



December 2023

www.warrencountyesc.com

Tom Isaacs, Superintendent
1879 Deerfield Road, Lebanon OH 45036
513-695-2900



◆ WCESC HOSTS ANNUAL SCHOOL TREASURERS' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON ◆

The Warren County ESC Fiscal Team hosted the annual holiday luncheon for Warren County area school treasurers, ESC Client Districts, their staff and retired Warren County Treasurer's on December 6th. The event is sponsored by various vendors and partners such as: Southwest Ohio Computer Association, American Fidelity, Ennis Britton, RedTree Investments, Lebanon Citizens National Bank, Plattenburg & Associates. The event dates back more than 20 years and provides the opportunity to thank and honor those who work in the fiscal departments to support students, teachers and support staff each day in their respective Districts.

The Warren County ESC Fiscal Team supports the ESC fiscal operations, as well as, serves as the fiscal agent for the Greater Ohio Virtual School, Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County Family and Children's First Council provides fiscal support to Help Me Grow. The fiscal office also provides service in partnership with the Mental Health Recovery Board of Warren and Clinton County. In total the fiscal office has 74 client districts currently.







◆ JOHN K. LAZARES ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL ◆

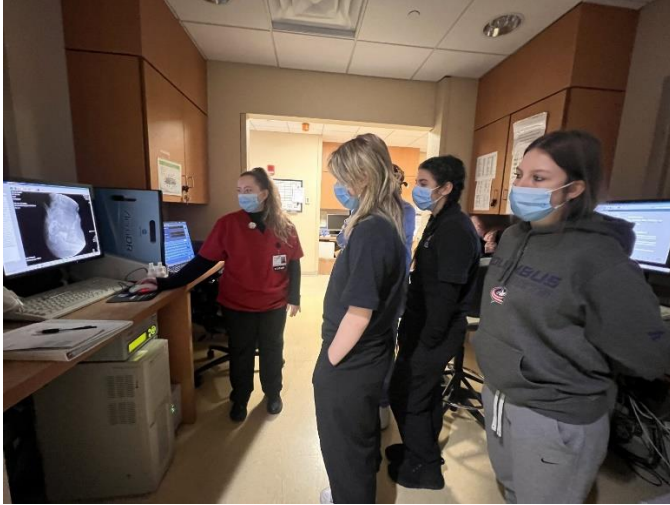
Dustin Goldie, Supervisor
Dan Baker, Assistant Supervisor

Sinclair Students

Students at JKLAS have completed their first two rotations in a 24-week cohort at Sinclair Community College. Our students just completed the healthcare and advanced manufacturing rotations. The healthcare cohort wrapped up the rotation with a visit to UC Health – West Chester Hospital and had the opportunity to tour the facility and meet with several different healthcare professionals on the job. The advanced manufacturing cohort toured FESTO in Mason and finished the tour with a drone presentation.

Pictured: Kacie Wilson (Middletown), Takiyah Redmond (Middletown), Angela Hill (Lebanon), Kalie Smith (Lebanon)





Angela Hill (Lebanon), Kalie Smith (Lebanon)



Jacob Cox (Carlisle) and Tay Winn (Lebanon) Killian Pratt (Sycamore).

Urbancrest Baptist Church

On Monday's, our students go to Urbancrest Baptist Church to work in the Red Barn Food Pantry! They spend time stocking shelves, packing food bags, unloading deliveries, and this year got to participate in helping the church pack over 600 boxes for Operation Christmas Child!



Pictured: Killian Pratt (Sycamore), Davyn Wilhoit (Middletown), Ms. Desiree, Angela Hill (Lebanon) and Ms. Mareel

JKLAS Artists

Our students from JKLAS successfully finished art classes hosted by our partner from the Miamisburg Art Gallery in Miamisburg, Ohio. The students' artwork was displayed throughout the gallery to celebrate all that they accomplished. Over several weeks, the students painted rocks, made jewelry, painted with watercolors, and did collage work! We are so proud of our artists! For Halloween, Mr.

Garrison held a “Halloween Mask” art contest, and the competition was fierce! Staff voted on their favorites, and it was a tough decision!



Harlan Vincent (Waynesville)



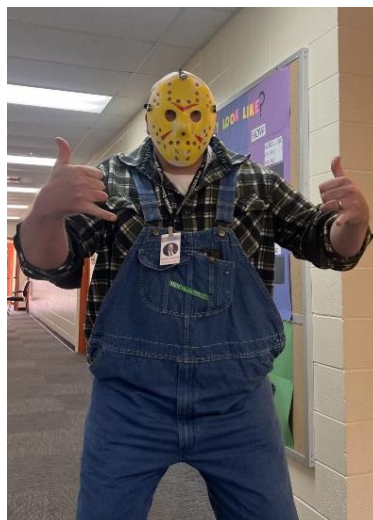
Our Artists and Instructors from Miamisburg Art Guild



Krystal Wood (Middletown)



Krystal Wood, Olliver Berry (Carlisle), Avaya Akers (Lebanon)



Mr. Goldie (JKLAS Supervisor)



PBIS Success!

PBIS has proven to be a great motivator for our students this semester! Students have been working hard to complete classes and earn points! They have “cashed in” on rewards like laptops, air pods, shoes, PS5 gaming systems, purchases from Amazon and lunch from their favorite restaurants!

Alexis Hines (Kings)



Dominic Dermer (Waynesville) with
Cameron Hill (Lebanon)



Davyn Wilhoit (Middletown)

JKLAS Entrepreneurs

JKLAS students are working with Ms. Brown on how to be a successful entrepreneur. The program is off to a great start, they have taste tested pizza from different businesses, voted on their favorite, created surveys for the staff to participate in and have even started making some pizza and testing different crusts!



Ms. Brown, Mr. Campbell and Clearcreek Township Officer Reggie trying out the pizza



Krystal Wood (Middletown)



Nick Franklin (Kings) and Jason Bentley (Springboro)

Workforce Development

Our students have had the opportunity to tour and visit several different facilities and factories in the Warren County area to learn about job opportunities for after graduation thanks to our, College and Career Pathways Coordinator, Shuronda Smith. They have been to E-Beam Inc., Mane Inc., and Great Oaks Career Campuses. Our students have also been getting involved with Ohio Means Jobs to give them even more opportunities both now and after graduation.



Pictured above: Harlan Vincent (Waynesville), Nathan Nauroth (Little Miami), Wyatt Molnar (Lebanon), Jacob Cox (Carlisle), Nathan Weans (Little Miami).

OSHA

We have had two students successfully complete their OSHA 10 training through the Warren County Career Center! Congrats to Harlan Vincent from Waynesville and Krystal Wood from Middletown! We are so proud of our students; they have now moved on to getting certified to operate a forklift! This training will help set them apart from other job candidates!

Pictured: Harlan Vincent (Waynesville)



JKLAS Grads!

We have had several students graduate early from JKLAS already this year! We are so proud of them and know they will do wonderful things in the future! Congrats to Hope Kempf (Springboro), D'Andre Hoard (Middletown), Parker McKeethan (Waynesville), John Bradley (Sycamore), Mariah Parks (Sycamore), Donovan Jones (Madison), AJ Supersad (Middletown), Kaylin Bogan (Lebanon).



Mariah Parks



Donavan Jones

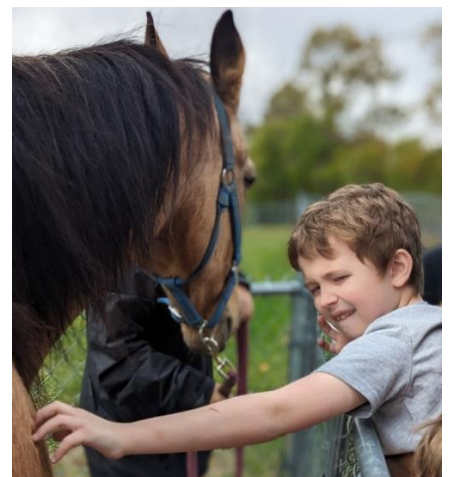


Hope Kempf

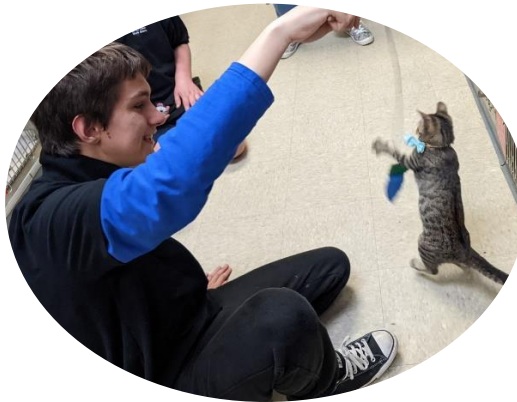
◆ SOCIAL COMMUNICATION CLASSROOMS ◆ **Molly Leicht, Supervisor** **Rachelle Yakumithis, Assistant Supervisor**

Second quarter brought furry friends, Halloween fun, and lots of hard work in the SCC program!

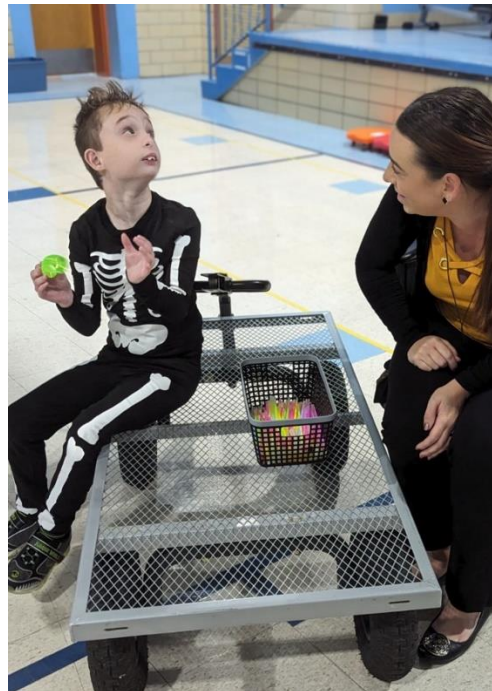
Therapy Horses visited the program in October!



Students in Miss Debbie's room participate in an internship at the animal shelter.

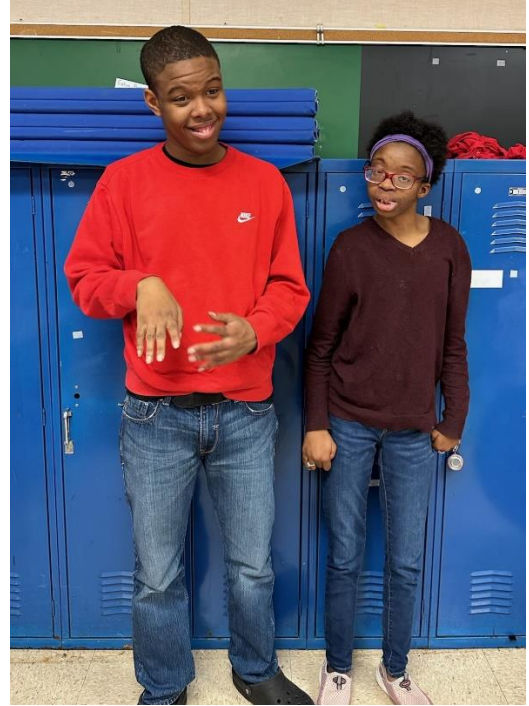


Students and staff participate in trunk or treat fun.



Hard working students!





◆ SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ◆

Kari Burris, MOT, OTR/L, Director of Related Services & Preschool Programming
Alana Jacobs, MS, CCC-SLP, Lead SLP

Great things happening in Speech & Language Therapy...

This is **Marilyn Hunter**, SLP's, second year assigned to the West Carrollton school district at the Intermediate School (5th and 6th grades). Last year, she proposed to the principal, Dr. Monica Woods, that she share pertinent topics with the staff. The principal invited her to present at the first three staff meetings of the new school year! At the first meeting, she shared about the role of the SLP in the schools, along with how to identify students who may struggle with oral language. In the second meeting, she invited her fellow WCESC SLP, **Karen Crabb**, to co-present with her on "*Strategies for Executive Function in the Classroom.*" They kept it simple, teaching the basics of Sarah Ward's "Get Ready-Do-Done-Get Done" strategy and the "clock marking" strategy, along with a bit of the research base behind the strategies. The third staff meeting took place in October with a focus on Michelle Garcia Winner's Social Thinking vocabulary for social emotional learning. Dr. Woods was especially enthusiastic for this subject because she wants the whole school staff to use the same vocabulary for behavioral expectations. Marilyn is enjoying her time at West Carrollton school district and hopes that these presentations build bridges of understanding, relationships and contributing to the overall professional development of the staff.

Submitted by Marilyn Hunter, SLP



OT/PT/SLP Community Groups

On October 31st, SLPs participated in a voluntary Community Group meeting along with Occupational and Physical Therapists. There were 5 groups in total: Interoception, Preschool, Transition, AAC, and Executive Functioning. Each Community Group will meet twice more this school year to develop a product or lesson plan to share with the Departments at the end of the year OT/PT/SLP meeting. Many of our Community Group participants have chosen to develop their SMART goals around their group's project to further their professional growth.



23.24 SLP Professional Development

This fall, the WCESC SLP Department offered three, full-day professional development training events. WCESC SLPs and affiliates participated in the following courses:

- *Comprehensive Assessment and Treatment of Literacy Disorders* with Tatyana Elleseff on September 22nd.
- *The Sweetness of Language Analysis* with Dr. Robert Owens on October 20th.
- *Literacy & Diversity for All* with Angie Neal on November 7th.

These training courses provided a tremendous opportunity for our SLPs to learn current trends in evidence-based approaches to better serve our students with language disorders.



◆ SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT ◆
Kristie Strittmatter, Lead School Psychologist

The fall season has certainly gone by rather quickly! Recently, the school psychology department participated in a long-standing department tradition, Stone Soup. Stone Soup is a day for our department to engage in team building and professional development and is based on the moral of the children's book, *Stone Soup*. This year, the theme for the day tied in with the theme of National School Psychology Week, Let's Grow Together. Our Stone Soup theme was Generosity, Gratitude, and Growth. The school psychologists engaged in an activity to construct a Gratitude Flower while reflecting on things they are thankful for both professionally and personally. The department then came together to build a Gratitude Flower for our department. The group also engaged in professional development about several different areas of assessment. It was a wonderful day making connections and learning with our team.



The staff continues to engage in the **PBIS Rewards** initiative introduced by the supervisors and directors. Staff members have shared several “shout-outs” with each other that result in points earned for items in a “store.” Our store will be opening soon!



◆ OCCUPATIONAL and PHYSICAL THERAPY ◆

Kari Burris, MOT, OTR/L, Director of Related Services & Preschool Programming

Becky Miller, MPT, PT, Lead Physical Therapist

Kim Steele, MOT, OTR/L, Lead Occupational Therapist

NEW CLASSROOM SENSORY EQUIPMENT:

May We Help is an organization of engineers, industrial designers, inventors, welders, woodworkers, seamstresses, doctors, occupational and physical therapists whose skill sets come together to design, build and deliver custom devices at no cost to hundreds of recipients every year. These volunteers work together to create adaptive devices and equipment that cannot be bought commercially.



Lisa Moore, Occupational Therapist at South Lebanon Elementary in Kings, requested a sensory chair to provide students in the multiple disabilities classroom a space to retreat when overwhelmed with sensory overload. This was provided by May We Help free of charge. It has been a huge hit in the classroom!



Learn more and check out some fun volunteer opportunities at this amazing organization: maywehelp.org

CARDIO DRUMMING AT SOUTH LEBANON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

Evidence-based research shows cardio drumming programs improve coordination, timing, spatial awareness, focus and concentration, leading to improved memory and learning. Students receiving occupational therapy with **Shari Hill**, Occupational Therapy Assistant and **Lisa Moore**, Occupational Therapist are "having a ball" while getting ready to learn!



INTERNATIONAL RETT SYNDROME AWARD RECIPIENT:

Ryan Murphy, Physical Therapist at Loveland City School District, was recognized at the "Raise a Glass for Rett Gala!" This gala is an annual fund raiser for the International Rett Syndrome Foundation. Ryan's student, Ceci, and her parents nominated Ryan as their *Superhero for Rett!*:

"Hello, I'm Liz Gearin, mom to Cecilia and so happy to introduce our superhero. Ryan Murphy, better known as Mr. Ryan, is Ceci's physical therapist at LECC. He is a constant bright spot in Cecilia's week and has been for 3 years now. Ceci loves working hard for his admiration. We hear a whole lot about "Mr. Ryan" on her Tobii. Mr. Ryan has been fabulous about keeping up with Cee's equipment needs in the school setting and asking for input. From the start, Mr. Ryan has been engaged and attentive to Ceci's needs. She would NOT have made it to the first two weeks of her preschool career without his resourcefulness and locating a wheelchair before Ceci's own chair was ready. Now and for years to come, the name Omar brightens my day because it was Omar's hand-me down wheelchair that allowed Ceci to ride the bus for her very 1st day of school. He's come into our home, alongside other preschool staff, on two occasions and visited the Perlman Center, where Cecilia also receives therapy, to better understand Cecilia and collaborate with therapy members outside the school setting. Additionally, Mr. Ryan really brightened Ceci's day by coming to her Challenger League baseball game this summer — on a Saturday morning, mind you. Cecilia smiled ear to ear and had an extra sparkle in her eye once she discovered he was in the crowd. Mr. Ryan is Cecilia's real-life superhero. I'm very proud to introduce Cecilia's superhero, Mr. Ryan Murphy."



Ceci and her Superhero, Mr. Ryan

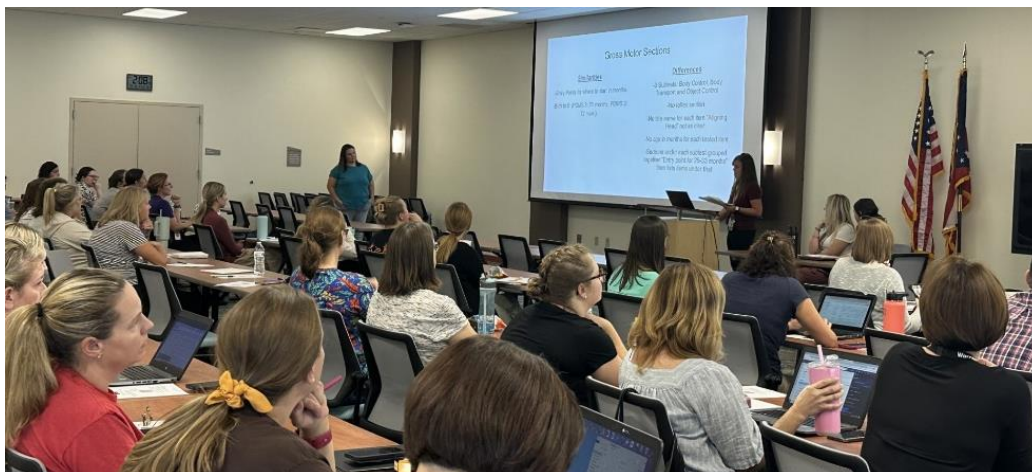
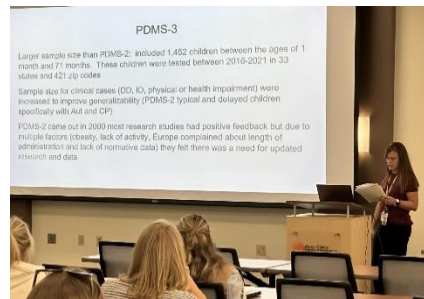
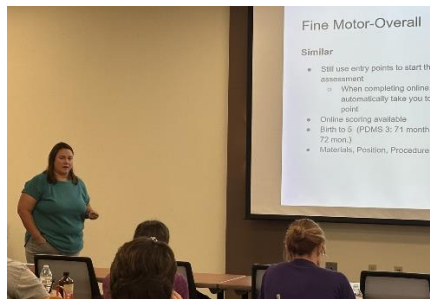
Mr. and Mrs. Gearin with Ryan and his wife, Julie



If you would like to learn more about Rett Syndrome, please visit their website at: rettsyndrome.org.

STAFF TRAINING ON TESTING TOOLS:

Staying updated on testing tools is crucial in the practice of Occupational and Physical Therapy. Continuous learning and training in the latest tools and technologies help improve efficiency and effectiveness in the testing process. The Peabody Developmental Motor Scales, 2nd Edition (PDMS-2) is a standardized assessment tool designed to measure the fine and gross motor skills of children from birth to six years of age. It provides a comprehensive and standardized measure of a child's motor development allowing educators and clinicians to identify any potential motor delays or difficulties. As part of the OT/PT Department meeting held on Oct. 2, staff received training in the newest edition, the Peabody Developmental Motor Scales, 3rd Edition. **Jessica Carter** (below left), Occupational Therapist and **Valerie Szakal** (below right), Physical Therapist, provided a review of the PDMS-3, which included important comparisons to the previous edition. This provided staff with a clear introduction to this revised tool.



OT/PT/SLP COMMUNITY GROUPS:

On Oct. 31, staff from the OT/PT department, along with staff from the SLP department held the first Community Group meeting for the 2023-24 school year. These Community Groups are collaborating to produce tangible resources for the departments in the areas of Executive Functioning, Interoception, Preschool, Transition, and AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).



STAFF HOLIDAY GATHERING:

On Nov. 29, the occupational and physical therapy staff gathered for their department meeting and Holiday Party! A special treat was provided by the WCESC Leadership – a charcuterie board with artisan cheeses, meats, fruit, vegetables, and chocolates! It was a big hit and fueled everyone for the meeting! Staff also participated in a Make-and-Take, working in small groups to create a short lesson plan with materials provided. Lots of creative ideas were shared by all!



◆ **NURSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT** ◆
Terri Elam, RN, LSN, Supervisor
Jill Buffenbarger, RN, Supervisor

Student Spotlight

Here are just a couple of students who have had a WCESC nurse for 1:1 nursing services at school and after-school events since preschool. Now it is hard to believe that they are in high school! Many students have complex obstacles that we cannot see that they must overcome to achieve success. We are so proud of the students we serve as we witness their strength and many achievements!



Homecoming 2023
 Jarret Coronado-Quinten Attends
 Kings High School Homecoming 2023
 (accompanied by Nurse India Ball)



Moving Up
 Lebanon Student Fazil Akalin
 is ready for High School and
 Ready to Learn!

Watch out for FLU and Pneumonia and learn simple ways to stay healthy this fall and winter!

Flu Clinic

The WCESC offered flu vaccines to its employees at no cost to them as a benefit of the employee health benefit package at its annual flu shot events this fall. The events were a success, and we wish everyone a healthy holiday season!

Influenza

The CDC states Flu Symptoms can be mild to severe and usually come on suddenly. People who have flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- fever* or feeling feverish/chills (*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.)
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue (tiredness)
- may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

You can find out more about FLU and what to do if you think you might have the flu by visiting the CDC website and watching this [video](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/symptoms.htm#print). Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/symptoms.htm#print>

Pneumonia

According to the Warren County Health District, cases of pneumonia are on the rise in our area for students ages 3-14 years of age. A WCHD media release on 11/30/2023 stated, "While the number of cases is higher this year, the severity is similar to previous years. Most cases recover at home and are treated with antibiotics. The information was shared so that individuals would be aware of illness in the community and take necessary steps to protect their health such as washing their hands, covering cough, staying home when ill and staying up to date on vaccines."



COVER YOUR COUGHS AND SNEEZES

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Put your used tissue in the waste basket.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm>



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, especially after touching tissues with secretions after coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

About WCESC Nursing Services

School Clinic Nursing

School clinic nurses are either a Licensed School Nurse (LSN) or are directed or supervised by a LSN to provide care for students in their building. Some tasks of the clinic nurse include providing first aid, coordinating care of students with chronic or acute health conditions, administering medications, performing health care procedures, training staff how to recognize and respond to common

health-related emergencies, providing vision and hearing screenings, educating families, immunization surveillance, and collecting health data for required reports submitted to the Ohio Department of Health.

One on One Care Nursing

WCESC employs nurses who provide 1:1 care to students with complicated chronic health care needs throughout the school day. These nurses meet the student at their home, get report from the family or the student's at-home nurse in the morning, ride the bus to and from school with the student and spend the day with the student while continuously monitoring their condition and meeting their health care needs while at school. A few nurses meet their students when they arrive at school.

WCESC Contacts / Nursing Supervisors:
Jill.Buffenbarger@WarrenCountyESC.com
Terri.Elam@WarrenCountyESC.com



◆ COORDINATED CARE ◆

Kevin Stevens M. Ed., LSW

Supervisor of Coordinated Care & Clinical Committee Coordinator

Anger Management Services

The staff of the Coordinated Care Department is currently in the process of completing intensive anger management training through Century Anger Management. The training consists of 40 hours of training with quizzes, one written test and one test taken online. Once completed staff will be certified to provide anger management services. All tests must be passed before being certified.

The training will help our staff deal with a variety of issues facing youth and adults in regard to situations that can lead to violence. Many youth who have been referred to Coordinated Care/Diversion are involved in the Juvenile Justice System or are at high risk to become involved. It is hoped that the anger management training will enhance our service coordination programming and to improve community, family, individual and worker safety. The training is expected to be completed by the middle of January 2024. The training includes the following: Anger Management for Adults, Anger Management for Adolescents, Assessments, Anger Control Tools and much more.



To make a referral for Service Coordination or any program through Coordinated Care you can call 513-695-2900 Ext. 2916 or email Kevin.Stevens@WarrenCountyESC.com.

◆ WCESC DEERFIELD CAMPUS (WELLNESS CENTER) ◆

Jared Kaiser, Supervisor

The Wellness Center Program has started the year strong providing positive programming and educational support for student growth. As we progress through the second quarter of the school year, student success is achieved through the day-to-day work being put in the classroom. Wellness Center programming is now operating at full capacity, which is a feat we are all proud of. The Wellness Center

team has welcomed many new students but is also gearing up to celebrate the success of current students who are preparing to move beyond the Wellness Center back to their district or to a more academically focused program. This is a huge accomplishment for our graduating students as they have demonstrated the skills needed for future social and emotional success.

The Wellness Center is blessed to have the support of our Resource Coordinator, Christy Panzarelladunbar. She has worked miracles this school year by getting our students access to a variety of resources, fun activities, and life essentials for themselves and their families. One event in particular Christy coordinated was the visit from Shoes for the Shoeless. Shoes for the Shoeless is a charitable organization that operates on donations and generous continuous donors. Their mission is to provide shoes for all students/individuals in need. The event is not only benefiting our students this year, but the organization has voiced interest in making this a continued yearly event. The joy and smiles exhibited by students that day made a huge impact on all involved as they expressed great feelings of gratitude and appreciation for the generosity Shoes for the Shoeless showed them. It was a great experience for all and we can't say thank you enough to Christy and Shoes for the Shoeless!





◆ MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ◆
Jessica Woody, Mental Health Supervisor

What a busy quarter we have had! Each month the mental health team in all buildings and districts has an overall theme to work towards. Each theme is based on a way to build resilience. With these themes the staff have ideas for schoolwide projects or small groups, articles for staff and teachers to read and so much more! Many of the pictures and information below show how the themes are being carried out in buildings. Additionally, the prevention team in the mental health department has worked on creating prevention-based materials for programs that are in line with themes for the month that are set on a national scale (such as Bullying Prevention Month in October)!

Alternative School

Staff at JKLAS have worked on setting up a new structure for the year. This includes having a full-time therapist in the building (Katie Hendricks). Emily Lemaster has worked to increase groups in the building and student check-ins throughout the day. Additionally, the team has worked on ways to display themes throughout the building with the help of students. On this board, they were able to look at what students view as safe and in what ways students are safe. This was a great opportunity for students to engage and advocate for their needs!

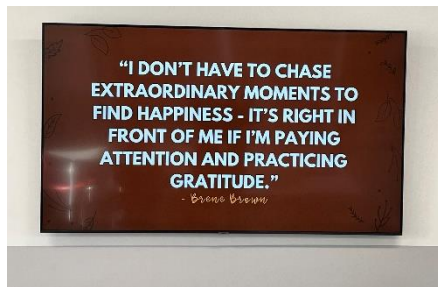


Carlisle Local Schools

Within the elementary school at Carlisle, Erica Ivey has worked on different ways to engage with students and provide preventative care within the district. She has created “Empower Towers” that are available to all staff and students. These towers have different worksheets that allow students to gain skills for the classroom outside of time spent in her office. Additionally, they provide staff resources on increasing student skills. Along with the towers, Erica has worked with students and staff on a kindness tree in which they can take different acts of kindness to do for others.

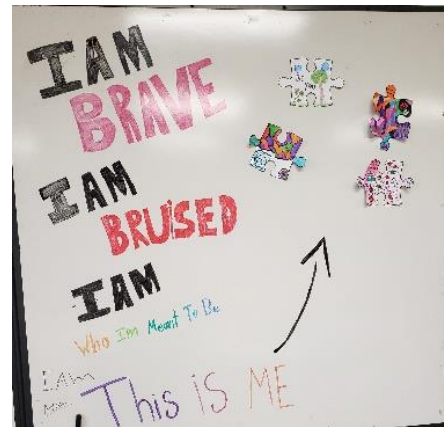
At the high and junior high school, Tiffany Viel has worked with staff and students for gratitude week. They were able to share different informational slides throughout the building.

Tiffany has also worked with the resource coordinator from the ESC to provide information regarding families and needs. They have helped with Christmas gifts and needs for the holidays for families in Carlisle!



Greater Ohio Virtual School

The Mental Health Consultant at GOVs, Jackie, has worked on creating different groups that allow students to engage in mental health skill building while earning offline hours through GOVs. This is helpful for students in a virtual program who desire some time with peers and can attend the groups at the Western Row campus. Currently, Jackie holds an Art Club, Book Club and Wellness Group!



Learning Center Campus

The Learning Center team has been busy meeting with the students in the program! Each student receives mental health therapy and case management services with the team. In addition to working with students, the team has helped to provide education to the Learning Center team as a whole with mental health moments in the morning. These moments are quick reminders of skills that help students with mental health concerns. These may include the skills of Reflect-Honor-Connect and deep breathing activities. These skills are modeled in the mental health moments in the morning and staff receive PBIS points as a team when observed utilizing these skills!

Staff have also participated in spirit weeks to work with students in fun and engaging ways! As seen in this picture during dress in your favorite color day-Barbie Pink!

Staff have also displayed the theme for teachers and students in the mental health areas of each Learning Center campus. In the month of November, the department theme was thanks. Each building at the Learning Center worked to create a "Thankful Tree." Students were able to write on the different leaves items that they are thankful for! In working alongside the mental health team as a Tier 1 Coach, Karen Crabb, has worked to provide materials for staff in order to simplify ways of managing behavior in the classroom through classroom structure.





Little Miami

In the younger grade levels, Crystal, has been flexible in meeting student needs within the district. Crystal has worked with school staff on finding ways to incorporate needs of students within the building. Staff within the primary school worked to build a sensory area in the courtyard of the building. In this area students have access to a safe and calming environment. Students enjoy having this space to come and experience a mindful moment!

Meredith and Amy, in working with the Hope Squad at Little Miami High School, have had a lot of great opportunities with students. They have attended a Leadership Conference for Hope Squad that was a valuable time for students and provided resources to the students that are working hard to make sure their fellow students understand resources to be safe!



Mason

Kalia, the Mental Health Consultant for Mason, has been working hard with students to plan groups, complete student check ins and work with the district on Threat Assessments.

Kalia has also been brainstorming different resources for students who are struggling with substance abuse concerns outside of school!



Phoenix Academy

Abby and Amberia are the amazing team at Phoenix Academy! They have been working with students in the program by utilizing Circle Forward and other group curriculums.

SMOY

Jessica Kerns, mental health consultant, is in her second year at St. Margaret of York. She is working within the classrooms by providing social emotional learning curriculum of Friendly. This has allowed all students to learn social skills within the building.

Social Communications Classrooms

At SCC, Holly and Lindsay are busy running groups and helping with student behavioral concerns. They are able to de-escalate students from a mental health perspective during behaviors. Holly has been meeting with students individually for therapy services. Additionally, they have both implemented circle groups around the themes for the month!

TLC

At TLC, Rachel is working with students as both a job coach and a mental health behavioral interventionist. She has been helping complete student check ins and doing mental health groups with students.



Waynesville

At Waynesville, Liz is working with students on fun and engaging lessons regarding managing emotions and learning coping skills. In these lessons, she had students help to create a door with all the coping skills that they are learning with her!

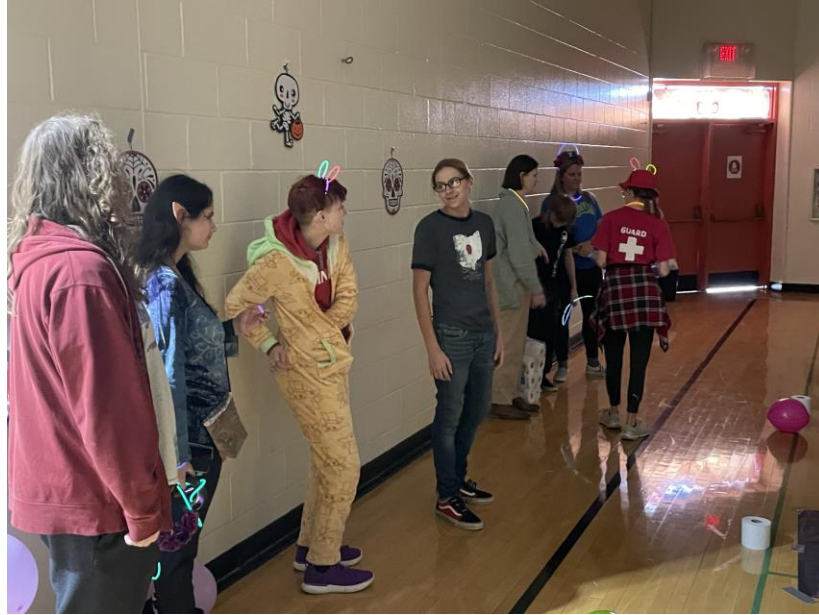


◆ GREATER OHIO VIRTUAL SCHOOL ◆ Shawn Lenney, Director

Student Engagement Increase at the Greater Ohio Virtual School

The students at the Greater Ohio Virtual School are increasing their engagement in the school year after year. What does this mean? It means that more students are engaging in their curriculum, completing lessons, visiting the Student Center, and participating in activities hosted at the school. Student Engagement at a virtual school is essential to experiencing success. It can affect the graduation rate, school funding, attendance, and the overall experience each student has at the Greater Ohio Virtual School. The staff at GOVS continually meets to discuss how to increase student engagement every week and has taken significant steps in offering students the opportunity to increase engagement each year. All engagement data is tracked throughout the year, and GOVS has increased student engagement by 5% overall compared to last year, with a 6% increase in lesson completion. These two data points will ultimately lead to more graduates and an increase in graduation rate on the school report card. Student Engagement events that have already taken place include a Back to School Bash, Fall Festival, Art Club, and Career Fair with Ohio Means Jobs. Future engagement events and activities will include the annual Winter Luau, Family Bingo Night, Field Day, and the Creation of the first musical ensemble at the Greater Ohio Virtual School. More information on these future events and activities can be found on the GOVS website at www.mygovs.com







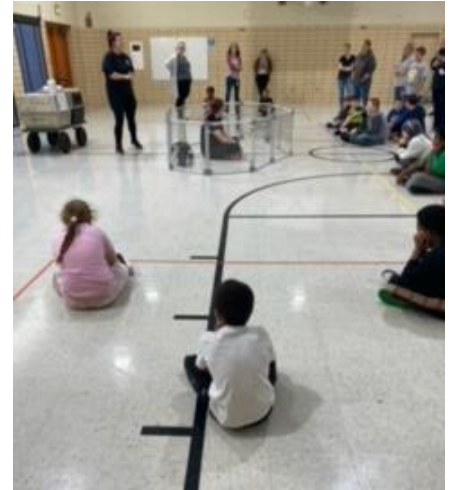
◆ **WARREN COUNTY LEARNING CENTER** ◆
Jason Boone, St. Mary Supervisor/Western Row
Wiley Collett, St. Mary Supervisor/Franklin
Julie Hunter, Laura Farrell Supervisor/Franklin

Laura Farrell Campus

The Learning Center-Laura Farrell Campus has partnered with Sinclair to work with our 6th and 7th-grade students, getting them focused on Workforce Development skills. They are building a dog named Kiki out of Legos and then will learn how to program her to move.



In November, the Cincinnati Zoo Wings of Wonder program brought 2 penguins to the Learning Center. The students learned all about the penguin's habitat, diet, life span, and characteristics.



St. Mary Campus

The Warren County Learning Center St. Mary staff are proud of the students that participate in the Miamisburg Art Guild during the first semester. Students were exposed to many different types of art and used their creativity to make wonderful pieces of art. The students earned a lunch out in the community, and were given art supplies to continue to practice their art skills at home.



Students from the Learning Center and Art Guild Staff



For Thanksgiving, the Warren County Learning Center- St. Mary Campus gathered to celebrate what they were thankful for, and enjoy a lunch prepared by the staff to show their gratitude towards the students. Staff served the students lunch, and the students that were on the Ash or Phoenix level of the Learning Center's level system got to eat staff in the gymnasium with staff members.

Congratulations to the students who have leveled up in our level system to earn more privileges, and we look forward to seeing you continue to grow.

To celebrate the holidays at the Learning Center, students will be earning raffle tickets based on the expectations of being Ready to Learn, Responsible, Respectful, Safe, and Mindful. Each classroom created a

raffle basket as well as the behavior interventionists and administrative team for the students to win. The St. Mary team is looking forward to seeing who wins a basket, and how many tickets can be earned in the month of December.

Western Row Campus

At Western Row, our students have had the opportunity to go on several worksite and college visits throughout the first and second quarters. Our students really enjoy getting to see the abundance of options that Warren County has to offer regarding potential career/work opportunities as well as post-secondary education. Pictured below, our students were able to tour The Great Wolf Lodge to gain experience in the customer service industry. They toured Scarlet Oaks to gain knowledge as to what post-secondary options were available to them upon graduation such as the welding industry and police force. At Sinclair, Mason police showcased their robotics that can climb stairs and investigate potentially dangerous situations. Our Work Force Development program has given our students vast experiences in employment opportunities, and we are really looking forward to the rest of the school year! Our hope is to give our students as many experiences as possible so they have a solid idea of what their future holds!

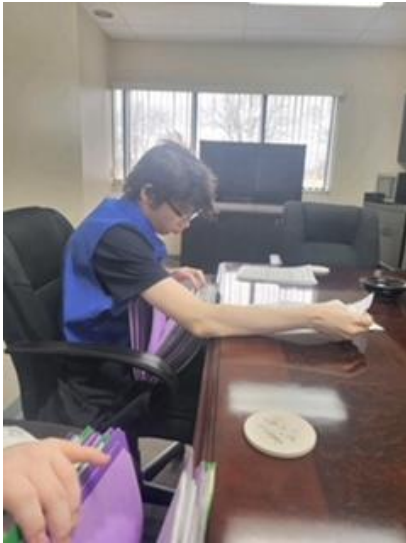


◆ **TRANSITION COORDINATORS** ◆
Amanda Pennix, Supervisor

TLC

The TLC interns have been working hard!! We are lucky enough to work in several area locations: Dick's Sporting Goods, Novo Health, Red Robin, and La Rosa's to name a few. We are learning many employability skills while on the job!!





We held our own Fall Feast with all the fixings!! Interns learned all about party planning and cooking and baking.





This November, we held our first annual Family Dessert Party!! The interns made many different desserts to share with their families. It was a great party!!







College and Career Pathways Coordinator

A new position at the Warren County Educational Service Center is the role of College and Career Pathways Coordinator. This position supports students at the Western Row Learning Center and the John K. Lazares Alternative School. Throughout the first quarter, many college tours were organized. The Western Row Learning Center students toured Wright State University on October 25, 2023. Students were able to tour the college campus and learn about the different programs and departments on campus. The students ended the tour by eating lunch in their private dining room at Wright State University.





The students at the John K. Lazares Alternative School participated in a tour at Mane, INC. in Lebanon, Ohio. The students had a chance to learn about the company's history and how they make flavors and smells for different companies, i.e., they make the Grippo's Bar B Que Potato Chips flavor, flavors for the Takis Chips, flavors for the Lays Potato Chips, the vanilla for Starbucks and Hagan Daaz ice cream. The students were able to participate in the sensory panel and we received positive feedback from Mr. Kibbey from the taste test lab at Maine, INC., *"We received feedback once you guys left, that the last gentleman who took a long time in the sensory panel, left some of the best, detailed notes they've seen. They said the notes are superior to some of their current panel judges! He may be interested in welding, but at a young age, it seems he already has a palette for flavors!"*





Work Force Development Coordinators

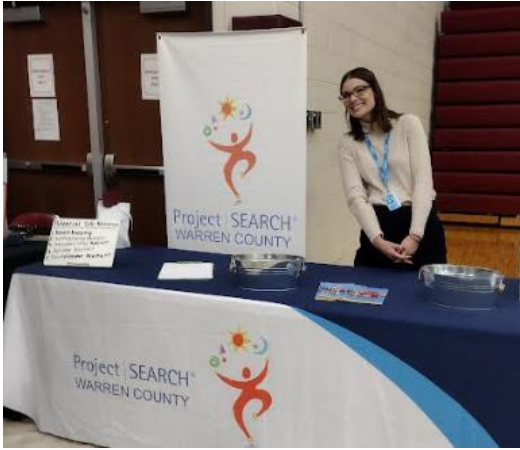
The Work Force Development Coordinators were trained by Easter Seals and Ohio Means Jobs on utilizing the new VR technology that allows students to complete some hands activities in career exploration! The Work Force Development Coordinators will be bringing this technology to your school soon!!!



Lebanon High School

The students at Lebanon High School are still working in the community. Students are going out to Skyline, Rural King, Billie's Burgers, YMCA, Lebanon Electric, Bob Pulte, and Ruff House. They are also involved in career exploration opportunities. Students are receiving information on transition programs that are in the area.





Springboro High School

Springboro High School students are busy working within their school and community. Students are participating in work study, career presentations, and job shadowing. Some high school students have started working with the elementary school rewards store.





Mason High School

Mason and Franklin students attend Jobs Class with Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities to develop employability skills.



Franklin Schools

Franklin HS Students compete in schoolwork study opportunities to develop employability skills.

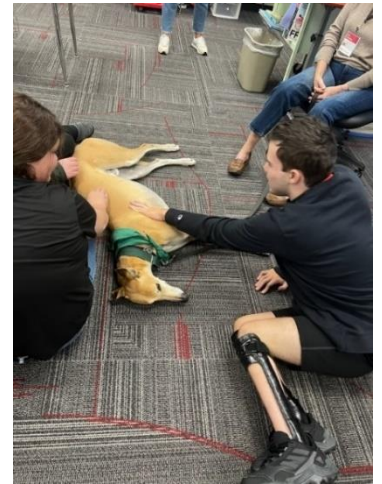




Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities presented to Junior High students at Franklin Junior High to learn about ways to support employment goals.

Waynesville High School

Waynesville High School students are enjoying spending time with Roo, a therapy dog from Pet Partners.



Little Miami High School

Little Miami High School students enjoying their work experiences at Greenfield Plant Farms.



Kings High School

Kings High School students have a new logo for the dog bones business, Bow Wow Bakery. Students worked with a student in Mrs. Shields Digital Media Arts class to create the logo. The business is up and running. The students are learning entrepreneurial skills.



Warren County Multiple Disabilities Classrooms

Students from Warren County MD Program attended their internship at Animal Friends Humane Society. Their job is to provide social skill development for cats who are ready to be adopted. The purpose of social skills is to help the cats become more comfortable and confident in various social situations. It helps them learn to interact with other cats, humans, and even in different environments. Ultimately, this can improve their overall well-being and increase their chances of finding a loving, forever home.



Warren County ESC Social Communications Program

A group of students from Warren County Social Communication attended their first day of internship placement at Animal Friends Humane Society (AFHS). They spent their first day helping out the AFHS staff by doing enrichment activities, allowing the staff to focus on other responsibilities. The students made peanut butter Frisbees, treats filled in Kongs and covered with peanut butter, and put treats in toilet paper rolls, then closed the ends. This helps keep the dogs' minds busy while they wait for their new forever home.

A comment from Myra, who is the Enrichment Coordinator, shows the potential in our students:

"Students coming to the shelter to volunteer lets them see how we operate. They have been given different tasks to complete. We've had them make adoption folders and they've put dog and cat tags on collars for us. They have also made a variety of different kinds of enrichment for the dogs. They are seeing these tasks through from start to finish. I believe them being here with us will help them learn skills like following directions, asking questions and clocking in and out and prepare them for their future career."



Carlisle High School

Students from Mr. Tincher's class have partnered with Carlisle High School's food services department to provide valuable opportunities for our students to develop important job and life skills. This program aims to familiarize students with various job responsibilities, teach appropriate social skills and reactions, and boost their self-esteem.

Currently, the students are responsible for tasks such as stocking snack carts, filling milk coolers, resupplying condiments, and handling recycling. By participating in these activities, our students are gaining exposure to real-life skills and responsibilities that will support their future success in the workforce.



◆ **HELP ME GROW and EARLY INTERVENTION)** ◆
Stefanie Post, Program Director
Angela Hensley, Assistant Supervisor



The Home Visiting program was also able to assist families with food for the Thanksgiving Holiday! The Home Visitors delivered baskets that included a turkey and roasting bag, green bean casserole ingredients, corn, bag of potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, rolls, butter, cake mix and pie!

A big thank you to the Hometown Marketplace in Waynesville who donated 5 turkeys, and Discount Drug Mart for always going out of the way to help us meet the needs of the families we serve. We are very grateful for our caring Community!



The families were very appreciative for the food, a few of them even cooking Thanksgiving dinner for the very first time!! They proudly sent us pictures of their dinner!



◆ PHOENIX ACADEMY ◆
Tara Gee, Supervisor

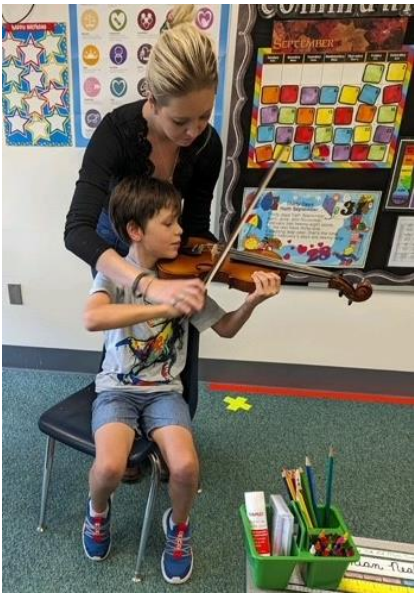
What's The Latest

We have been busy here at Phoenix Academy! We recently had some new students enrolled and are working hard on expected and appropriate behaviors while incorporating academics and fun along the way!

Classroom Fun!

In Ms. Wilson and Ms. Ryan's room the students got to make JUNGLE SLIME! The students were studying ecosystems and the rainforest.





Ms. Powell's class had a special visitor come by and talk to the class about music and even brought in some instruments for the students to look at and explore. The special visitor was Ms. Powell's very own daughter!

The students in Ms. Powell's class read the book *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate. "Crenshaw" is a fictional story about a family that struggles to make ends meet and ends up homeless. The main character, a little boy named Jackson, gets a surprise visit from his old imaginary friend, a large talking cat named Crenshaw. The class had a party for the book where they enjoyed some cupcakes and had another special visitor, Ms. Powell's cat named Echo.



Building Incentives!

The students have been working hard towards their monthly incentives by meeting a daily goal to achieve an overall monthly goal. We had a cupcake decorating and an apple nacho bar recently. It was a delicious hit and the students were all smiles!





Halloween/Parent Conferences and Family Engagement night!

We had a couple of busy days in October! The students got to trick-or-treat inside the community room, we had a great turn out with donations from students and families to make it a fun day!



For parent/teacher conferences we had pizza, salad, and cookies. It was a great turnout for Phoenix Academy!



Our resource coordinator Desiree had a table set up with fall crafts, pamphlets of information for parents and some goodies for the students.

◆ MULTIPLE DISABILITIES PROGRAM ◆

Students identified with Multiple Disabilities – Western Row MDESC
Jill Buffenbarger, RN, Supervisor (Western Row Campus)

Western Row MDESC Students Visit the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

In September, Mason students explored the Cincinnati Zoo. When selecting destinations for community outings, accessibility is a critical consideration. The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Zoo "Access for All" program is designed to encourage families and individuals of all backgrounds to visit the world-class organization to build lifelong and multi-generational memories. The zoo is committed to inspiring every visitor with wildlife every day and believes everyone should have the opportunity to experience and cultivate a positive connection to wildlife and wild places. The zoo seeks to include all members of our community regardless of economic status or other limiting factors. The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center has been working to become the most welcoming, accessible, and inclusive zoo for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.



Paraprofessional, Johnna Childs, reflected on the outing: "I love seeing our students out in the community enjoying themselves. It puts a huge smile on my face to see them excited about all the animals at the zoo. We all had an amazing time!" Paraprofessional, Connie

Jean Smith added, "The high school students were excited to travel to the Cincinnati Zoo to learn about different animal species and their habitats. The zoo is such a dynamic classroom for students of all ages!"



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220
(513) 281-4700
cincinnati zoo.org



Western Row MDESC Students Visit Irons Fruit Farm

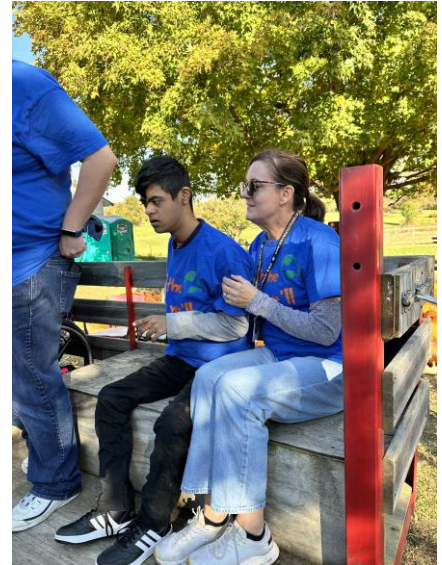
Students enrolled in the Multiple Disabilities Program at Western Row Elementary School visited Irons Fruit Farm in October. In the early 1900's, the Irons family did general farming. The second generation began growing potatoes and apples. The first orchards were planted in the late 1930's and the first apple crop was sold in the early 1940's. Apple cider was made and sold also. Later, a large cold storage was built, and a large horse barn was transformed into a salesroom, which is still in use today.

The third generation began growing strawberries, tart cherries, peaches, pumpkins, and vegetables. These were followed by blueberries and raspberries. A seasonal bakery and ice cream store were added to complement the market.

The fourth generation makes apple cider in a modern mill, which is also used as a cannery for our apple butter, jams, and jellies. A greenhouse was built in 1999 to grow vegetable plants for field crops.



Irons Fruit Farm
1640 Stubbs Mills Road
Lebanon, OH 45036
(513) 932-2853
www.ironsfruitfarm.com



On Fall weekdays, the farm offers fun and educational orchard tours, as well as hayrides to pick pumpkins for 15 or more people, by reservation. On Fall weekends, a 12-acre corn maze and hayrides are available to pick pumpkins. The bakery is busy making pies, apple fritters, cider donuts, caramel apples, and more. Enjoy friendly farm animals, a chance to picnic on the farm, special events, foods, and activities.

At the farm, all the students and staff were able to sample some fresh apple cider and apple cider donuts. The gracious staff at Iron's helped load students in their chairs onto tractor-pulled wagons to tour the pumpkin fields. Everyone was welcome to pick a pumpkin or gourd to take home. Back at school, each class carved/decorated jack-o-lanterns. Mrs. April Dye was the judge and awarded the Littles Classroom the first-place ribbon!

Speech & Language Pathologist, Ashley Atkinson attended the outing. She commented, "Our trip to Iron's was a blast! Students were all smiles riding on the hayride to pick the best pumpkins in the patch. Sugared donuts, apple cider, and delicious apples were ready for picking. We look forward to many more trips in the years to come."



Mason Students in the Littles Classroom Explore Jungle Jim's

Students enrolled in the Multiple Disabilities Program at Western Row Elementary School visited Jungle Jim's in Fairfield in November. With two locations, more than 500,000 square feet combined, hundreds of thousands of products, and over 70 countries represented, Jungle Jim's International Market is locally grown, but internationally known. Jungle Jim's is a destination for foodies, tourists, weekly shoppers, and class fieldtrips from around the corner to across the pond. Visitors can shop without borders and share their experiences.





Jungle Jim's International Market
 5440 Dixie Highway
 Fairfield OH 45014
 (513) 674-6000
junglejims.com

Jungle Jim's International Market
 4450 Eastgate South Drive
 Cincinnati OH 45245
 (513) 674-6000
junglejims.com

The students in the Littles class extended their classroom lesson to the classroom grocery store. The students have been learning about following directions and using lists. Prior to the community outing to Jungle Jim's, intervention specialist, Jenny Bishop, had her class listen to the book, *Growing Vegetable Soup*, by Lois Ehler. The students learned the necessary ingredients to make soup and the proper sequence of assembling such. Using images and printed words, the students practiced new vocabulary to make shopping lists. At Jungle Jim's, Mrs. Bishop's students used their lists to find the ingredients and crossed the items off their lists. Finally, they were all able to make soup and enjoy a delicious fall meal.

Of the outing, paraprofessional Lesley Staneck commented, "the students had a great time learning about vegetables and what they look like and how they feel." Intervention specialist Jenny Bishop added, "I love that we get the opportunity to connect the classroom to the real live experiences through our outings. It is so valuable for our students!"



High School Students Travel Back in Time to the Land of the Lost

In October, students in the High School classroom had fun learning about dinosaurs and how they lived. The students learned about fossils and archaeological digs. The lesson touched on assembling a dinosaur skeleton from bones and what factors in their environment could have harmed the dinosaurs and other organisms and aided in their extinction. As they wrapped up the lesson on dinosaurs, the class created a landscape with tar pits, bones, dirt, trees, dinosaurs, and a working volcano. Students from other classrooms in the Multiple Disabilities Program joined the class to observe the volcano erupt with a mixture of baking soda and red vinegar.

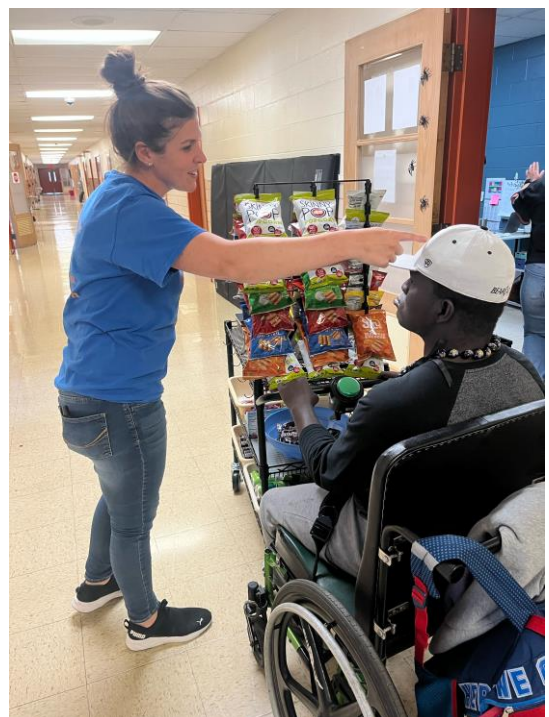
Paraprofessional, Hillary Hobbs commented “the students enjoyed learning about dinosaurs and volcanos. They created a landscape complete with a working volcano. It was great!” Intervention Specialist, Samantha Martin said of the lesson, “Everyone pitched in to recreate the carnage of the fall of the dinosaurs. Our students are always so excited to participate in hands-on activities when creating visual representations of their lessons.”



Mason Students Engage in PBIS

Positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) is a schoolwide systems approach aimed at establishing positive student culture and individualized behavior supports necessary to create a safe and effective learning environment for all students. While most people

associate PBIS with student incentives and rewards, the program is extended to promoting an atmosphere of recognition and appreciation for staff and building a positive staff culture. A PBIS initiative lays the groundwork for positive staff culture by promoting positive student culture. This initiative aims to motivate through recognition. Teachers and support staff pour themselves into their work and acknowledging their dedication is a powerful strategy letting them know they are seen, appreciated, and valued. Our schoolwide teacher rewards program allows every member of our staff to recognize their colleagues for their efforts.



Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, students in the Multiple Disabilities program will be recognizing our building staff with our Class Dash program. On Fridays, our students will visit various areas of the building offering staff snacks and beverages from a rolling cart. Of the initiative Program Supervisor, Jill Buffenbarger stated: "I love the Class Dash because it gives WCESC/GOVS employees a small

token of appreciation for the amazing work they do every day. I also love that our MDESC classrooms are managing it. It gives us a way to show off how awesome our students are!"







Nancy Siebern is a paraprofessional in the Social Communications Program at Western Row Elementary School. After being visited by the students in the Multiple Disabilities Program and their Class Dash cart, Ms. Siebern commented, "Seeing students I have known from past and present years do a remarkable job delivering a much-needed snack was the best part of the treat!"

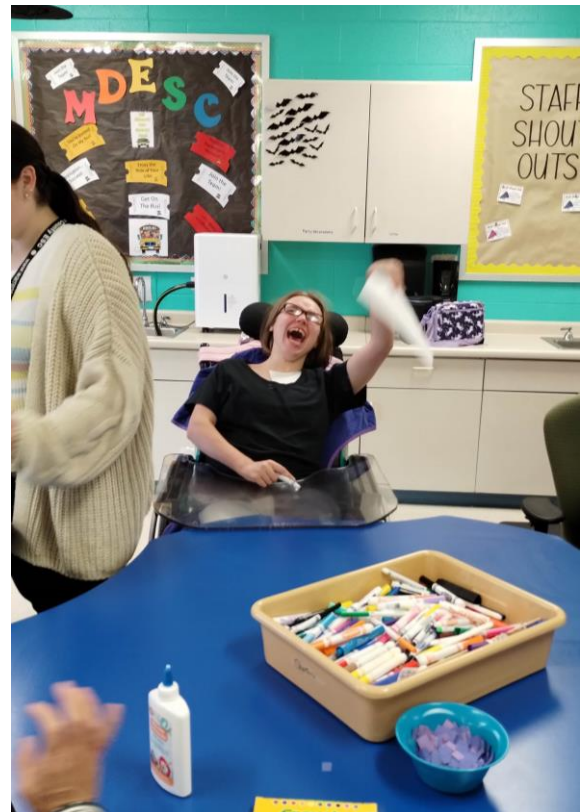
Paraprofessional Amy Smith added, "I had the amazing opportunity to assist the Transition Class with Class Dash. Each student participated and helped let staff know about items that were available and wished them a happy Friday. It was nice to see how happy the participating students were."

In our continuing effort to celebrate students and staff, on Wednesday, November 29 the Multiple Disabilities Program hosted a Grab-n'-Go Breakfast for the entire staff at the Western Row Campus. The breakfast items, provided by the EPC Wellness Fund included cold and hot beverages, bagels, fruit, pastries, etc. Of the breakfast, physical therapist Tara Montgomery commented, "the Multiple Disabilities Program hosted an amazing breakfast! From the cinnamon rolls to hot coffee, fruit, and muffins... it was delicious. Such a nice start to the day to feel appreciated and thought of from one department to another. Holiday cheer felt by all who attended."

Sway's Day

On Sunday, October 1st, several members of the Multiple Disabilities Program staff took one of our students fishing at Lake Cozy-Dale in Goshen. The group consisting of a nurse, three paraprofessionals, and a teacher spent the morning celebrating ability! The event, sponsored by Lake Cozy-Dale was the 6th Annual Special Needs Fishing Tournament. The event is completely free for all special needs participants. All participants received free fishing, bait, and a t-shirt. Lunch was provided directly following the tournament for all participants, families, guests, and sponsors.





Of the event Program Nurse Jacqueline Pittenger stated: "Lake Cozy-Dale is a gracious host for this event. The volunteers made every participant and family feel like royalty for the day. All participants received a medal as everyone is a winner. It was a special day for our student!"

Back at school the following week, the students in the Multiple Disabilities Program decorated fish artwork during art class to be delivered to Lake Cozy-Dale.

Finally, paraprofessional Emily Childs added, "The fishing tournament at Lake Cozy-Dale was a blast. When my family and I showed up, our student was so excited to let me know about the BIG fish he caught. The volunteers and workers were very nice and helpful. We all had a great time and enjoyed every minute!"

Lake Cozy-Dale
10621 Cozaddale-Murdock Road
Goshen, OH 45122
(513) 722-1692
lakecozydale.com

Mason Student-Interns "Like Sand Through the Hourglass" Part 2

This school year, the Mason students in the Transition classroom have been busy engaging with their transition goals as they intern at various local businesses every day of the week. Every Monday, the transition students work at Wall2Wall Soccer cleaning surfaces and barrier windows. On Tuesdays and Fridays, the students work at James Third Base Restaurant cleaning menus and chairs, and stocking napkin dispensers. On Thursdays, they volunteer at Animal Friends Humane Society socializing cats and preparing dog and cat treats. Once a month, they work at Joshua's Closet inside Mason Christ's Church stocking groceries in their pantry. And on Wednesdays, they practice various vocational tasks in the Warren County ESC *Practical Assessment Exploration System* (PAES) Lab at the school. When asked about partnering with the students, James Third Base owner, Jim Horning reflected, "When I opened our Sports Bar, James' Third Base, 'The Last Stop Before Home,' many people assumed it was named after me. However, what they didn't know was that we named it in memory of our son, James, who we tragically lost in a car accident during his senior year of high school. James had an immense compassion for those less fortunate, and his memory drives our mission.





To honor James, we opened and supported various memorial foundations, organized wrestling invitationals, golf outings, supplied families with Thanksgiving dinners, given families Christmas when they were not able, and engaged in numerous philanthropic endeavors. And then, we crossed paths with the Multiple Disabilities Program from Warren County Educational Service Center, and Mason High School. When we were asked if students in the Transition classroom could intern at the restaurant a few days a week, we jumped at the chance. We felt like it was a sign from our son, urging us to make a meaningful impact.

On Monday, November 6th, we met the students and staff from the Transition classroom. It was a heartwarming experience for both my staff and me. Joining forces with these wonderful individuals from Warren County Educational Service Center and Mason High School has helped us find a sense of purpose again, as we continue to move forward in life. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to this special group of volunteer interns for being part of our restaurant and playing a significant role in this small yet meaningful community. Susan Simendinger is the Programs Director at Joshua's Place. Of the partnership, Susan remarked, "The students from WCESC come once a month and help re-stock our shelves at our food cooperative in Mason. They go to Kroger and pick up our Clicklist and then bring the order back and stock us up. I have never had the pleasure of being there when they are delivering the order, but I have seen a couple of great pictures with their smiling faces. I know when it's their week to do it because it's the tidiest the stockroom has been all month long. Everything is nice and neat and in order! They even make sure the snack basket is filled and ready for our families when they come. Thank you so much to Jill Buffenbarger and her students for doing such a great job each month!

Myra Sprinkles is the Enrichment Coordinator at Animal Friends Humane Society. She said, "We in animal welfare spend so much time and energy helping the animals that come into our care. It means so much to us to have groups come and help us do things. We have an enrichment program for our dogs and cats. Sometimes there isn't enough time in the day for us to make this enrichment. This group has been a huge help in making peanut butter Frisbees and Kong's filled with treats and peanut butter. These tasks help take the stress off us, so that we know we'll have enrichment quickly ready to pass."

Animals Friends Humane Society
1820 Princeton Road
Hamilton OH 45011
(513) 867-5727
Animalfriends.org

Wall2Wall Soccer
846 Reading Road
Mason OH 45040
(513) 573-9898
letsplaysoccer.com

James Third Base
1079 Reading Road
Mason OH 45040
(513) 330-9109

Joshua' Place
83 North Section Road
South Lebanon OH 45065
(513) 617-9099
Joshuasplace.cc

Stars Are Born as Mason Student Perform at the First Annual MDESC Talent Show!

On the first Thursday in November, every student in the Multiple Disabilities Program performed in a skit at the First Annual Multiple Disabilities Educational Service Center (MDESC) Program Talent Show. Performing on the stage in the gymnasium, before a packed house, the students “broke a leg” acting out their skits including: “Over the Rainbow” sing-along, “Stankey Leg” dance performance, “Wheels on the Bus” sing-along, Village People “YMCA” performance and sing-along, jousting demonstration, beachball throwing demonstration, magic act, and “Old McDonald” sing-along.

Paraprofessional, Connie Jean Smith (AKA CJ the DJ) did a fantastic job as master of ceremonies of the event. Connie stated, “All of the students in the Multiple Disabilities Program participated in the talent show. It was AMAZING! All our students were the ‘Star of the Show!’” Another paraprofessional in the High School classroom, Angie Wills remarked, “I enjoyed watching the students show out and all the teamwork that made it happen.”





Family Fun Night!

On Wednesday, November 15th, the Multiple Disabilities Program hosted Family Fun Night. Families of our students were invited to join us in the evening for a lasagna dinner and a Fall craft activity. Upon arriving at the event, the families were invited to pose for holiday photographs to be placed into crafty frames they were able to decorate. Of the event, Program Supervisor Jill Buffenbarger commented, "It was a great night to relax and get to know our students' family members. The families had great conversations with each other about obstacles they have come across raising children with disabilities." One of the parents added, "It was nice to connect with other special needs parents and meet my son's teachers face to face at Family Fun Night. The food was delicious, and everyone was so kind and inviting." The grandmother of another student said, "It was a great time for family from a great staff. My granddaughter's school team goes above and beyond for their students. All the food and craft activities this evening were so much fun and enjoyed by all who attended. The staff took lovely photographs of the families and shared finished copies. The evening provided so many warm memories. I love all the hard work and love the staff shows our families." Paraprofessional Aliyah Narcisse said, "Our MD Family Night was one for the books! It was such a pleasurable experience getting to interact with each of our students' family members while enjoying a wonderful meal." Paraprofessional Cora Edling added, "It was a fun relaxing evening connecting with our students' families." Finally, Executive Director of Special Education Programs, Kara Dirksing stated, "this was such a great experience for our families and staff to come together for a night of great food and fun!"





Mason Students Share Holiday Cheer at Krohn Conservatory

In December, Mason students in the Multiple Disabilities Program travelled to Krohn Conservatory to kick-start the holiday season. Wearing our most spirited holiday attire, we were able to be photographed for images to be included as gifts for all the people who are so special to us. Cincinnati's iconic flora center features a long sloped interior walkway, which provides universal access to the Palm House and the waterfall. In partnership with the Parks Foundation, the Gale Garden in honor of Betty Gale was made accessible thanks to the Nelson Schwab Family Foundation.

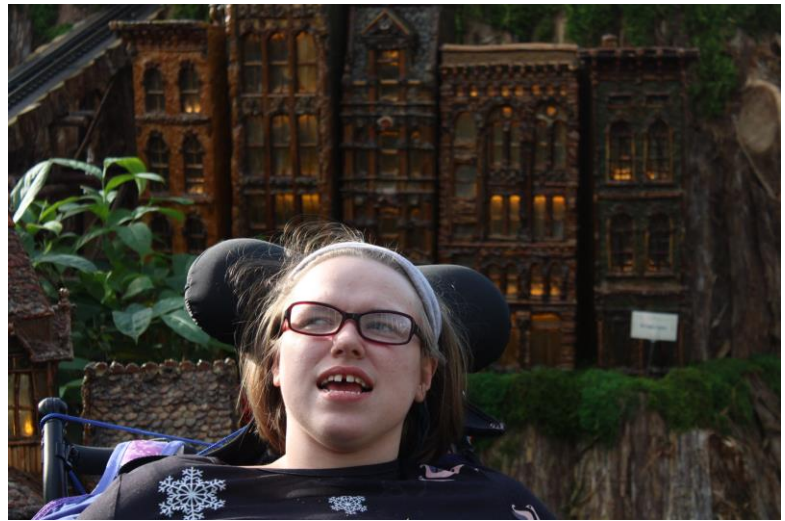
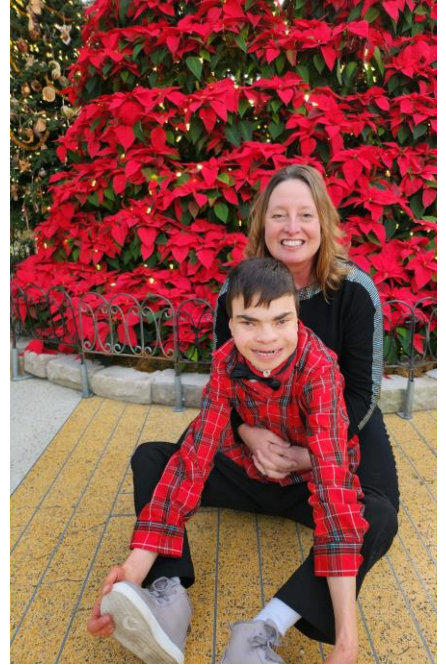






Located within Eden Park in between Cincinnati's East Walnut Hills and Mount Adams neighborhoods, Krohn Conservatory is an incredible botanical garden filled with over 3,500 plant species from around the world. It's widely recognized as one of the country's largest public greenhouses. It also draws architecture buffs, as the 1933 building is a classic example of the Art Deco style. During a visit to Krohn Conservatory, you can explore the seven distinct collections, including the tropical Palm House and the Orchid House, plus six seasonal exhibits. In springtime, the Butterfly Show is a can't-miss. No matter when you visit, you can choose to wander on your own or join a guided tour to learn more about this unique collection of plants.





Of the outing, paraprofessional Cora Edling stated, “all the students and staff looked so great in their holiday outfits. The beautiful flora provided outstanding background for some beautiful photographs.” Paraprofessional Aliyah Narcisse demonstrated one of her many talents and served as our trip photographer. Aliyah added, “Krohn Conservatory has such accessible greenhouses. We were able to navigate all the featured collections and even visited the stable and manger. All of our students and staff had an extremely enjoyable day.”

Krohn Conservatory
1501 Eden Park Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 421-4086

<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/cincyparks/visit-a-park/find-a-parkfacility/krohn-conservatory/>

◆ BCBA DEPARTMENT ◆

Kim Gregory, Lead Board Certified Behavior Analysts

Collaborative Coaching

We have had a great year so far! Our Collaborative Coaches are hard at work, supporting students and teams to succeed at school. Our teams are connecting with school teams to provide student specific and classroom-wide behavior support to promote social skills, self-regulation, and safe behavior in the classroom. Some coaches are providing professional development to school teams on topics such as developing executive functioning skills and the FBA/BIP process.



Our Collaborative Coaches are enjoying monthly in-person department meetings where we can collaborate with each other and gain insight into best practices. These meetings have allowed the department to review and share relevant and timely research to promote on-going professional development.



BCBA Spotlight

Jen Finch, BCBA COBA – Warren County Learning Center

Jen is a BCBA who is serving the Warren County Learning Center at Laura Farrell and St. Mary's. She has been in the field of ABA for 25 years and certified as a BCBA for two years. Most of her experience is from in-home and clinic settings. She has been enjoying assisting the education staff to apply ABA principles in the classroom. When she is not at The Learning Center, she enjoys spending time with her family, including her husband, three daughters and two dogs.



Behavior Interventionists

Our Behavior Interventionists are busy supporting students and teams. Our BI team is supporting Franklin City Schools, Little Miami School District, Lebanon City Schools, and Middletown City School District. Be on the lookout for upcoming newsletters to see the spotlight and to learn about them more individually. These dedicated staff members do a great job modeling and coaching behaviors plans, collecting data to track progress, and do numerous check-ins with students to promote positive relationships at school.

◆ WARREN COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION ◆

The Warren County Retired Teachers' Association meets throughout the year at Warren County ESC. On December 7th they held their holiday luncheon and presented a donation to Phoenix Academy, a WCESC K-6 Alternative School program. Pictured are Nona Cress, representing WCRTA, and Kara Dirksing, WCESC Senior Executive Director of Special Education Programming.

MANY THANKS TO WCRTA FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT!



◆ LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD ◆

CONGRATULATIONS! WCESC Director of Support Staff, Pam Tone, received the Lifetime Achievement Award in November presented by the Ohio Educational Service Centers' Association. Many school district employees were nominated by their district and received various awards at a recent brunch hosted by OESCA. Pam commemorates a 50-year career spent in entirety at WCESC. She is quoted as saying, "What a great place to work; I think I'll stay!" Pictured along with Pam is OESCA Executive Director Craig Burford.

