

CMSD SponsorShip



A newsletter for CMSD-sponsored community schools

Contact CMSD

Please direct inquiries on CMSD sponsorship of community schools to:

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In addition to Ms. Klupinski, please continue to contact other key CMSD staff members on these specific matters:

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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."



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Letter from the Director

As you might have heard, Stephanie's daughter, Arden, was born February 8. They are doing well and we tried not to bother them too much while Stephanie was on leave! Stephanie recently returned and will be working part time for the next few weeks.

I am excited to have started with CMSD, as Director of Charter Schools, on February 15. I have been very busy with the spring site visits as well as other responsibilities while Stephanie was on leave. As of the second week of March we completed all of our spring site visits. We are currently finalizing our reports and I will be presenting them soon at your next board meetings.

I attended board meetings for all of our sponsored schools while Stephanie was on leave and will plan to be at all of them for next few months.

We have been busy preparing for this year's sponsor evaluation process. I have been reviewing documents with school operations staff to ensure we are able to score the highest possible rating. May 15 and June 30 are the two deadlines we are facing during this process. We will continue to be in touch with you for help with this project.

We hope you are doing well as we move into the last part of the school year. As always, please contact us if we can be of any assistance.

—Matt

Matt Rado,
Director of Charter Schools,
CMSD



Dates to Remember

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

APRIL 12, 19 & MAY 3 THURSDAYS, 4:00PM–5:30PM ONE CLASS EACH WEEK FOR 3 WEEKS

Parent University: Getting Our Babies to College 101

New Tech Collinwood

15210 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH

ClevelandMetroSchools.org/Page/13054

APRIL 12, 2:30PM–4:30PM

Cleveland Education Compact meeting

Urban Community School

4909 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, OH

ClevelandCompact.org

APRIL 13, 8:00AM–4:30PM

Study the Network workshop

617 West State St., Columbus, OH

The School Performance Institute, a division of United Schools Network, presents a Study the Network workshop for school leaders.

SchoolPerformanceInstitute.org/register

APRIL 18, NOON–1:30PM

Youth Forum: Keeping Our Schools Safe

City Club of Cleveland,

850 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH

Tickets: Free for high school students.

\$20 members / \$35 nonmembers.

CityClub.org/forums

Legislative Update: State auditor urges legislature to adopt SECUR Program

As policy makers and gun law proponents and opponents respond to the tragic school shooting in Florida last month, Ohio Auditor of State Dave Yost is encouraging members of the Ohio General Assembly to adopt his plan to better protect students.

At a Statehouse press conference, Yost unveiled the School Entry Control and Urgent Response (SECUR) Program—a three-point plan based on “tried-and-true” tactics used in many government buildings and some businesses.

Yost acknowledges that some steps have already been taken to address school safety, including a requirement that every school building develop, implement and submit to the state a school safety plan that outlines building emergency features and response measures.

The state also provided limited funding—a total of \$15.7 million—through a grant program put in place in 2013 that reimbursed schools for the purchase of an emergency communications or lock system for one building entrance; the grant program ended in March 2017 and capped funds at \$2,000 and \$5,000, respectively.

Phase 1 of Yost’s proposed SECUR Program calls for a comprehensive vulnerability inventory of all state school buildings conducted by a coalition of willing law enforcement agencies across the state. A working group of security experts, law enforcement and educators would be created to establish a set of objectives for the inventory and a checklist that would determine the safety or vulnerability of each school building. Projects would be prioritized to bring each school building to a condition with controlled entry point or points, with remote electronic lock systems, and other safety features.

Phase 2 focuses on the first step in securing a building: controlling access by limiting who can enter and establishing electronic locks with individual keycard access in areas throughout. Video cameras, monitoring and a means to communicate with first responders would also be priorities under the SECUR plan. Yost cites a similar project initiated by former Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Moyer 20 years ago to improve safety in Ohio’s courthouses.

Phase 3 addresses staff training with School Resources Officers identified as the ideal solution. Yost also recommends that the Ohio Police Officers Training Academy, in conjunction with other

experts and educators, develop a school-specific advanced training program for teachers and other staff who have a background in law enforcement or the military who are willing and able to provide a first line of on-site defense.

It's easy for all policy makers—and, of course, parents—to agree that changes must occur to better ensure student safety; however, there is significant disagreement regarding what action can and should be taken to produce the best outcomes.

As the debate continues in the nation's capitol, lawmakers in Ohio and other states across the country will also likely engage in ongoing discussion on how to improve school safety.

Interview with Joe Saitta

How long have you been at CMSD?

I have been at CMSD for around eight months.

Where did you work before CMSD?

I graduated from graduate school last spring. However, before returning to school I worked in the financial services industry in New York City.

Are you from Cleveland?

Nope! I grew up in Northern New Jersey. A suburb 15–20 miles west of New York City. Cleveland is the first city I have lived in outside of the East Coast.

Did you have any experience with charter schools prior to taking this role?

I had *no education-related* experience prior to accepting my current role. Education is a completely new field for me, which I am enjoying.

What are some of the projects you've helped on?

I have worked and continue to work on several projects, but the one I am the most excited about is developing an early warning system/indicator. The early warning system will estimate the probability a student will achieve an important academic outcome (e.g. state-level testing proficiency, graduation, etc.). This system will help staff closely monitor student progress and identify students that need additional support in order to successfully meet identified outcomes.

What are some of your goals for helping the Portfolio Office improve?

My main goal is to provide evidence-based recommendations for school and district leaders to inform their decision making. I achieve this by performing quantitative analyses on all the data the CMSD and third parties collect.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

As I mentioned before, I am new to the Midwest and Cleveland. I come from a large Italian family and have two nieces that I adore (and miss!). I spend my days cooking/eating and dreaming of the warm weather so I can spend more time outdoors. I love to surf, hike, play sports, and go for bike rides. My surfing and hiking may suffer due to the less than ideal conditions here, but I'm swimming in Lake Erie this summer as I am competing in a triathlon/sprint.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the CMSD as well as the Cleveland community. I look forward to working with all the great professionals here committed to improving the Cleveland public schools.



School Profile

Citizens Leadership Academy



Students at Citizens Leadership Academy, a middle school in the University Circle area, are always clustered in groups and talking—just the way the charter’s leaders like it.

“We are ‘table-centered,’” Principal Sydney Gruhin said, referring to the school’s seating arrangement. “Rarely is it silent. We want students to be collaborating with each other, grappling with what they are reading and learning about.”

Citizens Leadership Academy is located on Lamont Avenue, near Hough Avenue and Ansel Road. Current enrollment totals about 270 students in the sixth through eighth grades.

CLA, founded in 2011, stresses hands-on “experiential learning” that is aided by the availability of one laptop per student.

The school follows the EL Education platform which is project-based, and the Facing History and Ourselves curriculum, which covers issues of ethics, social responsibility, prejudice and justice.

Citizens Leadership Academy stresses civic engagement. What that means for individuals is an “essential question” eighth-graders explore for the year. The other grades have their own essential questions that lead up to the eighth-grade question, centered on what is required for a community to thrive or a person to be “morally courageous.”

Every day, students meet in small groups with a teacher for a half-hour. The students get a chance to explore whatever is on their minds, how they are feeling or current issues.

This goal is to help the students build relationships—with each other and a teacher they can turn to, if just for conversation. The class is called “crew.”

“We are crew, not passengers,” Gruhin said. “Everyone is in it together, the teachers and all of the students. They are going to learn together, grow together.”

