

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

Special Olympics Summer Games!

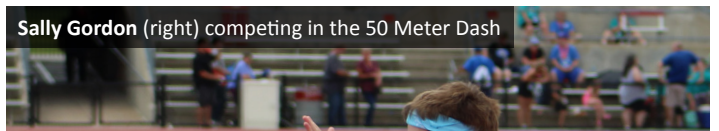
JUL 2023



Members of the Murray Ridge Special Olympics Track and Field Team with Ohio Governor **Mike DeWine**! From left to right: **Alicia Lawrence, Elizha Suggs, Coach Tonya Guitar, Governor DeWine, Sarah Ward, and Ajonie' Glinsey**



The Murray Ridge Track Team! Left to right: **Missy Skidmore, Justin Tucker, Sally Gordon, Ajonie' Glinsey, Alicia Lawrence, Lutz Fazekas, Elena Reinhold, Sarah Ward, Elizha Suggs, Stephanie Budweg**



Sally Gordon (right) competing in the 50 Meter Dash



Congratulations to all the Murray Ridge athletes who competed in the State Special Olympics Games in Columbus on June 23-25! In total, individual athletes brought back 32 gold medals, eight silver medals, 13 bronze medals, and one 4th place ribbon.

Murray Ridge Center invites all adults with developmental disabilities in Lorain County to participate in our Special Olympics Program. If you would like to learn more about our upcoming Special Olympics Ohio activities and events and/or how to participate in them, please contact Shawn Hatcher at 440-284-2720 or shatcher@murrayridgecenter.org.

For more pictures, visit our Murray Ridge Center Facebook Page!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS OHIO SUMMER GAMES Full Results

Congrats to all Special Olympians!



Coach Aaron Simmons
with Wendy Smitkowski

Modified Volleyball Team: 1st Place/Gold Medal

Robert Assanikis
Ryan Brown
Ryan Busher
Tony Harris
Hector Lozano
Maria Pincura
Shari Reitenbach
Jeffrey Torres

Head Coach: Leroy Keen
Assistant: Rick Rovere

Soccer Team: 1st Place/Gold Medal

Dorian Chaffin
Diana Clement
Megan Craig
Tim Dammeyer
Ryan Eliason
Jeremy Foster
Nathan Gezzer
Sean McCaffrey
Sean Ware
Katie Weaver
Andrew "AJ" Westover

Head Coach: Russ Moye
Volunteers: Kris Miller, Scott Geezer, Syd Hatcher

Bocce Team: Doubles

John Ahart/James Wilson 2nd Place
Ben Lewis/ Hector Ortiz 3rd Place
Judy Armstrong/ Wendy Smitkowski 3rd Place

Head Coach: Aaron Simmons
Assistant: Beth Wissenger
Volunteer: Margie Byrd

Track Team Individual Events:

Stephanie Budweg
50M dash
Mini Javelin 2nd Place
Lutz Fazekas
50M dash 1st Place
Mini Javelin
Ajonie' Glinsey
200M dash 2nd Place
Standing Long Jump 1st Place
Sally Gordon
50M dash
Mini Javelin
Alicia Lawrence
200M dash 1st Place
Shot Put 3rd Place
Elena Reinhold
50M dash 3rd Place
Mini Javelin 3rd Place
Missy Skidmore
50M dash 3rd Place
Mini Javelin
Elizha Suggs
200M dash
Mini Javelin
Justin Tucker
100M dash 1st Place
Standing Long Jump
Sarah Ward
100M dash 1st Place
Standing Long Jump 2nd Place

Track Team 4x100 Meter Relay 1st Place

Ajonie' Glinsey
Elena Reinhold (Alternate)
Elizha Suggs
Justin Tucker
Sarah Ward
Head Coach: Tonya Guitar
Assistant: Joe Croftcheck
Assistant: Laura Roby
Assistant: Kita Thomas

Tennis Team:

Singles
Michael Cooper 2nd Place
JoAnn Gall 1st Place
Bobby McFadden 3rd Place
Andrew Prihoda 4th Place
Martha Lombeida 3rd Place
Douglas McCartney 3rd Place

Doubles
Cooper/McFadden 2nd Place
Lombeida/McCartney 1st Place
Gall/Prihoda 3rd Place

Head Coach: Starr Price
Assistant: Kita Thomas
Volunteers: Hope Myers, Jamie Goldsmith

Representing Murray Ridge Center in Columbus! Left to right: Volunteer Syd Hatcher, Hector Ortiz, Robert Assanakis, Maria Pincura, Missy Skidmore, Dorian Chaffin, Stephanie Budweg, Elizha Suggs, Special Olympics Coordinator Shawn Hatcher, Justin Tucker, Ajonie' Glinsey, Jamie Goldsmith, Sally Gordon, Coach Aaron Simmons, Judy Armstrong, Benji Lewis, Volunteer Margie Byrd, Assistant Coach Beth Wissenger, and James Wilson



Ajonie' Glinsey competing
in the 4X100 Meter Relay

BLINDFOLDED BOCCE



Judy Armstrong learning how to play bocce blindfolded

Our Special Olympics Bocce Team had a unique experience recently. One of our players is blind, so Coach **Aaron Simmons** brought blindfolds for his teammates to let them experience how he plays

the game. It was a great opportunity for the entire team to practice empathy and consider what the world is like in someone else's shoes.



Beth Wissinger photographing John Ahart and Benji Lewis giving blindfolded bocce a try

A Super Visit at Murray Ridge School!

Up, up, and away! A big thanks to the **Super Heroes to Kids in Ohio** for visiting us recently at our school's summer camp program. You can see more pictures from this super day on our Facebook page!



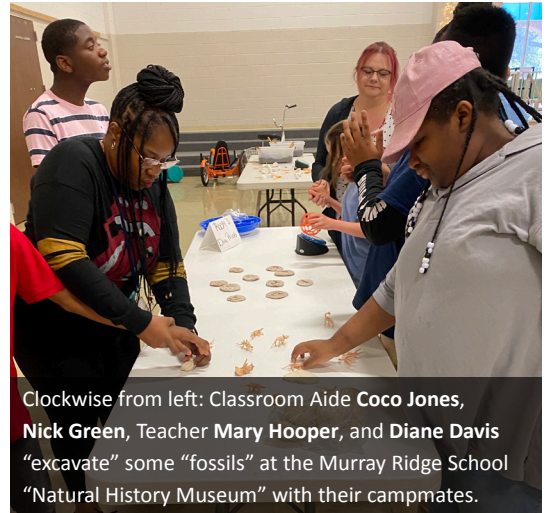
Pictured, left: Batman and his Batmobile with Diane Davis, Nick Green, Classroom Aide Coco Jones, and Emanuel Campos

Pictured, above: Anellys Ortiz-Lebron with Mi-rabel Madrigal from the Disney film *Encanto*

SUMMER CAMP



One of the exhibits from the "Murray Ridge School Art Museum"



Clockwise from left: Classroom Aide **Coco Jones**, **Nick Green**, Teacher **Mary Hooper**, and **Diane Davis** "excavate" some "fossils" at the Murray Ridge School "Natural History Museum" with their campmates.

Every year, Murray Ridge School holds a day camp program for our students during summer break. The program is divided into three themed weeks, and this year the themes were "museums," "aquatics," and "sports."

The camp activities were therapy-driven, with our Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Pathologists having developed activities based on each week's theme. On Fridays, families had the opportunity to schedule individualized therapy sessions, so their children could receive specialized care.

Thank you to everyone involved for making this year's summer camp program a resounding success!

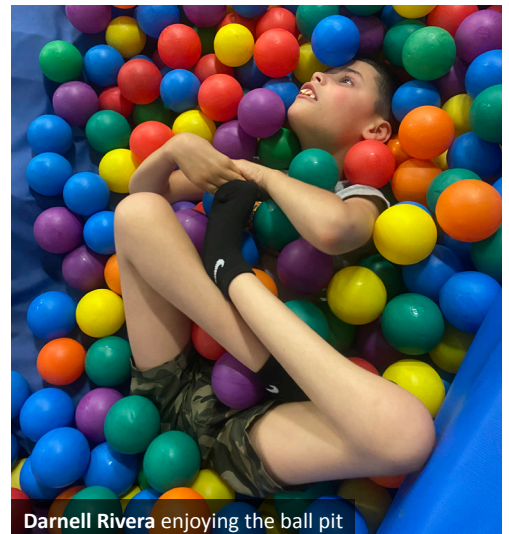


Jordan Wicker enjoying some aquatic physical therapy with Occupational Therapists **Jamie Novak** and **Trish Myers**

For more great photos, visit our Murray Ridge School Facebook page!



School Aide **Shelly Stipe** with **Anellys Ortiz-Lebron**



Darnell Rivera enjoying the ball pit

FOOTBALL SKILLS CAMP



Personal Aide **Cathy Wright** with **Scarlett Wallace** at Reaser Stadium

Thanks to the Elyria Mini Pioneers for collaborating with us in a youth Football and Cheerleading Skills Camp! On June 19th, coaches and student volunteers from the Mini Pioneers came to help our students with skills and drills at our school. A special thanks goes to **Stacie Starr** and Elyria Mini Pioneers President **Vaughn Sprinkle** for organizing the event.

Then, as the culminating activity of our Summer Camp program, students visited Reaser Stadium for a fun "Tailgate Party"! On June 22nd, 29 student volunteers from Elyria Catholic High School worked with our Therapy Team to participate in some football drills and activities with our students. Thanks to **Stacie Starr** and Elyria Catholic Panthers head football coach **Chase Ferris** for setting up this great event!



Left to right: Mini Pioneers Coach **Brandon Tolliver**, Intermittent School Aide **Theresa Myers**, Personal Aide **Brittany Harness**, **Anthony Hodgeman**, **Jacksuel Albarran**, **Tyrese Whitfield**, and **Kyle Offenber** cheering on **Terrence Nagy**



Jordan Wicker high fiving members of Elyria Catholic High School's football team



Brayden Altobelli with Mini Pioneers Assistant Coach **Ricky Earl**



Mini Pioneers volunteer **Trent Kilgore-Hill** with **Emanuel Campos**

SUMMER CONCERT at Ely Square



Some individuals from our OOVC had the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Elyria! Pictured from left to right in the back row are Kyle Young, Mark Barton, Calvyn Bohnert, Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield, and John Hall, with Gus McGee in the front row.

Devin Bryner enjoying the tunes in Ely Square



Throughout the summer, Elyria holds a Summer Concert in Ely Square every Thursday. In June and July, some participants from our Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC) Adult Program visited the park and enjoyed the music. They even had the opportunity to meet the mayor!

A special thanks goes to Tammy Stanley, Lisa Lee, and Michelle Konicek for accompanying the group to the event!

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED

The most recent recipient of our Exceptional Service Award was **Josh Mercado**, a Service and Support Administrator at Murray Ridge Center. Josh's nominators told us that "Josh has gone far and beyond what we ever expected or hoped for. He always promptly returns our calls, has helped us immensely with the needs of our grandson, and has provided us with many other resources." They went on to say, "Josh takes time to explain everything thoroughly and obviously takes his position very seriously," concluding, "We are very grateful for all that he has done." Thank you, Josh, for your dedication to those whose services you coordinate at Murray Ridge Center.



Superintendent Amber Fisher, Service and Support Administrator Josh Mercado, and Board Member Rebecca Cornman

Do you know a Murray Ridge staff member who has gone "above and beyond"? If so, please submit your nomination to Kevin Naughton, Director of Communications, at (440) 329-3734 or at kevin@murrayridgecenter.org.



Josh has gone far and beyond what we ever expected or hoped for.

-Ralph and Terena Russo

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, Director of Communications. 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



Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professionals (Home Setting)

We have openings available for full-time, part-time, 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 full-time, part-time, and PRN (as-needed) positions to serve participants in our Adult Program. Hours are generally during the day.

Murray Ridge School Teacher

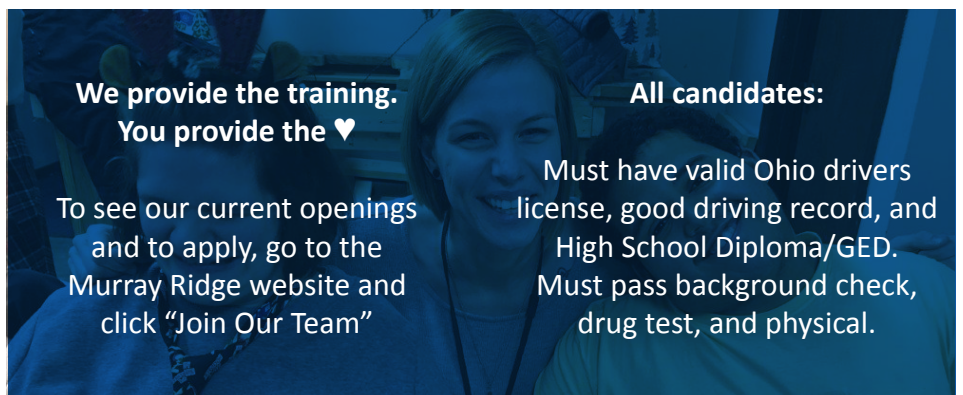
We have openings for full-time and PRN (as-needed) teachers at Murray Ridge School.

Service and Support Administrator (SSA)

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

Licensed Practical Nurse

We have openings for part-time, full-time, and PRN Licensed Practical Nurses.



We provide the training. You provide the ♥

To see our current openings and to apply, go to the Murray Ridge website and click "Join Our Team"

All candidates:

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

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmery Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Photo of the Month: Sherrell Arnett drew a nice portrait of **Judy Hartung**, the Director of our Elyria Opportunity and Vocational Center

Contact Us

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kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

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