

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:** Jefferson, Kettering, Northmont and Northridge

BROOKVILLE



Tim Hopkins is superintendent of Brookville Local Schools.

When both sides benefit

Public entities, such as school districts, are very adept at understanding the advantages to building partnerships. In forming these bonds, we tend to reach out to a very diverse group of businesses, service groups, pastoral organizations and more.

Typically, the gains of these relationships come in a variety of fashions.

There is a diligent focus on developing strategies for fostering successful business and community partnerships. Without question, the strongest partnerships are those that benefit both sides of the collaborative effort.

Last week Brookville Schools were active partners in the sixth annual Brookville Breast Cancer 5K Walk. It is the second year that district employees partnered with community member Mrs. Gale Colston and her team in support of those fighting the fight. Ninety-three percent of Brookville School employees, both teachers and support personnel, registered for the 5K walk. While registering for the walk fulfilled their employee wellness goal for the month of September, more importantly, our employees strengthened a partnership that has an entire community coming together for a common cause.

The benefit for both sides has roots that run wide and deep. Some benefits are more obvious than others. This year, registrations of Brookville Local School employees, their families and friends, exceeded 250 people. The net result, a donation of over \$7,000 to the Pink Ribbon Girls, this year's recipient of the monetary benefit. Another obvious benefit is that the school employees met their first wellness goal of this school year. When you look past the obvious, you see that this partnership runs much deeper and is more meaningful than the money raised and the wellness goal which was met. What Mrs. Colston and her team have done is to enrich Brookville's sense of community. Through this partnership, Brookville school employees have shown their ownership, care and generosity toward community efforts.

The most important benefit is that school staff modeled a tremendous attribute to the children of our district. In their classrooms, on their buses, and attached to their custodial carts, our school staff displayed pink bandanas in the weeks leading up to the walk. The bandanas were presented to each staff member when they registered for the walk. Children noticed, they asked, they inquired the meaning. Our staff answered proudly, "I'm registered for the community Breast Cancer Walk." And therein lies the real jewel in this story. Teaching children that giving back, giving to those in a time of need, supporting a cause larger than one's self, is what community is all about. Kudos to the staff of Brookville Schools, you embody the real value in partnerships.

Tim Hopkins is the Superintendent of Brookville Local Schools.

CENTERVILLE



Primary Village North students in Christina Brown's first-grade class and Chelsea Reagan's kindergarten class line up to explore a fire truck as part of Vehicle Day. Career Week provides young learners the opportunity to explore careers in many different ways, including hands-on learning. CONTRIBUTED

Students learn, excel and contribute



Benjamin Berkshire, a third-grade student at John Hole Elementary, shows off his award-winning oil pastel drawing "Harvest Moon" with his art teacher, Robin Klass. Berkshire's artwork won first place for the Western Region at the Ohio Art Education Association's Youth Art Month competition and won "Best in Show" for the Sargent Art-sponsored statewide Youth Art Month competition. For the "Best in Show" award, Benjamin, one parent, and Klass won a three-day, all-inclusive trip to New York City in July. CONTRIBUTED



Weller Elementary students dress as book characters for the Weller Book-Thon. Weller partners with Hannah's Treasure Chest to collect and distribute books. Pictured are (from left, top) Rhianon Foudry, Annelie Wernow, Kenzington Holt and Vaughn Davis; (bottom) Katherine Gearhart, Abby Fairs and Anna Gearhart. WISSELOH/CONTRIBUTED

SCHOOL BRIEFS | DAYTON

Learning center earns honor for achievement

The Dayton Public Schools Challenger Learning Center was recently recognized by the International Organization of Challenger Centers at its annual conference in San Antonio. The Dayton CLC was recognized for outstanding achievement among the school-based centers for "Flying the Most Missions," "Flying the Most Students," "Training the Most Teachers in STEM," and increasing the number of missions flown by at least 10 percent. The Dayton Challenger Center serves grades Pre-K4, 3-4, 5-8 and high school using space-themed simulated learning and role-playing strategies to cultivate problem solving, critical thinking, communication and teamwork skills. Corporate training and community outreach programs also are available.

Marshall STEM school receives Edison award

Thurgood Marshall STEM High School has been awarded the 2015 Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research by the Ohio Academy of Science. Thirteen of the school's faculty members and advisors also received awards: Lee Benson, Nikol Boddie, Stacia Barlong, Marcus Calvert, John Cipriani, Drake Gastineau, Margaret Gorbey, Jose Jones, Glenda Konechecny, Kurtz Miller, Linda Nunka, Henry Noble, and Christopher Perkins. The award recognizes schools and teachers who display excellence in STEM-based teaching. This is the second year in a row that Thurgood

Marshall STEM High School has been recognized.

Dunbar students participate in program

Dunbar Early College High School students Joquan Thomas and D'Marion McAtee were selected to participate in Buckley Boys State, a summer youth government program held at Bowling Green State University that teaches the rights, privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship. Students who will enter their senior year in the fall are recommended to the program based on leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their schools and community. Thomas was elected to the position of state representative, and McAtee was elected to the position of city councilman.

Community members invited to town hall

Superintendent Lori Ward and members of the Dayton Board of Education have invited community members to attend a DPS Town Hall Meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8 at Horace Mann PreK-8 School, 715 Krebs Ave. District officials will update attendees on district progress in addressing recommendations from an Ohio Department of Education District Review Team last May.

Primary literacy focus of offering

Primary literacy is the focus of the Oct. 15 Parent University offering from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Westwood PreK-8 School, 2805 Oakridge Drive. All DPS

families are invited to learn how they can work with their children's teachers to build a firm foundation for academic success.

Candidates Night features 4 contenders

The Dayton Education Council is sponsoring Candidates Night at 7 p.m. Oct. 19. Moderator Marsha Bonhart will interview four candidates running for three seats on the Dayton Board of Education. The program will air live from the David H. Ponitz Career Technology Center on DPS TV Time Warner 21 and 5.105 and will be web-streamed live and on available demand at DPSTV.com.

Dayton Boys Prep, Wright State honored

A model partnership, years in the making, was recognized by the National Network for Educational Renewal. Dayton Boys Preparatory Academy and Wright State University received the 2015 Richard W. Clark Partner School Award at the network's conference Oct. 1 in Chico, California. The partnership contributes to current students' learning and to future teachers' skills. WSU teaching candidates complete their student teaching in the school, and DBPA has entered a formal agreement to become WSU's first professional development school. The partnership also has led to grants, including one that incorporates movement in to the school day, with WSU students coaching track and Lego robotics. Only one school is selected each year for this honor.

TROTWOOD-MADISON



Anthony Vichich is a new second-grade teacher at Madison Park Elementary School.

Profile

Anthony Vichich

Position: Second-grade teacher, Madison Park Elementary, Trotwood-Madison City Schools.

Education: Northmont City Schools and Wright State University.

What do you enjoy most about teaching in Trotwood-Madison City Schools?

For me being a new teacher, the supportive professional staff has been a great example and guide for my professional development. They are an exceptional group of people who are totally dedicated to the children we serve.

Describe some of the real-world experiences you bring into your classroom to connect with students?

Since my father passed away in my teens, I spent most of my youth in a single-parent household. As a result, I feel like I can identify with many of my students that have similar experiences.

Discuss some of your academic training and/or some of the professional development you have completed to enhance your teaching.

The teacher-based team, five-step process analyzes common assessments in order to group student by their needs and provide intervention or enrichment by differentiating instruction. We evaluate the effectiveness of our practices by meeting weekly to discuss student performance. Trotwood has also adopted new professional development utilizing a technological approach. Programs such as Cicero, McGraw-Hill, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt all have an aspect of technology based resources that enhance not only the students learning, but mine as well.

Describe your teaching philosophy in 10 words or less.

My goal is to get each child's personal best each day they are in my classroom.

How do you make learning fun and engaging for your students?

I engage my students by using a student-centered approach to learning. I find that this increases student involvement and aids in active learning. I also integrate technology as much as possible to enhance the effectiveness of lessons.

What is your greatest teaching achievement so far?

My biggest success thus far was completing my year one residency with 100 percent of my students meeting or exceeding their performance objectives.

What are your favorite hobbies?

I enjoy all kinds of sports but I particularly enjoy playing basketball and softball.

Who would you most like to meet and why?

I would love to meet Michael Jordan because he was my childhood idol and "Space Jam" was — and still is — my favorite movie.

'Since my father passed away in my teens, I spent most of my youth in a single-parent household. As a result, I feel like I can identify with many of my students that have similar experiences.'