



MurrayRidgeCenter  
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

# The Murray Ridge Courier

## Murray Ridge School Edition

July 2017

### Murray Ridge School Celebrates the Class of 2017

On June 7, 2017, friends, family members, caregivers, and Murray Ridge Center staff bid farewell to nine graduating seniors during its annual transition ceremony at Murray Ridge School.

Murray Ridge School Commencement

2017 began with a prelude by music teacher Lissa Lopez and a welcome by Director of Educational Services Dann Swift, who introduced the transferring students: Logan Balko, Emily Gessner, Zachary Grimmett, Savon Heston, Eric Hodge, Joshua Ivancic, Charles Jackson, Zachary Mutnansky, and Tyler Rudolchick!

The Murray Ridge Choraleers sang "Lean on Me," and then Superintendent Fisher took the podium to speak to the graduates and their families, caregivers, and teachers. "Whatever their immediate plans may be, I would advise our graduating students that life is a journey, and there will be many there to support and champion them along the way. You each have much to offer, so have confidence in yourselves. Pursue your dreams, enjoy your journey, and know that you will *always* hold a fond spot in the hearts of those who had the privilege and honor of working with you at Murray Ridge School."

Elyria Mayor Holly Brinda (pictured right) was the event's keynote speaker, and in her speech encouraged Murray Ridge students to persevere, even when faced with obstacles. "I believe each of our graduates were put on this planet to make a difference," she said. "Sometimes you can get discouraged, but with the right support, you can push through it!" Mayor Brinda also noted the strengths of each graduate and how he or she has contributed to



The Murray Ridge Class of 2017!

the school and the community.

Director of Adult Services Pam Sebastian added her own encouraging words to each senior, addressing opportunities for life after school.

Following the keynote address, Board President Michelle Hunt and

Board Member Dan White presented each graduate with a diploma. Finally, the sixteenth annual David Elasser Spirit Award was presented to Zachary Mutnansky by Kathy Oblak, mother of David Elasser, a previous student at Murray Ridge School who passed away 15 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.

Best of luck to our 2017 graduates!



# The Class of 2017



**Logan Balko** was a joy to have at Murray Ridge School, and will be missed. His eyes would sparkle as he was wheeled down the halls! He loves home cooked meals! Some of his favorite things to do are watch Sponge Bob cartoons, go swimming, and visit his older brother in college.

**Emily Gessner's** contagious smile is known throughout the school. Everyone who knows Emily knows her kind nature and good heartedness. She loves music, is very vocal, and is always eager to reach out and shake a friend's hand. Emily will continue to live with her parents after graduation.



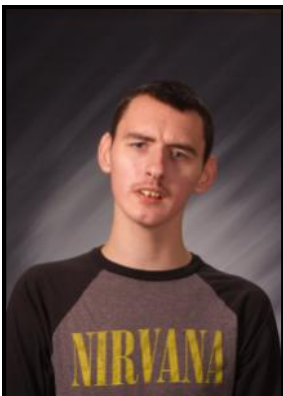
**Zach Grimm** spent a lot of time at Murray Ridge and quickly developed friends through his loveable personality. Zach was a member of Boy Scouts during his time at Murray Ridge and enjoyed attending camp each summer. We wish Zach luck in all his future endeavors.

**Savon Heston** is a delightful young man with a wonderful sense of humor and a smile that will light up a room! Savon has participated in many activities during his school years including the Crew work program, Boy Scouts, class plays, and the Murray Ridge 500. He plans to attend the EOVC next year.



**Eric Hodge** is known for his Friday dance, non-stop conversations, and beating anyone who challenges him at the memory game. Eric's favorite parts of school were reading and working. Following graduation, Eric plans to attend the LOVC, and participate in Supported Employment.

**Josh Ivancic** is silly, organized, and a good friend. He enjoys sports, both playing and watching. Josh participated in Boy Scouts and worked with The Crew at Mercy Rec Center and New Hope Church. After graduation Josh will be attending the Oberlin Opportunity/Vocational Center.



**Charles Jackson** is a polite, artistic young man. He enjoys art and singing. His favorite things include pipe cleaners, pom pom balls, toy cars, and airplanes. Following graduation Charles plans to move to his hometown of Cleveland and get involved with community support agencies.

**Zach Mutnansky** is a hard working, caring, and sweet individual. He enjoys playing games on his iPad, watching his favorite movies, and singing songs. Zach is hoping to participate in Supported Employment after he graduates.







**Tyler Rudolchick** has participated in many school activities including Boy Scouts, The Crew work program, talent shows, and plays; and demonstrated his awesome dancing skills at many of our dances. After graduating, Tyler will work part time at Fligner's Grocery Store and at the EOVC!



Above, Superintendent Amber Fisher addresses the crowd. Left, top: Tyler Rudolchick smiles with his family after the ceremony. Left, bottom: Board President Michelle Hunt presents Zach Grimm with his diploma. Below, The Murray Ridge Choraleers smile before the start of the ceremony. Middle: Eric Hodge smiles with his father after graduation!





# 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 district. 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

[WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG](http://WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG)



## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

DANN SWIFT

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

MURRAY RIDGE SCHOOL

9750 MURRAY RIDGE ROAD

ELYRIA, OH 44035

440.329.3760

[DSWIFT@MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG](mailto:DSWIFT@MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG)

[WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG](http://WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG)



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## 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:**  
**Thursday, July 13 @ 7:00**  
Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade

**Sunday, August 13 @ 1:30**  
North Ridgeville Corn Festival Parade



Consumers marching in the Avon Duct Tape Festival Parade on June 17. (l-r): William Foster, Tracy Horn, Daylan Bodiford, Amanda Spreng, Mark Wright, Alexshawn Averett, and Jesse Kimbro.

## Preschool Graduation!

Murray Ridge School held its Preschool Graduation on June 8! Graduate Jordan Oray (below) receives her diploma and some kind words from MRS staff member Shelley Stipe!



## Seniors Trip to Alpaca Farm

The EOVC Seniors Program took a trip to the Alpha Omega Alpaca Farm in Vermilion with staff members Ken Lewis and Emily Earl on June 6! Consumers and staff were able to interact with the animals and learn all about alpacas!

Below: Rosa Ortiz, Timothy Stewart, Genieve Graovac, Ken Lewis, and Emily Earl at the Farm!





# 2017-2018 Murray Ridge Center Calendars


## Adult Services Early Intervention Residential


### 2017


 July 4 – Independence Day


 September 4 – Labor Day


 October 9 – Columbus Day

 October 20 – Agency Inservice

 November 10 – Veterans Day


 November 23 – Thanksgiving Day


 November 24 – Day after Thanksgiving


 December 25 – Christmas Day


 December 26, 27, 28, and 29 – Program Closing Days


### 2018

 January 1 – New Year's Day

 January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday


 February 19 – Presidents Day


 March 30 – Good Friday


 May 28 Memorial Day

## School Preschool


### 2017


 August 28 – Orientation/Open House

 August 29 – First Day for Students (school-age)


 September 4 – Labor Day

 September 5 – First Day of Preschool Classes


 October 9 – Columbus Day


 October 20 – Agency Inservice


 November 9 – Parent/Teacher Conferences

 November 10 – Veterans Day


 November 22 – Day before Thanksgiving

 November 23 – Thanksgiving Day


 November 24 – Day after Thanksgiving

 December 22 – Winter Break Begins

 December 25 – Christmas Day


 December 26, 27, 28, 29 – School Closed

### 2018

 January 1 – New Year's Day


 January 2 – Winter Break Ends/Classes Resume


 January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday

 February 19 – Presidents Day

 March 30 – Spring Break Begins

 April 10 – Classes Resume

 May 28 – Memorial Day

 June 6 – Last Day of Classes for Students

 June 7 – Records Day – Last Day for Staff

### Key



Holidays



Program Closing Day



Agency Inservice/  
Orientation/Open  
House



Open House



First Day for Students/Classes Resume



First Day for Preschool



Parent/Teacher Conference



Last Day for Students



First Day for School Staff



Last Day for School Staff



# July 2017

## Activities & Events

- 6/19-7/7 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp (no camp 7/4)
- 7/4 - Independence Day observed, Agency closed
- 7/13 - Sheffield Lake Community Days Parade, 7:00 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
School Day Camp No Camp Tuesday						
9	10	11	12	13 	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



### BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

#### The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on June 26, 2017:

Murray Ridge Program Specialist Jim Nagy presented the Board with a generous donation from Mega Championship Wrestling, proceeds from the Breaking Down Barriers 7 event in May, which was enjoyed by many consumers of Murray Ridge alongside other wrestling fans from the local community. Board Member Dan White announced that the Board Award Committee has selected a nominee to receive the next Exceptional Service Award; this award will be presented at a staff meeting in August. The Board unanimously approved a contract and proposal that will enable a local housing corporation to access state funds for housing for individuals moving out of an intermediate care facility (ICF/IID), and a contract that will enable individuals leaving developmental centers and other ICF/IIDs to access state funds for rental assistance. The Agency Chain of Command policy was revised. Superintendent Fisher provided updates related to the State Biennium Budget, and Board Member training options.

Lorain County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center  
1091 Infirmary Road  
Elyria, OH 44035

Standard Presort  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
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](mailto:jjudkins@murrayridgecenter.org).