

April/May 2022

CMSD SponsorShip

A newsletter for CMSD-sponsored community schools



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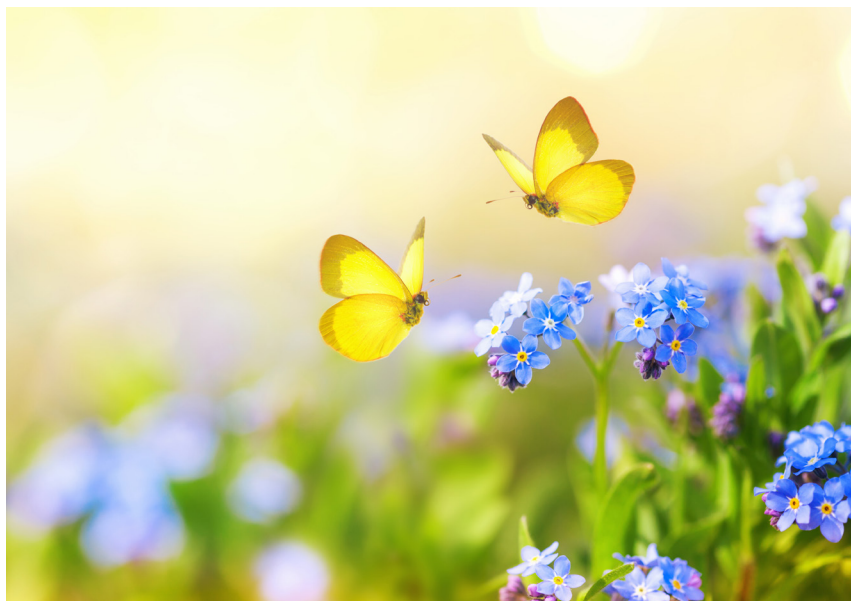
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More information on CMSD's community school sponsorship and other collaborative initiatives related to community schools in Cleveland is available on the CMSD website, ClevelandMetroSchools.org, by clicking on the "Schools" tab on the main menu and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



Happy Spring!

We hope you enjoyed a nice break and are ready for the homestretch of the school year.

I want to thank all of you who have worked so hard this year to provide a safe learning environment for Cleveland kids while confronting the emotional, social, and academic challenges facing students due to the pandemic.

I'm excited to share that we recently added a new full-time staff member to our department, Lesley Wilkins-Valentine. Please read the included profile of her so you can learn more about her background and why she does this work.

Lesley is the lead on all charter-related academic items for our office. Most of her time will be spent working directly with building leaders to provide guidance and support in areas they identify as their needs.



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Upcoming Events



This list is not comprehensive but highlights some upcoming events. Schools should continue to rely on other tools as well, especially Epicenter.

Annual Humanware SEL Conference 2022

April 21 or 21, 2022
(Same sessions offered each day)
7:45 am - 3:45 pm
Cost: FREE

Together We Flourish: SEL as a Tool, Lever, and Strategy for Healing discusses six major components of SEL. The Keynote speaker, Dr. Shawn Ginwright, PhD., is one of the nation's leading innovators and thought leaders on African American youth.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/together-we-flourish-sel-as-a-tool-lever-strategy-for-healing-tickets-304218364317>

Meeting the Social Emotional Needs of ELs

May 5, 2022 | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Cost: \$50.00

English learners have unique social and emotional needs that result from the process of immigration and resettlement. This online session will describe the special needs of immigrant populations including mental health needs. Intended audience includes EL teachers and coordinators, social workers, guidance counselors and administrators. A link to the online session will be sent to those who register for the session.

<https://www.escneo.org/protected/EventView.aspx?id=8PBUGIABI>

A few important reminders for the rest of the school year and summer:

- All board members and select school staff must complete public records and open meetings training by June 30.
- We recently shared final contracts for your boards to approve by June 30. These mostly incorporate required legal and accountability and updates and were discussed at a meeting with all boards in March.
- As we did last year, CMSD's Charter School Office will host a back-to-school kickoff meeting prior to the start of the next school year. Stay tuned for details, and plan to send at least one board member and one staff member.
- Pre-Opening Visits will take place in July and early August. CMSD staff will schedule visits with school staff once this current school year has ended.

We are currently completing spring site visits at all of your schools. We will be discussing these at upcoming board meetings. Our team has been enjoying the opportunity to meet with your staff, as well as parents and students. These visits, in addition to allowing us to verify legal and contractual items, give us additional insight into what is going on at your schools. We also hope they provide you with helpful ideas and feedback related to your school priorities.

Best wishes for the rest of the school year, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us! We are here to help.

Upcoming Events

Crisis Prevention Programs (CPI): Classroom Culture

May 20, 2022 | 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Cost: \$100

Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) teaches professionals the skills to identify, prevent and de-escalate crises in the workplace. With distinct levels of training, CPI offers solutions for every role and risk level, in every organization. This session is focused on specific strategies to foster a positive culture within all classrooms. With a focus on application and technique, the principles discussed integrate with all tiered behavior management initiatives while requiring minimal additional effort from staff. Adoption of Classroom Culture will result in positive and sustainable improvements in classroom and school culture.

Format of Training (7 hours is recommended in total)

- 3 Hours of asynchronous online modules of pre-work
- 4 Hour synchronous session via Zoom
- May 20, 2022, from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- Modules
 - Consistent, Calm Behavior
 - Sustainable Routines
 - First Attention to Best Conduct
 - Scripted Interventions
 - Restorative Approaches
- ***If pre-work is not completed, participants will not be admitted into the synchronous session.***

*Certificate of attendance upon completion of training

*CPI certificate upon completion of training

<https://www.escneo.org/protected/EventView.aspx?id=8P3A0ABUI>



Legislative Update

On May 30, S.B. 181 will be enacted into state law to prohibit a school or interscholastic athletics conference or organization from obstructing the wearing of religious apparel in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities.

The bill, which was passed unanimously in both the Ohio House and Senate, garnered support from somewhat unlikely allies with proponent testimony offered by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Center for Christian Virtue, ACLU of Ohio, Ohio Jewish Communities, and League of Women Voters of Ohio.

Inspired by a constituent's experience, the legislation was introduced by Senator Theresa Gavarone (R-Huron) after Noor Abukaram's story garnered national attention.

"At the cross country District Invitationals in 2019, my teammates and I went to the starting line to get checked in as usual," Abukaram testified at legislative hearings. "They checked our jerseys and accessories to make sure no one violated the uniform. Everything went smoothly. I cleared my head and stepped up to the starting line, ready to race."

"After a very difficult race, I achieved a personal record," she continued. "My teammates and I celebrated, learning that we qualified for regionals. We rushed to check out individual placings. I ran my finger down the list and quickly noticed that my name was not on the scoreboard next to my teammates' names. I was certain that it was just an error. My teammates then looked at me

Upcoming Events

Mentor Training – Virtual

June 14 and 21 | 9:00 - 11:00 am
 Register By: May 30, 2022
 Orientation: June 6, 9:00 - 9:30 am
 Cost: \$170.00

The virtual Mentor Academy is a blended learning alternative to the two-day, face-to-face Mentor Academy that offers a path to earning Ohio Mentor Certification. The Virtual Academy requires:

1. approximately **eight hours (total) of self-guided online work** over a two-week period, to be completed prior to each synchronous session, and
2. participation in **two, two-hour** Zoom meetings facilitated by state mentor trainers, along with a short orientation meeting.

Register for the desired training session via STARS prior to the registration deadline

- The registration fee is \$170.00. *Payment must be received before certificate will be awarded.* Send registration fee to the ESCNEO per STARS instructions.
- Materials will be emailed prior to the orientation meeting.

<https://www.escneo.org/protected/EventView.aspx?id=8PPBBBAB2>

Legislative Update

in all seriousness and told me that I have been disqualified. When I inquired about the reason behind the disqualification, one of the girls responded, 'Because of your hijab.'

The new law will provide civil immunity for schools and other entities related to decisions regarding wearing religious apparel during competition or participation in athletic or extracurricular events and specifies that whoever violates the prohibition is subject to civil action for damages, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief.

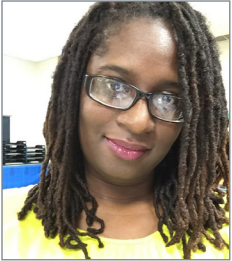
The 134th General Assembly also passed legislation (H.B. 51) which included a provision to reauthorize remote hearing authority for public entities, using language from H.B. 404 passed in 2020 to authorize remote meetings via Zoom and other communications applications which expired last July 1.

The bill became effective February 17 and extends the remote meeting authority through June 30, 2022.

Other key bills impacting K-12 education that are currently under consideration include:

- H.B. 403, which would require schools to file a report with the Ohio Department of Education regarding a teacher that retired under threat of disciplinary investigation;
- H.B. 497, which would permanently eliminate student retention under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and require only one administration of the third-grade English language arts assessment annually; and,
- H.B. 583, which aims to address staff shortages by requiring the State Board of Education to issue substitute educator licenses to certain applicants who have not earned a bachelor's degree (or in some cases any post-secondary degree) and allowing a student teacher or intern from a teacher preparation program to work as a substitute teacher for up to five days through June 30, 2025.

CMSD Welcomes New Director of Charter Schools



Spend just a few minutes talking with Cleveland Metropolitan School District's (CMSD) new Director of Charter Schools Lesley Wilkins-Valentine and you'll quickly recognize that education is more than just a job to her – it's a passion!

"I always knew I wanted to work with children," Wilkins-Valentine said. "I went to my first teaching class and instantly fell in love – the profession really spoke to me. Now, with 15 years of experience in education, I remain passionate and committed to playing a role in helping students reach their full academic potential."

Wilkins-Valentine grew up in Ohio and attended Akron Public Schools throughout most of her K-12 academic career.

She attended college in Louisiana — graduating from Grambling State University — and began her career in education there teaching fifth-grade English language arts in a traditional public district school.

Nearly six years ago, she and her teen daughter returned to Ohio where she has held several positions with charter school management companies of increasing responsibility. Her experience includes serving as an instructional coach and director of professional learning with ACCEL, and as an instructional specialist with Phalen Leadership Academies.

"My experiences attending and teaching in traditional public district schools limited my perspective," Wilkins-Valentine said. "But as a parent, I came to realize that families need choices. We all want what's best for our children and, in some cases, a large district school isn't the best fit."

She embraces her new role with CMSD and is committed to bridging the gap that can exist between district schools and charters.

"I'm excited to work with the eight high-performing charter schools sponsored by the district," Wilkins-

Valentine said. "As a sponsor, it's our responsibility to provide oversight, but I view the relationships as collaborative. We share a commitment to the academic success of our scholars."

Wilkins-Valentine describes her style as hands-on – willing to roll up her sleeves and dig into tasks. She encourages data-driven decision making and strategizing, and is eager to share her independent observations to benefit CMSD-sponsored schools.

"I don't see my role as strictly focused on compliance," she said. "I want to be a thought-partner with school leaders. I'm here to help and encourage schools to share not just their successes, but also their challenges. I hope to build relationships of trust that contribute to positive outcomes for our scholars."

Wilkins-Valentine misses her time in the classroom and the opportunity to get to know each of her scholars – their personalities and individual strengths and weaknesses. But she also welcomes the opportunity to play a supportive role in achieving successful academic outcomes for greater numbers of students in her new role as director of charter schools.

She is particularly interested in social-emotional learning, and sees great value in supporting teachers, as well as students. She hopes to offer an outside perspective to, and build collaborative relationships with, those who play leadership roles in charters sponsored by the district.

Currently pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership through Ashland University, Wilkins-Valentine also has a busy family life. She and her wife of three years, Brittany, support daughter Makayla, who follows in her mother's footsteps as an undergraduate student at Grambling State University. They are also parents to 20-month-old Wesley and a dog named Oreo.

As a wife, mother, teacher, and student, she has little downtime, but enjoys playing video games. She has a deep love of music and plays four instruments: sax, clarinet, violin, and piano.