the birthday child. All of the guests are sure to enjoy our gymnastic games and equipment, including our 50 feet of trampoline and in-ground foam pit!

Party guests will enjoy organized and loosely-structured instruction on the gymnastic equipment. The birthday child and partygoers can look forward to gymnastic obstacle courses and games!

TWO OPTIONS!

A full hour-and-a-half of gym time \$195 for 10 children & \$15 for each additional child

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

Jump Start Gymnastics

23700 Mercantile Road, Beachwood

Rear of National Biological Building

(216) 896-0295

Website: jsgymnastics.com Email: jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com

SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW !

Jump Start Gymnastics cont'd

is a great way to explore and experience gymnastics for both brand new gymnasts to experienced gymnasts wanting to grow their skill base. JSG believes gymnastics benefits everyone, setting a foundation for physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle, and teaches coordination and movements that apply to every sport. In addition to traditional gymnastic instruction, games, and open gym, weekly themes round out each camper's experience for a full summer of fun.

JSG offers enrollment for selected days or the entire week.

Half-day (9 a.m.-noon) camps are \$45 per day or \$200 per week. Full-day (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.) camps are \$65 per day or \$300 per week. After-care (3–5 p.m.) is \$10 per day. See their website for early registration discounts through March 15, 2023.

Registration is available at jsgymnastics.com.



LOST NATION SPORTS PARK

38630 Jet Center Drive Willoughby (440) 602-4000 www.LNSportsPark.com

Mike Moran Basketball Camps

Open to boys and girls ages 6-14

- Session #1: June 19-23
- Session #2: June 26-30
- Week-long program (M-F) 9:00 am-3:15 pm.
- Weekly tuition is \$185.
- Early registration discount is only \$170 (by May 1, 2023).
- All campers receive a T-shirt. Call (440) 338-8092 for more information or visit morancamps. com for easy registration.

Cleveland Soccer Academy Summer Camp

Open to boys and girls ages 6–13

- Full- and half-day camps
- Week #1: June 12-15
- Week #2: July 24-27
- Full-day tuition is \$175.
- Half-day tuition is \$125.
- Email Ali Kazemaini, camp director, at Kaz@LNSportsPark.com.

ORANGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION & RECREATION

Jill Korsok, Director (216) 831-8601 jkorsok@orangecsd.org www.orangerec.org

Every day is a day for adventure at summer camp with Orange Community Education & Recreation.

OCER offers full day camps in art, sports, theatre camps and traditional day camps for kids in grades K-8. Preschool campers may attend half-day or full-day camp.

All camps are close to home on the Orange Schools campus, which features a kid-friendly outdoor leisure pool with a slide and new spray pad, groomed sports fields, playgrounds and hiking trails. Before- and after-camp care is available for ages 3 – grade 8 from 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Camp registration begins January 23 at noon for district residents and January 30 at noon for nonresidents. Visit www.orange rec.ce.eleyo.com. Register before

March 17 and receive \$25 off the listed price for most camps. For more information, call them at (216) 831-8601, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Look for their Summer Camp Guide, available online at www. orangerec.com.

YMCA OF **GREATER CLEVELAND**

www.clevelandymca.org

The YMCA of Greater Cleveland knows that every kid is different, so they offer three camps for your child's needs:

Day camp: Ages 5/6-12

Campers discover not just the wonders of day camp but the joy of exploring their unique talents and interests. Their program helps campers find out what they are passionate about, form relationships, and obtain a sense of belonging.

Sports camp: Ages 6-12

Sports camps offer youth sports training and are designed to teach sports skills, fair play, teamwork and sportsmanship while

The Official Camp of Summer Fun!

special camp experiences for 2023:

THEATER INTENSIVE

JULY 12-16 **MINECRAFT** REDSTONE ENGINEERS

JUNE 12-16 **SKY HIGH ADVENTURE**

JULY 20-23 'мотосо: **BUILD A V8 ENCINE**

JUNE 5, 12, 26 **MONDAY NICHT FOOTBALL**

JUNE 20-23 JUNE 26-30 LANCER TENNIS

CET THE MOST OUT OF SUMMER AT CAMP GILMOUR

There is more fun than ever at Camp Gilmour this year. With nine weeks of new offerings and old favorites, Camp Gilmour has something for everyone. Campers ages 3 through 12 can choose from full- and half-day traditional day camp experiences, sports, arts and specialty camps. Campers enjoy weekly field trips, special guests, arts and crafts, swimming lessons, ice skating, summer enrichment, and lots of opportunities and activities designed to make new friends.

It's not just camp – it's Camp Gilmour!

JUNE 5 – AUGUST 4

10% DISCOUNT THRU 2/28

LIMITED AVAILABILITY DUE TO HIGH DEMAND

Visit gilmour.org/summercamp Before and After Care available





SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW !

YMCA Greater Cleveland cont'd

reinforcing the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Fine arts camp: Ages 6–12 Summer fine arts camp combines performing and visual arts with a varying weekly theme.

Campers will engage in fun activities that will stimulate the creative nature of each participant.

The Y is one of the nation's largest providers of camp pro-

For more information, please visit www.clevelandymca.org.

Benefits and anticipated outcomes of the camp experience



REGISTER SOON!



Social Skills Development

Leadership Communication **Participation**

Self-Respect and **Character Building**

Responsibility Resourcefulness Resilience

Community **Living/Service Skills**

Caring **Fairness** Citizenship Trustworthiness





Indoor Sports and Fun

at LNSP East!

LIL KICKERS



Spring session: March 14-June 3

- Choose one day per week (Mon, Tues & Thurs 5–6 PM; Saturdays 9-11 AM).
- Innovative child development program based on soccer.
- Focus is on kids from 18 mos.-6 years.
- Classes run 50 minutes per session, once a week.
- Class fee of \$16.50/week.

Contact Kylie Lee (KLEE@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)

LIL SLUGGERS

Winter session runs through March 4 (It's never too late to join!)



Spring session: March 14-June 3

- Introduction to baseball for kids 2-5 years old.
- Classes weekly on Mondays @ 5 pm & Saturdays @ 10 am.
- Nationally franchised child development program.
- Low student/instructor ratio (usually 4–6 kids per instructor).

Contact: Kylie Lee (KLEE@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)

SOCCER 101

Spring session: February 4-March 25

- Next level of child's soccer development after graduating from Lil Kickers.
- Boys & girls ages 6-10.
- Foot skills & fun competitive scrimmages.
- Classes on Saturdays from noon–1 pm.
- 8 weeks (\$120) plus registration fee.

Contact: Kaz (KAZ@LNSPORTSPARK.COM)



MIKE MORAN BASKETBALL CAMPS

Boys & girls ages 6-14

Two separate one-week sessions

Monday-Friday • 9 am-3:15 pm June 19-23 /June 26-30

Tuition is \$185.00 per camper per session. Early bird tuition is \$170.00 for campers registering by May 1!

Register at www.morancamps.com or call 440-338-8092 to request a brochure or for info.



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

440-602-4000 www.LNSportsPark.com



Summer is a time for kids to be kids. And, YMCA Summer Day Camp is the place to have fun and make every precious summer day a great one. Find a Camp near you and register today!

Visit clevelandymca.org or scan the QR code for more information.

