



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

June 2018

Murray Ridge School Celebrates the Class of 2018

On May 30, 2018, friends, family members, caregivers, and Murray Ridge Center staff bid farewell to nine graduating seniors during its annual transition ceremony at Murray Ridge School.



The Murray Ridge Class of 2018!

Director of Vocational Services Jeff Miller added his own encouraging words to each senior, addressing opportunities for life after school. Following the keynote address, Director of Educational

Murray Ridge School Commencement 2018 began with a prelude by music teacher Lissa Lopez and a welcome by Director of Educational Services Dann Swift, who introduced the transferring students: Joe Farina, Sean McCaffrey, Finian (Gus) McKee, Kyle Porter, Daniel Potter, Annessa Pugh, Alec Radziewicz, and Alana Smale! Sadly two seniors were unable to be in attendance; Davasia Sales was absent due to illness and Darain Kozich passed away in April.

The Murray Ridge Choraleers sang "What a Wonderful World," and then Superintendent Fisher took the podium to speak to the graduates and their families, caregivers, and teachers. "This ceremony marks the end of many years of hard work and determination. It is called "commencement" because it also marks the beginning of adulthood, new friends and opportunities, and a lifetime of continued learning and achievement."

Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer (pictured right) was the event's keynote speaker, and in his speech spoke of how inspirational the graduation class is to the community. "I think you being on stage today shows what is possible in the world, and don't ever let anybody tell you that you can't do something." He continued, "If you approach the world with the same grit and determination as you did with your time at Murray Ridge School, you're in a good position to achieve those goals you've set in your mind." Mayor Ritenauer also noted the strengths of each graduate and how he or she has contributed to the school and the community.

Services Dann Swift presented each graduate with a diploma. Finally, the seventeenth annual David Elsasser Spirit Award was presented to Gus McKee by Kathy Oblak, mother of David Elsasser, a previous student at Murray Ridge School who passed away 16 years ago.

The ceremony ended with Dann Swift wishing the seniors best of luck in the future, and thanking them for their hard work and dedication as students at Murray Ridge School.

The festive afternoon concluded with a luncheon provided by the Murray Ridge Support Group for all graduates, their families and friends, and staff members.

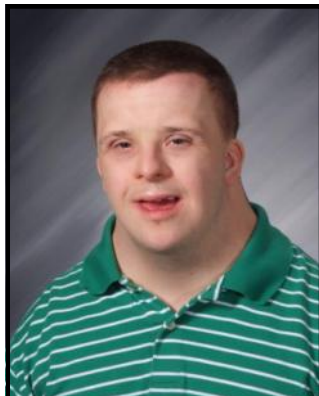


The Class of 2018



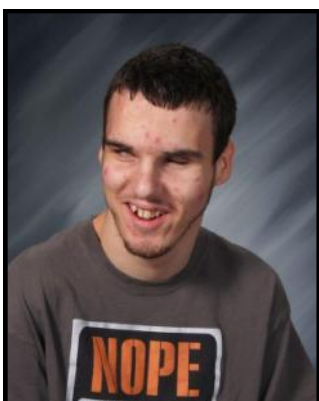
Joe Farina has been attending Murray Ridge School since first grade; he particularly enjoyed swim and music classes, and has met many new friends while attending our school. Joe transitioned to home-based services, completing Ohio's vast curriculum. His interests also include spending time outdoors particularly lakes, and attending religious activities with friends.

Sean McCaffrey is a hard working and dedicated student at MRS. He is actively involved in Boy Scouts, Basketball, and Volleyball with the Raiders. For the last four years, Sean has worked on the Crew through which he goes out into the community to work and also works with his peers in the school, recycling and working at Pizza Land and the Micro-Society.



Gus McKee is a well mannered and considerate student at Murray Ridge School. He is an active member in Boy Scouts and attends all of the functions within the group. Gus constantly puts a smile on his friends' faces with all of the enthusiasm he brings to class and to work. He has been an active member of the Murray Ridge Crew for the past four years.

Kyle Porter is a friendly hard working young man who will do anything for anyone! Kyle's favorite parts of school are doing math and socializing with his peers and the adults in the building. Following graduation, Kyle plans to attend the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center as well as participate in Step-by-Step's summer program working at Marc's grocery store.



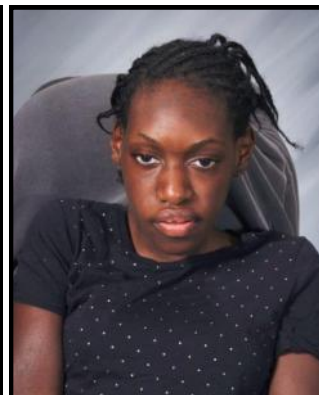
Daniel Potter is an extremely well mannered, personable, hilarious young man. He loves making people laugh and being around his friends and the staff at MRS. He enjoys participating in Boy Scouts, name that tune in music, and crew work around the school. After graduation, Daniel will be going to the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center.

Anne Pugh is an extremely smart and spunky student at MRS. She is actively involved in Girl Scouts. She enjoys being in a positive environment with music playing and fun activities going on. She has participated in the Murray Ridge Crew for the past four years. Some of her responsibilities include recycling, sanitizing surface areas, and working in the Micro-Society.



Alec Radziewicz is a hard working young man. He likes to socialize with others and enjoys listening to and talking about music. He has performed as an opening act for the Lagrange Firemen's Show. While at MRS, Alec has participated in talent shows, plays, and Boy Scouts. After graduation, Alec will attend the Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center.

Davasias Sales has a smile that will brighten up your whole day! She has been very involved with the school activities and enjoys going on field trips. Her community-based work experience includes Pease Community Church, Mercy Recreation Center, IGA and Rebman's Bowling Alley.





Alana Smale is a happy young lady. She is very talented with drawing pictures and enjoys entering them at the art show. Her work experience and vocational skills involve Rebman's Bowling Alley and Second Harvest Food Bank. Alana has been involved in Girl Scouts at MRS since 2015.

Darian Kozich had been a student at MRS for 18 years. His favorite activities included visiting the sensory room, going swimming, attending dances, and socializing with his friends. Darian transitioned to home-based services for the last several years, completing the Ohio Graduation Tests. Darian passed away on April 11, 2018 following a long illness.



Above, the class of 2018 waits patiently for the ceremony to begin. Right, Kyle Porter waves his certificate in the air! Below left, Gus McKee accepts his David Elsasser Spirit Award from Kathy Oblak. Below, right, the Murray Ridge Choraleers warm up their singing voices for the ceremony!



MURRAY RIDGE PRESCHOOL

A PRESCHOOL OPTION

The Murray Ridge Preschool Program offers students with a variety of developmental disabilities the advantages of in-room therapies, an array of state-of-the-art equipment, outstanding staff, and an opportunity to learn alongside typically-developing peers. The Preschool Program runs Tuesday through Friday. Children with disabilities must be referred to the Murray Ridge Preschool Program by their local school districts. Applications for typically-developing children are available through Murray Ridge School.

WE OFFER:

- Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom
- An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment
- Full-time nurse on site
- Door-to-door transportation services
- A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards
- Dynamic, ODE-certified staff
- Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes
- Music classes



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Lorain OVC Holds Car Show

On May 25, the Lorain Opportunity and Vocation Center held its first car show. The consumers thoroughly enjoyed themselves; they had the opportunity to check out the exterior and interiors of many old cars throughout the parking lot. Nine cars entered the car show and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes were awarded. It was a beautiful day and fun was had by all!

Pictured (right) Alexshawn Averett finds his dream car. Below, Dalton Lock and Julie Alessandro goof around while looking at the entries.



Murray Ridge Center Representing at Lorain County Parades

Murray Ridge Center is once again participating in many parades throughout Lorain County this summer.

Please contact Jennifer Judkins, Community Education/Volunteer Director at 440-329-3734 if you are interested in joining us for a remaining event!

Upcoming Parades:

Avon Duct Tape Parade, Sat. June 16th - 10:00 a.m.

Sheffield Lake Community Days, Thurs. July 26th - 7:00 p.m.

North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade, Sun. Aug. 13th - 1:30 p.m.

Woollybear Parade, Sun. Sept. 23rd - 1:30 p.m.



Consumers, staff, family, and friends at the 2017 Woollybear Parade.

The Murray Ridge 500!

On May 25th, Murray Ridge School students competed in the annual Murray Ridge 500. Students and staff enjoyed creating and racing their cars.

Pizza was provided to all the hungry participants, and students cooled off with popsicles throughout the event!

Congratulations to all our MRS racers, and to all the parents, staff, and caregivers who came out to cheer on the participants!




Top, the Hulk! Anthony McBennett with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Russo. Minions (middle, l-r): Gary Huff, Kristen Marunski, William Norris, Daniel Vazquez, Kenny Kingsley, Bentley Spooner, Tyler Barnes, Personal Aides April Reveglia and Lee Ann Jones. Below, left: Race for Cure (l-r): Kyle Offenberger, JaLaysia Brown, Patrick Boey, Jacob Gladding, Jaquan Warren, Evey Rodgers, and Julie Maurer. Bottom, right, Director of Educational Services Dann Swift and Classroom Supervisor Stacie Starr.





June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10	11	12	13  	14	15 	16 
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	School Day Camp					
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
	School Day Camp					

Activities & Events

- 6/6 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/13 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:30 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/13 - Last day of school for Murray Ridge School
- 6/13 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/15 - Murray Ridge Support Group Dance, 7:00 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/16 - Avon Duck Tape Festival
- 6/18-7/6 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp
- 6/25 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on May 21, 2018:

The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve in the third quarter of 2018. Superintendent Amber Fisher discussed changes to Governing Rules and Regulations based on statutory changes; the recommended changes were approved unanimously. In other news, Superintendent Fisher thanked the Board and the community for its support of Issue 5 on May 5; the levy passed at more than 75%. There will be no Board meeting in July.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort
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Permit No. 146
Elyria, OH 44035



Visit the Inclusive Playground This Summer!

Visit the Lorain County Metro Parks Inclusive Playground! The unique playground incorporates water play (seasonal), structured play, and natural play environments. People of all ages and abilities will be able to use the area and enjoy the play features.

Stop in and visit today!

47160 Hollstein Drive, Amherst, Ohio
(440) 984-3470



Exceptional Service Award

Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Jennifer Judkins, Community Education/Volunteer Director. Include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis. If you have any questions, contact Jenn Judkins at 440-329-3734 or jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org.