

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:

Special education, ADA, ELL:
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Executive Director of School Performance
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Shemekia Love
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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 Executive Director

Happy November! I know you've all been busy with holidays and testing and deadlines and sponsor visits, and we thank you so much for your cooperation! We have now finished our fall site visits and look forward to reporting out on the visits at your next board meeting. We will also share the sponsor annual report at that time, so please be sure to give us about 15 minutes to address your board at its next meeting.

I am thrilled to announce that the Charter Schools Office now has an executive assistant. Shemekia Love started her job here on October 24. You can learn more about her on [page 5](#).

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.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Charter Board Meetings

Please give extra time to the sponsor for a review of the site visit and excerpts from our annual report.

DECEMBER 1

Applications for charter school partnership released.

DECEMBER 11 (AFTERNOON)

All-school Sponsor Meeting

All schools must send at least one staff member and one board member to this important meeting.

DECEMBER 11–12

The School Performance Institute, a division of United Schools Network, presents a two-day seminar entitled “Purposeful Culture and Procedures Workshop.” This will be held at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. For more details, please go to www.schoolperformanceinstitute.org/purposeful-culture-and-procedures.

Last month, I traveled to New York City to attend the first ever Independent Charter Schools Symposium. Also representing the Buckeye state were Anthony Gatto, the principal of the Columbus-based Arts and College Preparatory Academy, and Mary Rumpz from Townsend Community School in Castalia. People from all over the country were in attendance, along with some of the legends who founded the charter movement twenty-five years ago in Minnesota. Highlights from the conference included a rousing debate on charters, race, and class and an intriguing session on how authorizers can better serve independent charters.

There’s no exact definition of what constitutes an “independent” charter schools, but the working definition used at the conference was a school not part of a national network and one where decision-making takes place at the school level. Independent charters also promote inclusion, empathy, transparency, and innovation. The conference concluded with a town hall meeting where attendees discussed and ultimately voted to affirm the Democratic Principles of the Charter Movement, which you can read at <http://www.c3s.nyc/democracyineducation>. Independent and interested charter schools should keep their eye on the work started at this conference, and our office will help keep you informed.

Our first two school profiles in *SponsorShip* were of the longest-standing schools sponsored by CMSD, Promise Academy and E Prep Cliffs. Now, we feature our newest addition to the sponsorship family, Village Preparatory School Willard. Please go to [page 6](#) to read more about this school.

Finally, preparations are underway for our December 11 sponsor meeting. All schools must send at least one staff member and one board member to this important meeting. This meeting will feature a session on academic accountability from Marianne Motley of the Ohio Department of Education. We will also review the sponsor contract and discuss whether any changes need to be made, and we will provide some updates on the charter renewal process.

—Stephanie

Stephanie Klupinski,
Executive Director of
Charter Schools,
CMSD





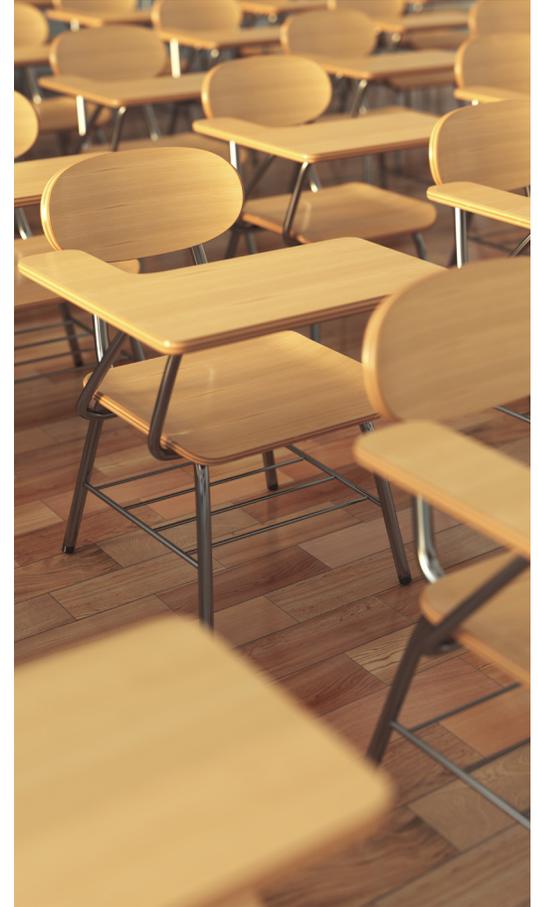
Legislative Update

Ohio House Representatives Rick Carfagna (R-Genoa Township) and Mike Duffey (R-Worthington) introduced legislation (H.B. 170) earlier this year to add computer science instruction as an option to several of the prescribed subjects in the state minimum high school curriculum. The bill has been approved by the House and assigned to the Senate Education Committee for further consideration.

“As we all know, science and technology are subjects that are more important now than ever, and their applications are felt across nearly every sector of our economy.” said Rep. Carfagna in his recent testimony before the Senate Education Committee. “This bill will bring computer science to the forefront, and will begin the discussion as to how to prepare our future generations to be leaders in science and technology.”

The bill adds computer science instruction as an option to the 20 units of specified subject areas as the minimum high school curriculum for a diploma. Under the bill, one unit of computer science may serve as an alternative to Algebra II, one of four required units of math.

Three units of science are required under the state curriculum, including one unit each in physical science, life sciences, and advanced study in: (1) chemistry, physics or other physical science, (2) advanced biology or other life science, or (3) astronomy, physical geology, or other earth or space science. The bill adds computer science as a fourth option for the one unit of advanced study. However, it prohibits computer science from being substituted for any life sciences or biology.



Facilities Update

In 2015, the Ohio legislature authorized the creation of the Community School Classroom Facilities Grant Program. During Round 1, approximately \$17 million were awarded to eight high-performing charter schools. That leaves about \$8 million. Round two applications are now being accepted. For more information, please go here: <http://ofcc.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Services/Community-Schools/PS-10CommunitySchool-Round2ApprovalGuidelines.pdf>.

The bill specifies that students may choose to apply instruction in computer science as either one unit of math or one unit of science, regardless of the field of certification of educators who teach the classes, provided that the instructors meet certain licensure requirements and complete a professional development program approved by the district or charter school board.

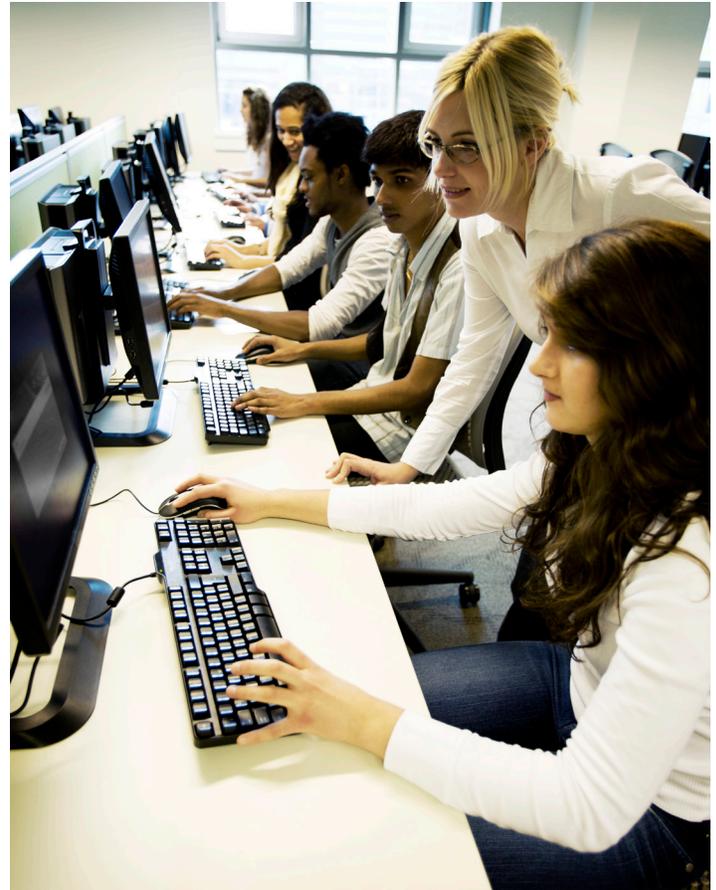
“This is what I want to be absolutely clear,” Carfagna said to his House colleagues. “This is not a mandate ... This legislation is about empowering our students and helping our districts offer diverse, challenging, robust technology course options.”

Dozens of organizations testified before the House Education and Career Readiness Committee and the Senate Education Committee in support of the bill.

As we all know, science and technology are subjects that are more important now than ever, and their applications are felt across nearly every sector of our economy

—Rick Carfagna (R-Genoa Township),
Ohio House Representative

“We need to support our public education system in the mission to prepare our students for the post-industrial era jobs that will help Ohio and the United States to prosper,” said Jennie Zamberlan, founder and president of Avantia, Inc., a Cleveland information technology firm. “It is a simple matter of supply and demand: if we don’t have the appropriate supply of skilled workers, the jobs won’t be here.”



Katie Hendrickson, director of state government affairs at Code.org, a non-profit focused on increasing computer science in K–12 coursework, said in her testimony: “Early access to fundamental computer science skills can be a game-changer for students both in terms of inspiring interest in computer science education and in giving students alternative routes to core academic skills. Take, for example, sequencing. By intentionally introducing students to the very basic concept of ordering in a step-by-step sequence as early as first grade, we can begin to build skills that are relevant across domains, but that also serve as a foundation for understanding computer science.”

The bill also allows district and school boards to establish computer science and technology funds, which may be used for: professional development related to computer science programs; the delivery of online assessments, including instruction and data that support online assessment readiness; wireless connectivity in school buildings; network services, such as improving bandwidth capacity and filtering devices; and, the purchase of computers, tablets and equipment.

Interview with Shemekia Love

CMSD's Charter School Office is thrilled to announce the arrival of Shemekia Love, who will be serving as Administrative Assistant for the Executive Director of Charter Schools and the Executive Director of School Choice and Enrollment. Shemekia's many duties will include reviewing documents in Epicenter and helping answer the many questions we get from our charter schools, so feel free to start reaching out to her at Shemekia.Love@ClevelandMetroSchools.org or **216.838.4966**.

How long have you been at CMSD?

I was hired in April 2016 as a sub secretary. Last November, I started working as a long term sub in CEO Gordon's office.

Where did you work before CMSD?

I worked at Menorah Park, a center for long-term care on the east side.

Are you from Cleveland?

Yes! I went to Cleveland Metropolitan School District from kindergarten all the way up. I started at Miles Park Elementary, then I went to Garrett Morgan. I graduated from East Tech in 2002.

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

I have no direct experience, but, I do have a niece who attends Citizens Academy Southeast. I've heard lots of wonderful things about the different charter schools we work with!

You've only been working in this office for a week. What have you learned so far?

One of my first tasks was to help collect and submit our partnering agreements to the Ohio Department of Education. In doing so, I learned a lot about the different schools CMSD partners with. It's great that we give parents options to send their kids to schools they otherwise could not send their kids to, and they don't have to spend lots of money. It's monumental. We have evolved so much from when I was in school.

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

My first goal is to bring more organization to the department. That way we can be more efficient moving forward. My next goal is to develop good relationships with the Ohio Department of Education and our charter schools so I can be another resource to help the schools focus on their kids.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am a product of Cleveland Metropolitan School District! I have an associate's degree in business administration. I have an eight year old son named Christian. Right now he is in the third grade at Holy Name in Cleveland. I love to bake, I love art projects—anything crafty is what I like to do!

Can we expect to see you visit some of our schools?

Absolutely! I am excited to visit the schools we partner with. It will give me more insight into why we partner with the schools and how you all are helping us achieve the goals of *The Cleveland Plan*. I look forward to meeting many of you at our next big meeting on December 11.



School Profile **Village Prep Willard**



Village Prep Willard, CMSD's newest sponsored school, is located in the Cudell neighborhood in the former Willard Park school, which also houses a Head Start program run by the Council for Economic Opportunities of Greater Cleveland.

Village Prep Willard serves grades kindergarten through second, and is part of Breakthrough Charter Schools' Preps schools model, which are focused on preparing scholars for college in a structured, academically rigorous environment. Willard is the first school of this model located in Cleveland's west side. The school sets high expectations for its scholars and constantly reminds them of their five keys to success: courage, respect, responsibility, perseverance, and self-discipline.

Willard adds to this Preps model focus by striving for three particular outcomes for their scholars and through a lens of three goals for their teachers. They push for their scholars to explore the world around them, write about their experiences, and solve problems that they encounter. Mirroring that, their teachers work to ensure that rigor, relevance, and relationships frame their journey towards excellence.

As with the other schools of the Preps model, the school's focus is visible as soon as you enter—doors and walls are decorated with posters and pictures from colleges from around the state as well as colleges attended by teachers and staff.

Willard has a distinctly different population than the other Preps model schools, with nearly 20% of the population coming from Cleveland's Hispanic community.

In addition to Spanish, the school also has Vietnamese and Portuguese speaking students.

Cherrelle Turner is Willard's founding principal. A graduate of Ohio University, she taught in Washington, D.C. while earning a master's degree from George Mason University, taught English in Japan, and later worked in instructional coaching and as an intervention coordinator in New Orleans before returning to her hometown of Cleveland. She also earned a master's degree in school leadership from Columbia University and later spent a year planning and building the foundation for the new school's opening.

She is passionate about her school and students.

"I wanted to be of service," she said. "I explored other opportunities that didn't seem fulfilling... education was my key, neither of my parents went to college. When I thought about what I wanted to do to have a meaningful life, I thought of teaching."

Ms. Turner said she never intended to be a principal, but as a believer in Breakthrough Schools' mission and a passionate educator, she jumped at the opportunity to found and lead a school in the only place she's been able to consider home.

The new school is already full of educational and other opportunities. Cub scouts, girls scouts, monthly family fun nights, parent association meetings, and violin lessons through the Rainey Institute are just some of the activities taking place after school.

Parents seem to love the new school and its teachers.

Recently, a teacher was sick with a cold, and a parent was ready in the car line after class with homemade soup.

Ms. Turner and her staff are excited to continue to build deep relationships with parents and their scholars, while becoming further connected to their new home and neighborhood.