

# TODAY'S family

February 2023

Lake Geauga

FREE!

## Girl Scout Cookies

The season  
is upon us!

Creative ways to  
tell your child  
***I Love You!***

## The Jungle Book

Presented by The Fine Arts  
Association in February

**Summer  
Camp**  
Preview

2023  
**Private  
School**  
Guide

**Teaching  
religious  
tolerance**



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P.O. Box 7316, Eastlake, Ohio 44097

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## 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 chocolate 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](http://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



New Raspberry Rally™ Cookie

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

### 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](http://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](http://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!

## Morley Library presents Romona Robinson on February 11

Morley Library will wrap up their 2023 Winter Reading Program with a visit from journalist and author Romona Robinson on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 11 am. Register at [www.morleylibrary.org](http://www.morleylibrary.org) or by calling (440) 352-3383. This event is free and open to all.

Romona is an eight-time Emmy Award-winning journalist, philanthropist and entrepreneur with 30 years of public speaking experience. She is a national award-winning author of "A Dirt Road to Somewhere" and her latest book "Your Voice is Your Power." She is founder of Romona's Kids, an Emmy-nominated television program-turned-institution in Cleveland that she started in 1990 to empower and encourage

youth to find their path.

Romona is a television trailblazer, becoming the first Black woman to anchor an evening broadcast in Cleveland and the first woman to solo anchor an evening newscast in the city. She is one of the most well-respected and admired journalists in Northeast Ohio, having earned the trust of viewers for her integrity and unbiased reporting. Romona's tireless work with children and her dedication to diversity issues have earned her such prestigious awards as the YWCA's Women of Achievement Award and The Diversity in Media Award. Romona is also recognized for her powerful, dynamic messages as a motivational speaker.



# SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday, February 25 • 5-7:30 pm**  
**Black History Month Event**

Free event. All are welcome. Reservations required.

**Saturday, March 18 • Noon**  
**33rd Annual Women's  
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# Creative ways to tell your child 'I love you'

On Valentine's Day  
or any day of the year

By Kimberly Blaker

Valentine'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 mat, 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.







# It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

girl scouts   
of north east ohio

To find cookies near  
you visit:  
**[gsneo.org/thinmint](https://gsneo.org/thinmint)**



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

By Stacy Turner

From 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 what-not 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 of ten, 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.



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# How to Teach Kids Religious Tolerance

## Accepting Diversity in a Changing World

By Kimberly Blaker

According 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.

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**“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.”**

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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 9**

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

By Cheryl Maguire

I realize 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

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## School's on from page 8

region that was closing schools for several days.

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

wards 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.

## 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 [GreatBigHomeAndGarden.com](http://GreatBigHomeAndGarden.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.

# Lover's Series

Saturday, February 11, 2023

(3) Course Meal for Two

Dinner Served 7–10 pm

**\$99.00**

Individual Ticket \$60.00

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# High school students... Learn to lead!



## Apply now for the Junior Leadership Program Class of 2024

### OVERVIEW

Leadership Lake County Junior Leadership Program provides experiential and transformational full-day educational experiences for high school students to:

- Learn and apply leadership skills.
- Network with Lake County business and civic leaders.
- Engage in a youth-led community impact project.
- Engage in meaningful conversation with students from all Lake County schools.
- Develop 21st century workforce skills in effective communication, critical thinking, public speaking, collaboration and active listening.



### ELIGIBILITY

- Any student living or attending high school in Lake County, Ohio. Students apply in the spring for the following fall program.

### INFO

- Tuition is \$425 (nonrefundable), due May 19, 2023 at orientation.
- Program days meet 7:30 am–2:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month, Sep to May.

### HOW TO APPLY

- Applications available online at [leadershiplakecounty.org](http://leadershiplakecounty.org).
- Applications and forms are due May 1, 2023. Representation from all Lake County schools is desired.
- Email: [info@leadershiplc.org](mailto:info@leadershiplc.org) for more information.

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

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

**Not changing your filter:** There are a variety of issues that stem from not changing your filter; inefficiency and rising energy bills among them.

**No regular maintenance:** Forgoing regular maintenance on your HVAC & plumbing system may seem like an easy way to cut costs, but the damage of doing so can quickly add up over time.

**Blocking airflow:** Proper airflow is one of the most important things that your HVAC system requires to function efficiently. If this airflow is

blocked, multiple issues can arise.

**Actively look for drips:** Drips add up over time and can also signal a larger problem at hand. Loose valves, cracked pipes, or even flooding are all issues that a few small drips can warn homeowners about.

**Upgrade your water heater:** Heating water requires a lot of energy; by upgrading to a more effective, energy-efficient model, you can save a lot of money over time.

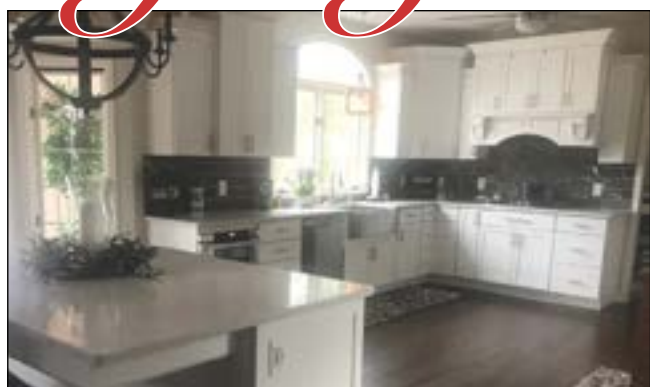
**Check your water meter:** Take a quick look over your water meter to be sure that your water flow is running normally.

Benjamin Franklin Plumbing and DeBord's One Hour HVAC has been servicing northeast Ohio since 1986. They are a full-service plumbing and HVAC company offering a wide variety of services.

Call them today at (440) 285-9125 or (440) 286-6002, or visit [www.BenjaminFranklinPlumbingNEOhio.com](http://www.BenjaminFranklinPlumbingNEOhio.com) or [www.Debordinc.com](http://www.Debordinc.com) for additional information and special offers!

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[LivingSpaceConstruction.net](http://LivingSpaceConstruction.net)

## The Fine Arts Association presents The Jungle Book

The Fine Arts Association presents The Jungle Book by Joseph Robinette as its first full-length theater production of 2023. Based on the book by Rudyard Kipling, this enduring classic opens on February 10 and runs through February 26, 2023.

One of literature's most admired classics is brought vividly to the stage in this exciting adventure of Mowgli, the Indian boy, raised by caring wolves, befriended by Bagheera the panther and Baloo the bear, and threatened by Shere Kahn, the evil tiger. Also present are an array of other jungle creatures who inhabit this action-filled production. Interspersed with the Mowgli tale is the equally intriguing story of a young Rudyard Kipling, who is sent from his home in Bombay to a British boarding school where he encounters his own "jungle," including people—both good and otherwise—who parallel many of the animal characters he created.

"This story of a young boy finding adventure and friendship while

searching for his place in the world is timeless and unforgettable," says David Malinowski, The Roger and Anne Clapp Chair of Performing Arts.

### Production Dates and Times

- February 10, 17 & 24 @ 7:30 p.m.
- February 11, 12, 18, 19, 25 & 26 @ 2:00 p.m.
- February 26 @ 2:00 p.m. – Sign interpreted for the hearing impaired.

### Ticket Prices

(not including processing fees)

- Child: 10 years and younger - \$12
- Student: 11–18 years - \$17
- Senior: 60 and older - \$17
- Adult: \$19

### Running Time

- 90 minutes plus one 10-minute intermission.

### Additional information

- Rated G
- The Corning Auditorium is barrier free. Free on-site parking available.
- Visit [www.fineartsassociation.org/performance](http://www.fineartsassociation.org/performance) to purchase tickets.





# PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

## Tips for choosing a private school

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

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

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

To find the right private school 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 18*

## St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program



Ohio licensed preschool, pre-K, and junior kindergarten programs

### Our Philosophy

Children in the St. Mary of the Assumption Early Education Readiness Program will explore their world through a variety of quality curriculum and center-based learning experiences.

We strive to provide a warm, safe, nurturing, Christ-centered learning environment to promote the spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth of children.

### Faculty & Staff

The staff in our program hold master's degrees, bachelor's degrees, and licenses from the state of Ohio.

### Curriculum & Programming

- Phonics in Motion®
- Creative Curriculum®
- Use of technology (SMART boards, iPads)
- Library, music, art, STEM and physical education classes
- Social-emotional lessons/activities
- Community service projects
- Community visitors
- Daily prayer and spirituality
- Daily snack is provided for all classes
- Junior kindergarten students experience a hybrid curriculum to prepare them for kindergarten while still fostering social play.

Questions? Please contact Elizabeth Looman at  
[elizabeth.looman@stmarysmentor.org](mailto:elizabeth.looman@stmarysmentor.org).

**8540 Mentor Avenue, Mentor | 440.255.9781**  
[stmarymentorschool.org](http://stmarymentorschool.org)

## 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
- Extracurricular activities including Drama Club, CYO Athletics, & Math Club

[sfaschoolgm.org](http://sfaschoolgm.org)



## PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

### 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, 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.

### 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 St., 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 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'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

## We teach the child. We reach the heart.

The opportunities at Gilmour empower students to achieve their goals and discover their passions.

As Northeast Ohio's only independent and Catholic school, Gilmour creates endless possibilities for students to not only learn about the real world, but how to positively impact it.



GILMOUR  
ACADEMY

EDUCATING THE MIND  
EMPOWERING THE HEART

To learn more or schedule a personal tour, visit [gilmour.org/admission](http://gilmour.org/admission)

Gilmour Academy is an independent, Catholic, coed school in the Holy Cross tradition. Grades K-12 and Montessori (18 months - Preschool)  
34001 Cedar Road | Gates Mills, Ohio | 44040





## PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

### Hershey Montessori cont'd

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

(216) 464-0946

Lyman Campus

One Lyman Circle, Shaker Heights

Butler Campus

7420 Fairmount Road

Russell Township

Laurel School, founded in 1896, is a nationally recognized col-

lege 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 150-acre Butler Campus is in Russell Township. The Butler Campus is home to competitive athletics, full-time outdoor experiential 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.



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[WWW.STMARYSCHOOLCHARDON.ORG](http://WWW.STMARYSCHOOLCHARDON.ORG)

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or call 440-286-3590.

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## 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, 9:00am-12:00 pm**

RSVP today! Call 216.464.0946 or visit  
[LaurelSchool.org/OpenHouse](http://LaurelSchool.org/OpenHouse)



**LAUREL**  
Dream. Dare. Do.



## PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

### Notre Dame Elementary and Middle School

13000 Auburn Road, Chardon  
(440) 279-1127  
(440) 279-1129 (Admissions)  
[www.ndes.org](http://www.ndes.org)

On the 450-acre campus of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Elementary and Middle School, as well as, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, educate over 1100 students in pre-school-12th grade. Notre Dame Elementary has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and recognized twice with the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research.

They are excited to announce the restructuring of their school to include a middle school. Notre Dame Middle School features dedicated space for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. The middle school curriculum rigorously prepares the students to be successful in high school and offers honors classes in all three

grades in ELA and math. Enriched learning opportunities are offered in academic core classes, as well as the special classes, to offer a rich and wide variety of learning experiences.

Please contact Barbara Williams in Admissions at (440) 279-1129 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](http://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 Chris-

tian 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; library/media center; and middle school enrichment program.

Please call, or email questions to [admissions@oslpainesville.org](mailto:admissions@oslpainesville.org). Open enrollment is now available to the community and classes fill quickly!



### St. Francis of Assisi School

6850 Mayfield Road, Gates Mills  
(440) 442-7450  
[www.sfaschoolgm.org](http://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

**THE FREEDOM TO  
EXPLORE, CREATE,  
AND INNOVATE.**

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

**SCHEDULE A VISIT TODAY!**  
Learn more at [www.us.edu/visit](http://www.us.edu/visit)

 **UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL**  
*For boys, Junior K-12*

 **#1 Best K-12  
Private School  
in Ohio**



## PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

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

9935 Johnnycake Ridge Road  
Concord Township  
(440) 352-6169  
[www.St-GabrielSchool.org](http://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 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 visit [St-GabrielSchool.org](http://St-GabrielSchool.org).

### St. Mary of the Assumption School and Early Education Readiness Program

8540 Mentor Avenue, Mentor  
(440) 255-9781  
[stmarymentorschool.org](http://stmarymentorschool.org)

St. Mary of the Assumption School in Mentor has been a model of excellence and virtue to the children of northeast Ohio since 1952. St. Mary's provides a warm, safe, supportive and nurturing Christ-centered environment. They provide opportunities for children to learn and grow in their faith both academically and socially.

Their curriculum provides students with an education that challenges them to live faith-filled lives and succeed in high school and beyond. Students have access to the latest technology including a STEM class for students in grades K-8, iPads, Chromebooks, 3-D printers, and Google Classroom.

Students can begin their education with preschool at the Early Education Readiness Program and continue to their fully accredited, coed Catholic school for grades K-8. Tuition assistance and scholarship opportunities are available.

Please call to schedule a tour of the Early Education Readiness Program, K-8 classrooms and to meet the administration, faculty and staff.



# welcome home!



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



Welcoming Christ-centered culture

### 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.



Fun after school activities and junior high elective program



Newly renovated rooms



Well-rounded preschool focused on KDG readiness



STEM designated school by ODE

Join us for our Admissions Open House:  
**Wednesday, March 8 • 6-8 PM**  
[vasj.com/openhouse](http://vasj.com/openhouse)

Villa Angela-St. Joseph HIGH SCHOOL

**WHERE FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY**



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

### St. Mary School Chardon

401 North Street  
Chardon  
(440) 286-3590  
[www.stmaryschoolchardon.org](http://www.stmaryschoolchardon.org)

St. Mary School Chardon is the only Ohio Department of Education designated STEM school in Geauga County and was awarded the Governor's Thomas Edison award in STEM Excellence for the 2021-2022 school year.

Academic programs and extra-curricular activities are designed to stimulate curiosity, develop critical thinking, and foster the desire for lifelong learning. Small class sizes allow teachers to make direct connections and build rapport with their students and meet their individualized needs.

St. Mary Chardon students receive an excellent academic foundation and are prepared to live a faith-filled life in our ever changing society. Come learn more about the excellent academic, faith-filled education offered to students from preschool through eighth grade.

### University School

[www.us.edu/visit](http://www.us.edu/visit)  
Junior kindergarten to grade 8  
20701 Brantley Road, Shaker Hts.  
(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 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](http://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.



## NOTRE DAME ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL



### PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8

- FAITH FORMATION
- ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- TECHNOLOGY, SPANISH & STEM K-8
- HONORS & ON-TRACK MATH AND ELA FOR GRADES 6-8
- OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES ON BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS

#### Contact Us Today!

Barbara Williams, Director of Admissions  
[bwilliams@ndes.org](mailto:bwilliams@ndes.org) | 440.279.1129  
[www.ndes.org](http://www.ndes.org)



*Sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame*



## PRIVATE SCHOOL GUIDE

### 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, writing something. "What on earth are you doing there?," he asked.

"Well, the teacher told us to write an essay on our favorite animal," answered Vic, "That's why I'm here and that's why Sara's sitting in the goldfish bowl." (Ba dum tss.)

# HAWKEN: SCHOOL REDEFINED

Get ready to do school differently!



**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](http://hawken.edu/admissions)

HAWKEN  
SCHOOL



COEDUCATIONAL,  
TODDLER – GRADE 12

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

Lyndhurst



Cleveland–West



Gates Mills



University Circle



## A Great Place To Grow

### Our Shepherd Lutheran School

#### Our Shepherd Lutheran School is a K–8 school that features:

- Five-day, full-day kindergarten
- 1:1 technology for all grades (Chromebooks/iPads)
- Smartboards in the classrooms
- Technology lab with robotics
- Weekly STEAM for K-8
- Library/media center
- Daily religion
- Weekly chapel
- Middle school enrichment program
- Before- and after-care programs available
- Music/choir/band



## Our Shepherd LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Joyfully serving Lake, Geauga,  
and Ashtabula counties

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

440.357.7776 • [oslpainesville.org](http://oslpainesville.org)  
Email: [admissions@oslpainesville.org](mailto:admissions@oslpainesville.org)



# Choosing a private school continued from page 11

### 3. What role do parents play?

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 extra-curricular 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 cre-

dentialed. 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?

Visit [TodaysFamilyMagazine.com](http://TodaysFamilyMagazine.com) for more private school options!

### 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, visit and finally make your selection.

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(B-6th Grade)

10229 Prouty Rd.

Concord Township, OH 44077

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February 8 | April 12 | May 10

### Huntsburg Campus

(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

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# How Children Find Their Purpose At Sleepaway Camp

By Sandi Schwartz

**W**e all want our children 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 sleep-away 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:

1) they belong to a team and bunk; 2) they learn from trying new activities and making new friends; and 3) 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. ➡➡

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JUNE 12–16  
JULY 10–14  
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JULY 20–23  
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JUNE 5, 12, 26  
JULY 10 and 17  
**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL**

JUNE 20–23  
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**It's not just camp – it's Camp Gilmour!**

9 WEEKS OF CAMP  
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Before and After Care available





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.



# 10 Reasons Your Teen Might Love to Be a Camp Counselor

By Janeen Lewis

**D**id your teenager love summer camp as a child? Does he or she need a job but can't work during the school year because of homework and activities? Maybe you're ready for your teen to get employment experience but still have some carefree time outdoors away from electronics. Day or sleepaway camp is the perfect place for teens to transition to the world of the employed. The paycheck is nice, but being a camp counselor has other rewards, too.

## The gift of responsibility

As much as teens sometimes protest about it, learning responsibility is the gateway to more independence as they grow into adults. Camp is an ideal place to build accountability because teens are in charge of other kids or activities, but they are still being supervised. If they work at a sleepaway camp, they must keep their cabin quarters neat and guide

younger children to do the same. If they work at a day camp, they must show up on time, care for children and lead activities. Working at camp is fun, but it also gives teens a glimpse into the adult world with the guidance they still need.

## Opportunity to be a role model

Do you remember a teen you looked up to when you were a kid at summer camp? Maybe he or she helped you perfect your back stroke, taught you how to throw a curve ball or gave the perfect advice for dealing with disagreements between friends. Teens can connect to kids in ways that adults sometimes can't, and when teens work at camp, they experience the fulfillment of helping younger kids meet their goals and develop new skills.

## Refined relationship skills

From fun-centered sports competitions between rival teams to getting chores done for inspection, counselors and campers have to

work together. Being able to do this teaches teens to hone their communication and interpersonal relationship skills. Some camps even offer staff communication trainings and morale-building activities before camp starts to increase awareness and create discussion about how to get along with others.

## Improved time management skills

Teen counselors have to be on time to meals, the morning meeting at the flag pole, and the activities they lead. They're also responsible for gently prodding their campers to be punctual. If they are in charge of a lesson, craft or game, they must plan ahead and make sure they have all the supplies ready and set up on time. These time-management lessons will benefit them as they enter college and the work place.

## Time away from technology

Most day camps and sleepaway camps either have a no-device

policy or have only short scheduled times with technology. Camp is the perfect place to do a "digital detox" and get back to nature, sports and face-to-face socialization.

## Preparation for being away at college

If your teen works at a sleepaway camp, he or she may get a taste of what college life is like. He or she will be responsible for meals, getting up on time or using a coin laundry. These are all valuable lessons that will prepare him or her for college. Also being away from home for an extended period of time for the first time can take some adjusting to and it can create some homesickness. Teen camp counselors have experienced these feelings and dealt with them before they go to college.

## A chance to share talents and skills

Is your teen an athlete? An artist? A nature enthusiast? Can he or she

*Continued on page 23*



## Summer Art Camp Registration is Open!

### Includes:

- All materials/supplies for projects.
- Small class sizes.
- Introduction to various types of art.
- Sign up by the week.
- Full week, full day 9 am–4 pm; \$299.
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### For details and registration visit:

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

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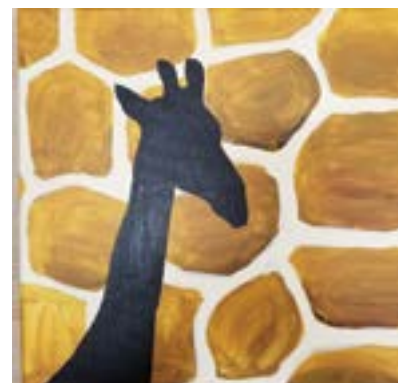
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Or visit <https://bit.ly/21artcamp>

Promo Code: **CAMP35**







# Indoor Sports and Fun at LNSP East!

## LIL KICKERS

**Winter session runs through March 14**

(It's never too late to join!)

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



## SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

### BUSY BEES

Great Lakes Mall  
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Mentor  
(440) 571-5201

[www.mentor.busybeesart.com](http://www.mentor.busybeesart.com)  
[mentor.busybeesart.com/kids-camp](http://mentor.busybeesart.com/kids-camp)

At Busy Bees Pottery & Arts Studio in Mentor they offer Art Camp during the summer, Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 4 pm, or 9 am to noon, or 1 pm to 4 pm. You can enroll for five full days or five half days per week. Children must be between ages of 5–12 (your child must have completed kindergarten and know how to cut with scissors).

Each day of the week revolves around a specific medium. Your child will create one to three pieces of artwork each day using but not limited to the following mediums; clay, pottery, glass fusing, and mosaics pieces. When they are not creating, they are playing games, journaling, and having lots of fun! Space is limited. Sign up now!

### FALCON CAMP

Carrollton, OH  
(800) 837-CAMP  
[www.falconcamp.com](http://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](http://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.

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 am until 6 pm.

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

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

### LAKE COUNTY YMCA

(440) 354-5656  
[www.lakecountyyymca.org](http://www.lakecountyyymca.org)

At the Y, they value the unique personalities and potential of every child and teen. Summer camp creates an environment where kids are encouraged to explore and discover new things, cultivate friendships and make memories that last a lifetime.

The Lake County Y Central, East End, and West End offer a variety of summer day camp and adventure camp experiences for preschoolers and children ages 4–14. Through hands-on experiences, children gain self-reliance, a love of nature and develop ➡



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**North of Rt. 2 off Lost Nation Road**  
**440-602-4000**  
**[www.LNSportsPark.com](http://www.LNSportsPark.com)**

## SUMMER CAMP PREVIEW

attitudes and practices that build character and leadership—all amidst the fun of camp songs, crafts, swimming, sports, talent shows and meaningful friendships.

### LOST NATION SPORTS PARK

38630 Jet Center Drive, Willoughby  
(440) 602-4000

[www.LNSportsPark.com](http://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](http://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 Kazemai, camp director, at [Kaz@LNSportsPark.com](mailto:Kaz@LNSportsPark.com).



## Reasons to be a camp counselor from page 21

dance, write or program computers? Camp is an ideal place for teens to share strengths. I served as a camp counselor when I was in college, and it was the first time I realized I had a knack for teaching kids. It was the gateway to me becoming a teacher, even though I was a journalism student at the time. Camp introduces teens to opportunities that maybe they hadn't considered. It builds confidence and opens doors to future careers.

### Resume building

Working at camp is great experience to put on a resume when your teen is ready to enter the adult world of work. Camp experience is beneficial if your teen wants to teach or coach, but working at camp also builds communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills, all worthy resume additions that may catch a future employer's interest.

### Saving on summer expenses

One of the advantages of working at an overnight camp is that in addition to a paycheck, meals and lodging are usually provided by the camp. Staffers' work and life all happen at the camp, so gas use is minimal. Teen counselors chaperone camp trips to amusement

parks and museums which are usually covered by the camp. Granted, these covered expenses do require responsibility and work, and are not solely carefree outings, but they are positive perks for a summer job.

### A new appreciation for their parents

Being a teen counselor is indeed hard work. It involves stamina, patience and responsibility. Oh, and teen counselors must also teach, guide and care for children younger than themselves. It sounds a teeny bit like parenting, right? Teens who are camp counselors may begin to recognize how hard parenting is. With that recognition, they may have a new appreciation for all their parents do by the end of the summer.

Being a camp counselor is a great start for teens who want to join the world of work. If your teen is interested in beginning the adventure that comes with being a camp counselor, you can find more information at the American Camp Association website at <https://www.acacamps.org/staff-professionals/job-center>.

*Janeen Lewis is a writer, teacher, and mom of two. Her summer as a camp counselor gave her invaluable skills for adulthood.*



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## Registration

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or email:

**Eugene.Tetrack@jfs.ohio.gov**

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

