

# OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

FOCUS ON  
THE POSITIVE

## ABOUT THIS PAGE

■ This weekly page is focused on the 16 Montgomery County public school districts involved in Learn to Earn Dayton,

a collective impact initiative committed to ensuring that children in the Dayton region are ready for kindergarten, third-grade reading proficient, and college and career ready.

■ **This week:** Brookville, Centerville, Dayton, Trotwood-Madison

■ **Next week:** Jefferson, Kettering, Northmont, Northridge

## TROTWOOD-MADISON



Kevin Bell is superintendent of Trotwood-Madison City Schools.

## Getting students ready for life

As has always been the case, things change over time.

It is our natural ability to adapt that makes Montgomery County public school districts great places for students to learn. New learning standards require us to change how we prepare young people for the world they will enter as adults. There is no crystal ball for which we can see the future, so it is important that we equip students with thinking skills from the outset of schooling. From the first day they cross their kindergarten classroom door, we're preparing them to enter college or to exit our public schools ready to earn a post-secondary credential that will prepare them for a living wage job.

One of the greatest tasks upon the Montgomery County public school districts is connecting with families in meaningful ways prior to their children beginning their K-12 school journey. An important target for us to collectively pursue — parents, child care providers and schools — is that every 5-year-old in our county enters school ready to learn.

For that to happen, four basic things must occur. Students must have health and dental check-ups regularly, they must engage in conversations with adults to heighten their vocabulary, they must be read to daily, and they must engage in productive socialization experiences.

The focus of Ohio's new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), which replaced the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment - Literacy (KRA-L), is to determine students' preparedness for school. The new assessment is more comprehensive than the previous tool used and covers six areas versus just one: Social Skills (including the way students learn), Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Physical Well-Being and Motor Development. It is administered to all kindergarten students between the start of school and Nov. 1. Results inform teachers and parents how a child is developing and any additional assistance that may be needed.

Our public school districts believe in working with families and caregivers to equip the next generation of students to become adults who possess technical and thinking skills needed to be successful. Let's accomplish the task of creating highly prepared students by working together!

**An important target for us to collectively pursue — parents, child care providers and schools — is that every 5-year-old in our county enters school ready to learn.**

## DAYTON



## Young authors received letters from first lady

Last year's third-grade students in Jennifer Brown's class at Louise Troy PreK-4 School received a welcome surprise: signed letters from first lady Michelle Obama congratulating them on authoring their own books. The letters were presented to the students by school volunteer Kelly Lehman (left), a member of the Dayton Rotary who coordinated the event. Pictured (front row, from left) are Kawon Arnold, Tae'Lavon Howard, Donte Barnes and Ivan Belton; and (back row) Jeanya Crutcher and Raymond McDaniel.



## Writing lessons a top priority for students

Students in Dayton Public Schools are well into the new school year, with a focus on writing across all areas of the curriculum. Horace Mann second-grader Lainey Cobb is shown practicing her spelling during a lesson on alphabetical order and vocabulary in Mary Kessler's class.

## CENTERVILLE



Erin Fife Bucher is an intervention specialist at Hadley E. Watts Middle School.

## Profile Erin Fife Bucher Intervention specialist

**Education:** Miami University (B.S.) and University of Dayton (M.S.E.)

**How long have you taught in Centerville?**

I have had the pleasure of working at Watts since I started teaching nine years ago.

**Have you always wanted to teach?**

Teaching is in my blood. I can't imagine doing anything else. I represent the fourth generation of educators in my family, dating back to my great-grandmother.

**What's your favorite thing about teaching?**

My students! It is remarkable to see the progress they make from entering as fresh-faced sixth-graders to leaving as confident eighth-graders ready to tackle the challenges of young adult life.

**Describe your teaching philosophy in 20 words or less**

My teaching philosophy can be expressed best through the saying: "Teachers have three loves: love of learning; love of learners, and the love of bringing the first two loves together." (Scott Hayden)

**What is your favorite quote about teaching?**

"Teaching and learning — should bring joy. How powerful would our world be if we had kids who were not afraid to take risks, who were not afraid to think, and who had a champion? Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists they become the best that they can possibly be." — Rita Pierson's TED Talk, "Every Kid Needs a Champion"

**What is your greatest achievement as an educator?** I am honored to have been selected as Centerville's nominee for the Ohio Department of Education's Teacher of the Year. Currently, I am one of five finalists being considered for the Ohio Teacher of the Year, but just being selected out of all my wonderful colleagues is achievement enough!

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?** I hope to become an administrator for Centerville City Schools. I am so privileged to work here and want to continue to do so throughout my career.

## IN BRIEF | BROOKVILLE

### 5K kicks off school staff wellness program

As part of Brookville Schools' ongoing commitment to wellness, staff members will participate in the 5th Annual Challenge for the Cure 5K Walk in Brookville on Sept. 27. So far, over 120 employees have registered to participate in the event.

Mrs. Gale Colston, a breast cancer survivor, Brookville community member and the force behind Challenge for the Cure, was presented with a check for over \$4,000 at the first Brookville home football game on Friday, Sept. 12. This check represents registration fees and the donations from the employees of Brookville Local Schools.

This event kicks off the district employee wellness program. Each month staff will take aim at a new wellness goal. The primary purpose is to promote staff health and wellness and in turn, model healthy choices to students.

### Annual S.W.A.P. Day was held on Friday

Each year Brookville High School hosts S.W.A.P. Day and this year the event was held on Friday, Sept. 19. This longstanding tradition began when the students "Switched With A Parent," on a regular school day, thus the name S.W.A.P. Day. Through the years, the program has been modified and parents or guardians now attend school with their student. S.W.A.P. Day continues to be a great day for everyone involved, and more than 200 parents attend the event annually.

### Brookville Invitational celebrates 50th year

Fifty years ago, Brookville High School cross country made history and inspired a strong tradition of running in one small community. The vision of coach Dennis Kinsel in 1964 was to hold a Saturday invitational with teams running on a course at Golden Gate Park.

The single-race format soon exploded into an all day schedule, with races starting every 30

minutes as girls, divisional, and junior high competitions were added. At one time, Brookville hosted the second largest cross country meet in the state. On Sept. 6, this treasured historical race and one of Ohio's oldest, turned 50, with over 23 teams and 900 runners participating.

### Flagpole donated by Brookville VFW

The local VFW Men's Auxiliary has long been a much appreciated community partner with Brookville Schools. Following an unfortunate accident in which the athletic stadium flagpole was damaged, the Men's Auxiliary generously provided a new flagpole.

This new flagpole was dedicated at the Brookville varsity football game on Sept. 12. A plaque located at the site reads "To Honor Those Who Have Served and Continue to Protect the Freedom of the United States of America."

### Students receive top ratings from groups

Freshman Ryan Starks received superior ratings at the

school, district, regional and state science fairs and presented his project at the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics Banquet at the University of Dayton.

Emily Sussman received the Honda-OSU Math Medal Award as the top high school math student, while senior Cameron Page was chosen as first chair French horn in the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

### Ecology Club growing; grants secured

"Green is How We Roll" is the slogan for students in the Ecology Club. Fifth-grader Josh Wissinger even designed a T-shirt with the slogan for club members.

Teacher Kristina Dobberstein and librarian Beth Young lead the elementary Ecology Club, which has more than 40 students participating. The Intermediate School Ecology Club, led by teacher Katie Henry, has 60 participants. Over the last few years, upwards of \$12,000 in grants have been secured for garden learning spaces. Currently there are three student-tended gardens on school property.