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### We Build Bridges For . .

Educators • Districts • Agencies • Organizations
Universities & Colleges • Students • Adult Learners
Families & Communities • Businesses

## Superintendent's Message

By Dr. Bob Mengerink, Superintendent

### Creating New Opportunities and Unique Services to Districts



Just as each year brings new opportunities for educators and students, our team at the ESC of Cuyahoga County thrives on exploring new opportunities to create unique services for schools, establish creative partnerships and develop exceptional programs for our professionals.

As our ESC continues to grow and

transform, we are dedicated to maintaining our commitment to meeting individual needs of districts and educators. The foundation of our vision is in finding solutions to every request for help our staff encounters across Northeast

Ohio, as well as capitalizing on our relationships with the Ohio Department of Education and other agencies to be able to anticipate the challenges that lie ahead in educating our children. Northeast Ohio, especially Cuyahoga County, is the most diverse region of our State and this makes our opportunity to create and provide services to districts across our region even more exciting.

I wish everyone a continued year of growth and success and look forward to creating new opportunities for all of our partners and sharing more updates on our work as each vear progresses.

Sincerely, Bob Mengerink

### ESC Partners with Education Provider ASCD

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is pleased to announce a new partnership with ASCD®, a renowned nonprofit educational organization that for more than 70 years has provided innovative programs, products, and services that empower educators to support learner success. The interactive educational resources and professional development offered by ASCD support higher student achievement. Professional development supports educators' individual or group learning goals. Online courses are practical, making professional development easy and accessible anytime and anywhere, with some courses available via mobile devices.

Through the ESC, districts can purchase ASCD books, DVDs and other resources and educational materials at a discount of 10%, while ASCD Professional Development Online Courses are available at a discount of 20%.

For information, contact

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or

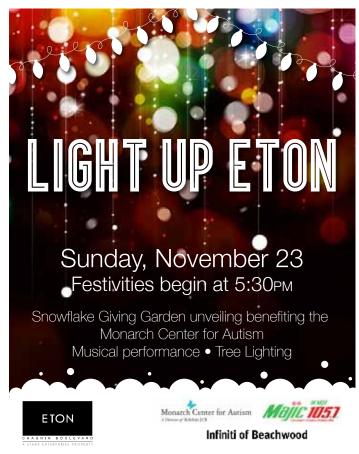
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## A Snowflake Garden to Increase Autism Awareness

Soon Northeast Ohio will be covered in snow. To make sure of that, elementary students from **Bedford**, Independence, Orange, Shaker Heights districts and St. Albert the Great are creating a whimsical Snowflake Garden to raise awareness about autism. Just like people, no two snowflakes are ever alike! The installation of more than 2,000 snowflakes created in a variety of art media, including foil, beads, and clay, will be displayed outdoors at ETON Chagrin Boulevard Shopping Center during the winter season. More than 500 of the snowflakes will include colorful mandalas composed of recycled plastic bags exhibiting vibrant color, radial balance and pattern. Proceeds from this charitable event will benefit Monarch Center for Autism to raise autism awareness and to demonstrate the positive benefits of art as a form of expression. Children from Monarch Center are creating individual portraits that will be displayed indoors. Sarah Costic of Richfield Art Studios is coordinating the project, and ETON management has provided small grants for classroom art materials to support this community art project. The official opening of the installation takes place at ETON on November 23<sup>rd</sup> during the holiday lighting event. Let it snow!!



28699 Chagrin Blvd., Woodmere, OH 44122 • 216.591.0544 • EtonChagrinBlvd.com









Students in Mr. Mike Gruber, art teacher at Independence Primary School's class, enjoy making snowflakes for "Light Up Eton."

## Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities Awardees in SST - Region 3

#### By Sharon Humphrey, SST-3 Consultant

The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities hosted more than 190 quests and presented 31 awards for outstanding achievements at its recent awards ceremony. Among the recipients of awards from the SST-Region 3 service area were student Megan Teets from Westlake City Schools and Lisa Wiegand, intervention specialist from Lakewood City Schools.

Megan Teets was a sixth grade student at Parkside Intermediate School in Westlake during the 2013-14 academic year. She received the R. A. Horn Outstanding Achievement Award for her strength of courage, positive attitude and tenacity. Since birth, she has had many orthopedic surgeries. Despite this, Megan participates in physical education activities at school, including floor hockey, basketball and state mandated physical fitness, always giving 100% to every activity. Outside of school, she participates in Girl Scouts and is a member of the adapted swim team. She has a positive attitude and strives for independence. Megan works hard in the classroom overcoming barriers and completing all tasks. She always has a smile and is surrounded by friends. Congratulations to Megan for her outstanding achievements.

Lisa Wiegand, intervention specialist at Lakewood High School, received the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award, as an educator who exemplifies





excellence in her work and who is an advocate for students with disabilities. She has created several inclusion coteaching models that have led to significant increases in services for students with disabilities within the general education setting without adding additional staff. She facilitates positive behavior reinforcement systems for all students, communication structures between students and teachers, and provides individual instruction, as well as remediation for the OGT. She embraces instructional and assistive technology to remove barriers for students, and Lisa has developed a hybrid Study Skills class. Lisa is a member of the District Leadership Team Steering. Committee, Building Leadership Team, Rtl Team, serves as the Special Education department facilitator for Lakewood High School, and is an informal mentor to her colleagues: Congratulations to an outstanding educator.

# Teaching American History Programs Impact Teaching and Learning



Shannon Conley-Kurjian, Medina High School Social Studies teacher, was among more than 100 teachers from Northeast Ohio who participated in extended professional development for Teaching American History (TAH) that enhanced history content knowledge and taught critical historical thinking skills and new pedagogical methods. The TAH programs were funded by the U.S. Department of Education and coordinated by the ESC of Cuyahoga County and Cleveland State University's Department of History (2005-2011).

As a result, Shannon developed educational materials, and a wiki, website and app that highlighted student research on local history. The app Medina Historical (www. discovermedina.org) was among the most-recommended mobile apps for teaching history by the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) in its December journal. Initial funding for the app was provided by the ESC through

the TAH grant and is hosted by Cleveland State's Center for Public History and Digital Humanities.

During summer, Shannon attended the Blackboard World 2014 Conference, where she received the Blackboard Catalyst Directors Choice Award for Exemplary Course Design for her blended learning course "Local and American History." In her category, Shannon was the only secondary school educator receiving an award in a field represented by 41 universities and faculty from around the world. Submissions were judged for course design, interaction, collaboration, assessment and learner support.

Congratulations to Shannon and to the other TAH teachers who have designed exemplary curriculum, websites, and mobile apps that continue to enhance teaching and learning for their students.

# ODE Performance Task Writing Workshops at ESC of Cuyahoga County

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is hosting a series of ODE Performance Task Writing Workshops that will help teachers create lessons designed to promote student learning at a deep level (Depth of Knowledge 3 and 4). The lessons created will prepare students for Ohio's new Performance Based Assessments.

During the five-day workshop, facilitators will take educators through the entire process of task development, brainstorming, task design, and rubric development. Integration of knowledge across content areas and handson activities will connect practices to content. Participants will develop lessons they can use in their classrooms aligned to Ohio standards.

The scheduled dates for the five-session Performance Task Writing Workshop at the ESC are:

December 1-2, 2014, January 12, 2015, and February 2-3, 2015.

Registration is via ODE SAFE account > STARS > Keyword Search: "Performance-Based Assessment, Task Writing, Performance Task, Workshop"

The workshops are free but space is limited. For information: www.education.ohio.gov/opapp.

## Highlights of Professional Development Workshops and Attendees









### Early Learners Conference Focuses on High-Quality Learning



By Kathy Jillson, SST-3 Consultant

Exposing children to high-quality early learning and development opportunities builds a foundation for a lifetime of learning. Whether those experiences are gained in home or a classroom setting, educators realize these opportunities enhance educational success.

In August, 2014, early childhood educators participated in the Fourth Annual Early Learners Institute hosted by the Educational Service Centers of Cuyahoga and Lorain County and State Support Teams from Regions 2, 3 and 4.

The pre-conference focused on stress management techniques including simple yoga poses, breathing techniques, and guided visualizations for use in classrooms. It also provided an overview of Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards.

Day one, Dr. Jeremy Brueck, President and Associate Director of the Center for Literacy, University of Akron, introduced attendees to connections between Early Childhood Education and technology. He shared appropriate and innovative ways to integrate digital tools into early childhood classrooms and curriculum.

Day two featured two keynotes. Rebecca Tolson and Vicki Krnac, Founders of Keystone Literacy, provided research on early literacy and language development, predictors of future reading success, and the importance of early literacy screening for dyslexia. Laura Maddox, Program Director for the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, discussed how autism spectrum disorders affect social communication and behaviors of young children. Afternoon breakout sessions included topics ranging from updates on early childhood initiatives to curriculum to a session called "Changes in Attitude, Changes in Latitude." Participants left the conference with motivating strategies to take back to their classrooms as they begin a new school year.















# The Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation System (eTPES) and Student Learning Objectives

By Sharon Novak, Coordinator of Educator Quality Programs

The Ohio Teacher and Principal Evaluation Systems (eTPES) is the online educator evaluation system for statewide use by Ohio districts and schools.

Evaluators can collect and store growth and improvement plans, evidence, and document observations to determine educator performance based upon defined rubrics. The electronic system follows the frameworks (original and alternative) for educator evaluation as adopted by the State

Board of Education, which includes multiple measures of teacher and principal performance and student academic growth.

The eTPES program proved to be very successful in supporting districts and schools in storing evaluation data. Over 1,000 districts completed initial set-up during the last school year.

Please look for upcoming spring training sessions at the ESC of Cuyahoga County regarding the input of student growth measures.

### 2013-2014

Number of eTPES evaluation forms completed: 289,044 Number of eTPES final summative forms completed: 92,860

### The Right Side of the OTES and OPES Model

A Student Learning Objective (SLO) is a measurable, longterm academic growth target that a teacher sets at the beginning of the year for all students or for subgroups of students. SLOs demonstrate a teacher's impact on student learning within a given interval of instruction based upon baseline data gathered at the beginning of the course. This measure is an option for districts to measure and determine student growth for their students.

The Educator Quality Department of the ESC offers support, training and guidance in all components of eTPES, OTES/OPES and the SLO process.

For more information please contact:

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or

Sharon Novak, Coordinator of Educator Quality Programs 216-901-3808

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## PBIS in the 2014-15 School Year

The State Support Team - Region 3 conducted a regional needs assessment last spring and used this data to develop our professional development opportunities for school teams implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) this year. Based on this feedback, we will continue to offer our New Team Training throughout the year, as well as the SST-3 PBIS Leadership Network. New opportunities for this year include:

- Development of resources for PBIS teams to support increased family and community involvement
- Expansion of SST-3 PBIS resources available on our interactive weebly site http://sst3pbisleadershipnetwork. weebly.com/
- Professional development for:
  - Classroom management strategies within a PBIS model
  - Tier 2 (targeted) interventions

In addition, the Ohio PBIS Network will be developing a statewide recognition system for PBIS schools as a way to highlight the great work that is happening in our schools.

Our PBIS Leadership Network continues to grow, with over 50 people attending our session in September. As one participant reported, "It was a pleasure meeting so many dedicated and motivated professionals! It was also extremely helpful to hear about successes and challenges as districts/schools implemented the process." The network meets quarterly and December 8th will be the next session.

For further information contact: Meghan Shelby, SST-3 Consultant and PBIS Lead 216-446-3817 Meghan.shelby@esc-cc.org





"It was a pleasure meeting so many dedicated and motivated professionals! It was also extremely helpful to hear about successes and challenges as: districts/schools implemented the process."

# Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Comes to the ESC of Cuyahoga County/SST-Region 3

The Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at the ESC is continuing to expand our services to meet the increasing needs of districts in improving teacher quality, meeting new mandates and increasing student achievement. Our department is committed to "meeting student needs through cooperative efforts" that align with districts and the work that they have prioritized. The consultants work with K-12 administrators and teachers to provide leadership, planning and support, as well as coaching, in all curricular areas. Some of this specialized help may be curriculum mapping, unpacking Ohio's Learning Standards, assessment development, and the role of formative assessment. This work can be conducted within districts as a focus or in conjunction with the Ohio Improvement Process. Teacher based teams give teachers a process for analyzing data and connecting this to their assessment and instructional cycle, which is critical to academic achievement success for all students. Often. workshops are offered here at our office that target specific areas of professional development.

A few areas we would like to highlight are:

#### Coaching

#### Instructional Coaching

An instructional coach is someone whose chief professional responsibility is to bring evidence-based practices into classrooms by working directly with teachers and other school leaders. Curriculum consultants take the learning to the next level by modeling lessons in the classroom, incorporating best practice, formative assessment, and higher order thinking skills to engage students in a deeper understanding of content.

Consultants then provide feedback and guide teachers to think deeply about their practice. In this way, teachers who felt supported report that they made significant changes in their instructional practice. Typically, they work to build teacher capacity over time so that the work can continue among the teachers once the coaches have left.

Leadership Performance Coaching

Process or performance coaching is being used this year with principals as a way to support their leadership plan within their school district. Each principal writes a 100-day plan and the coach—consultant meets with the principal to follow up on the implementation of the plan. Focused conversations on a monthly basis keep the plan moving forward. The leadership plan must be aligned to the district's strategic District Leadership Plan (DLP) and demonstrate a willingness to accomplish work that matters to them and their organization. Individuals who worked with coaches report that they have completed the project sooner than they would have without a coach, and they felt more confident in their ability to do the work. More importantly, their school districts directly benefited from the projects they were coached on.

#### Value Added Student Growth Measure

Value-added analysis is a statistical method that helps educators measure the impact schools and teachers have on students' academic progress rates from year to year. It is intended to help educators in Ohio with information on how they can use data to focus instruction. Our office has a consultant that is trained in Value-Added and can work with district staff to understand and use their value-added data for the greatest impact.

We offer a wide range of services and would be happy to discuss how we can help you meet the needs of your district.

For further information, please contact

Lynn Hruschak, Curriculum Coordinator 216-446-3830 Lynn.hruschak@esc-cc.org

### Innovation Lab Network: A Vision for Public Education

The ESC of Cuyahoga County is collaborating with the ESCs of Central Ohio and Hamilton County and several Ohio districts promoting educational transformation through the Innovation Lab Network (ILN). The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), a nationwide organization of state school superintendents, founded the Partnership for Next Generation Learning in 2009 that now includes nine states serving as labs to increase innovation and change in education. State education agencies serve as the leader of the lab and collaborate with districts to use research-based, innovative practices to test, refine and align new system design elements at the state, district and school levels.

In Ohio, the Innovation Lab Network includes 14 districts that currently implement innovative practices that reflect the network's six design principles: Personalized Learning, World Class Knowledge and Skills, Student Agency, Comprehensive Systems of Learning Support, Anytime/ Anywhere Learning Opportunities, and Performance-based Learning and Assessments.

As the Common Core, deep learning, student-focused

practices, and competency-based pathways focus on developing college and career-readiness for students, districts are promoting student success strategies and identifying infrastructure components critical to supporting their work. Ohio's network is collaborating for the exchange of ideas and to foster a culture of experimentation, policy change, and mutual support for educational innovation.

Ohio ILN Coordinator Mary Lou Rush and participating ESC representatives are meeting with superintendents and district administrators statewide to inform them about the ILN purpose and processes, to identify district innovative practices, and to support and facilitate expansion of the network of Ohio districts.

Northeast Ohio superintendents are invited to learn more about the ILN on Tuesday, December 16th at the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

For information, contact Nadine Grimm, Coordinator of 21st Century Learning 216-901-4243 Nadine.grimm@esc-cc.org



## GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENT PROGI

### Annual GPS Workshop at Chagrin Reservation



Students from seven school districts (Bedford, Independence, East Cleveland, Rocky River, Westlake, Richmond Heights, and South Euclid-Lyndhurst) attended this middle school student seminar at Look About Lodge in the Chagrin Reservation on October 7th and 9th. Students were instructed by Carly Martin, naturalist at the park, on the theory and use of a handheld GPS unit. After the instruction on the GPS, students in teams of four and five searched for eight different waypoints in the woods. They also completed an exercise in triangulation. This is an annual event for districts that are a part of the Gifted Consortium of the ESC of Cuyahoga County.

For information about Gifted and Talented programs, contact:

Steve Rogaski, Director of Human Resources and Pupil Services 216-901-4210

Steve.rogaski@esc-cc.org







### Save the Date

November 12, 2014 Beck Center for the Arts Peaceful Solutions - High School

This fall, high school students from Cuyahoga Heights, along with several other districts, will learn how to create peaceful solutions through the arts. This one-day workshop at the Beck Center for the Arts in Lakewood, includes opportunities for students to write songs, play instruments, paint, mold with clay, and learn how cultural arts can have a positive impact on their lives and society.

January 27, 2015 ESC of Cuyahoga County Leadership Workshop - High School

This winter, high school students have the opportunity to take part in a leadership workshop conducted by Paul Pendleton, Director of Leadership Services for the ESC of Cuyahoga County. The workshop encompasses areas such as Leadership Styles, Importance of Vision, Reaching Consensus, Team Building, and Creating Positive Environments for Success. Examples of various activities will be used to help the students develop techniques to use in school projects.

For information about Gifted and Talented programs, contact:

Steve Rogaski, Director of Human Resources and Pupil Services 216-901-4210 Steve.rogaski@esc-cc.org



# Facilitating Students' Transition from High School to University-Level Writing

The ESC of Cuyahoga County, in collaboration with Baldwin Wallace University and Cleveland State University, has been awarded a grant by The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation to provide extended professional development for English language arts (ELA) teachers focusing on developing students' skills in research, close reading, and writing strategies. This project extends the faculty commitment and collaboration generated as a result of the ESC's pilot project for High School-Higher Education Alignment to alleviate post-secondary remediation in Math and English that was sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents.

With this project, university faculty will collaborate with high school administrators and ELA teachers from **Strongsville**, **Maple Heights**, **Olmsted Falls**, and from **Cleveland** 

**Metropolitan District's** MC2STEM and New Tech Facing History High Schools to promote student deep learning and to improve preparation for university-level reading and writing across the curriculum. English and education faculty, writing center directors, and librarians will participate in professional exchanges, study circles, and a series of workshops about best practices for development of high school writing centers. College mentors will aid high school faculty in supporting students' development of close reading, research and writing skills to improve college and career readiness. Mentoring and college visits will provide opportunities for high school students to learn more about post-secondary expectations, the college process, and about preparation required for future careers. This project promotes faculty collaboration, critical inquiry within a discipline, innovative teaching methods, and engages students actively in their learning process.

For information, contact
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# Award from The Cleveland Foundation Aids Youth with Disabilities

The Cleveland Foundation recently awarded \$80,000 to the ESC of Cuyahoga County to support the Cuyahoga Employment Partnership (CEP), a community collaborative formed in 2011. The partnership, which includes 29 school districts, career centers, the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Cuyahoga County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services, is aimed at helping Cuyahoga County youth with disabilities acquire and sustain employment within two months of high school graduation.

In cooperation with Metro Health System and the American Red Cross, several recent graduates of the **Cleveland Metropolitan School District** interested in healthcare careers were selected for the CEP nurse assistant training

program. CEP and the American Red Cross assisted candidates' success through training, coaching and tutoring. In October, the candidates passed Ohio's state certification test for nurse assistants, qualifying them for entry level health care positions. CEP and Metro Health are cooperating to identify positions and training requirements for direct patient care and associated non-patient work opportunities for CEP candidates.

For information, contact
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and Northeast Ohio Regional Transition Specialist
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### Handmade Books Support Literacy and Writing

Educators from Lakewood, Maple Heights, Parma, and Warrensville Heights City Schools recently created their own handmade books in a workshop focused on book arts and literacy. Simple book structures, such as the flexagon, album, and moon journal, inspired creativity and provided an opportunity to reflect and to record thoughts, poetry, brief essays, or notes about daily life or travel. The workshop, Bookmaking: Form and Content, called upon participants to consider ways in which the form of a book contributes to supporting its content. Such creative practices in the classroom can contribute to greater student awareness about the processes and strategies for improving writing and close reading. Simple bookmaking can be done with students at any grade level. In the Maple Heights district, students are participating in the Genre Studies Project in which they study various writing genres and produce their own written works in response. This

ESC workshop was one in a month-long series of events for Octavofest, an annual celebration throughout Northeast Ohio of the book, creative writing, papermaking, stenciling and other book arts.





### International Baccalaureate Leadership Seminars at the ESC

The ESC of Cuyahoga County hosted two International Baccalaureate (IB) leadership seminars this Fall highlighting the IB Middle Years and new IB Career-Related Certificate programs. Robert Harrison from the IB Global Center at the Hague, Netherlands, joined Ann Wink of IB Americas to inform 40 Northeast Ohio educators about the revised Middle Years inquiry-based curriculum framework that responds to the learning needs of students aged 11-16 growing up in a complex and highly-connected world. A number of districts in our region are implementing the Middle Years curriculum incorporating language acquisition, language and literature, mathematics, design, sciences, individuals and societies, and physical and health education.

The IB Career-Related Certificate (IBCC) program introduces students at the high school level to transferable life skills that emphasize critical and ethical thinking, intercultural understanding, and effective communications. Each school creates its own distinctive version of the IBCC program that incorporates regular IB diploma program academic courses with applied career-related learning. As with the diploma curriculum, the IBCC requires student action and service fostering international-mindedness. Northeast Ohio educators from Jackson High School presented about their new IBCC program with Natasha Deflorian and Paul Campbell from IB Americas at the ESC on October 29th.



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### Rose-Mary Center School Adds New Swing

The fundraising committee at the ESC Rose-Mary Center School has been raising money for the last three years to answer the call for more swings for its students at its school located in Tremont. Fundraising efforts included movie nights, bowling night, walk-a-thons, raffle and funday cafes at school. In August, new equipment was added to the playground—a typical swing seat and a supporting seat for ambulatory students. Several school staff volunteered to get the work done. Labor, the base of gravel and playground grade mulch was donated by Terrace Construction, Independence Excavating and Cigar Club Members.



### Basket Raffle and Open House a Success at Rose-Mary Center School

The basket raffle and open house at Rose-Mary Center School on October 23rd provided fun for students, families, staff, and friends of the school.

Approximately 2,000 tickets were sold for the basket raffle. Many thanks to the ESC of Cuyahoga County Governing Board who helped make this raffle a success. Proceeds from the raffle went directly to the Rose-Mary Center School's community training opportunities for 39 students.

In addition to the raffle, everyone had a great time playing games and carving pumpkins.





