

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE

COURIER



SEP 2023

The first day of the Brew it Smooth Cafe in the new school year! Pictured from left to right: Jayden Nagy, Brady Bella, Ja'Laysia Brown, Personal Aide Emily Barbee, Supervisor Stacie Starr, and Principal Dann Swift

A New Year at Murray Ridge School!

Thursday, August 25th was the first day of classes for the 2023-2024 Murray Ridge School year! We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and staff members, as well as those returning for another great year of learning. Have a wonderful year, everyone!



Murray Ridge School

55 Years of Excellence

For more than a half-century, our school has provided a positive and nurturing environment that enables students to develop functional skills in an environment that fosters self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. In addition to a solid life-skills curriculum supplemented by academics, art, adaptive physical education, music, science, and more, students' classroom learning is enhanced by community experiences and volunteer opportunities.

GENEROUS COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Donation from Your Turn Consignment Sale's Volunteer Opportunity

Murray Ridge Center would like to express a big thank you to **Bridget Boardman** at Your Turn Consignment for donating proceeds from her business's recent pop-up sale! In addition to the generous donation, Bridget invited some of our Adult Program participants to volunteer at the sale, where they helped set up, stock, and take down the clothing displays. Community partnerships like this provide wonderful ways for the individuals we serve to engage with their community. We're looking forward to more opportunities to collaborate!



Bridget Boardman presenting Your Turn Consignment's donation to Superintendent **Amber Fisher**

Donation of School Supplies from Lorain's Crystal Rock Inn

Thank you so much to the Crystal Rock Inn for an amazing donation of \$800 worth of back-to-school supplies! This establishment in Lorain collected donations from its patrons throughout the summer and then voted on which school would receive the donation. Murray Ridge School was the unanimous decision! Crystal Rock Inn staff member and former Murray Ridge School teacher **Vanessa Leighty** personally delivered the school supplies. Thank you!



Vanessa Leighty presenting Crystal Rock Inn's donation to Murray Ridge School Supervisor **Stacie Starr**



Daniel Montgomery, Kenny Martin, Isaiah Wicks, and Joseph Linden standing with members of The Amherst American Legion Post 118, with Special Olympics Coordinator **Shawn Hatcher**, and Coach **Russ Moyer** kneeling in front

Amherst American Legion Post 118

The Amherst American Legion Post 118 held a "Poker Run" on August 12th to raise funds for our Special Olympics program! Their members have been long-time supporters of ours, and we'd like to thank them for their ongoing commitment to our agency's mission.

EARLY INTERVENTION Lending Library



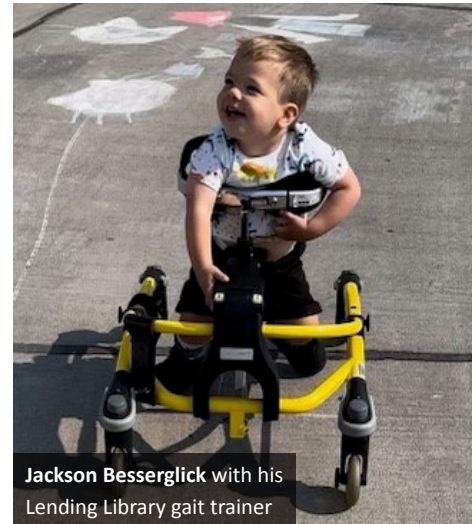
River Kelly with her Lending Library gait trainer

Created in 2007 in cooperation with the Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the Lorain County Family and Children's First Council, our Early Intervention (EI) lending library provides no-cost, short-term loans of therapy equipment and adaptive toys to families of young children in our EI Program.

In the last 12 months, the EI Department used more than \$44,000.00 in ARPA grant funds to increase the number of items in its lending library from 140 to more than 370! The EI lending library is important because it enables families of eligible children ages zero to three to try out adaptive equipment without making a financial investment, and to borrow items that may be needed for only a short time but enhance their child's inclusion in daily routines. Based on changes made this year, the items can now be accessed through an online loan system.

For example, a Physical Therapist (PT) recommended that a family in our EI Program purchase a gait trainer for one of its children, Jackson Besserglick, and the parents were able to borrow one from our library while they waited for their insurance company to approve funding that would allow them to purchase their own. During that time, the child made tremendous progress with his mo-

tor skills, and his PT decided he was ready to move on from a gait trainer to a reverse walker. Thanks to the lending library, this child was able to make significant gains in his mobility sooner, during a critical stage of his development. Additionally, it saved both the family and the insurance company time and money.



Jackson Besserglick with his Lending Library gait trainer

E.I. PLAY-DATES AT THE PARK

Throughout the summer, staff and families in our Early Intervention Program met for "play-dates" at parks around Lorain County. This is a great way for families with children receiving Early Intervention services to meet and for the children to socialize and explore play spaces in the community. Families who attended were also able to exchange phone numbers to schedule their own play-dates later!



Jaxon Marn-Zetts



Timothy Lynn



EJ Heilman and Developmental Specialist Cindy Castora

Mark your Calendars!

FCA METRO CLEVELAND PRESENTS:



CAMP SPONSORED BY

*Bob & Lori Campana

*It All Adds Up

*Ben & Jane Norton

Avon Commons



Knights of Columbus,
Fr. Ragan Council



*The Rocco & Joan DiLillo Charitable Trust



*Community Foundation
of Lorain County

*Fedeli Family Charitable
Foundation

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023

T3 Performance
1965 Recreation Lane
Avon, OH 44011

AGES 5-12
9-11:30 AM

AGES 13+
1-3:30 PM

For More Information Contact Kerri at ksadd@fca.org



FOR MORE INFO & FREE REGISTRATION
SCAN THE QR CODE
OR GO TO
<https://fca.regfox.com/2023ohallabilities>

FCA All Abilities Camp will take all the perspiration and inspiration that normally comes with an FCA camp and add a focus on providing a fun, safe, quality camp environment for individuals with special needs. There will be an age 5-12 minicamp from 9-11:30 AM and a 13+ (up to 30 years, although exceptions can be made) from 1:00-3:30 PM. Registration is required. To sign up, please visit fca.regfox.com/2023ohallabilities

Traditional FCA camps are where perspiration meets inspiration and incorporate their annual ministry theme. There will be a sensory room, and volunteer buddies are available for every camper to assist him/her through the four adaptive sports stations: obstacle fitness course, softball, football, and soccer. Parents are welcome, and there is plenty of room in the field house to watch.

OOVC Visits The Stem Shire Flower Farm



Calvyn Bohnert and Jeannie Gonzalez



Pictured, left to right: Rebecca Young, Esther Schnable, Jeannie Gonzalez, and Calvyn Bohnert recently enjoyed some beautiful weather and gathered some freshly cut flowers at the Stem Shire Cut Flower Farm.

EOVC'S SELF-ADVOCACY LUNCHEON WITH THE ELYRIA MAYOR FRANK WHITFIELD

Recently, some Adult Program participants at our Opportunity and Vocational Centers enjoyed a self-advocacy luncheon at the scenic Black River Tavern with Frank Whitfield, the Mayor of Elyria. The luncheon provided an opportunity for an open-ended conversation where the attendees were able to ask about local topics that are important to them. For example, they asked about such things as plans for the Midway Mall and efforts to upgrade Lorain County Transit and have better public transportation services.



Pictured, left to right: Matthew Schoerverth, Michael Telloni, Benji Lewis, Elyria Mayor Frank Whitfield, Ashley Tarrant, and Latonya Mitchell.

Annual Transportation Safety Instructions

Murray Ridge Center wants you to be safe when travelling. These are guidelines that students, eligible adults, and their caregivers should be aware of when utilizing transportation services.

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.
- Store all belongings in a backpack so nothing gets dropped.

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 signalled 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.

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 have any questions, ask the driver.
- 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!

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on August 28, 2023

The Board approved a change to the Management and Confidential Policy on Bonus Time and Sick Leave Conversion Options. Jeff Miller, Director of Vocational and Transportation Services, presented and the Board unanimously approved Murray Ridge School bus stops for the 2023-2024 school year, and the superintendent/her designee(s) were authorized to relocate or designate additional bus stops during the school year, as needed. Superintendent Amber Fisher highlighted some 2022 achievements relative to the Board’s strategic plan, and the Board passed a resolution authorizing for public release a draft of its 2022 Strategic Plan Progress Report (which can be viewed on the Agency website), and gave notice of a public forum on this report to be held on September 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board’s Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Rd., Elyria. Dr. Fisher updated the Board on the State Biennial Operating Budget for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. An upcoming site visit by Board members to the Service & Support Administration Department was discussed.

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.

Licensed Practical Nurse

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

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.

Lifeguard (Full-time, 9-month)

We have openings for full-time (9-month) Lifeguards that will function also as classroom aides at Murray Ridge School.

School Aide

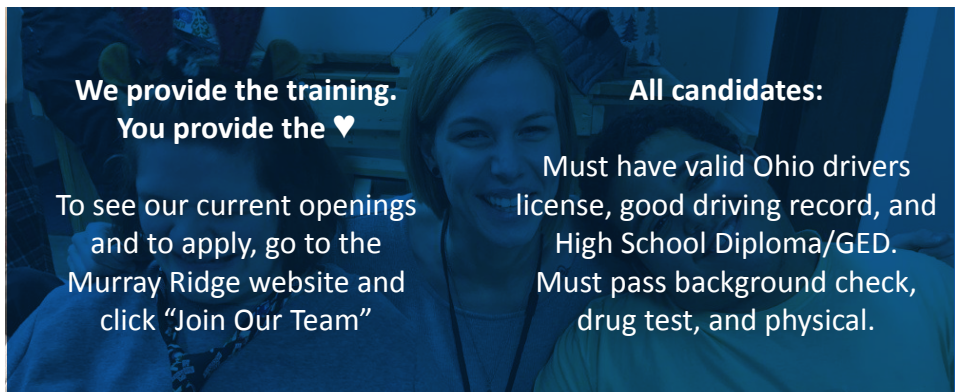
We have openings for PRN (as-needed) and Full-time (9-month) School Aides at Murray Ridge School.

SSA – Assistant Behavior Analyst

We have an opening for a full-time Assistant Behavior Analyst. 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.



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 Infirmiry Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Photo of the Month: The Scarlet Team won its semi-final game and will now travel to Oregon, OH, on September 16 for the Division 2 State Championship! Pictured, standing, left to right: Coach Leroy Keen, Jon Torres, Ryan Brown, Hector Lozano, Jeffrey Torres, Daniel Montgomery, Diana Clement, Ryan Eliason, Tim Dammeyer, Bobby McFadden, and Jeremy Foster. Hamming it up for the camera on the ground are Logan Yatson and Coach Russ Moye

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