

MURRAY RIDGE COURIER



Congrats to our MRS Graduates!



Congratulations to the Murray Ridge School (MRS) Class of 2026! We are so incredibly proud of each and every one of our graduates and all the hard work, determination, and joy they brought to our halls.

This year, Murray Ridge School celebrated the accomplishments of seven remarkable graduates (pictured, l-r, above): Jayden Nagy, Jacob Gladding, Brady Bella, Ja'quan Warren, Nathan Reynolds, Jonas Bennet, and Jordan Wicker. Throughout their years at MRS, these students have demonstrated perseverance, kindness, resilience, and a commitment to learning while making lasting contributions to our school community through friendships, work experiences, activities, athletics, music, and service.

As they begin exciting new chapters, we celebrate all they have achieved and the bright futures that lie ahead.

Congratulations Class of 2026! We can't wait to see all that you accomplish!

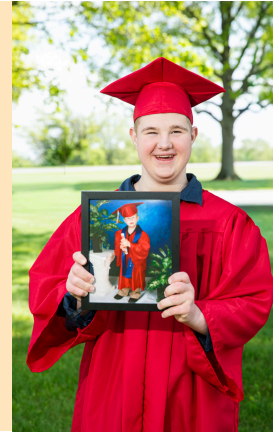
See page 2 for our Senior Spotlights.

Senior Spotlights

Brady Bella entered MRS in 2022 and was quickly known for his humor, positive attitude, and ability to make others smile. An avid reader with a special interest in trains, Brady enjoys meeting new people and building meaningful friendships wherever he goes.



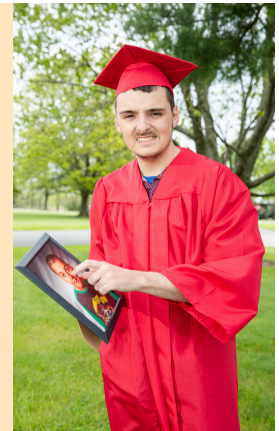
Jonas Bennet is a creative and dedicated student who has built strong work habits through many school and community jobs during his time at MRS. As he prepares to enter the workforce, he is excited to pursue his love of travel, maps, and new adventures.



Jacob Gladding has attended MRS since elementary school and is known for being hardworking, dependable, and always willing to help others. Known as a tech guru, Jacob also loves hands-on work and roller skating videos!



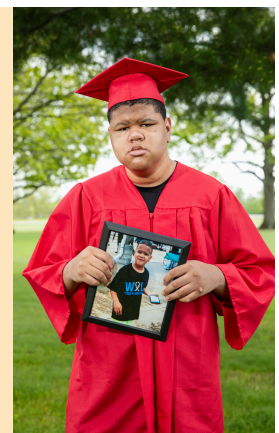
Jayden Nagy is a kindhearted and thoughtful young man who is known for caring about others. He loves WWE wrestling, music, and time with family. He looks forward to continuing his journey at Empowered Day Services alongside many of his friends.



Nathan Reynolds has attended MRS since third grade and is known for his warm smile, infectious laugh, and wide range of interests. Nathan plans to continue his journey after graduation through Empowered Day Services.



Jordan Wicker is gentle and kindhearted – his friendly personality has made him a beloved student at MRS. He enjoys music, dancing, family time, and being on the go. He is excited to continue learning and building friendships at Empowered Day Services.



Ja'quan Warren has attended MRS since elementary school, and has demonstrated tremendous personal and academic growth. He's an enthusiastic athlete, music lover, and dancer; and as Murray Ridge School's first-ever Class President, Ja'quan led with charisma, kindness, and confidence.





Raiders Shine at Special Olympics State Summer Games

Thirty-three Murray Ridge Center (MRC) athletes proudly represented the Raiders at the Ohio Special Olympics State Summer Games held May 29–31 at The Ohio State University. Competing in bocce, tennis, track and field, and traditional volleyball, the athletes showcased tremendous skill, sportsmanship, and determination throughout the weekend.

The athletes' accomplishments reflect months of hard work, dedication, and teamwork. Coaches, volunteers, and Sports Coordinator Shawn Hatcher are incredibly proud of the way the Raiders represented their community and demonstrated what it truly means to be a Raider.



TRACK & FIELD

Five gold, two silver, and four bronze medals; and a fourth-place finish in the 4x100 relay.

Pictured (l-r): Alicia Lawrence, Josh Nabors, Diana Clement, Sarah Ward.



TENNIS

Three gold, four silver, and one bronze medal.

Pictured (l-r): Robert McFadden and Ryan Eliason



BOCCE

One gold and one silver Medal, and a fourth-place finish.

Pictured (l-r): Jacob Pantalone and Tyrese Whitfield



VOLLEYBALL

Silver medal

Pictured: front row (l-r): Robert Assanakis, Jericho Bailey, Jeremy Foster. Back row (l-r): Coach Stacy Rosecrans, Ryan Busher, Jeff Torres, Coach Leroy Keen, Shari Reitenbach, Tony Harris, Ryan Brown

Pictured below, left front row (l-r): Coordinator Shawn Hatcher, Robert Assanakis, Justin Burkes, Elizha Suggs, Ajoinie' Glinsey, Tyrese Whitfield. Back row (l-r): Jacob Pantalone, Dorian Chaffin, Ryan Brown, Shari Reitenbach, Tony Harris, Jr., Coach Alyssa Brietkrenz. Below, right (l-r): front row Lisa Schultz, Kimberly Herman. Back row: Coach Alyssa Brietkrenz, Coach Beth Wissinger



Celebrating Our Preschool Graduates



Pictured, front row (l-r): Zyre Groscoast-Camp, Iliana Price, Railynn Stout, Erza Sanchez-Rice, Eliza Upton, Nikolas Leguisamon. Back row (l-r): MRS staff Kammy Jones, Brooke Dales, and Luciano DiFranco.

Murray Ridge School (MRS) celebrated its Preschool Graduation on May 28, and our hearts are full!

We are so incredibly proud of all our little learners and the growth they have shown throughout the year. From learning new skills and making friends to exploring, creating, and playing together, it has been a joy to watch each child grow and shine.

Congratulations to our preschool graduates and their families! We can't wait to see all the amazing things these young learners accomplish in the years ahead.



Pictured above (l-r): Nikolas Leguisamon and Luciano DiFranco;



right (l-r): Paetyn Moss celebrates with her parents.





Creativity and Competition Abound at the Murray Ridge 500

The engines were revving and the excitement was off the charts on May 22 as Murray Ridge School (MRS) hosted its annual Murray Ridge 500!

In preparation, students and staff put their creativity into high gear, designing and decorating custom racing cars inspired by different themes.

At the event, the entire school community gathered to cheer on drivers during a festive parade showcasing each team's hard work and imagination before the races officially began.



Pictured, above (l-r): Laura Manning (personal aide), Wyatt Bathurst, Jazlynn Smith, Shelley Marrero (personal aide), Marvelous Seymore.

The fun continued with plenty of friendly competition on the track, as racers zoomed toward the finish line with smiles, determination, and lots of school spirit.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Murray Ridge 500 such a memorable success. It was a fantastic day filled with creativity, teamwork, laughter, and community!



Pictured above, left: Deuniel Galarza, Echo Reynolds; middle: Castiel Wheaton; right: MRS staff Brooke Dales, Luciano DiFranco, Kammy Jones, Susan Rundell.



Murray Ridge Center Honors Heroes at Elyria Memorial Day Parade

Murray Ridge Center (MRC) was proud to participate in the Elyria Memorial Day Parade, joining community members in honoring the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Adult Program participants and MRC staff marched together with pride, waving flags, sharing smiles, and celebrating the spirit of remembrance and gratitude that defines this important day.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community while honoring our nation's heroes. Thank you to everyone who cheered us on along the parade route – we are grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring community.



Pictured, above, front row (l-r): Joseph Linden, Kim Metevia (MRC staff), Parker Metevia, Charles Johnson Jr., Shawn Hatcher (MRC staff), Alec Jones. Pictured above, back row (l-r): Ajonie' Glinsey, Max Mungle, Colin Ryan, Phillip Jones. Pictured, below (l-r): Parade volunteers Kim Phillips (MRC staff), Colin Ryan, Jennifer Ryan (MRC staff), Jordan Stover (MRC staff), and Charles Johnson Jr. in the back.

Open Door Students Make Lasting Impact

Murray Ridge School (MRS) welcomed 62 fourth-grade students from Open Door Christian Schools on May 29 for a special day of service, friendship, and inclusion. Open Door students donated 10 brand-new sensory bins that will support occupational therapy services and benefit learners throughout the school.

During their visit, Open Door and MRS students were able to connect, learn, and have fun together. We are incredibly grateful to the Open Door students and staff for their generosity and support.

Pictured right, (l-r): An Open Door Christian School student with MRS student Calvin Kaminski

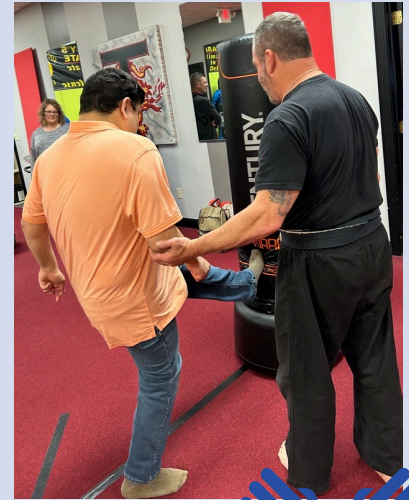


Self-Defense Classes Kick Off 2026 Advocacy Events

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) Provider Support Team recently launched its 2026 Advocacy Events season with the first self-defense class of the year at Tracy's Karate Studio.

The classes, held on the third Thursday of each month from May through November, provide participants with valuable skills while promoting confidence, independence, and personal safety. Advocacy events are open to all adults eligible for services through the LCBDD, and are made possible through the generous support of The Myrtle's Endowment Fund and the Community Foundation of Lorain County.

For more information or to register for upcoming classes, contact Provider Support at 440-324-2366 or providersupport@murrayridgecenter.org.



Pictured, above: Matthew Schoerverth demonstrating his kick moves.



OOVV Delivers Meals and Smiles

On May 13, 2026, Adult Program participants from the Oberlin Opportunity and Vocational Center (OOVC) volunteered with Meals on Wheels to deliver meals to community members throughout Lorain County. In addition to providing nutritious meals, participants shared smiles and friendly greetings, making a positive impact on the people they served while giving back to their community.



Pictured (l-r): Tyler Watkins, Rozalynne Everett, Carrie (from the Lorain County Office on Aging), Jacob Pantalone, and Harold Kilpatrick.



Something's Brewing at the LOVC



There's a new favorite spot at the Lorain Opportunity and Vocational Center (LOVC) – and it smells amazing!

The incredible LOVC staff have been serving up fresh coffee right in-house, creating a cozy café experience that everyone is buzzing about. Adult Program participants can customize the perfect cup of coffee or hot chocolate loaded with marshmallows and sweet extras – complete with a generous swirl of whipped cream on top! This fun new café experience has quickly become one of the best parts of the day at the LOVC!

Pictured, right: Dominique Flores celebrates her day with a warm treat!



Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Celebrating the End of a Wonderful School Year



The 2025–26 Murray Ridge School year has officially come to an end! We are proud of all our students' growth and accomplishments this year and grateful to our staff and families for their continued support.

We look forward to many more years of building connections, inspiring growth, and learning alongside our students.



Pictured (l-r): Katalina Carter and Jayden Steible are ready for summer break.