

CMSD SponsorShip



A newsletter for CMSD-sponsored community schools

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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 New Year! We hope you all had a relaxing and wonderful holiday break and are back in the swing of things.

We have a lot of activity going on over the next few months. We recently sent contract modifications to all of your boards. As we discussed in the fall, most of these are the result of changes due to state law and ODE's sponsor evaluation system. We will be presenting the modifications to CMSD's board by May.

Speaking of ODE's sponsor evaluation system, we recently held a meeting on February 6 with school operations staff to review the results of the 2017-18 evaluation and highlight areas to be aware of for the 2018-19 evaluation.

In February we will be contacting all schools to schedule spring site visits in March. These will be very similar to last spring's visits. Spring site visits, unlike the fall visits, include focus groups with parents, students, and teachers. We will be asking school staff for help recruiting participants for these.

Thank you for choosing CMSD as your sponsor, and we hope your new year is off to a great start!



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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.

HELP WANTED: APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

February 15, 2019

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The City Club of Cleveland

850 Euclid Avenue, 2nd Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114

What are the traits of successful apprenticeship programs? Can they address Northeast Ohio's skills gap? How can we ensure these programs are open to all, including women and people of color?

Join us for the final forum in our Help Wanted workforce development series, a conversation with national and regional experts on trends in apprenticeship programs and how they could address our national and local skills gap.

<https://www.cityclub.org/forums/2019/02/15/help-wanted-apprenticeships-in-the-21st-century>

STUDY THE NETWORK WORKSHOP

February 21, 2019

617 West State St.
Columbus, OH 43215

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

SchoolPerformanceInstitute.org/register



Once-aspiring architect builds career in Montessori

Jacqui Miller, principal of Stonebrook Montessori charter school, did not set out to work in education, let alone in Cleveland.

Once intent on a career as an architect, Miller changed course when she felt a pull to serving children. She went into Montessori education 25 years ago, and was a founding teacher and leading developer of the Adolescent Program at Arbor Montessori School in Decatur, Ga.

Montessori education emphasizes the use of all five senses, gives students choice in their activities and allows them to learn at their own pace. Students are grouped into three-year age groups so older children can share their knowledge and teachers have time to develop relationships with children and families.

"When I found Montessori, I fell in love with it," Miller said.

"Montessori is experience in and exposure to all sorts of things so kids can find their strengths. Learning can happen in so many ways."

Debra Hershey Guren and David Kahn of Montessori Development Partnerships knew Miller from her presentations at workshops in Cleveland. They recruited her from Georgia to run Stonebrook.

The school, which opened in 2015, now offers preschool through fifth grade and will expand until it includes the middle school grades, seventh through ninth.

Overlooking Rockefeller Park, Stonebrook's renovated space was once the Amasa Stone House, a home for elderly women. The school's enrollment totals nearly 200 students, many of them from the surrounding Glenville neighborhood.

Miller said she runs the school with a "shared sense of leadership" and emphasis on community outreach. The school openly invites feedback on how it can improve, she said.

Upcoming Events

STUDY THE NETWORK WORKSHOP

March 28, 2019

1469 E Main St.
Columbus, OH 43205

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

SchoolPerformanceInstitute.org/register

She would like to someday offer urban agriculture at Stonebrook for older students and have the school participate in a farmers market run by the Famicos Foundation. The program could incorporate beekeeping, one of her interests.

Urban public Montessori schools are growing in number but remain relatively rare.

The flexible style is not always an easy fit for children who deal with the stress of adversity. Miller said Stonebrook teachers receive training to calm students and show sensitivity to the effects of trauma.

Molding a system of learning based on individual pace to the state's assessment schedule is another challenge.

"If I had a wish, it would be to have a way of better measuring all the learning that happens here," Miller said.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Out with the old, in with the new

The 132nd General Assembly ended with a year-end lame duck session in which few education issues were addressed.

As expected, the Ohio House and Senate took action to address recommendations made by various stakeholders to extend the flexible high school graduation requirements put into place for the class of 2018 as Ohio transitions to tougher standards.

Requirements for the class of 2019 will be identical to those put into place for students graduating in 2018—as many as 18 percent of whom relied on alternative options of good attendance, a senior year GPA of at least 2.5, a capstone project or community service/employment to meet the requirements.

For the class of 2019, attendance was eliminated from the alternative options, and students will be required to earn a GPA of at



least 2.5 for both their junior and senior years. Capstone projects and community service hours must now comply with guidance to be provided by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

Also approved by the legislature in its year-end session was **H.B. 58**, which does not require schools to teach cursive handwriting as originally introduced. It does require ODE to include supplemental instruction materials on the development of handwriting as a universal skill in the English language arts model curriculum for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The materials must be designed to ensure that students develop the ability to print letters and words legibly by third grade and to create readable cursive handwriting by the end of the fifth grade. The material must be incorporated into the model curriculum by July 1, 2019.



Mike DeWine being sworn in as the Governor of Ohio during a brief midnight ceremony.

The 133rd General Assembly begins with Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina) continuing to serve as Senate president. It seems likely that Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) will continue to chair the Senate Education Committee, and that Andy Brenner (R-Powell)—who last year chaired the House Education and Career Readiness Committee, but now serves in the Senate after being elected to represent the 19th district in November—will likely serve as a member.

Following a battle for leadership of the House of Representatives, Larry Householder (R-Glenford) now serves as speaker, replacing Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) who assumed the position last year when former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger resigned. It's difficult to predict who will chair and serve on key committees.

Changes have also occurred within the State Board of Education, with outgoing Gov. John Kasich appointing individuals to fill four vacant seats. These new members include: David A. Brinegar, president of Fulton Industries in Wauseon; Cindy A. Collins, a real estate agent from Amanda; Mark A. Lamoncha, president/CEO of Humtown Products in Columbiana; and, Michael A. Toal, president of Everyday Technologies in Sidney.

At its January meeting, the State Board elected new officers, including at-large member Laura Kohler as president (replacing outgoing president Tess Elshoff) and District 3 member Charlotte McGuire as vice president (replacing outgoing member Nancy Hollister).

Mike DeWine (R-Cedarville)—who made children's issues a centerpiece of his gubernatorial campaign—was sworn into office in January. His first big task will be to present a budget proposal, which some expect to be "child-focused," to be introduced in the House of Representatives in March.

State biennial budget bills have historically addressed not just funding, but also many policy issues, including those impacting charter schools. Following last year's closure of Ohio's largest e-school—The Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow (ECOT)—there have been calls for changes in how e-schools are funded and held accountable, so it seems likely these issues will be addressed through legislation in the coming months.

New administrative rules impacting dropout recovery charter schools proposed by ODE have alarmed key stakeholders—particularly those that would dramatically increase graduation rate expectations—who may seek a remedy through legislation.

Beyond those somewhat obvious issues, it's difficult to predict what changes will be proposed—and ultimately put into place—throughout the budget bill process. Stay tuned...