



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE... FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

June 2021

Murray Ridge School Celebrates the Class of 2021



Featured Speaker Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield



Deja Sherman (left) celebrates her accomplishment



Obed Robledo with proud mom and brother



New graduates Shaun Tidmore and Obed Robledo raise their fists in triumph

Attended by a small group of friends, family members, caregivers, and agency staff, Murray Ridge School recently held its commencement ceremony for the graduating class of 2021.

In addition to speeches and congratulations delivered by Director of Educational Services Dann Swift, Superintendent Amber Fisher, and Director of Vocational/Transportation Services Jeff Miller, Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield was present and addressed the attendees as the keynote speaker.

The graduates include (top photo, left to right) **Jason Yee, Stephanie Jackson, Xavier Moore, Obed Robledo, Shaun Tidmore, Danny Bader, Gabe Maldonado, and Deja Sherman.** (Not pictured: **Ja'Mes Gordon**)

The David Elsasser Spirit Award was presented to Stephanie Jackson by Kathy Oblak, mother of David Elsasser, a previous student at Murray Ridge School who passed away.

Superintendent Fisher's reflective remarks neatly summed up the sentiment of the occasion: "While your presence here has certainly brightened the halls and classrooms of Murray Ridge School, and you will be deeply missed here — we are SO excited for you, eager to hear of your next adventures, and confident that you will each continue to make the world a better place."



Stephanie Jackson is a spunky and fun girl who enjoys the Wiggles, Disneyland, and the color yellow. During her leisure time she enjoys playing on her iPad and dancing. Stephanie participated in Girl Scouts and The Crew at Murray Ridge School, and one of her favorite memories from her time there was participating with the North Pointe Ballet. Stephanie plans to join a dance group following graduation. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Go get your dreams Stephanie!



Danny Bader is a sweet and gentle student who is always happy and friendly to those around him. He is very outgoing and loves to greet everyone he meets. During his leisure time, he likes to sing to his favorite music and enjoys a good round of magic tricks. Danny is very bright and has a wonderful memory. He is also a very hard worker and loves to try new things. He did a fantastic job of trying new foods over the years while at school. Danny takes great pride in his accomplishments, and he will let you know about his achievements. Danny is beloved by all who know him. He has the biggest heart and would share anything, except maybe his chips and salsa from Winking Lizard.



Obed Robledo is a sweet loving soul who enjoys the company of his peers. During his leisure time, he enjoys playing instruments and singing. He participated in The Crew at Murray Ridge School. One of Obed's favorite memories at Murray Ridge School was participating in the school talent show. Obed plans to attend a vocational program after graduation. The sky's the limit, so reach for the sky, Obed!



Deja Sherman is a bold and spirited lady, who enjoys her ponies and beads. During her leisure time, she enjoys dancing and socializing. Deja participated in The Crew and Girl Scouts at Murray Ridge School. One of Deja's favorite memories at Murray Ridge School was participating in the North Pointe Ballet. Following graduation, Deja plans to join a vocational center and spend time with her nurse. She believed in herself and accomplished her goals!



Shaun Tidmore is a funny and caring young man who enjoys Dragon Ball Z and Team Umizoomi. During his leisure time, he enjoys playing video games and watching his favorite TV shows. He participated in The Crew at Murray Ridge School, and one of his favorite memories from his time there was participating in Prom. Shaun plans to attend a vocational program once he graduates. Graduation is not the end—it is only the beginning for Shaun!



Presenting . . . The Class of 2021



Gabe Maldonado came to school each day with a smile on his face. Gabe is creative and enjoys cars, music, and video games. Gabe was active in the community, where he completed his work experiences at Great Lakes Smoked Meats, Rebman's Bowling Alley, Peace Community Church, and Mercy

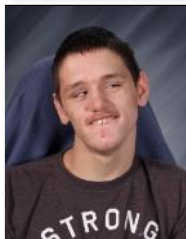
Rec. He also went with his class on various field trips out in the community and had various Crew and classroom jobs. He would like to continue living at home and possibly attend a vocational or day program.



Ja'Mes Gordon is a loving and sharp dressed young man who enjoys spending time with family and friends. Ja'Mes worked for the Crew and assisted at Piz-za Land and cleaned the nurses bed. One of his favorite movies is "An American Tail". Ja'Mes enjoys a good pizza, watching Netflix, and music. Ja'Mes enjoyed going on field trips. Ja'Mes plans on living with his family. Congratulations, Ja'Mes!



Jason Yee is a very energetic and happy young man. He loves to be outdoors and with his family. Jason worked for Pizza Land and built beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. He is very athletic and strong, and he liked to go on field trips and participated in Boy Scouts. Jason plans on living with his family and possibly attending a day program.



Xavier Moore is a wonderful young man who lights up a room with his smile and contagious laughter. Xavier loves music and enjoys playing his keyboard. He has participated in The Crew both within the school and out in the community. He enjoyed working at Peace Community Church and Second Harvest Food Bank, as well as getting ice cream from McDonald's afterward. We wish Xavier health and happiness in all of his future endeavors!

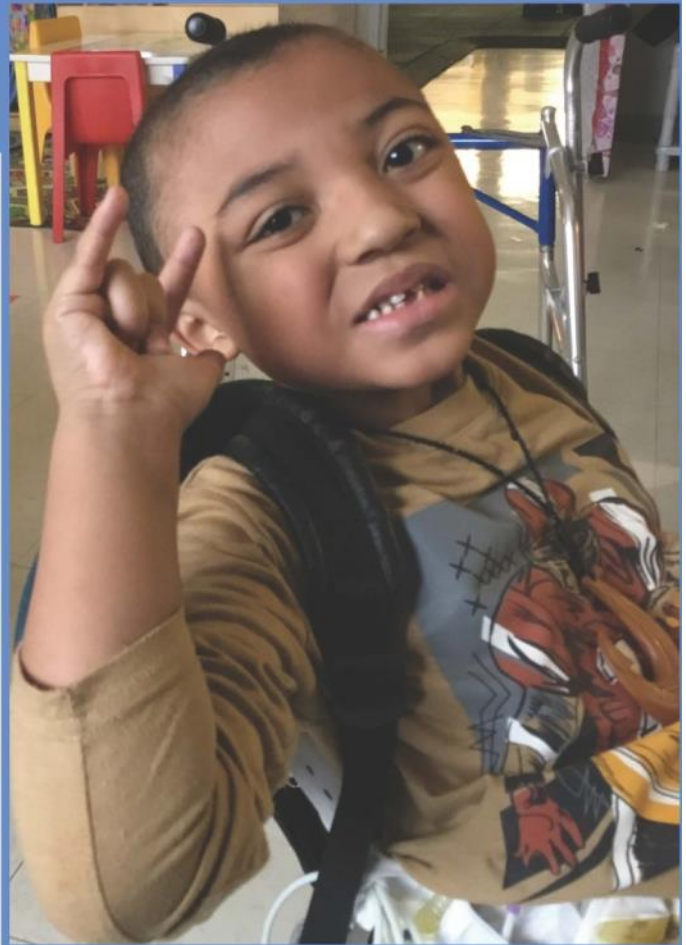
MURRAY RIDGE PRESCHOOL

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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End of Year Memories

Class of 2021 Yard Sign Delivery

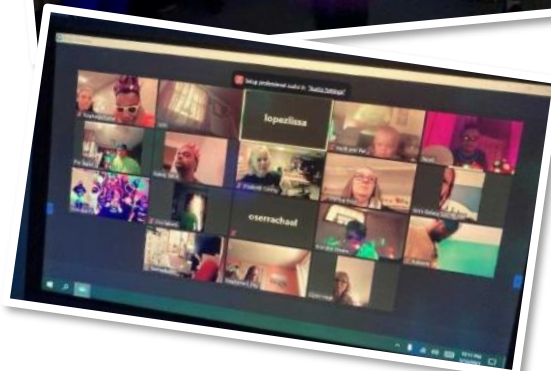
Murray Ridge School teachers Julie Kraker and Cheryl Swierz delivered 'Congratulations' Yard Signs to the homes of this year's Class of 2021.

Left: Stephanie Jackson

Right: Obed Robledo



Virtual Senior Prom



Senior 'Prank'



The Senior students 'pranked' Supervisor Stacie Starr by decorating her office after hours. When she came in to work, she was quite surprised!

Pictured (right): Shaun Tidmore, Deja Sherman, Stacie Starr

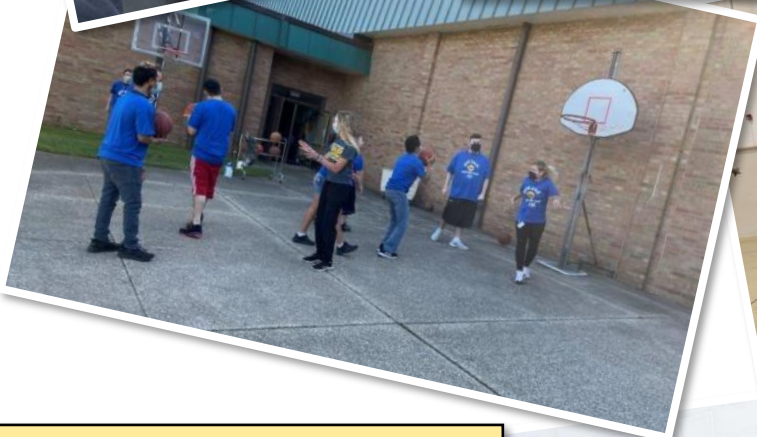
at Murray Ridge School

Field Day

The Field Day events were organized by Adapted Physical Education Teacher Shannon Tandarich. Students received a Field Day T-shirt, pizza for lunch, and a participation medal, and took part in a variety of hands-on games and activities.

Left: Teacher Amanda Giovannazzo with Kendric Warner

Right: Classroom Aide Mykael Martin with Steven Fosdick



Royal Senior Banquet

Families of this year's graduating class enjoyed royal treatment at a Senior Banquet.

Left to right: Stephanie Jackson, Shaun Tidmore, Deja Sherman, Obed Robledo, Jason Yee, Danny Bader



Special Olympics Conducts Tennis, Volleyball Clinics



The year 2020 saw the cancellation of countless events and activities, including Special Olympics competition. However, we are excited to be resuming some Special Olympics activities! Murray Ridge Special Olympics held tennis and volleyball clinics this past month, among the first of many athletic events to come this year. Check the Murray Ridge Center website and Facebook page for upcoming activities including softball and more!



**Clockwise from top left:
Andrew Prihoda, David
Zsigray, and Bobby
McFadden**



Now Hiring

Featured Positions

Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for as-needed positions to care for residents of our Meister Rd. home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

Direct Support Professionals (Adult Program Setting)

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

Drivers

We are looking for drivers to transport Murray Ridge Adult Program participants between their homes and community employment sites. Hours are generally during the day, on an as-needed basis.

**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".

Custodial/Maintenance

We are looking for as-needed custodial help and a full-time Maintenance Technician. Hours are generally during the day.

All potential candidates:

Must have Valid Ohio
Driver's License
Good Driving Record
High School Diploma/GED

Must Pass Background
Check, Drug Test, and
Physical

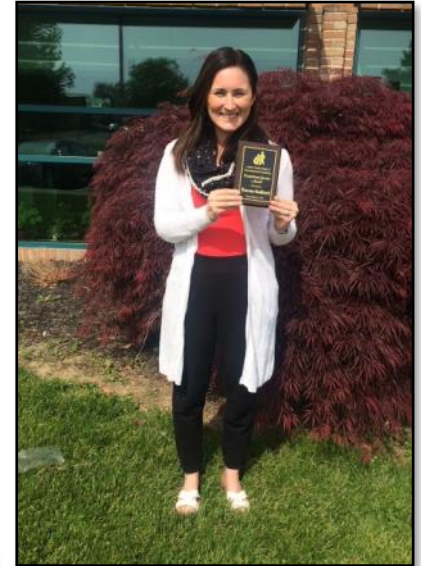
Exceptional Service Awards Presented

Congratulations to the two most recent recipients of Murray Ridge's Exceptional Service Award – Murray Ridge School Teacher **Samantha ('Ms. Sam') Polczynski** and Service and Support Administrator **Theresa Godhard**. Sam's nomination called her "an amazing teacher with a huge heart who loves what she does and puts her students first." Theresa's nomination described her as "always very pleasant and optimistic while still being honest and practical." Congratulations, Theresa and Sam!

Do you know a Murray Ridge staff member who has gone 'above and beyond'? If so, submit your nomination to Kevin Naughton, Community Education & Volunteer Director at (440) 329-3734 or at knaughton@murrayridgecenter.org.



Pictured from left: Superintendent Amber Fisher, Samantha Polczynski, and Board Member Dan White



Theresa Godhard



address safety concerns like wandering for children and adults with ASD and would be great to include in prevention planning. The National Autism Association is able provide these kits through grants and donations and sometimes can't offer them because of such high demand.

For more information, go to nationalautismassociation.org

The National Autism Association is excited to share an amazing free resource for families-Big Red Safety Boxes. These kits are a wonderful way to



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on May 24, 2021:

Superintendent Fisher reported that there were no recommended changes to the proposed 2020 Strategic Plan Progress Report as a result of the public forum on this topic held on May 17, 2021; the Board approved the 2020 Strategic Plan Progress Report, as presented. Dr. Fisher provided an update on the Murray Ridge Adult Services transition, currently underway. Some of the 197 people who were notified that they will not be able to receive Adult Day Support or Vocational Habilitation from Murray Ridge Adult Services after a date, yet to be announced, in 2021, have secured alternative providers. Dr. Fisher announced that a number of providers have expressed interest in providing Adult Day Support and/or Vocational Habilitation in sections of the building that houses the Murray Ridge Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center (EOVC), and interested individuals have been invited to a 'virtual/remote venue' to hear from these providers; some recommended terms of the lease(s) to be offered to one or more of the interested providers were approved. (Murray Ridge Adult Services will continue to operate in the sections of EOVC that are not leased.) Dr Fisher announced that transportation to all community-based group employment sites would resume on June 14, 2021. The Board passed a motion to resume bus transportation to the OVCs effective July 19, 2021, to individuals otherwise eligible to receive in-person services in these settings; the busing will not be available to those that were notified that they will not be able to receive Adult Day Support or Vocational Habilitation from Murray Ridge Services after a date (yet to be announced) in 2021. The five-year financial forecast of the agency and related considerations were reviewed. Dr. Fisher reported on the 'Royal Banquet' that was held for the Murray Ridge School Class of 2021, and announced that the keynote speaker at the Transition Ceremony (held June 02, 2021) would be Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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vaccine adds
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www.cdc.gov



**#IN THIS
TOGETHER** 
Ohio

School's Out!

POWER UP
for
Summer Fun!



USDA

Did you know the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is sponsoring free activities and meals available in your community for your kids and teens this summer?

Find a site near you!
Call: 1-866-348-6479
Visit: www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks
Text: "Summer Meals" to 97779