

# 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.

■ **Today:** Brookville, Centerville, Dayton, Trotwood  
 ■ **Next week:** Northmont, Kettering, Northridge, Jefferson Twp.

## BROOKVILLE



Tim Hopkins is the superintendent of Brookville Local Schools.

## Sweet spot is worth finding

Everyone is striving for an ending where students graduate career and college ready. Young adults who will not burden, but rather positively influence our economy, our communities and our future. The struggle for school leaders is to find a balance in the best means to this end.

On one side, the legislators have spoken. What gets measured gets done. Accountability is a viable means. We are going to test, re-test and test again to determine if students, staff and administrators are on target. The drive for accountability has been fueled by adding competition to the fire. Let's not just hold schools accountable, but also rank them against one another. Surely, academic accomplishment will be enhanced by wanting to compare favorably to your neighbor.

Honestly, there is some merit to this approach. For too many years there were no standards in education. Then, when the standards were put in place, there was no accountability. Increased standardized testing allowed for accountability causing everyone to take notice of what was happening in classrooms; not just in classrooms of our best and brightest - but in all classrooms.

So, we get it. The use of accountability has helped us produce students who are career and college ready.

On the other side, school personnel understand that parents and caregivers, wanting that same end, haven't fully bought into accountability. In July of 2014, the Montgomery County Educational Service Center sanctioned a polling of 500 county residents. Respondents were completely diverse in regard to age, gender, race and education. Nearly 65 percent of informed respondents said increased state testing has not helped our schools. Furthermore, 81 percent of those respondents believe that performance ratings should be based on a variety of factors and not solely on state test scores.

The partnership between parents and school staff as they guide a child to academic success is so vital. Individual student accomplishments may be uncovered in STEM education, the humanities, fine arts or athletics and that is why parents and teachers working in unison may not worry about a child scoring low on a standardized math test. They know that English Language Arts is where that same child will excel. There is a mutual understanding and never ending journey to uncover each child's inner greatness. That journey is fostered through motivation, inspiration and the building of relationships with teachers, coaches and support personnel.

So we get it. The use of finding and extolling a child's individual strengths helps us produce students who are career and college ready.

The proverbial carrot or the stick; inspiration and motivation or accountability. School districts across Montgomery County see the paradox of these two means that help us to reach a desired end.

The end is an universal goal. The means to get there creates an internal struggle. Finding the sweet spot of balancing both is our commitment.

## CENTERVILLE



## Students thanked for gifts

TJ's Place of Hope Chairman Greg Crabtree speaks with Normandy Elementary fourth-graders in Jackie Harvey's class, thanking them for hand-made gifts they donated to teens who seek help at TJ's. CONTRIBUTED

## Harp is donated



Collaboration between Centerville High School orchestra teacher Julieann Bernard and Janeth Valley, who teaches art at the high school, resulted in the donation of an unplayable 30-plus-year-old harp with a warped sound-board to Valley's Studio Art class. After students worked their magic, the refurbished harp was transformed into a "one-of-a-kind" piece of music art. The harp will now be placed in a silent auction. CONTRIBUTED



## Third-place winners

Teacher Mark Mitrovich stands with three of his Culinary Arts students, (from left) Michael Powlette, Samantha Martin, and Lauren Urbanowicz. The trio led their Culinary Arts Class team to a third-place finish at the state Management Competition (non-cooking event). CONTRIBUTED



## Archers compete

Centerville's archery team competed at the Indoor World Championship where Emily Cardis, Brooke Greenlee, Samantha Donmoyer, Alex Umbreit, Seth Barnthouse, Jacob Steiner, Jesse Donmoyer, Aaron Schultz, Jacob Valentini, Dylan Turner, Matthew Williams and Evan Schreck all placed in the top 25 in their respective classes. CONTRIBUTED

## TROTWOOD-MADISON



Phillitia Charlton is assistant principal at Trotwood-Madison High School.

## Profile Phillitia Charlton, assistant principal

**Education:** Alabama State University (bachelor of arts; public relations); Jones International University (master of arts; project management); Wright State University (business management teacher's license); University of Dayton (principal's license).

**How long have you worked for Trotwood-Madison City Schools?** This is my first year with the district.

**Why did you get into the field of education and ultimately administration?** I became heavily involved in community programming and discovered I had a passion for learning and teaching youth. My desire to promote change beyond the classroom (and have an influence in the lives of youth) lead to pursuing a leadership position.

**What do you enjoy most about working in education?** I enjoy students growing and finding their purpose. I consider it a privilege to be able to guide them in this process.

**What brought you to work for Trotwood-Madison City Schools?** I had a wonderful experience in the Bell summer program held at the middle school. The district's passion to decrease summer learning loss was an initiative I was proud to be a part of. Joining the district was a great step toward continuing to implement education practices that move the district forward.

**What do you appreciate the most about working in the Trotwood community?** The sense of community and strong family environment has been very welcoming.

**What is your educational philosophy?** Climate and culture directly impact student learning and achievement; one will not exist without the other.

**One word that best describes you?** Dedicated  
**Greatest professional and/or personal accomplishment?** Traveling across the country to colleges and conferences as a motivational speaker engaging with and learning from other leaders in education.

**What are your hobbies?** Writing, motivational speaking and spoken word.

**One person you would like to meet past or present and why?** I would have been honored to meet Dr. Maya Angelou. I admire that she boldly told her story with passion and purpose and influenced generations in the process.

## IN BRIEF | DAYTON

### Dayton schools plan Town Hall meetings

Dayton Public Schools is seeking public input to assist in making some tough decisions as the district works to ensure more of every dollar supports classroom instruction. The third and fourth in a series of Town Hall meetings will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Feb 19 at Westwood PreK-8 School, 2805 Oakridge Drive, and March 19 at Wright Brothers PeK-8 School, 1361 Huffman Ave. For information, call 937-542-3013.

### 'Transition to high school' session

Parents and community members can learn about how to help their current eighth-grade students transition to high school. Information will be shared at 6 p.m. Feb. 23 during the Dayton Education Council meeting at Thurgood Marshall High School. Guest speakers will discuss challenges that middle school students often face when entering the ninth-grade, and what families can do to help. For information, call 937-542-3013.

### Open registration begins March 2

Open registration for Dayton Public Schools begins March 2. Families are encouraged to register early for the 2015-2016 school year in March. (DPS preschool students attending classes this year will automatically be enrolled in kindergarten at their current school, including Rosa Parks Early Learning Center, and do not have to register again.) Call the new Student Enrollment Center at 937-542-5555 for more information.

### Ohio job fair offers teaching opportunities

Ohio's eight major urban districts are joining together for the second annual statewide job fair to interview those interested in teaching positions in their respective districts. The Ohio 8 Coalition Job Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 at the Embassy Suites North in Columbus. Human resources staff from Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown will conduct on-site interviews with interested teaching candidates. For information, contact Julie Brinker at 513-241-4224.

### Stivers Jazz Orchestra performs at Schuster

The Stivers School for the Arts Jazz Orchestra will perform on the Schuster Center stage at 7:30 p.m. April 2. The Stivers musicians, under the direction of Scott Gasaway, will accompany Sheila Raye Charles (Ray Charles' daughter) and Uros Peric (called one of the best interpreters of Ray Charles' music). Charles, Peric and Stivers School for the Arts Jazz Orchestra will open for Motown legend Smokey Robinson. Tickets are on sale through TicketCenterstage.com.

### Athletic director from DPS honored

DPS Athletic Director Jonas Smith was awarded a citation of merit by the National Federation of State High School Associations. The award is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to the NFHS and/or other organizations that have impacted high school activities.

### Edison principal named to Parity's Top 10 list

Edison Principal Basharus

Simmons has been honored by Parity, Inc. as one of this year's Top 10 African-American Males. Simmons joined his fellow honorees at a reception Feb. 19.

### Student talents are showcased on radio

Ponitz Career Technology Center students in the arts and communication pathway have been working with WYSO-FM to produce radio features. Working together, students researched topics, conducted interviews, and scripted and produced their features for broadcast. Eight features will air mornings on "All Things Considered" and on "WYSO Weekend." The students and their features are: Logan Walker - Misunderstood: A Teen's Exploration into Media Opportunities for Minorities; Raymond Warden, Jr. - Sneaker Jones; De'Andre Stringer - Little Bru'; Lucien Wright III - Hood Dreams; and Sierra Derrick - Snitch. Other works include those by Robert Henderson (a tribute to his father), King Jalaw Walker (a piece on procrastination), and Shakur Wortham (a piece on growing up in foster care).