

December/January 2023-24

# CMSD SponsorShip



A newsletter for CMSD-sponsored community schools

## Contact CMSD

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More information on CMSD's community school sponsorship and other collaborative initiatives related to community schools in Cleveland is available on the CMSD website, [ClevelandMetroSchools.org](http://ClevelandMetroSchools.org), by clicking on the "Schools" tab on the main menu and then on "CMSD/Charter School Collaboration."



Happy Holidays!

The fall has been a busy time for us, and we recently completed all of our fall site visits. As a reminder, these include a special education file audit, a student file review, a compliance and building review, and classroom observations. We appreciate how easy your building leaders have made these for us and hope the information we have shared with them has been valuable.

At the end of November, we also released our annual sponsorship report that was submitted to ODE. We will be sharing these ahead of your December board meetings.

In addition, three sponsored schools have been going through the renewal process. For these schools we will also be sharing renewal recommendations.

We will be reviewing site visits, annual reports, and renewal reports at your December board meetings. Thank you for giving us extra time for this!

Thank you for choosing CMSD as your sponsor, and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season! We hope you all get a chance to relax and enjoy friends and family before we are busy with the rest of the school year.



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## Upcoming Events



### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

#### Data Based Decision Making for Adolescent Readers

Join the SST3 in learning effective ways to collect, analyze, and interpret your literacy screener, diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment data. Learn how to use your data to make informed instructional decisions, such as which tier of instruction would best meet your students' academic literacy needs. This professional development series is aimed at building teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators' capacity for Data-based Decision-making in adolescent literacy. Open to all grade 4-12 teachers, intervention specialists, principals, and instructional coaches.

**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2024

**Time:** 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Location:** ESC-NEO, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, Ohio 44131

[Registration Link:](#)

**Register by January 17, 2024**

[Program Flier](#)

#### Making Your One Plan Work

Understanding the strategies and principles of the programs that are occurring within your school building or district is critical to achieving success. Learn how to apply Implementation Science to your current initiatives, regardless of how long they have been in use. The work of the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN) has been a foundation for school improvement throughout Ohio and Implementation Science over the past several years. The evidence-based strategies that will be shared are critical in developing systematic structures. This session will include tools and resources that you can begin implementing immediately to support your current structures. Open to district and building administrators and instructional coaches.

**Date:** Thursday, February 1, 2024

**Time:** 11:30 am – 3:00 pm

**Location:** ESC-NEO, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, Ohio 44131

[Registration Link:](#)

**Register by January 31, 2024**

[Program Flier](#)

**MORE EVENTS ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## Teacher Times

### *Nurturing Minds: The Importance of Leisurely Reading in Education*

Dear Educators,

In the bustling world of academia, where schedules are tight and curriculum demands are high, it's essential to pause and reflect on the fundamental value of allowing scholars the time to leisurely immerse themselves in the world of books. Beyond the structured lessons and assessments, the act of unhurried reading plays a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals.

Leisurely reading is not just a break from the routine; it is a powerful tool for cognitive development. When students engage in unhurried reading, they are not merely decoding words on a page but weaving a tapestry of comprehension, critical thinking, and imagination. This process transcends the boundaries of subject matter, fostering creativity and a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

In a society driven by rapid information consumption, cultivating the habit of leisurely reading equips scholars with the ability to delve deep into topics, nurturing a thirst for knowledge that lasts a lifetime. It builds resilience in the face of complex ideas and encourages independent thought, skills that are indispensable in an ever-evolving world.

Furthermore, the benefits of leisurely reading extend beyond academic achievement. It enhances vocabulary, cultivates empathy, and refines communication skills. As educators, we play a crucial role in fostering an environment that values the intrinsic worth of reading for pleasure, not just for academic pursuits.

In practical terms, consider allocating dedicated time for silent reading sessions in the classroom or encouraging students to explore books of their choice. Create cozy reading corners that beckon learners to escape into the realms of literature. By doing so, we send a powerful message: that leisurely reading is not a luxury but an integral part of intellectual and emotional development.

Let us champion the cause of leisurely reading, recognizing it as a cornerstone of education that goes beyond preparing students for exams. In providing time for scholars to lose themselves in the magic of books, we are nurturing thinkers, dreamers, and lifelong learners.

Here's to fostering a love for reading that transcends the pages of textbooks and paves the way for a future where curiosity knows no bounds.

A Forever Reader,

Lesley M. Wilkins-Valentine

## Upcoming Events



### IEP/ ETR Best Practices

This professional development is a 3-day series. We will discuss your current practices and brainstorm how teams can more effectively create, implement and monitor quality plans and practices that will lead to better outcomes for all students. Before attending on 2/6/2024, it is required that all participants review the State released IEP and ETR Universal Supports Modules for school-aged and preschool. Open to district or building internal monitoring teams (team members may include Director of Special Education or Pupil Services Administrator, building administrator, intervention specialist, related service providers (e.g., school psychologist, SLP, OT) general education teacher) or any other staff member your district has identified to be on the Internal Monitoring team.

Modules can be found on the ODE website at: <https://tinyurl.com/IEPETRModules>

2/6/2024: How to review special education documents and the connection between the ETR and the IEP.

3/5/2024: Prepare teams to build an internal monitoring system.

4/24/2024: Problem solve internal monitoring systems, revise procedures and practices and create tiered support for educators.

**Dates:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Location:** ESC-NEO, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, Ohio 44131

[Team Registration Link:](#)

**(Please register each person separately)**

Please contact Angie Chapple, [angie.chapple@escneo.org](mailto:angie.chapple@escneo.org) if you want to register as an individual.

[Program Flier](#)



## Legislative Update

### ***ODE-DEW transition moves forward despite legal challenges***

As previously reported, seven members of the State Board of Education filed a lawsuit challenging the overhaul of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and reassignment of most of the State Board's authority and responsibilities to the new Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) provided for in H.B. 33 passed by the General Assembly earlier this year.

An amended complaint was later filed by just two (rather than the original seven) State Board members, the Toledo City School District Board of Education, and a parent who previously served on the Toledo school board.

A temporary restraining order was put into place and extended before a judge denied the plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction saying that the plaintiffs failed to prove that they would suffer "immediate and irreparable harm" if an injunction was not issued. The plaintiffs have challenged the court's decision and attorneys representing the administration of Governor Mike DeWine have filed a motion to dismiss the case.

Although the state's attorneys say that the judge's ruling was "well-reasoned" and "correct," they have filed objections to two aspects: the finding that the plaintiffs would have standing if able to prove they would suffer injuries; and, the finding that provisions of legislation (H.B. 33) were read for "the first and only time" in the House on June 30.

As the legal sparring continues, Governor DeWine has made two important announcements: the appointment of ODE Chief of Staff Jessica Voltolini as interim director of the newly created Department of Education and Workforce; and, nomination of Steve Dackin as DEW director, subject to approval by the Senate.

## Upcoming Events



### Strategies & Considerations: Responding to Challenging Behaviors

One-day professional development focused on classroom management ODE resources within a trauma-informed framework for supporting ALL students. This professional development offering will focus on empowering teachers and administrators to transform learning environments and make decisions using evidence-based strategies rooted in the neuroscience of trauma, cognition, behavior, and learning.

**Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

**Location:** ESC-NEO, 6393 Oak Tree Blvd., Independence, Ohio 44131

[Registration Link](#)

[Program Flier](#)

## Legislative Update

Dackin has extensive experience in the K-12 education sector, having served as a teacher, principal and administrator, as well as superintendent of school and community partnerships at Columbus State Community College. He also previously served as a member of the State Board of Education, resigning to become a candidate for state superintendent of public instruction. However, less than one month after assuming the position he resigned after concerns were raised about his role in the search process while serving on the State Board.

Once approved by the Senate, as is expected given general broad support for Dackin, it seems likely that the deputy directors of DEW's two divisions – Primary and Secondary Education, and Career-Technical Education – will soon be announced. The deputy director candidates are also subject to the approval of the Senate.

On November 21, DEW held a public meeting to update stakeholders on the transition and efforts to implement other K-12 education provisions of the state biennial budget bill (H.B. 33). Interim Superintendent Jessica Voltolini was joined by Chief Legal Counsel Tony Palmer, Chief of Budget and School Funding Aaron Rausch, and Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs Jennifer Stump. In addition to providing an update on the transition, the meeting featured presentations on implementation of provisions of H.B. 33 and an overview of the new process for vetting and implementing the agency's administrative rules.

**Click here** -- <https://www.ohiochannel.org/video/ohio-department-of-education-and-workforce-11-21-2023-public-meeting> -- to access a recording of the DEW meeting broadcast and archived on The Ohio Channel.

In related news, the State Board of Education has a new website -- <https://sboe.ohio.gov/> -- independent of DEW with tabs for key functions and programs: educator licensure, professional conduct, educator evaluations, Ohio Teacher of the Year, resident educator program, consistently high performing teacher, educator standards board, local professional development committees, master teacher, and Ohio assessment for educators.

Employees of the new DEW will maintain their previous email addresses which are uniform:

[Firstname.Lastname@Education.Ohio.Gov](mailto:Firstname.Lastname@Education.Ohio.Gov). Former ODE employees who now work for the State Board can be emailed at [Firstname.Lastname@SBOE.Ohio.Gov](mailto:Firstname.Lastname@SBOE.Ohio.Gov).

# Citizens Academy Southeast leader thrives on Engagement

Talk with Citizens Leadership Academy Southeast Principal Brianna Crabtree for just a few minutes and you'll immediately pick up on her enthusiasm and commitment to students, families, teachers and staff. Her positive attitude is somewhat contagious and quite inspiring.

Crabtree grew up in New Orleans and attended Louisiana State University where she briefly majored in education before switching to political science. Her motivation? She saw social injustices and wanted to pursue a career that would allow her to be a part of addressing them.

After graduation, she took the LSAT and applied to law school, intending to pursue a career as an attorney. But a Teach For America recruiter reached out to her and was persistent in her follow-up. After her first interview, she began to think the two-year experience might be something she'd enjoy before pursuing a law degree. Several teachers at her high school were a part of TFA's teacher corps, so she connected with them to learn more about the program and their personal experiences with it.

"Within the first three months of my involvement with Teach For America, I knew this was for me," Crabtree said. "I taught social studies, which aligned with my interest in political science, and I quickly recognized that helping underserved students receive a relevant, engaging education was a great way to bring about much-needed social change."

Teach For America assigned her to work at E Prep Woodland Hills, which is part of Breakthrough Public Schools – a network of schools in Cleveland dedicated to providing students with an education that empowers them to lead lives of impact and opportunity. After completing her TFA assignment she remained with Breakthrough, continuing to teach social studies before later switching subjects to English language arts. She then served as dean of instruction for two years.

Crabtree is new to the principal role at Citizens Southeast where she is responsible for leading the team serving roughly 300 students in grades five through eight -- part of the school's K-8 program serving about 700 students.

"What really sets our school apart is the joy component," Crabtree said. "One of the highlights is our community meetings held for 45 minutes every Friday morning. Staff and students come together to talk about what it means to be a good citizen, to celebrate academic accomplishments and to recognize students for positive behavior."

For some, the best part of the weekly meetings is the community group games, like the recent staff vs. student

volleyball match. The positive energy is a key component of the school culture and helps create a sense of family.

"I was recently diagnosed with multiple sclerosis," Crabtree said. "When students asked about my absences, I shared my diagnosis with them. It helped them understand that we all face challenges. It was humanizing."

Now, when Crabtree engages with students – popping into classrooms and eating lunch with them – they ask how she's doing and encourage her to take good care of herself. In a way, her experience has encouraged students to demonstrate kindness and caring for others.

During a six-week period earlier this year, the school suffered two painful losses: a student passed away, and a staff member was murdered. Crabtree, her team and students supported one another in their grief, openly sharing their feelings.

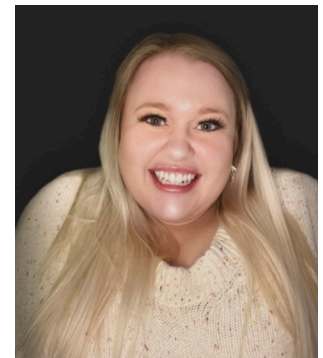
"Our school is structured to push students to succeed – academically, behaviorally and emotionally," Crabtree said. "We focus on the mindset of those we employ ... it's important that they share our commitment to helping our students realize their full potential."

Crabtree sees students' parents and other family members as partners in the effort to help students succeed and encourages their participation.

"I've worked in education since 2015," Crabtree said. "I've never met a family that didn't care. It's our responsibility to give families the tools they need to help students succeed. And some of the best feedback I've received has come from parents."

The hardest part of the job for Crabtree is finding ways to navigate all the challenges teachers face, and to help them achieve a healthy work/life balance.

The best part of the job for Crabtree can be summed up in one word: engagement! Her engagement with students, staff and families – and seeing them engage with one another – creates an environment in which everyone can thrive, including Crabtree in her new leadership role.



**Brianna Crabtree**  
Principal  
Citizens Leadership  
Academy Southeast