



**Warren County
Educational Service Center**

www.warrencountyesc.com



SEPTEMBER 2024



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

◆ **WCESC CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN INITIATIVE** ◆

2024-2025 CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN INITIATIVE

Employees from each department of Warren County Educational Service Center, Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, and Greater Ohio Virtual School are selected to be recognized as they have demonstrated a quality characteristic as part of our initiative for that month. There are many employees who demonstrate numerous qualities, but individuals are selected based on their strong suit. Selected staff members are listed in no particular order below for August and September.

“Champions for Children”

QUALITIES OF CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN

GRIT ★ GROWTH MINDSET ★ REDEFINING FAILURE ★ OPPORTUNITY SEEKING
TEAM PLAYER ★ POSITIVITY ★ COMPASSION ★ ADAPTABILITY

AUGUST CHAMPIONS demonstrating GRIT

GRIT is combining passion and perseverance towards long term goals. Grit is the ability to keep going when you want to give up!

Bobbie Steele Multiple Disabilities	Jen Finch Collaborative Coaching	Tim Howcroft Coordinated Care	Laura Jones Educational Interpreters
Sara Melendez GOVS	Andrea Bullman Help Me Grow/Home Visiting	Brittnee Bowling Warren County Learning Center	Beth Kennedy Wellness Center
Kellie Nuzem Mental Health	Kristina Swisher Nursing	Danielle Downs Occupational Therapy	Jessica Lacy Preschool
Lauren Fleming Physical Therapy	Desiree Batsche Resource Coordinators	Susan Dudley Social Communications	Regina Meeker School Psychology
Caroline Hecker Speech Language Therapy	Jamie Hutto Transition Living Classrooms	Lawrence Floyd Transition Services/Work Force	Donna Hamilton Main Campus/Human Resources
Michaela Simmons Attendance			

SEPTEMBER CHAMPIONS demonstrating GROWTH MINDSET

GROWTH MINDSET is believing your most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work.

This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.

Mary Beth Garner Attendance	Olivia Landfried Collaborative Coaching	Carrie Lipps Coordinated Care	Britt Underwood Educational Interpreter
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Laura Clark GOVS	Samm Applebaum Help Me Grow/Home Visiting	Christy Brown JKL Alternative School	Mark Pressley Warren County Learning Center
Traci Brandon Mary Haven/JDC	Sam Martin Multiple Disabilities	Liz Kauffman Mental Health	Audra Buchanan Nursing
Sue Bault Occupational Therapy	Deborah Forward Preschool	Tara Montgomery Physical Therapy	Christy Panzarella Dunbar Resource Coordinators
Natalie Elam Social Communications	Steph Ghantous School Psychology	Marilyn Hunter Speech Language Pathology	Eddie Caldwell Transition Living Classrooms
Jenny Dameron Transition Services & PAES	Danielle Collins Main Campus/Fiscal	Angela Bamber Wellness Center	Julie Hunter Supervisory Staff

Congratulations

THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU! YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN!

◆ MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ◆ Jessica Woody, Director of Mental Health Services

The Mental Health Department at the ESC is growing at a rapid rate once again! In order to help support this growth, there are three mental health leads to help in each area of programming in districts.

Pictured left to right: Casie Poore will serve as the mental health lead for Learning Center and John K. Lazares Alternative School. Brittany Hollingsworth will serve as the mental health lead for Social Communications and Wellness Center Campuses. Aneesa Bhimani-Trimble will serve as the lead for district staff.



We started the year off with our opening day events and many trainings to prepare for the year. This year our focus on trainings is with Play Therapy as an evidenced based practice. Play is important because when students are unable to communicate appropriately or rationally due to their brain being “offline” they are still able to play and communicate through play. Machen Champion, LPCC-S, RPT, will be conducting play therapy trainings throughout the course of the school year. She is the owner of Wired to Bloom Therapy and Consulting, LLC based out of Cincinnati.





During the upcoming school year, we will see growth and more opportunities within the department! Exciting things are happening!

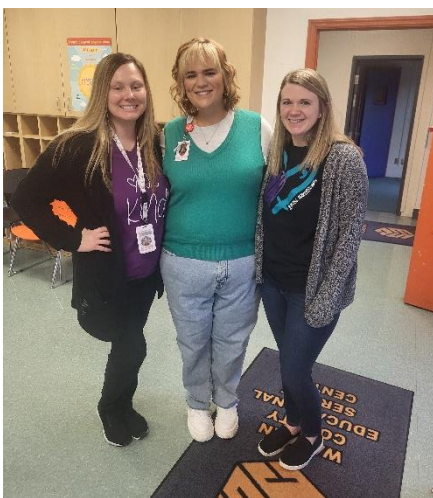
WCESC Mental Health Department-Program Team

Alternative School

This year at the alternative school, there are two new staff members. Dianna Petersen and Kara Lacy. Dianna began interning with us in May 2024 and worked throughout the summer to provide excellent care to students and their families. Kara is recently new to the area and is excited to join the team with previous experience with alternative schools! We are so excited to have them both.

Learning Center Campus, Social Communications and Wellness Center

At Learning Center Campuses, Social Communication and Wellness Center, staff participated in 988 day at the beginning of September. This was a reminder for students to reach out to others when they are having suicidal thoughts or plans. 988 is a great resource for all. More information about 988 and resources to place in other schools can be found here: <https://988lifeline.org/>





Mental Health Consultant District Team

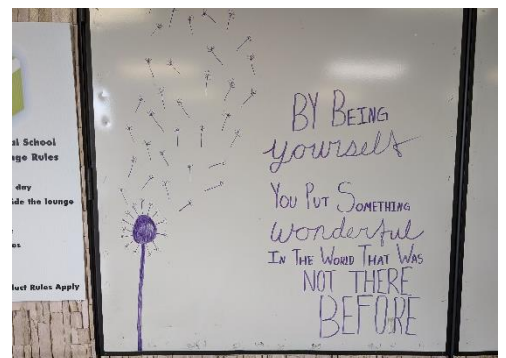
Carlisle Local Schools

Erica returns to Carlisle K-6 building this year! She is working hard to create groups and easier access for parents to sign up for groups and understand the supports available to their students. Additionally, Erica created worry worms for students over the summer!



Greater Ohio Virtual School

Jackie Rusche with GOVs also worked with students to celebrate 988 day. The below pictures are items that are posted in the GOVs area to help prompt mindfulness, resources and growth mindset thinking!



Little Miami

Little Miami Schools has five mental health consultants this year: Meredith, Amy, Bethany, Kim and Jackie. This has helped spread the availability of consultants across the district and provide support at all different levels. Additionally, Audrey will be providing mental health therapy at the high school level this year as Tier 3 support. We are excited to start this program that will allow us to reach out to more students with mental health therapy.

Little Miami students also participated in Start with Hello Week during September. More information regarding Start with Hello Week can be found here:

<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/start-with-hello/start-with-hello-week/>



Trauma Informed Care Coach

New this year is a position within a district for the trauma informed care coach. Prior to this year, there have been two Tier 1 Coaches serving within the Learning Center Campuses. This year, the decision was made to expand this programming into the districts with a Trauma Informed Care Coach (TIC Coach). With funding through the Mental Health Recovery Board for Warren and Clinton Counties, Crystal Peregram has started the position of TIC Coach at Franklin City Schools. Crystal is working with the K-1 grade classes in ensuring that they can increase support for students through a trauma informed lens. We look forward to seeing the ways that this helps students maintain in the classroom environment!



Substance Abuse Behavioral Interventionist

Another new this year, is a position of Substance Abuse Behavioral Interventionist. Jessica Wilcher is the staff member that fills this spot. Jessica is working on creating and applying prevention-based programming for substance abuse concerns in the programs throughout the ESC. Jessica will be based out of the alternative school 3 days a week due to the needs of students and will spend the other 2 days within Learning Center, SCC and Wellness Center Campuses as needed.

◆ **WARREN COUNTY LEARNING CENTER** ◆
Wiley Collett, Program Supervisor
Jason Boone, Assistant Supervisor
Julie Hunter, Assistant Supervisor

Laura Farrell Campus

The school year is off to a fantastic start at Laura Farrell, and we've already had some exciting events to kick things off! With temperatures rising, the Franklin Fire Department stepped in to help us beat the heat. Both students and staff had an absolute blast running through the water sprays and cooling off on a hot day. It was a refreshing and fun-filled afternoon that everyone enjoyed!

But the fun didn't end there—our students were also treated to a visit from some adorable mini cows! They had the chance to get up close, pet, brush, and feed these gentle animals, and the joy on their faces said it all. The students loved interacting with the mini cows, making these moments truly special.

Both days were filled with laughter, smiles, and unforgettable memories. We're so grateful to the Franklin Fire Department for keeping us cool and for the wonderful mini cows who brought so much joy to our students!

We can't wait to see what other exciting experiences the rest of the school year will bring!



St. Mary Campus

The 8th grade students at the Learning Center- St. Mary Campus will participate in the Miamisburg Art Guild this school year. Students go to the Art Guild every Thursday and learn how to use different materials and tools to make art. This gives our students the learning opportunity to express their emotions through their artwork.

The Learning Center Students at St. Mary also had a chance to see miniature cows with their classmates. The students were able to pet, feed, and ask questions about the cows. The Learning Center is thankful for this opportunity for our students. After the event, students were able to purchase a VIP experience using PBIS points to make their own ice cream from scratch.

The Learning Center: St. Mary Campus staff are looking forward to another successful school year and can't wait to share more of the fun and engaging experiences throughout the school year.



Western Row Campus

At our Western Row location, our students have started attending the Pre-Apprenticeship program at Sinclair Community College in Mason. The program at Sinclair allows our students to gain an industry recognized credential needed for graduation. We are very grateful to Sinclair Community College for working with our students continually and getting them one step closer to graduation! Our juniors and seniors have also started getting out of the building and into the community to participate in internships. We are very grateful to Drug Mart, St. Vincent DePaul, Cartridge Brewing, NewLife Furniture, and Natorps as they have partnered with us this year in allowing our students to gain work experience while in school. Through our internships, our students can gain experience in the workforce and gain skills needed to obtain and maintain competitive employment in the community. We have had a great start at Western Row, and we are looking forward to a great school year!



◆ SOCIAL COMMUNICATION CLASSROOMS ◆

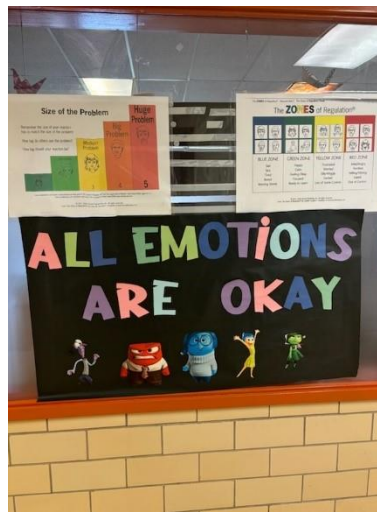
Molly Leicht, Supervisor
Rachelle Yakumithis, Assistant Supervisor
Kelly Buelt, Assistant Supervisor

The Social Communications Classroom at Western Row campus put plenty of time and effort preparing for the 2024.2025 school year. On August 5th, the classified staff participated in “get to know you” and team building professional development. Groups received information about all the programs located at the Western Row campus, participated in a scavenger hunt to locate important areas of the building, played “get to know your colleague” BINGO and minute to win-it games, and received information on building safety.



Students were welcomed into the new school year with an Open House. Administrative Assistant Jennifer and building aide Tammy greeted students and their families as they entered the building. SCC classroom staff were excited to see returning students and welcome new students. As a special treat, the families were treated to an ice cream social during their visit. SCC students and staff are excited for the upcoming school year!





◆ WELLNESS CENTER – DEERFIELD and PHOENIX CAMPUSES ◆

Jared Kaiser, Director

Tara Gee, Supervisor of Student Services and Instruction

Angela Bamber, Program Specialist (Deerfield Campus)

Brooke Rice, Program Specialist (Phoenix Campus)

The Wellness Center Program has had a positive start to the 24-25' school year. In our sixth school year, the team has been excited to hit the ground running with our program expansion where 4 additional classrooms were opened to serve more students in Warren County and the surrounding areas. This expansion allowed our K-3 programming to have its very own building, the Wellness Center Phoenix Campus. Over the summer break, to support this change, the ESC Phoenix Campus underwent several construction enhancements to aide our K-3 Wellness Center programming. Staff and students love the changes to the Phoenix Campus building! There are new small group workspaces, offices for our mental health staff, an office for the program specialist, and additional calming room spaces for students.



In preparation for the 24-25' school year, staff were provided opportunities to enhance their skills, participate in additional training, and expand their learning and experience in behavioral support. Wellness Center team members participated in many learning opportunities which included classroom behavioral management training, Trauma 101 training, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Training (DBT), amongst many other trainings over various beneficial topics.



Our Deerfield Campus now serves students in grades 4-12th. The move of our K-3 programming to the Phoenix campus has allowed for the Wellness Center to increase opportunities for enrollment for our middle and high school students. The program has welcomed back many returning students who are continuing their success following summer break and has welcomed many new ones as well. The program continues to see great success in student growth as more students are gaining new positive skills and are returning to their districts. Our students are continuing to engage in great learning opportunities to enhance their overall social-emotional health and to build upon previous academic learning.

Deerfield and Phoenix Campus students have already been busy in their first few weeks of school. In the classrooms students have covered social emotional learning content involving Zones of Regulation, school wide expectations, feelings identification, learning calming strategies, and various coping skills. Our K-3 classrooms are reading social-emotional books like *Little Spot* to reinforce mindful reactions to our frustrations and safe interactions with others. Academically our students are engaged in a diverse atmosphere of learning. K-3 has covered topics ranging from reading fiction, learning diagraphs, addition, number bonds, make a ten and add with 100, interpret the meaning of factors-the size of the group or the number of groups, and are actively engaged with our classroom economy and token system to strengthen math computation skills and problem-solving strategies. Our middle and high school students continue to progress in their virtual learning content with the support of their teachers and staff.

The Wellness Center Resource Coordinator, Christy Panzarelladunbar, has continued to do such great work for our students and families. For the second year in a row, she has coordinated with the Shoes for the Shoeless team to spend some time with our students in serving them by providing each with a brand new pair of shoes, socks, and a caring interaction of support. Each student was thrilled to meet the volunteers and to walk away with a new pair of shoes going into the school year.



Christy also brought in a student favorite, Nava, the therapy dog. The students really loved getting to meet her!



◆ **JOHN K. LAZARES ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL** ◆
Kari Burris, Director of Related Services & JKL Alternative School
Jon Kuehnle, Interim Supervisor

Pre-Apprenticeship Program at Sinclair Community College – Mason



Students have had a strong start in the Pre-Apprenticeship Program, where they are exploring diverse career opportunities and gaining hands-on experience in fields such as Information Technology, Allied Health, Advanced Manufacturing, and Travel and Tourism. Along with acquiring valuable knowledge and pre-professional skills, students also have the chance to earn industry credentials and certifications through this collaboration. A big thank you to all involved.



August Student of the Month – Noah C.

Unanimously selected as the first Student of the Month for the 24-25 school year was Noah C. Staff recognized Noah for his dedication, prioritization, and motivation in his work. He consistently displays initiative in completing assignments and showing his motivation to graduate

Congratulations to Noah! Keep up the great work!

◆ **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT** ◆
Kristie Strittmatter, Lead School Psychologist

Welcome to the beginning of the new school year! The school psychologists serving schools supported by the WCESC are a strong collaborative group of professionals who will be working in a variety of capacities including functioning as problem solvers, consultants, data collectors and analyzers, and special education evaluators. They will be leading teams, assisting in the eligibility of special

education services for students, and ensuring special education compliance is met. They also will be supporting district and building-level initiatives and providing training to personnel. Our reach is far and wide, and we are looking forward to providing the highest level of service to our districts, buildings, students, and families.



This year we welcome two new school psychologists to WCESC: **Cheryl Czulewicz and Soula Liaros**. Cheryl is new to WCESC from Hamilton County ESC and is serving the Greater Ohio Virtual School full-time this year. Soula joins us as a first-year school psychologist from her internship at several locations including St. Xavier High School, Northwest Local School District, and Winton Woods City School District. Soula is assigned to Kings Local School District at South Lebanon Elementary and Out of District Evaluations. We are also happy to have **Addison Lindsey** on our staff serving Kings High School after successfully completing her internship with WCESC.

We are pleased to welcome **Hayley Curtsinger and Emily Ray** into their year-long internship with WCESC. Both are graduate students at the University of Cincinnati.

Finally, **Shayleigh Holbrook** will be serving as a school psychology case manager supporting the Early Childhood Center and High School in Little Miami Local School District.

We are excited to be serving a new school this year. The **Dayton Regional STEM School** has welcomed **Martin McGinley and Melissa Elam** as the school psychologist and case manager on their staff.



CONGRATULATIONS to Erin Baker, now Erin Kefalos, who got married over the summer!!

Placements for our school psychologists for the current school year are as follows:

Carlisle Local Schools	Brooke Fett & Martin McGinley
Kings Local Schools	Brooke Brunner, Libby Hagen, Soula Liaros, Addison Lindsey, Regina Meeker, Matt Rohrkemper, and Alexis Som with case manager Lisa Moore
Little Miami Local Schools	Mary Kamphaus, Heather Kirby, Samantha Wolfe, and Kristie Strittmatter, with case managers Melissa Elam and Shayleigh Holbrook
Wayne Local Schools	Steph Ghantous & Erin Kefalos
Greater Ohio Virtual School	Cheryl Czulewicz
The Dayton Regional STEM School	Martin McGinley & Melissa Elam (Case Manager)

◆ **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY** ◆

Kari Burris, MOT, OTR/L, Director of Related Services
Kim Steele, MOT, OTR/L, Lead Occupational Therapist

Welcome New Staff:

We are excited to introduce the newest members of the WCESC Occupational Therapy Department. Please join us in welcoming our new occupational therapy team members for the 2024-2025 school year: **Danielle Downs** (WCESC Learning Center), **Heather Kneip** (Middletown), **Sydney Leary** (Kings/Little Miami), **Katie Pawlak** (WCESC SCC), and **Katri Wirik** (WCESC Wellness- Phoenix Academy). Also, we are excited to welcome back the following occupational therapists who joined our OT team during the 2023-2024 school year: **Julia Daanen** (Kings), **Ashely Holland** (Springboro), **Brooke Malott** (Springboro), and **Ellie Winterod** (WCESC SCC). (Pictured below in the order listed).



Motor Matters:

Members of the WCESC Occupational Therapy Department, along with members of the WCESC Physical Therapy Department, started the year by increasing their evidence-based practice skills. Members of both departments participated in an August PD event, “Motor Matters! Assessment and Intervention for Autistic Children and Youth.” During this time, therapists participated in interactive learning activities, focused on the connections between the brain, movement, and motor learning differences in autistic individuals. This included evidence-based resources for assessment and treatment. Additional information on collaboration with parents and the educational team was also highlighted.



WCESC Learning Center Interoception Programming:

Students at the WCESC Learning Center: Laura Farrell Campus are learning about interoception through a variety of engaging sensory experiences. This first month, students engaged in activities that pertain to the hands and fingers. Students played "What's in the Box" to describe what they felt, and discussed as a class what they thought may be in the box. The Occupational Therapist, Danielle Downs, helped tie this into how hands may be feeling during certain sensory experiences (body signals) along with what feelings and emotions students were experiencing. In preparation for this activity, students were given items that they could see and touch. The speech-language pathologists helped the students develop descriptive language to put words to their body signals.



◆ PHYSICAL THERAPY ◆

Kari Burris, MOT, OTR/L, Director of Related Services
Tonya Ellis, PT, DPT, Lead Physical Therapist

Welcome New Staff:

We are excited to have added two new Physical Therapists to our team for the 2024-2025 school year. They have been a wonderful addition to our department. Please join us in welcoming our new team members:



Zoe Clark, Franklin



Kelsey Haynes, SCC & MD (Western Row)



Physical Therapist, Megan Robinson spent time this summer advising her son's Eagle Scout project. Lucas Robinson built stairs for a gross motor addition to the sensory garden at Springboro's Clearcreek Elementary School. The stairs include 4 steps with panther paw prints to show the correct stepping pattern. The stairs also include a shorter handrail for preschool students to easily access. Items that



were included in this project were cleaning out the space, collecting donated supplies, and coordinating volunteers to build the structure. Megan reports that the steps have been a great addition this school year and that the kids are excited to follow the footprints to improve their gross motor skills.

Putman Elementary in Blanchester is establishing a new sensory/motor room primarily for students in Multiple Disabilities classrooms. The room is set up based on a modified version of the Ready Bodies Learning Minds program. The program attempts to expose students to various sensory/motor stimuli including proprioception, vestibular, balance, visual input, locomotor, fine motor, eye-hand coordination, etc.



WCESC Physical Therapist, Joy Tubbs and her OT colleague (Carrie Nowak) set up the room, trained the staff, and will change the rotation/activities periodically.



Joy and Carrie have also created a freshly decorated and welcoming door for students to walk through when coming to therapy.

◆ **SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY** ◆
Kari Burris, MOT, OTR/L, Director of Related Services
Denise Lacy, MS, CCC-SLP, Lead SLP

Refocusing Our Vision!



During our Opening Day meeting, WCESC Speech-Language department members had the opportunity to network by creating vision boards, reflecting on their goals for the year. Common themes included balance, growth, new beginnings, and, most importantly, our students!

Back At It!



At Little Miami High School, Kara M., MS, CCC-SLP is leading students as they are welcomed back to routines this school year! On the first week of speech, one thing all of the speech students were asked to do was to answer the question, "What is Speech?" in order for others to know about what they do. Then the students worked together to make a word cloud of all of their adjectives and added it to the door of their new speech classroom. Many students were surprised with all of the different responses from their peers, but most were impressed that they were thinking along the same lines as others: "Speech is talking/communicating listening, and fun!" They collectively agreed that this sounded like "their speech" and hoped to continue that this year in their personal goals for speech.

This school year the plan is for students to continue to contribute to the building in fun, age-appropriate ways in order to be more present and to spread awareness about speech therapy and the many benefits of it, such as this one!

Ethics Training for SLP Staff!



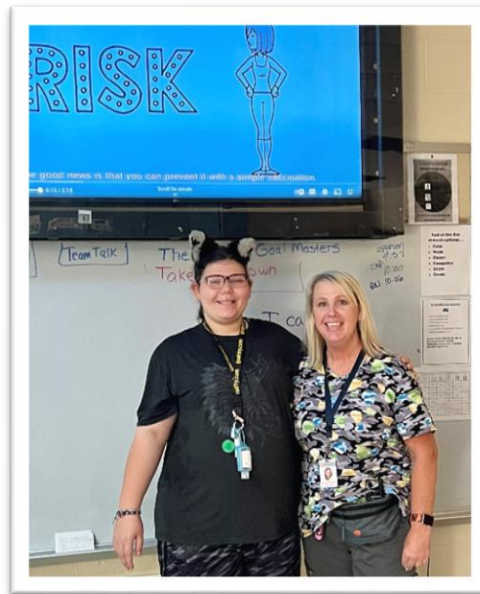
Our SLPs are ready to take on the school year with confidence and care, thanks to Mr. Neff's valuable training on key ethical considerations and the latest legal updates that impact our practice. At WCESC, we prioritize high-quality training for our staff to ensure we provide top-notch services to our students. Our collaboration with Ennis Britton is key to our success!

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

NURSES IN THE CLASSROOM

A Hamilton City Schools' student attending the WCESC Social Communications Program at Western Row is shown here with School Nurse Kristy Swisher after she presented a video and information session about the risks of infection by meningococcal bacteria, the consequences of meningitis, and how the meningococcal vaccine required for 7th – 12th grade students in Ohio can protect the body from disease.

The 11th –12th grade students in Miss Debbie's classroom were able to ask questions after the Health and Safety presentation.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS IS PROMOTED AT WCESC

CARDIO DRUMMING classes have returned to the Western Row Campus

All WCESC/GOVS/COG employees are invited to participate in the classes led by Steven from Mason Nutrition at no cost to the employee as part of the Employee Wellness Program funded by the SWO-EPC grant for Employee Wellness Programming. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays and all equipment is provided.



About WCESC Nursing Services

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.

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.

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

◆ **HELP ME GROW and EARLY INTERVENTION** ◆
Stefanie Post, Program Director



Help Me Grow offers the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) Online screening for Ohio families with children birth through age five to help parents and caregivers understand how a child is developing and whether there are any concerns.

At what age should a child sit up, hold on to a toy, or say their first words? Parents have natural questions about how their child is learning, developing, or behaving, and wonder if there are any concerns. The ASQ-3 questionnaire includes questions about your child's communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal social skills.

It's quick and easy. You will only need 10-15 minutes. And a developmental screening specialist will be available to offer additional screenings for ongoing monitoring for children who already completed the ASQ through Help Me Grow.



The Early Intervention program loves to celebrate our families and children when they meet their goals! Meet our friend Dax!

"Dax is a vibrant and determined 2-year-old who was diagnosed with 49XXXXY syndrome when he turned 1. He's always been on the smaller side, but his personality is huge and full of life. He was born with a dislocated hip that wasn't caught until he was about a year and a half old which contributed to his delay in walking. On his second birthday, he had hip surgery and spent 12 weeks in a spica cast. Now that he's out of it, he's back to growing, learning, and getting into everything! Despite being smaller and the challenges that come with 49xxxxy, Dax never stops trying to keep up with his big brother—he's full of determination and heart."



Our friend Fiona was chosen as the Regatta Ambassador for the United Rehabilitation Services of Greater Dayton's 21st Annual Rubber Duck Regatta! Every duck adopted in this race funds essential programs and services at URS, helping us serve close to 1,000 clients annually, providing everything from pediatric therapy with on-site nursing to adult vocational training and employment services!

When Fiona arrived in this world, she was a tiny bundle of determination. Born a fighter with Down syndrome and two congenital heart defects, she weighed just 5lbs 7oz but carried the strength of a warrior. At URS' Five Star Child Care Center, Fiona found a nurturing environment where her spirit could soar. With access to comprehensive developmental therapies, Fiona has been navigating her journey through GI issues, sleep apnea, a movement disorder, and conductive hearing loss.

“Our daughter Isla is a remarkable young girl who has defied the odds despite being diagnosed with Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome around 3 months old, a rare genetic condition characterized by developmental delays, distinctive facial features, and often severe intellectual disability. Despite the challenges she faces including frequent hospitalizations, vomiting multiple times a day and feeding through a G and J-port, Isla approaches life with an indomitable spirit and contagious enthusiasm. She really enjoys playing with her two older sisters, a wide variety of sensory toys, and is always happy when music is playing.



Isla has touched the hearts of everyone she meets with her infectious smile and unwavering perseverance. We are truly grateful for the Warren County Help Me Grow team for being a constant part of her life and providing encouragement and resources to help her continue meeting her individual milestones (at her own pace of course). Additionally, their assistance in helping us navigate the newfound territory of raising a non-typical daughter has been instrumental in her success so far. Being able to get physical therapy, occupational and speech therapy in the comfort of our home is amazing. Thank you!”



The Owsiany family participated in the Flying Pig Marathon weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio and entered their 2-year-old Molly into the kid’s race, The Flying Piglet! Molly has Williams Syndrome, and her family has worked with the Early Intervention program for about 18 months. She has made great progress with her development and her family proudly shared these photos of her exceeding her gross motor goals! Way to go Molly!!



◆ BCBA DEPARTMENT ◆

Dr. Kim Gregory, EdD, BCBA, Lead Board Certified Behavior Analyst



Welcome to the start of an exciting new school year! The Collaborative Coaching Department is a dedicated team of Board-Certified Behavior Analysts, Registered Behavior Technicians, and Behavior Interventionists committed to supporting students and school teams. Our skilled and knowledgeable staff work alongside our school partners to problem solve barriers to learning using evidence-based practices. We aim to foster success through customized coaching, individualized student support, multidisciplinary collaboration, and professional development. We are looking forward to a successful new year, providing high-quality services to students, school teams, and families.

The Collaborative Coaching Department welcomed several new faces this year. We are excited to see what we can accomplish together this year!

- **Lindsey Patejdl** re-joined the WCESC after her return to the Dayton area. She will be serving as the district BCBA for Lebanon City Schools.
- **Alexis Reyna** brings many years of experience to the Mason City School District and is supporting Mason Early Childhood Center and other district needs.
- **Brenda McCoy** has jumped into a BCBA role in our Social Communication Classroom program at our Western Row campus, bringing a wealth of experience.
- **Dr. Kate Doyle** is currently lending her expertise to Franklin City Schools while we search for a permanent BCBA. Her extensive knowledge is an asset to our team.

We are thrilled to welcome eight new Behavior Interventionists to our team! **Taylor Rankin, Yamika Philpot, and Sara Alsip** have joined the Lebanon City School District, offering building-wide support. **Brianna Bittorf** and **Kyndall Gerald** will be providing classroom support for the social communication classrooms in Lebanon. Additionally, **Taylor Forman** and **Melissa Layman** are now part of our Little Miami Local Schools team, while Brittany Almekinder has joined **Franklin City Schools**. We're excited to have them on board!

Our BCBA's and Behavior Interventionists support the following districts with Collaborative Coaching support:

- **Dayton Christian School:** Ariella Siegel (BCBA)
- **Franklin City Schools:** Dr. Kate Doyle (BCBA-D), Dorian Latimore, Brittany Almekinder, Courtney Way
- **Lebanon City Schools:** Lindsey Patejdl (BCBA), Taylor Rankin, Yamika Philpot, Sara Alsip, Cleo Bowling, Brianna Bittorf and Kyndall Gerald
- **Little Miami Local Schools:** Carling Daniels (BCBA) and Carla Himmelwright (BCaBA), Taylor Forman, Melissa Layman, Olivia Landfried, and Megan Heger
- **Kings Local School District:** Ariella Siegel (BCBA)
- **Mason City Schools:** Alexis Reyna (BCBA)
- **Middletown City Schools:** Amanda Inderhees (BCBA), Morgan Stavermann, and Courtney DeCamp
- **WCESC Learning Center:** Jen Finch (BCBA)- Laura Farrell, Christina Chandler (BCBA)-St. Mary's
- **Social Communication Classroom Program:** Brenda McCoy (BCBA) and Kim Gregory (BCBA)

With the exciting addition of many new team members, we kicked off the year with an opening day meeting to welcome everyone and begin planning for the upcoming school year. We also made time for a little bit of fun! Working in district teams, we took part in a friendly competition to build spaghetti and marshmallow towers. This activity not only served as team building, but also highlighted the power of effective collaboration and communication.



◆ TRANSITION COORDINATORS ◆
Amanda Pennix, Supervisor

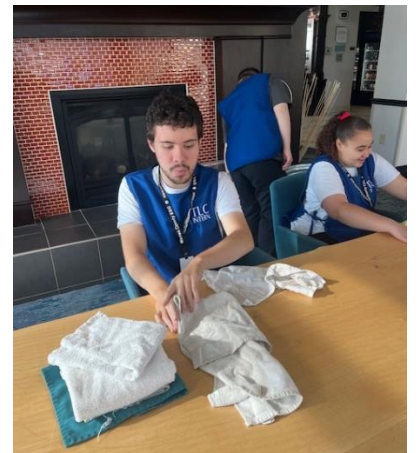
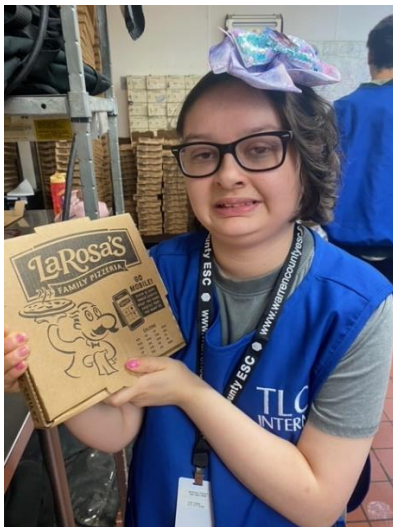
TLC Interns enjoying the library. Interns visit community spaces to practice social communication as well as time to enjoy their community.



Interns enjoying bowling



Interns at their job sites. TLC Interns work in the community 4 days a week.



Interns learning cooking skills in TLC's kitchen.
Interns cook at least one time a week.



Transition/Work Force Development Coordinators

Social Communication Classrooms at Western Row – Shuronda Smith

We've had a busy start to the school year!!! Students are excited to start working in the community. We have the following sites secured for the 24-25 school year:

Mrs. Debbie Hendrixson, Mr. Scott Johnson, and Mrs. Sue Meyers, students, will be off campus interning on Mondays and Wednesdays with the following companies:

1. Homewood Suites West Chester Township – our students will be working in housekeeping, and the Regional and General Manager have offered to hire our students after graduation if they would like to work for their company.
2. Residence Inn Mason - our students will be working in housekeeping, and the Regional and General Manager have offered to hire our students after graduation if they would like to work for their company.
3. Sweet Sensation Bakery – our students will be cleaning and assembling baker boxes.
4. Better Blend (Spring 25) – our students will be writing affirmations on the coffee sleeves and putting the sleeves on the coffee cups.
5. Drug Mart – our students will be stocking the shelves.
6. Papa John's Pizza – our students will be prepping, cleaning and assembling pizza boxes.
7. Papa John's Pizza – our students who are not able to go out in our community will be assembling pizza boxes in the classroom.
8. The Fresh Market - our students will be cleaning and placing the grocery carts back in their proper location.

Our students will attend college campus and workforce tours every first or second Friday of the month. We are excited to tour our first college, Wilmington College. Mr. Scott Johnson's class will be touring on Friday, September 13th.

Starting in October, we will volunteer at the Community Engagement Center once a month on Friday.

Lastly, we will have biweekly guest speakers from our friends at Ohio Means Jobs (Ms. Sarah Roberts) and First National Bank (Mr. Lawrence Chapell).

Franklin High School – Jenny Dameron

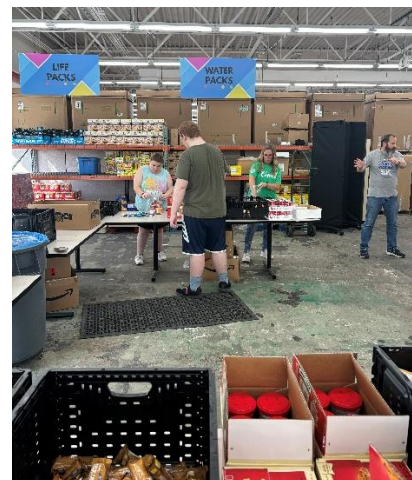
Students at Franklin High School get the Recycling program started up again! Students earn important employability skills and volunteer hours towards graduation requirements.

Students at Franklin High School create vision boards to help them visualize aspirations, dreams, and goals for their future.



Mason City Schools – Jenny Dameron

Students at Mason High School learn employability skills by packaging hope sacks for Hands Against Hunger. Hope sacks provide weekend meals to children throughout the school year.



Lebanon High School – Robyn Scott

The 2024-2025 school year is off to a strong start! The Transition Team is collaborating with the Career Experience and the English Careers classes. We are planning outings and activities that will benefit all students. Our combined effort will allow for more small group explorations. Work study has also started back up. Students are working at Rural King, Billie's Burgers YMCA, Skyline, and Groceryland Waynesville.

Western Row Multiple Disabilities Classroom - Robyn Scott

Western Row Multiple Disabilities Classroom has started the year with two new work sites. In addition to James Third Base and SPCA, they will be working at Biggby and Walmart. They will have the opportunity to interact with the public with/without using a device. Thank you to both the new and old community partners.

John K Lazares Alternative School - Robyn Scott

The John K Lazares Alternative School welcomes several new staff members. They are continuing their partnership with Sinclair Community College. The students attend Sinclair on Fridays.

Kings Local Schools - Nathan Ortlieb

The Bow Wow Bakery is up and running for the 2024-2025 school year. Students work hard to assure that the Bakery produces quality treats that are for sale every Friday during the school year. From preparing the dough, to rolling, to bagging up the dog bones, students oversee the process from start to finish!



Waynesville Local Schools – Nathan Ortlieb

Students are hard at work at their worksites! Waynesville students are going to The Bridge and the Riding Institute weekly to help these local non-profits check items from their to-do list. Check out the pictures of one of the hardworking students making the worksites look spotless while gaining experience on the job:



Little Miami Schools – Nathan Ortlieb

Need some coffee or forgot to check your mail? No worries if you're a Little Miami HS employee! Students are gaining employability skills by completing jobs around the school like coffee delivery, sorting mail, managing a popcorn machine station, and keeping the school tidy:



◆ **MULTIPLE DISABILITIES PROGRAM** ◆

Students identified with Multiple Disabilities – Western Row MDESC
Kara L. Dirksing, M.Ed., OTR/L: Director of Special Education Programs
Jill Buffenbarger, RN: Program Supervisor



Western Row MDESC Students & Staff Celebrate the First Day of School!

The Multiple Disabilities (MD) Program enthusiastically began the 2024-2025 school year with many familiar faces, and many new students and staff. The MD Program moved from Mason High School to the Western Row Campus to begin the 2020-2021 school year. That year, there were 20 students and 12 staff members in the program. We have significantly grown since then. To begin the 2024-2025 school year, we serve 36 students from 20 school districts and employ 24 staff members. Lead paraprofessional, Bobbie Steele has worked in the MD Program for 12 years. Of the vast growth, Mrs. Steele states, "Our staff culture is second to none. I have never seen such compassion and professionalism. The educational planning is meaningful and standard-aligned. The physical, emotional, therapeutic, and medical care is outstanding." Program supervisor, Jill Buffenbarger, has managed the MD Program for the past 4 school years. Mrs. Buffenbarger added, "I am proud to work with such a caring and dedicated staff. Our growth directly reflects the quality care we plan for and provide each and every day. Our superintendent, Tom Isaacs, said it best on opening day, 'If you are ever having a bad day, visit the MD Program, and your day will no longer be bad.'"

At the beginning of every school year, Mr. Peabody, Sherman, and the Wayback Machine transports students and school staff to 1976 and Mr. Kotter's class of Sweathogs. John Sebastian composed and performed the original soundtrack to the television series, "Welcome Back, Kotter." Here is a link to John Sebastian singing his No.1 hit song on the Billboard HOT 100 in 1976:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhzzAUaOzsk>



Here is the link to the series Theme Intro & Outro:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mmm3KTa601s>

Lyrics: "Welcome Back" by John Sebastian

Welcome back
Your dreams were your ticket out
Welcome back
To that same old place that you laughed about
Well, the names have all changed
Since you hung around



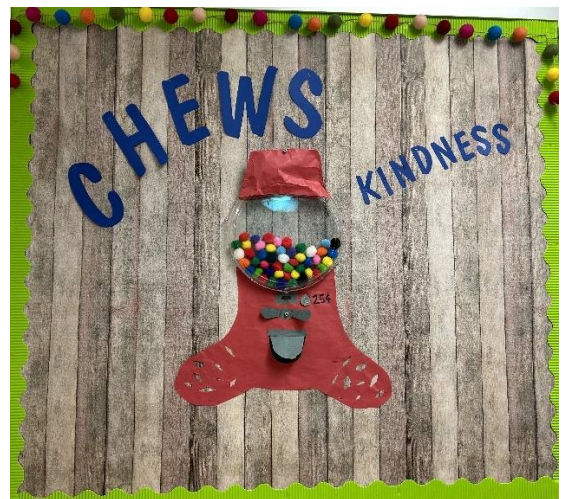
But those dreams have remained
 And they've turned around
 Who'd have thought they'd lead you
 (Who'd have thought they'd lead you)
 Back here where we need you?
 (Back here where we need you?)
 Yeah, we tease him a lot
 'Cause we got him on the spot
 Welcome back
 Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back
 Welcome back, welcome back
 Welcome back
 We always could spot a friend
 Welcome back
 And I smile when I think how you must have
 been
 And I know what a scene
 You were learnin' in
 Was there somethin' that
 Made you come back again?
 And what could ever lead you
 (What could ever lead you)
 Back here where we need you?
 (Back here where we need you?)
 Yeah, we tease him a lot
 'Cause we got him on the spot
 Welcome back
 Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back
 Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back
 Welcome back, welcome back, welcome back

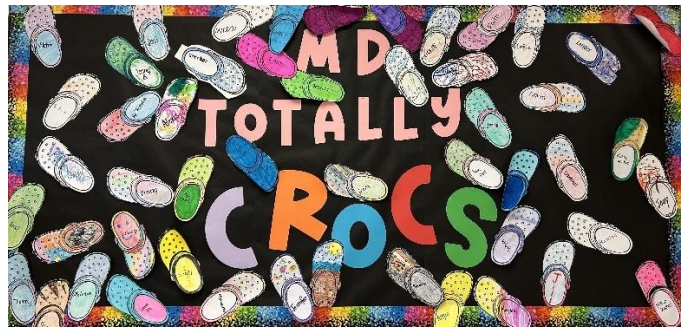


Western Row MDESC Wing Gets a Makeover!

For students at the Western Row campus, the 2024-2025 school year began on Monday, August 19. For staff, the school year began Monday, August 5th. Like schools across the country, staff in the MD Program were busy planning meaningful and quality educational programming and building exciting and inclusive learning environments. Paraprofessional, Cora Edling stated of the preparation work for the school year, "I love creating captivating and colorful learning spaces to wake up our students' vision." Paraprofessional, Angie Wills added, "Our students inspire me to be creative and try to build learning spaces that spark imagination, learning, and growth. Our

students are the best part of MDESC!"





Mason Students Intern at Local Businesses

Mason Students in the Multiple Disabilities (MD) Program began the 2024-2025 school year interning at several local businesses. On Mondays, students intern at SPCA Cincinnati filling gallon freezer bags of kibble and socializing adoptable cats and dogs. On

Tuesdays, students intern at James' Third Base restaurant cleaning menus and filling napkin dispensers. On Wednesdays and Thursdays, students intern as greeters at Bigby Coffee and Walmart (respectfully). Additionally, our students intern at Mason Christ's Church stocking pantry items for Joshua's Closet.



Of the partnership, Director of Community Outreach, Michael Williams stated, "At SPCA Cincinnati, our mission is to provide humane education that extends well beyond the classroom setting. The ability to host students from WCESC to experience first-hand what it

takes to provide support to not only our animals at the shelter, but to all animals in the community, is a lifelong lesson in service. We are thrilled to be able to strengthen the human-animal bond through education, opportunity and partnership that provides so much for both organizations.”

Jim Horning, owner of James’ Third Base added, “Joining forces with these wonderful individuals from Warren County Educational Service Center reminds us of our purpose 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. She 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 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."

Eric & Kim Dozier are the owners of the West Chester Biggby Coffee location. Of the partnership with WCESC, Kim remarked, "At Biggby Coffee West Chester, we love supporting our community. We are so excited to partner with WCESC to provide meaningful community experiences for students with special needs in the transitional program. We look forward to seeing what good will come from this partnership. Thank you for this opportunity."

General Manager of Mason Walmart, Tee Jones, commented, "Partnering with our community is a tremendous opportunity. I want to thank these students for being the best part of Walmart!"

SPCA Cincinnati 11900 Conrey Road, Cincinnati OH 45249 513-541-6100 spcacincinnati.org	James' Third Base 1079 Reading Road Mason OH 45040 jtbssportsbar.com
Biggby Coffee 846 Reading Road, Mason OH 45040 513-573-9898 biggbycoffee.com	Walmart Supercenter 5303 Bowen Drive, Mason OH 45040 513-583-9330 walmart.com/store/1441-mason-oh
Christ's Church Mason 5165 Western Row Road, Mason OH 45040 513-229-3200 ccmason.org	Joshua's Place 83 N. Section Street, South Lebanon OH 45065 513-617-9099 joshuasplace.cc

Election Day

To begin the school year, students and staff in the Multiple Disabilities (MD) Program engaged in a program lesson learning about democracy and elections. Students campaigned for elected positions on Student Council 2024-2025 including: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Historian.



Agenda items for the first Student Council meeting of the school year included forming a yearbook committee and a T-Shirt fundraiser sale. Staff were assigned the responsibility of taking candid photographs of our students and suggesting potential superlatives to include in the yearbook. The president and vice president visited Friday Threads for pricing. T-Shirt designs will be voted on at the next student council meeting. T-Shirts will be available for purchase to students and staff at the Western Row Campus.

Paraprofessional, Tammy Liming stated, "It was exciting to see the students learning about campaigning and dressing up for election day. We have a new intern job in the program. We have received an aquarium to care for tropical fish. Student council helped decide where to place the aquarium and what kind of fish to put in it. It was a very inclusive process."





Mason Students Explore Makino Park

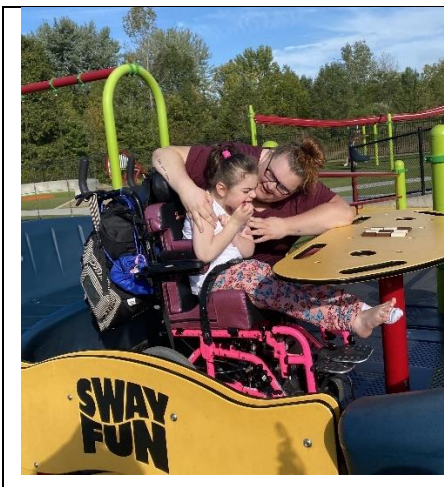


Early in September when the summer heat began to cool, several classrooms took advantage of the fine weather to recreate at Makino Park. Makino Park is a one-of-a-kind asset for Mason and the entire Greater Cincinnati Region. This park encourages interaction and recreation opportunities that span multi-generational users of all abilities in a peaceful and welcoming setting. Makino Park includes Common Ground Playground, FCC Field mini pitch soccer, a shelter area for gathering and programming, and restrooms all designed for park users to have an enjoyable experience.

Common Ground Playground at Makino Park was designed in consultation with local parents of children with disabilities, a leading inclusive playground manufacturer, therapists and other professionals who work with children and adults with special needs. The playground's educational, interactive environment is unlike any other in the region and goes far beyond requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act to bring new social engagement and sensory opportunities for children, veterans, and seniors. It's an all-inclusive place where families can come together and enjoy a place to have fun.



Students participated in a lesson called "All About Me." At the park, they focused on using body parts they have been learning about in class. They used their large and small muscles to explore the playground equipment. They practiced identifying their preferences and discussed rules for school and playgrounds. Additionally, students learned about observation and weather patterns. The lesson included making and flying kites, measuring, and graphing. Makino Park offers experiences through a variety of sight, sound, and touch.



Intervention specialist, Jenny Bishop commented on the facility: “The playground is incredible. It is designed to be a butterfly and there is a butterfly scavenger hunt. There are areas to provide shade, and the entire park is enclosed with a fence.”

Makino Park
6100 Kopfler Court, Mason, OH 45040
(513) 229-8500
<https://imaginemason.org/about/common->

Music Therapy Comes to the ESC!

At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Greater Ohio Virtual School (GOVS) Superintendent Shawn Lenney began offering percussion lessons to students at the Western Row Campus of Warren County Educational Learning Center (WCESC). At that time, Shawn stated of the program, “Every student, whether they have a disability or not, should have access to music as part of their education. Music has the power to reach students in different ways and benefit them in other disciplines. Also, it’s just fun, and all students can benefit from having a little more fun in their days!”



The program was so well received, a full-time music therapist was hired for the 2024-2025 school year. We are excited and proud to welcome Olivia Redwine to WCESC. Olivia is a music therapist and holds the MT-BC credential (Music Therapist-Board Certified). Olivia studied at the University of Dayton and completed a six-month internship at Prisma Health Children’s Hospital in Columbia, South Carolina. Her primary instrument is voice, but she is trained in guitar, piano, ukelele, and various percussion instruments. When asked why she decided to become a music therapist, Olivia stated, “I have a passion for supporting others—and I love singing and making music—so when I learned about music therapy, it seemed like the perfect fit. My initial exposure to music therapy was from recorded sessions in a hospital setting. I saw how live music could impact the patients’ pain and anxiety levels. As I progressed through my degree program, I learned more about the various populations that music therapists serve. I have enjoyed my time working with children and adolescents, which is why I am so excited to start the music therapy program at the ESC.”



Olivia has clinical experience working at Montgomery County ESC, two Children's Hospitals, a day-program for adults with disabilities, a center for at-risk women, and a residential care facility with adults with Alzheimer's and Dementia. This is her first job after completing her degree and becoming certified.

Of her goals for the 2024-2025 school year, Olivia shared, "This year I want to establish a strong music therapy program at the ESC! The program is brand new, so I am working to make it match my vision. I cannot wait to see the students make progress toward their goals using music! Music therapy experiences are formulated to target individual/group goals via active music making, music listening, songwriting, or movement to music experiences. For example, if the student's goal is to increase bilateral coordination, the music therapist will prompt the student to alternate hands while playing, and maintaining, a steady beat on a drum. Music can also be used for self-expressive purposes, to emphasize turn taking, group cohesion, et cetera."



About WCESC, Olivia commented, "My favorite thing so far has been seeing all the smiling faces during music therapy sessions! It has been great to see everyone excited and engaged in music making. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone better."





◆ COORDINATED CARE ◆

Kevin Stevens M. Ed., LSW
Supervisor of Coordinated Care & Clinical Committee Coordinator

Coordinated Care Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Angela Hensley has joined the WCESC Coordinate Care Department as the new Wraparound Facilitator. She has been a licensed Social Worker for 21 years and spent most of her career thus far working with the Ohio Early Intervention Program serving children birth to age three. Angela has experience working in-patient mental health as well as with individuals with Developmental Disabilities. In her free time when not serving children and families she enjoys traveling with her family! Over the summer she & her family traveled to Europe!



Taylor Hopkins is our newest Coordinated Care Service Coordinator and will be working with families in our Parent Success program! She comes to us from OhioRise and has experience working as a Wraparound Facilitator as well. Taylor is originally from Warren County and has recently moved back to the area. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, competing in obstacle races, climbing, and spending time with her friends and family. She is excited to be a part of this team!



Resource Coordinators

Shoes for the Shoeless and Resource Coordinators Team Up to Help Students at The Wellness Center



For the second straight year Shoes for the Shoes visited the Wellness Center. This visit was set up by Resource Coordinator Christy Panzarella Dunbar and occurred on September 6th. Shoes for the Shoeless, Inc. is a non-profit that provides new, correctly fitting gym shoes and socks to Southwest Ohio Children in desperate need. Each child is measured and fitted for shoes at no cost to the child or school district. Shoes 4 the Shoeless began in 2010 and has helped over 160,000 children. The experience is something that both students and staff will never forget. To find out more about Shoes 4 The Shoeless visit the following link: <https://shoes4theshoeless.org/>

Resource Coordinators Are Off to a Fast Start for the New School Year

Needs across all communities in the Warren County area are on the increase. The high cost of living appears to be one of the main driving forces for the increased need that Warren County districts are seeing. Last school year during the month of August the

Resource Coordinators assisted 171 students. This school year that number has increased to 334 students. Resource Coordinators assist students are families who are homeless, have hunger needs, in need of school supplies, clothing and other needs.

The Resource Coordinator Program is designed to eliminate non-academic barriers a student is experiencing that are hindering their school success. The Resource Coordinator can assist students in becoming successful in school and help parents/guardians learn more about community resources that may help their child and or family. The Resource Coordinators receive most of their funding from Warren County Job and Family Services. To learn more about the Resource Coordinator Program or to find help for a child in a Warren County district contact Kevin Stevens at Kevin.Stevens@WarrencountyESC.com or at 513-694-2900 Ext. 2961.



◆ **GREATER OHIO VIRTUAL SCHOOL** ◆
Shawn Lenney, Director

GOVS EXCEED STANDARDS BACK TO BACK!

The Greater Ohio Virtual School Report Card is in, and the results are good! GOVS received the top "Exceeds Standards" rating for the second year in a row! Some reminders below about our report card:

1. We do not receive the same report card as traditional schools.
2. We receive a special Dropout Prevention and Recovery School report card with different components and ratings
3. The ratings for DOPR report cards are Does Not Meet Standards, Meets Standards, and Exceeds Standards
4. The Components Measured are Achievement, Progress, Gap Closing, and Graduation Rate
5. We are showing major improvement in the Progress Component!
6. The increases over the past two years show amazing improvement!
7. Our "Exceeds Standards" streak in the Graduation Component continues! Every year there has been a DOPR Report Card, GOVS has achieved the rating of "Exceeds Standards" in this component.

The screenshot shows a web interface for the Department of Education & Workforce. The main heading is "School Overall and Component Ratings" for "Greater Ohio Virtual School : 000282". A dropdown menu shows "Select a School Year" with "2023-2024" selected. The central focus is a large red box stating "Overall Rating Exceeds Standards". To the right, there are links for "Report Selection Page", "School Details", and "Overall Ratings Technical Documentation". Below the overall rating, four component ratings are displayed in colored boxes: "Achievement Component Rating: Meets Standards", "Progress Component Rating: Exceeds Standards", "Gap Closing Component Rating: Exceeds Standards", and "Combined Graduation Component Rating: Exceeds Standards". Each component box has a "Click for More Details" button with a right-pointing arrow.

Greater Ohio Virtual School : 000282

Select a School Year
2023-2024

Understanding the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Report Card

Achievement Component Rating

Meets Standards

12th Grade Assessment Passage Rate
Meets Standards
60.00

Progress Component Rating

Exceeds Standards

Math Value-Added Rating
Exceeds Standards

Reading Value Added Rating
Exceeds Standards

Combined Year Graduation Component Rating
Exceeds Standards

Gap Closing Component Rating

Exceeds Standards

Gap Closing Points
Exceeds Standards
69.40

4-Year Graduation Rate
Exceeds Standards
56.80

5-Year Graduation Rate
Exceeds Standards
58.20

6-Year Graduation Rate
Exceeds Standards
54.90

7-Year Graduation Rate
Exceeds Standards
50.40

8-Year Graduation Rate
Exceeds Standards
40.60

Combined Year Graduation Rate
Exceeds Standards
51.10

CONGRATS TO ALL 2024 GRADUATES! MAY YOUR FUTURE HOLD MANY SUCCESSES!



◆ TRANSPORTATION ◆

Brandon Anness, Supervisor of Ohio Preservice Program
Jeannie Camery, WCESC Student Van Transportation

NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK IS OCTOBER 21-25, 2024
An important read...Do you know the rules?



When you see this sign, it's
Time to STOP – it's the LAW.

You must stop when a school bus is dropping off or picking up students.

The greatest risk to a child isn't riding a school bus – it's getting on and off the bus.

Know When to Stop:

- Two-lane roadway (non-divided highway) – vehicles on both sides of the roadway must stop in either direction.
- Four-lane highways (divided or non-divided highway) – vehicles traveling the opposite direction of the bus do not have to stop. Those traveling the same direction as the bus must stop.
- Stop at least 10 feet away and wait for the lights to stop.



On roads with four or more lanes, Ohio law requires that school buses pick up students on the same side of the road that the passenger lives on.

STOPPING FOR A SCHOOL BUS

Ohio Revised Code 4511.75

A driver must stop for a school bus when the school bus is dropping off or picking up students. When a school bus driver is preparing to stop the bus, he or she activates four yellow warning lights, two on the front and two on the rear of the bus. The warning lights continue to flash until the bus is fully stopped. Other vehicles are not required to stop during the yellow flashing lights but should prepare to stop as soon as the bus comes to a full stop.

When the bus comes to a complete stop, the yellow lights stop flashing and four red lights—two in front and two in back—start flashing while the children enter or leave the bus. In addition, the bus may be equipped with a stop arm with flashing red lights that automatically extends beneath the window on the left side of the bus. If there is no stop arm, you are still required to stop.



School bus drivers who see a motorist unlawfully pass their bus will report the vehicle's license plate number and incident location to law enforcement, which could lead to criminal charges against the motorist.

Racing past the arm puts young lives in danger.



YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS =
Prepare to stop



RED FLASHING LIGHTS & EXTENDED STOP ARM =
Stop at least 10 feet away & wait for the lights to stop

Possible Penalties



\$500 Fine
(maximum)



Two points assessed
to driver license



Suspended license
(Up to 1 year)

- A driver who violates a school bus traffic law is required to attend a court hearing in person. They may not enter a written plea of not guilty and waive their right to contest the citation in a trial.
- A driver who injures a pedestrian while failing to comply with school bus safety laws can face both criminal charges and a civil lawsuit.

◆ **CELEBRATING OUR MILITARY VETERANS
AND ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS** ◆

Since our next newsletter release will occur after Veterans' Day, we would like to recognize our veterans and active service members in this edition.



We at Warren County Educational Service Center and Greater Ohio Virtual School believe every day is the best day to thank a military veteran or active member for their service.

We realize our freedom is not guaranteed and therefore honor all veterans and active service members from all branches of the military for their efforts in protecting our country and its people.

We offer our sincere appreciation and want you to know how proud we are of you!

**Thank you for
your service!**



UNITED STATES ARMY and ARMY RESERVE

TYLER BLEVINS
Custodial/Maintenance Dept.
Western Row Campus
Army and Army Reserve

KEVIN BRAGG
Paraprofessional
John Lazares Alternative School
Army

JILES FARLEY
Warren County ESC
Governing Board Member

BECKY MILLER
Army Reserve
Physical Therapist
Edgewood, Kings, & Dayton Christian

DIANNA PETERSEN
Mental Health Behavior Interventionist
John Lazares Alternative School

MARK PRESSLEY
Intervention Specialist
Laura Farrell Campus

KEVIN STEVENS
Supervisor
Coordinated Care Department

REBEKAH STIEVER
Speech Language Pathologist
Kings

TOM SHUTTLEWORTH
Paraprofessional
Warren County Learning Center
Laura Farrell Campus

UNITED STATES NAVY

SAMANTHA COZORT
Mental Health Behavior Interventionist
Warren County Learning Center
Western Row Campus

CHRISTY PANZARELLA DUNBAR
Resource Coordinator
Coordinated Care Department

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

STEVE BOWMAN
Supervisor
Facilities/Maintenance Dept.

WILLIAM HARRIS
Teacher
Greater Ohio Virtual School

OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

ALEX CARY
Behavioral Interventionist
Wellness/Deerfield Campus

DAVE CARY
Behavioral Interventionist
Wellness/Deerfield Campus

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
and AIR NATIONAL GUARD**

JASON BYRGE
Attendance Officer
Program Safety Coordinator

STEVE DICELLO
Regular Substitute
Western Row/Multiple Disabilities

LEXIS LAWSON
Intervention Specialist
Warren County Learning Center
St. Mary Campus

MICHELE PHILLIPS
Nurse
Wellness/Phoenix Campus

BRIAN TARBOX
Intervention Specialist
Greater Ohio Virtual School

REBECCA WEAD
Intervention Specialist
Warren County Learning Center
Laura Farrell Campus



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

If you are a staff member of WCESC or GOVS and a veteran or active service member and do not see your name listed here, please know the omission was not intentional. Be sure to submit your name and military branch to Pam Tone so we may include you in the future. We thank you for your service!