



MurrayRidgeCenter
HELPING PEOPLE...FOR A LIFETIME

The Murray Ridge Courier

September 2017

Welcome Back Murray Ridge School Students and Staff!

On August 29, Murray Ridge School welcomed back students and staff for the 2017-2018 school year!

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities has been operating the Murray Ridge School in Elyria for 50 years! The school is designed to be a positive, caring, and nurturing environment that enables students to acquire and practice functional skills in a manner that fosters self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment.

Murray Ridge School provides educational services to eligible children who are referred through Lorain County School Districts.

- In Preschool Classes for children ages 3-5, students with special needs learn alongside typically-developing peers.

- In School-Age Classes for students ages 6-21 with developmental disabilities, experiences designed to meet the unique needs of each student are offered in our Primary, Intermediate, and Senior learning areas.

The School-age program utilizes a functional life skills curriculum, aligned with the Ohio Learning Standards-Extended. Functional academics, vocational skills, leisure time activities, and social opportunities provide the basis for lessons designed to meet a student's individual goals and objectives. Art, Adaptive Physical Education, music, and swimming supplement the curriculum.

For students at Murray Ridge School, classroom learning is enhanced by lessons in the community. Field trips and volunteer opportunities are a major part of ensuring students have the opportunity to learn about being a part of community life.



Left, Christopher Ackley (on the ground) and Jayden Nagy smile as they start the day! Right, Stephanie Jackson gives her mother a hug before leaving! Below, right, Bilyan Dimitrievich and teacher Vickie Nagy share a laugh to start the day. Below, left, School Supervisors Stacie Starr and Linda Lapp and Director of Educational Services Dann Swift get ready for the start of school!



Annual Transportation Safety Instruction

Murray Ridge Center wants you to be safe when travelling. These are guidelines that students, Adult Program participants, and their caregivers should be aware of when utilizing transportation services provided by Murray Ridge Center.

WAITING FOR THE BUS

- Wait for the bus at least 10 feet from the road.
- Dress properly - winter clothing, hats, mittens, and boots will help keep you warm in the winter.
- Watch for the bus' red lights.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and door opens before stepping into the roadway.
- Wait for the driver to signal to cross. Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto the bus.
- If you use a wheelchair, it must be equipped with a functioning seat belt. The wheels should lock as well.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

BUS SEAT SAFETY RULES

- Follow all of the driver's instructions.
- Speak softly so the driver will not be distracted. At railroad crossings, be quiet.
- Stay seated until your stop and keep the aisle clear.
- Never put head, arms, or hands out of the window.
- Never do anything to distract the driver.
- Keep aisles clear and free of tripping hazards.
- Never throw things on the bus or out the windows.
- Tell the driver or monitor if you are being bullied.
- If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- Do not eat on the bus, as this could present a choking hazard.

GETTING OFF THE BUS AT HOME

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.
- Wait for the signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the center line of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times. If you drop something near the bus, leave it. If you leave something on the bus, never return to get it. The driver may not see you come back and start to move the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you pick it up so he/she knows where you are.

Some of our consumers are also able to travel about the community through the use of public transportation. We want your trips to be safe ones!

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GENERAL SAFETY TIPS

- When you enter or leave a vehicle, watch for slippery or uneven pavement and other hazards that could cause you to fall.
- Have your LCT ID, bus fare, ticket, or pass ready so you don't lose your balance while looking for it.
- Do not carry too many packages – always leave a free hand to grab a railing.
- Allow extra time to cross streets, especially in bad weather.
- If it's dark outside, wear light-colored or reflective clothing.
- Do not talk to strangers. If you are being bothered by someone, tell the driver immediately.
- If you use a stop assistance card, remember to show it to the driver as you board the bus.
- Most LCT stops are not sheltered. Dress appropriately for the winter weather, and utilize sunscreen in the summer.
- Whether you are in a bus, car, or van – **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SEATBELT IF THE VEHICLE IS EQUIPPED WITH ONE!**



*The Murray Ridge Support Group Invites You to Attend
Murray Ridge Center's
50th Anniversary Celebration
September 30, 2017 5:30 pm*



*50 years of providing lifelong services for
Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities*



Saint Mary Parish Hall
320 Middle Ave, Elyria

~
\$8 per ticket includes dinner, drink, dessert, and dancing!

~
Tickets available at Murray Ridge
Opportunity/Vocational Centers, Murray Ridge School,
and the Murray Ridge Administration Building

~
Consumer artwork and crafts will be
on display and for sale!

~
Dressy casual attire

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



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
WWW.MURRAYRIDGECENTER.ORG



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Investigative Agents Hard at Work at Murray Ridge Center

Murray Ridge Center employs three Investigative Agents, also known as IAs, whose purpose is to investigate and help prevent incidents that adversely affect the health and/or welfare of Lorain County citizens with developmental disabilities (DD). They perform those functions on behalf of any individual who receives paid services through Murray Ridge Center or another provider within the DD system.

The IAs investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and other incidents, including rights violations. As applicable, IAs work collaboratively with local law enforcement, the Children's Services Agency, and Adult Protective Services.

Murray Ridge Participates in Special Olympics State Qualifying Tournament



Raiders Team 2 (above) after its opening round win.

Murray Ridge Special Olympics athletes competed in the State Qualifying Softball Tournament in Canton on August 19. The Softball Skills team and Raiders Teams 1 and 2 proudly represented Murray Ridge Center. Congratulations to all participants! Here are the results:

Results from the Women's Softball

Skills competition - 1st place: Elena Reinhold, Wendy Smitkowski, Alicia Lawrence, and Maria Poling. 2nd place: Julie Allesandro, Allyssa DeAngelis, Tori Ambers, Elmira Wallace, and Linda Brewer. 3rd place: Casey West, Pam McClain, Jenna Jones, and Sarah Ward.

Results from the Men's Softball Skills competition - 1st place: Spencer Reynolds, Brandon Varner, Andy Rivera, Andrew Prihoda, and AlexShawn Averett. 2nd place: Mark Vanek, Dennis Johnson, and Kenny Martin. 3rd place: Dustin Mitchell, and Charles Garn. 4th place Michael Ward.

IAs work with providers to track and monitor trends and patterns in incidents adversely impacting people with DD. IAs also train all staff at Murray Ridge Center on incident reporting requirements, the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, and health and safety alerts issued by the Ohio Department of DD.



Pictured above, Investigative Agents Kelly Moe, Valerie Deptula, and Debi Streibel.

LOVC Adult Program Participants 'Set Sail'

Adult Program participants from the Lorain Opportunity/Vocational Center enjoyed a trip to the Black River Landing where reproductions of The Nina and The Pinta were on display August 4-7!



The Nina and the Pinta are replicas of ships used by Christopher Columbus to cross the Atlantic Ocean in the 1490s.

Above, Nelson Navarro, Diane Pasa, James McElya, Toni Verde (staff), Katie Mihalek, Shannon Gaines (staff), Spencer Reynolds, and Argentino Tilley pose in front of one of the replica ships.

Triumph through the Challenges Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Who should attend?

This course series is for nurses, social workers, counselors, physicians, educators, parents, and caregivers who work with individuals that may have had prenatal exposure to alcohol/drugs.

2017 Fall Course Series

Evening Sessions:

October 10, 2017: Section 1, 6-9 p.m.

October 12, 2017: Section 2, 6-9 p.m.

October 17, 2017: Section 3, 6-9 p.m.

October 19, 2017: Section 4, 6-9 p.m.

Location:

Murray Ridge Center LCBDD
Lorain County Board of Developmental
Disabilities Service & Support Administration Bldg.
9740 Murray Ridge Road, Elyria, 44035
Building at the rear of Murray Ridge School
*Evening parking available at Murray Ridge SSA
lot. Please enter in back door.

Register

Contact : Kathy Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD
(440) 284-3655
e-mail: kbevaque@murrayridgecenter.org

No fee to attend. Space is limited.

Bring your own personal refreshments and food.

Facilitator:

Kathleen Bevaque, M.Ed., D.S. w/LCBDD



Learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how to best work with those affected in order to reach his/her fullest potential.

Gather useful tips and local resources!

Discover ways to succeed!

Series Details







- **Section 1:** FASD Basic Facts; Characteristics; Chronological vs. Developmental Age
- **Section 2:** Neurological Issues & Behaviors of FASD: Coping Skills
- **Section 3:** Developing Effective Strategies for FASD: Advocacy & Finding Resources
- **Section 4:** Advocacy in Schools; Discipline; Daily Living & Future Planning for Individuals with FASD

Contact Hours Available

- Social workers, counselors, and chemical dependency RCH: provided by the ADAS Board of Lorain County
- Developmental Disability hours provided by Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Certificate of Attendance for contact hours
- Ohio Approved Specialized Training for Early Childhood SUTQ, ODE, ODH (pending)



September 2017

							Activities & Events
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1					1	2	9/4 - Agency closed for Labor Day
3	4 	5 	6 	7	8	9	9/5 - First Day of school for preschool students
10	11	12	13 	14	15	16	9/6 - Murray Ridge Support Group Meeting, 4:15 p.m. at the EOVC
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	9/6 - Family Support Parent Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30 	9/13 - LCBDD Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road, Elyria
							9/25 - Regular Meeting of the Board and Ethics Council, 6:30 p.m., Administration Bldg., 1091 Infirmary Road in Elyria
							9/30 - Murray Ridge Support Group 50th Anniversary Celebration, 5:30 p.m., Saint Mary Parish Hall, 320 Middle Ave in Elyria

Come walk with us at the
Woollybear Festival Parade
 in Vermilion September 24th!

If interested, contact Jennifer Judkins at (440) 329-3734.



BOARD ROOM BRIEFING

The Lorain County Board of DD convened at 6:30 p.m. on August 28, 2017:

The Board unanimously approved Murray Ridge School bus stops for the 2017-2018 school year, and authorized the Superintendent or designee to relocate or designate additional bus stops during the school year, as needed. The Board unanimously established the dollar amount that the Family Support Parent Committee is authorized to approve for the fourth quarter of 2017. The Board resolved to view the following Department of Developmental Disabilities webinars to meet part of its continuing education requirements for 2017: Addressing Employment with People Who Have Complex Needs; and Balancing Quality of Life, Health, and Welfare and Person Centered Planning. The Board discussed the upcoming delegate assembly of the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to be held on November 29.

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 Heather Gurchik, Director of Service & Support Administration. You may reach her by telephone at 440-324-2366.

—The Editor

Dust off your dancing shoes! The 2017-2018 Murray Ridge Support Group Dance Schedule is out!

- **October 27** Halloween Dance - Annual Costume Contest and Ghostbusters
- **November 17**
- **December 15** Christmas Dance - visit and pictures with Santa
- **February 9** Valentine's Dance
- **March 16** St. Patty's Day Dance
- **April 13**
- **May TBD**
- **June 15** Welcome Summer Bash

