

MONTHLY



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

JUN 2022



Dann Swift singing the praises of the MRS 2022 Graduating Class



MRS Graduate **Kendric Warner** with Amherst Schools Superintendent **Steve Sayers**

On June 1st, Murray Ridge School held its annual transition ceremony, at which a group of guests – including the key note speaker, **Steve Sayers**, superintendent of Amherst schools – celebrated the accomplishments of some very impressive young people. While each graduate will be deeply missed by school staff, all are excited about what lies ahead. Beyond the walls of Murray Ridge School, there will be many opportunities for the graduates to explore their interests, have new experiences, work at various jobs, give back within their communities, and live lives of increasing independence. Congratulations, **Murray Ridge School Class of 2022!**

Murray Ridge School Graduation!



Phelisha Santiago with her diploma



Senior Banquet

The annual Senior Banquet was held on May 20th for graduating seniors! Murray Ridge School seniors, along with their families and loved ones, enjoyed a catered dinner. Additionally, the seniors received certificates with superlatives, and were crowned kings and queens of the royal banquet!

Pictured, left to right: **Zachary Rader**, **Kendric Warner**, **Phelisha Santiago**, **Brandon Rivera**, and **Jacob Montgomery**.



Elyria's Memorial Day Parade!

On May 30th, Murray Ridge Center staff, individuals with developmental disabilities, and family members proudly represented Murray Ridge Center in Elyria's annual Memorial Day Parade. Pictured above: **Tim Farkas**, **Charles Johnson**, **Steve Locurto**, Flat Rock employee **Mary Yosa**, and **Robert Kerpics**. Top right: Murray Ridge Parade Committee Member **Jennifer Ryan** and **Charles Johnson**. Bottom Right: Murray Ridge Center on proud display in Elyria Square!



MURRAY RIDGE SCHOOL COMPETES IN 2022 SPECIAL OLYMPICS TRACK AND FIELD GAMES

On May 13th, 23 Murray Ridge School students competed in Special Olympics track and field events alongside other Lorain County student athletes. With bleachers full of family, friends, and loved ones, students took part in a 50-yard dash, a softball throwing contest, an assisted walking race, and much more. Three graduating seniors, **Brandon Rivera**, **Steven Fosdick**, and **Zachary Rader**, participated in the track and field games. Congratulations, seniors! Additionally, this year marked Murray Ridge Physical Development Specialist **Shannon Tandarich's** 25th year of coordinating and coaching the athletes at Murray Ridge School. Participation in Special Olympics activities helps our students grow in confidence, coordination, and companionship.

Congrats, Special Olympians!



Above: students participating in the assisted walking race. Below, left: **Brandon Rivera** and **Zachary Rader** between events. Below, right: **Steven Fosdick** smiling for the camera.



Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts Change Drive

Last month, the MRS Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts Troops held a change drive to collect funds as a community service project and were able to raise \$405.57! They chose to donate to **Good Knights of Lorain County**, a non-profit agency that builds and provides beds for those in need. Good Knights was kind enough to bring t-shirts for all of our scouts when they came to accept the donation. Congratulations to **Kristi Zgrabik's** class, who raised the most money and won a pizza party! Thanks to everyone who contributed, and congratulations to everyone involved!



SELF-ADVOCACY EVENT

Knowing how to advocate for oneself is a vital skill for those with developmental disabilities. That's why on Saturday, June 11th, Murray Ridge Center held a special event that promoted self-advocacy of those we serve. In association with the nonprofit advocacy organization called "Because I Said I Would", the seminar featured special guest speaker **Alex Sheen**, a five-time TED Talk speaker whose charitable work has been featured on ABC World News, CNN, The Today Show, NPR, and many other programs. Educational events like this one are just one of the many ways that Murray Ridge Center works to develop and encourage independence, inclusion, and community engagement among people with developmental disabilities in Lorain County.



Della and Roger Dorsey (back) from **Good Knights of Lorain County** with MRS seniors **Zachary Rader**, **Kendric Warner**, **Steven Fosdick**, and **Brandon Rivera**

Congratulations, 2022 Graduates!

Please join us in congratulating the members of Murray Ridge School Class of 2022 and wishing them well as they move forward with the next exciting chapters of their lives!



CHARLES FAIRCHILD

Charles is the master of word search puzzles; this talented young man typically completed at least one of them every morning! Occasionally, Charles would ask for help, but he would still find the word before anyone else.

Charles is responsible for many of the

classroom routines that we still participate in every day, like the school day count down: at day 100 of school, we start counting down to summer break, and, each day, Charles would finish the count and announce how many days until "summer camp"! Charles also enjoyed walking laps in the hall and making any type of craft. Charles was considered the class role model, and he would demonstrate the SMART Board activities. Charles has participated in the CREW community vocational training, and he was a member of the Boy Scouts. After graduation, Charles is planning to attend a vocational day program.



STEVEN FOSDICK

Steven is a sweet and loving soul who enjoys the company of his peers and caregivers. He has been the face of the Murray Ridge Center website since childhood, and he is beloved by all that know him. During his leisure time, he enjoys swimming, listening and dancing to music, coloring, looking at pictures

and books, walking his dog, and spending time with his family. Some of Steven's favorite memories at Murray Ridge School involve participating in the many school activities with his buddies, Coach and Matt. Upon graduation, Steven plans to attend adult day services and work at the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center. Steven can brighten anyone's day with just one smile. Steven, you are one in a million and will truly be missed!



LUIS MASSAS

Luis is a man on the move, and he keeps his teacher and aides on the move, too! Luis is energetic and clever, and he never runs out of curiosity; he very much enjoys exploring the various items in the classroom. Luis also has a great smile. When he smiles, his whole

face lights up, and his classmates laugh and smile with him. Luis enjoys electronics and cartoons, and he loves to watch his favorite show on an iPad or a phone. After graduation, Luis will participate in activities at a vocational center.



JACOB MONTGOMERY

Jacob is the "ladies' man" of the senior wing! He is a happy person and has a smile for anyone who stops by to chat. Jacob participates with his classmates in the recycling crew job, which entails collecting recyclable items from all the classrooms at the school. Before

COVID, Jacob was employed with his Murray Ridge peers at Rebman's Bowling and Pandy's Nursery. Jacob enjoys playing with his dogs and spending time with his personal nurse, Ashley. After graduation, Jacob will spend time with his family and explore options for attending a vocational center.



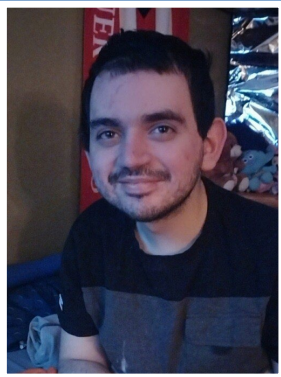
ZACHARY RADER

Zachary is outgoing and social, and he enjoys talking with staff and other students. He likes playing games, playfully pranking people, watching tv, and playing on an iPad. At Murray Ridge School, he enjoyed attending Boy Scouts, participating in Special Olympics, and going on field trips. Zachary completed his community work experiences at Peace Community Church and the APL, and he had various CREW and classroom jobs at the school. After graduation, he plans to live at home and either work or attend a day program.



BRANDON RIVERA

Brandon is friendly, helpful, caring, and social. He is creative and enjoys drawing and creating comics. He likes to play video games, listen to music, and talk about history. At school, he enjoyed attending Boy Scouts, going on field trips, participating in Special Olympics, and attending school dances. He is often given the job of greeting people at large events held at Murray Ridge School, and some even call him the Mayor of Murray Ridge School! As an active member of his community, Brandon completed his work experiences at Second Harvest food bank, Rebman's Bowling Alley, IGA, and Good Knights of Lorain County. He also had various CREW and classroom jobs. After graduation, Brandon plans to live at home and work in the community.



MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ

Michael is a fun and loving young man and has been a student at Murray Ridge School since he moved to Ohio eight years ago. Michael was enrolled in home-based services, through which he completed Ohio's vast curriculum and state testing. His favorite activities in school include reading, iPad puzzles, and math. Michael's interests include cinema, especially Marvel and Star Wars movies. He also has a strong passion for basketball, and is a big fan of the Cleveland Cavaliers. After graduation, he plans to assist in household responsibilities and participate in family outings.



PHELISHA SANTIAGO

Sassy, determined, and hard working, Phelisha likes music and playing on an iPad. Phelisha completed her work experiences at Rebman's Bowling Alley, Peace Community Church, Second Harvest Food Bank, Pandey's Garden Center, and IGA. Phelisha joined her class on various field trips throughout the community, and she also had various Crew and classroom jobs. She plans to live at home and attend a day program.



QUONTAE TAYLOR

Quontae is a humorous, helpful, and perseverant young man. He shows passion for photography, enjoys listening to music, and displays strengths in sequencing and computing. While attending Murray Ridge School, Quontae participated in the talent show and various classroom and CREW jobs, including making deliveries for Pizzaland. Quontae's plans following graduation are to live at home and spend quality time with family, while enjoying social and recreational opportunities in the community with relatives.



KENDRIC WARNER

Kendric is friendly, helpful, and hard working. He likes listening to music, dancing, playing basketball, and watching tv. At school, he enjoyed attending Boy Scouts, going on field trips, and participating in the Special Olympics. Out in the community, Kendric completed his work experience at Peace Community Church, and he had various CREW and classroom jobs in school. After graduation, he plans to live at home and work.

Mark Your Calendars!

SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE



UPCOMING: A SENSORY-FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE OF DISNEY'S "FROZEN"

Playhouse Square is presenting a sensory-friendly performance of Disney's "Frozen" on September 3, 2022 at 1:30 PM at KeyBank State Theatre! Experience this performance in a judgment-free environment intended for individuals with sensory sensitivities, autism spectrum disorders, and other sensory, social, and cognitive challenges or issues. Visit tickets.playhousesquare.org to find tickets.

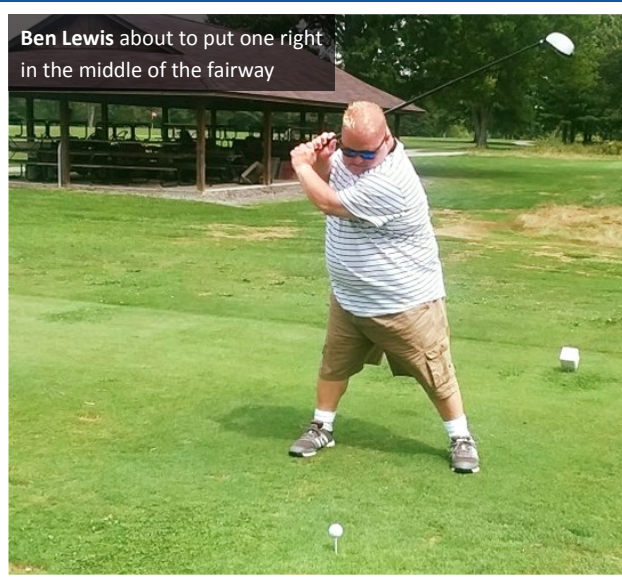


Special Olympics

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

The **2022 Golf Registration Form** and the **2022 Softball Tryout Sign-up Form** are now available online! To find these forms, go to: www.murrayridgecenter.org/special-olympics/

Ben Lewis about to put one right in the middle of the fairway



Information Session for Families Wednesday, June 22, 6-7 PM

The Ohio ISP is the new statewide assessment tool and Individual Service Plan (ISP) for all Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

Beginning Fall of 2022, the Lorain County SSA Department will be using the Ohio ISP.

Join DODD virtually for a family information session to learn more about this upcoming change on Wednesday, June 22nd, from 6 PM to 7 PM.

TWO WAYS TO ATTEND:

1. Watch from the comfort of your own home!

The link to register can be found by visiting either:

- The Murray Ridge Center Facebook page

OR

- www.murrayridgecenter.org
(go to **News & Events** → **Special Events**)

2. Watch with us!

The SSA Department will be streaming the DODD information session in the Murray Ridge School gym.

- 9750 Murray Ridge Rd. Elyria



Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

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 Kevin Naughton, Community Education/Volunteer Director. Please 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 Kevin at (440) 329-3734 or kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on May 31, 2022

The Board unanimously approved the 2022-2025 collective bargaining tentative agreement with OAPSE Local 771 – Unit A, and recommended that it be submitted to the Lorain County Board of Commissioners for consideration. The Board approved the revision of the 2021-2022 Agency Calendars for Residential and Adult Services, to include Juneteenth as a holiday in 2022; consequently, the Murray Ridge Adult Opportunity & Vocational Centers will not be open on Monday, June 20, 2022. Superintendent Fisher and SSA Director Heather Gurchik discussed the Board's day services agreements with private providers.

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for residents of our Meister Road Home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

Direct Support Professionals (Adult Program Setting)

We have openings available for permanent and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for participants in our Adult Program. Hours are generally during the day.

Custodial/Maintenance Positions

We are looking for full-time and PRN (as-needed) custodial/maintenance help and two full-time Maintenance Technicians. Hours are generally during the day.

Service and Support Administrator (SSA)

We have openings for full-time Service and Support Administrators. Hours are generally during the day.

SSA Data/Account Clerk

We are looking for a full-time SSA Data/Account Clerk. Hours are generally during the day.

We are looking for PRN (as-needed) Speech and Language Pathologists

**We provide the training.
You provide the ♥**

To see our current openings and to apply, go to the Murray Ridge website and click on "Opportunities"

All candidates:

Must have valid Ohio drivers license, good driving record, and High School Diploma/GED. Must pass background check, drug test, and physical.

www.murrayridgecenter.org

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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Photo of the Month: Congratulations to **Brandon Rivera**, winner of the **David Elsasser Spirit Award!**

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