

Congratulations Murray Ridge School Class of 2012

On June 1, 2012, eleven Murray Ridge School students said goodbye to their studies and hello to all the future has to offer.



James T. Walther, the ceremony's keynote speaker, delivered an inspirational speech, imploring that the eleven graduates take all they learned throughout their

Murray Ridge School Commencement 2012 began with a prelude by music teacher Nevan Eilbeck and a welcome by Director of Educational Services Dann Swift as he introduced the transferring students, Dustin Bradley, Reynaldo Caraballo, Justin Cirilo, Jeremiah Earp, Warner Ferguson, Krystal Genoff, Indiana Hutson, Jermane Knapp, James McElya, Cody Prezelj, and Logan Reid.

The Murray Ridge Bell Choir played "Morning Has Broken," and then Superintendent Fisher took the podium.

"It is my firm belief that the training and support offered at Murray Ridge School has provided a solid foundation for what's to come," Dr. Fisher said. "Soon it will be time for our graduates to begin to explore vocations and activities that add meaning and quality to their lives, while allowing them to become increasingly independent. Some anxiety during times of change is natural, but such times often also bring extraordinary personal growth."

Lorain County Probate Judge

years at Murray Ridge and continue striving for bigger and better things in the future. "You may not always have the confidence to move forward," Judge Walther said. "When you don't have that confidence, rely on your family and friends to get you through it."

He also noted the importance of trying, citing personal examples of trials and tribulations in his own life. To the students, he offered these wise words, "If you don't fail, then you're not really trying."

Director of Vocational and Transportation Services Jeff Miller added his own encouraging words to each senior, quoting the Dr. Seuss book *Oh The Places You'll Go!* "You're off to great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!"

Following the keynote address, Board President Michelle Hunt and Board Member Dan White presented each graduate with a diploma. Finally, the tenth annual David Elasser Spirit Award was presented to Warner Ferguson by Kathy Oblak, mother of David Elasser, a previous student at Murray Ridge School who passed away 11 years ago.



Judge James T. Walther speaks to the graduates.



New graduate Cody Prezelj enjoys his post-graduation lunch.

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 for all graduates, their families and friends, and staff members provided by the Parent Support Group.

Best of luck to our 2012 graduates, Dustin Bradley, Reynaldo Caraballo, Justin Cirilo, Jeremiah Earp, Warner Ferguson, Krystal Genoff, Indiana Hutson, Jermane Knapp, James McElya, Cody Prezelj, and Logan Reid.



Indiana Hutson receives her graduation corsage.

Murray Ridge School Presents The Class of 2012



Logan Reid loves sports, reading and collecting sports magazines, and sharing laughs with friends. Logan is MRS's sports reporter on Thursday's announcement team and has been a member of the Murray Ridge "Crew" vocational work program each of the last four years. Logan has been a Boy Scout for years. Logan plans on moving to Cleveland after graduation.

Cody Prezelj is a delightful young man who loves to play basketball and watch wrestling. His favorite animal is the giraffe. Although not currently an active member, Cody has been a Boy Scout and participated in Special Olympics. He is a very hard worker and will be a definite asset to the work force at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center (LOVC)!



James McElya loves sharing laughs with friends, practicing and perfecting his extreme wheelchair tricks, and dancing to his favorite music. James has been an active member of the Murray Ridge "Crew" work program for the past four years. Upon graduation, James will continue to live at home with his family and work at the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center.

Justin Cirilo is a twenty-one year old gentleman with tons of friends at Murray Ridge School. Justin has taken part in the Murray Ridge "Crew" vocational work program for two years. Justin has also been a Boy Scout and has served the community as an active member of the Community Liaison team. Upon graduation Justin will continue living at home and work at the LOVC.



Indiana Hutson is young woman who is determined, decisive, and passionate. These qualities transcend to all aspects of Indiana's life, including interactions with friends and teachers! However, her passion and determination tend to create long-lasting endearment to those who worked closely and appreciate her complex, yet loving, personality!

Krystal Genoff is a very sweet and loving young lady. She likes horses and her favorite color is pink. Krystal has participated in Girl Scouts and Special Olympics, and worked in the school kitchen and with liaison staff weekly in the Wesleyan Village kitchen. She is a very dedicated worker and looks forward to earning a paycheck from the EOVC!





Jeremiah "Trent" Earp is a handsome 18 year old gentleman. He has been working on a variety of household skills to assist his family after graduation. This soft spoken young man enjoys movies, music, and time with his family. Upon graduation, Trent will be spending time at home with family and friends.

Jermame Knapp is a twenty-year old young man who is a true individualist. He possesses strong passions for playing piano, listening to music, and playing games with friends. Jermame is a member of the Murray Ridge "Crew" vocational work program. Jermame will continue to live at Our Lady of the Wayside Group home upon graduation and work at their vocational center.



Reynaldo Caraballo is a young man with an unending supply of joy and energy! After graduation, Reynaldo will be taking on new challenges at Our Lady of the Wayside's day program. These new challenges make it an exciting time for Reynaldo and those who have seen him grow over his years at Murray Ridge!

Warner Ferguson enjoys spending time reading comic books, watching movies, and exploring the outdoors. Warner is very social and has a great sense of humor. He is a dedicated worker who enjoys spending his leisure time out in the community. Warner will be greatly missed at Murray Ridge School but will be a tremendous asset to the LOVC.



Dustin Bradley is an active young man with a smile that brightens everyone's day. He enjoys music, books, relaxing with family and friends, and car rides on nice days. Dustin has overcome many health issues and continues to face challenges daily. After graduation, Dustin will be pursuing personal interests and hobbies.



Annual Murray Ridge 500

On May 25, Murray Ridge School students competed in the annual Murray Ridge 500. Students and staff enjoyed creating and racing their cars. Congratulations to all our MRS racers!



Guy Lombardo and Justin Cirilo push James McElya (in car) around the track. Zachary Grimm (left) shows off his Scooby Doo themed car while Sean Zeise (right) proudly displays his Spirit car.

Special Visitors!



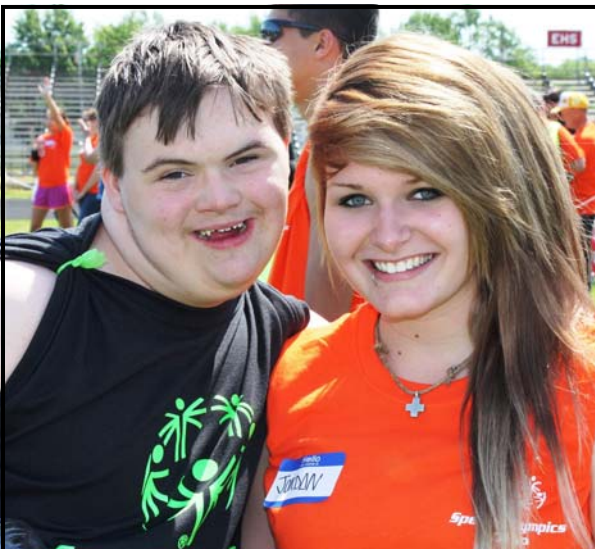
Mayor Holly Brinda and Safety Service Director Mary Siwierka from the City of Elyria toured Murray Ridge School and the Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center in May. Pictured (l-r): Lenni Oefftering, Mayor Brinda, Superintendent Amber Fisher, and Mary Siwierka.

Murray Ridge School Students Shine at 32nd Annual Lorain County Special Olympics

On May 18th, Murray Ridge School students participated in the 32nd Annual Lorain County Special Olympics competition at Ely Stadium in Elyria.

More than thirty Murray Ridge athletes participated in a wide range of activities, including sprint races, soft-ball throw, long jump, relay races, and the opening ceremony, where they marched in a parade around the stadium's track. Twelve school districts throughout Lorain County competed in the games, and hundreds of parents, caregivers, teachers, friends, and families came out to show their support.

Murray Ridge is a proud participant each year in this event where children with developmental disabilities can showcase their exceptional athletic ability. We commend all the athletes that competed in the games, and special congratulations to our Murray Ridge School students who brought home multiple medals and countless good times.



Pictured (top-bottom, l-r): Jimmy Woods, Warner Ferguson, and Grant Holbrook hold the banner to lead the parade. Joe Cechura proudly displays two ribbons. Obed Robledo and classroom aid, Amy Daniels, run a race. Tyler Rudolchick and his stepsister (and volunteer!) Tracy smile after his softball throw, and Stephanie Jackson works her way down the track in her first event.

BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 12:30 p.m. on May 25, 2012:

A revision to the policy on Waiting Lists, Service Substitution List And Long-Term Services Planning Registry was approved. Superintendent Amber Fisher, Nikki Dye, and Heather Gurchik reviewed financial projections for the next four years and presented a number of potential scenarios based on current information. In other business, the Murray Ridge Support Group reported that there will be no dances in July and August.

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.

Murray Ridge Preschool Offers:

- Individualized Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy in the classroom
- An extensive collection of early childhood educational equipment
- Full-time nurse on site
- Behavior Support Services
- Music classes



- A well-rounded curriculum based on the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards
- Dynamic, ODE-certified staff
- Physical development through indoor/outdoor physical education classes
- Door-to-door transportation services

Did You Know...

The Murray Ridge preschool serves children with a wide range of developmental disabilities, from those with mild delays to those profoundly impacted, and Murray Ridge is a recognized leader in its comprehensive approach to teaching children with autism. 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 (see below).

For More Information Contact:

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Elyria, Oh 44035
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www.murrayridgecenter.org

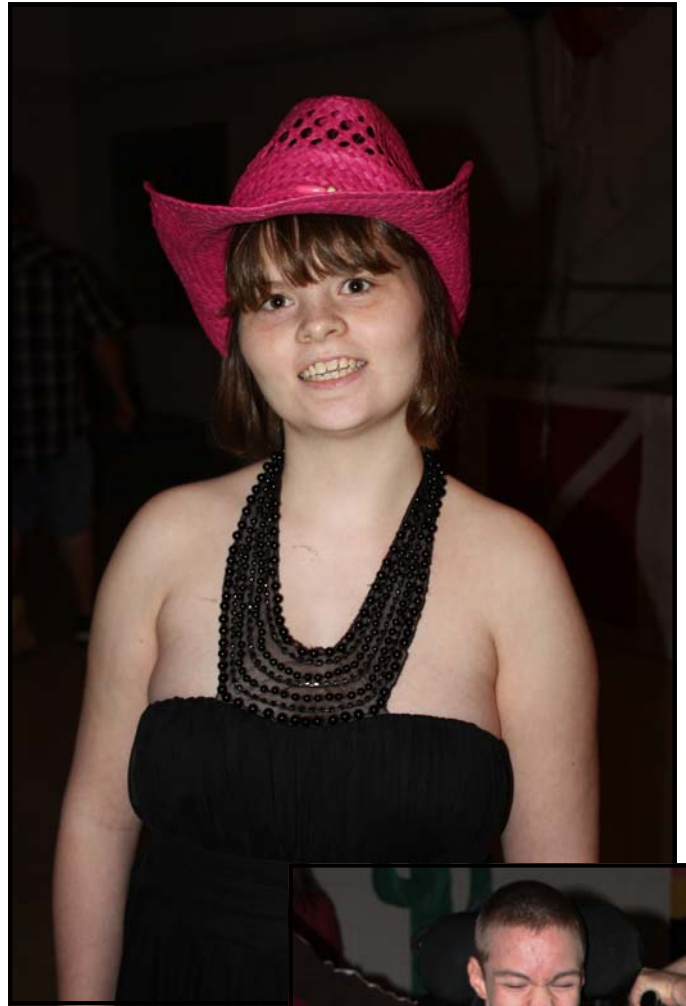


MurrayRidgeCenter

HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

Murray Ridge School Prom

More than 65 students, teachers and staff, and parents and caregivers attended the 2012 Murray Ridge School Prom on May 11. This year's theme was Sunset Oasis, and the school gym reflected the cowboy-inspired décor with cowboy hats, western-style backdrops, and old-fashioned posters hanging throughout. The graduating seniors were crowned the cowboys and cowgirl of the night. Thank you to all those who attended and had a giddy up good time!



Warner Ferguson and Justin Cirilo (above), two of our MRS Prom Kings, pose in their cowboy hat "crowns." Krystal Genoff, the only Prom Queen of the night, poses in her pink cowboy crown (above, right). John Thompson (right) had a good time dancing, while Wendy Johnson (volunteer) posed with Jacob Patterson (below, left). Kelly Moe, Lilly Tapia, Director of Educational Services Dann Swift, and Barb Kidney smiled under the prom theme sign.





June 2012

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School Day Camp

School Day Camp

School Day Camp

Activities & Events

- 6/1 - Murray Ridge School Commencement Ceremony, 11:00 a.m.
- 6/7 - Murray Ridge Support Group meeting, 4:15 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/7 - Last day of school for Murray Ridge School
- 6/14 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/12 - 7/6 - Murray Ridge School Day Camp
- 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
- 6/20 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting , 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
- 6/21 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting , 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
- 6/24 - Lorain International Parade
- 6/28 - Early Intervention Playgroup, 5:30—6:30 p.m., Murray Ridge School, 9750 Murray Ridge Road in Elyria
- 6/29 - LCBDD Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Elyria Opportunity/Vocational Center, 1095 Infirmary Rd, Elyria



Lunch Menu



Cost Per Day: Youth = \$3.05, Adults = \$3.25

June 18-22

July 9-13

June 4-8

June 25-29

June 11-15

July 2-6

Monday- Salisbury Steak w/Gravy, Scaloped Potatoes, Corn, Peaches, Cookie

Tuesday- Turkey or Bologna with Cheese on Wheat Bread, Peas & Carrots, Pears, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Meat Lasagna, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Fish Patty, French Fries, Cole Slaw, Apple Slices, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Monday- Ham, Wheat Bread, Rice Pilaf, Diced Carrots w/Herbs, Applesauce

Tuesday- Hamburger on a Bun, Potato Wedges, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Wednesday- Chicken Patty w/Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Banana, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Macaroni & Cheese, Cooked Carrots, Diced Pears, Cookie

Monday- Chicken Patty on a Bun, Potato Rounds, Corn, Crushed Pineapple, Cookie

Tuesday- Meat Lasagna, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Diced Peaches, Nutri-Grain Bar

Wednesday- Rigatoni w/Meatballs, Green Beans, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Wheat Bread, Cookie

Thursday- Pepperoni & Cheese Pizza, Tossed Salad w/Low fat Dressing, Fresh Fruit, Nutri-Grain Bar

Friday- Meat/Cheese Burrito, Spanish Rice, Cole Slaw, Applesauce

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

Visit our Web site
www.murrayridgecenter.org



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Further News You Might Use...

We are often in receipt of information from external sources on offerings designed for people with DD. Some examples include summer camps and special interest classes. Many such offerings have an associated cost to the participant. Although we are not in a position to "vouch for" or promote such offerings, we recognize that these opportunities may be of interest to our consumers, their families and/or guardians. If you are interested in learning more about such consumer-oriented events and opportunities, please contact Jeff Neal, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach him by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

Volunteer This Summer

Have fun and educate the community about Murray Ridge Center. We need volunteers to help us staff booths and participate in parades at several events throughout Lorain County this summer. If you are interested in representing Murray Ridge at any of the events, please contact Jennifer Judkins or Tracey Carroll at 329-3734.



If you wish to receive future newsletters by email, please visit www.murrayridgecenter.org and click on the Sign Up for Our Email Newsletter