



# What's Happening at the MCSESC!

September 4, 2008

Volume 8, Number 1

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- Mission Statement: The Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center will be the leader in providing services and products that promote excellence in education.

## Welcome Back!



The Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center is pleased to be publishing the "What's Happening" electronic newsletter for the eighth consecutive year. Each year we refine and make alterations to the newsletter to better meet the needs of our customers. If you have any suggestions, please e-mail Brenda Zacharias at [bzachari@medina-esc.k12.oh.us](mailto:bzachari@medina-esc.k12.oh.us). We will incorporate as many suggestions as we can in subsequent issues.

The start of any school year is an exciting time for both the students and the educators. It is no different here at the ESC. We welcome the following new staff members:

- Emily Askea, Transition Coordinator
- Elizabeth Grafious, Behavioral/Autism Specialist
- Lori Hogue, Director of Nursing Services
- Tom Magier, Alternative School Instructor
- Sheryl Menke, ESL/LEP Teacher
- Ken Rinehart, Alternative School Director
- Michele Wargo, Gifted and Talented Coordinator/Education Specialist
- Deborah Yorko, Transition Coordinator

ESC programs continue to grow and expand. Over the last two years, the implementation of a preschool handicapped program, autism and behavioral consulting, and the nursing program are three major additions to what our staff can offer. The ESC staff roster now exceeds 100, and it is expected to continue to grow as new programs and offerings are developed to assist our districts. The district assignment chart for ESC staff members has been updated for this school year. You may click here to download the current chart:

<http://www.medina-esc.k12.oh.us/CurrentEvents/Newsletters/MCSESCNews/2008-2009/Staff%20Assignments%202008-09.pdf>. Staff members for our new school nursing services program are listed below:

|                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Karen Arndt, Health Aide     | Lori Morris, Health Aide    |
| Tara Arnold, Health Aide     | Tammy Peloso, Nurse         |
| Monica Bagley, Health Aide   | Sue Peters, Nurse           |
| Brenda Bialecki, Health Aide | Maribeth Platzbecker, Nurse |
| Sharon Garrison, Nurse       | Pam Romano, Health Aide     |
| Lori Hogue, Director         | Monica Rosco, Health Aide   |
| Heather Iacofano, Nurse      | Doris Watkins, Nurse        |
| Erin Kastner, Nurse          | Diane White, Health Aide    |
| Laura Kotalac, Health Aide   |                             |

All staff members look forward to a productive school year serving the needs of each district in Medina County. New ventures—new challenges—new successes!

*William J. Koran, Superintendent*  
[wkoran@medina-esc.k12.oh.us](mailto:wkoran@medina-esc.k12.oh.us)

## New District Superintendents

The Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center is pleased to welcome Catherine Aukerman and Daryl Kubilus as the new superintendents of Highland and Cloverleaf Local Schools. The ESC also wishes Dr. Bruce Armstrong and Dr. Bruce Hulme the best of luck in their retirements, and we thank them for their years of service to the students of the Cloverleaf and Highland School Districts.

*William J. Koran, Superintendent*  
[wkoran@medina-esc.k12.oh.us](mailto:wkoran@medina-esc.k12.oh.us)

## ParaPro Training

Once again, the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center is offering a paraprofessional training workshop. The purpose of the paraprofessional study group is to provide participants an opportunity to review and study material in preparation for taking the online Educational Testing Service (ETS) Paraprofessional Assessment. Each session will focus on one subject area (reading, math, and writing). The fourth session will be practice with the ETS tutorial to prepare for taking the online test. Session dates are as follows:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday, September 9   | 4-6 p.m.         |
| Thursday, September 11 | 4-6 p.m.         |
| Tuesday, September 16  | 4-6 p.m.         |
| Tuesday, September 23  | 4-6 p.m.         |
| Thursday, September 25 | 4 p.m. (testing) |

All sessions will be held in the first floor conference room at the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center. Please contact Janelle Sailer at the MCSESC (330-723-6393, Ext. 134) for registration details.

*Mary Kastanis, Special Projects Coordinator*  
[mkastani@medina-esc.k12.oh.us](mailto:mkastani@medina-esc.k12.oh.us)

## 2008-2009 Special Education Forum

The Special Education Forum is an opportunity for educators to discuss areas of strengths or challenges as well as learn of new programs, best practices, and legal updates. Special education directors, psychologists, principals, coordinators, specialists, and teachers can interact in a comfortable atmosphere where learning and sharing is taking place. Britton, Smith, Peters & Kalail Co., L.P.A., will be present at all forums this year to provide legal updates pertaining to presentations. CEU's and graduate credit will be available.

During the 2008-2009 school year, forum meetings will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. in the lower level conference room at the MCSESC on the following dates:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 15 | Legal Update                                  |
| October 13   | 2008 Operating Standards                      |
| November 10  | Early Intervention and Preschool              |
| January 12   | Educating Children With Autism/Best Practices |
| March 16     | Emotional Disabilities                        |

If you have any questions, please call Nancy Nimmo at 330-723-6393, Ext. 116.

*Linda Gehring, Work-Study/Transition Secretary*  
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## 2008-2009 Medina County Entry-Year Program

The Medina County Entry-Year Program for the 2008-2009 school year began **August 15** at Williams on the Lake with a successful kick-off in-service for 25 new and beginning teachers. Medina County Schools' ESC Superintendent, William Koran, and Dr. Dan Vincent, Director of Curriculum, welcomed teachers and introduced ESC staff and services. A program detailing Ohio's Praxis III requirements was presented by Beth Lofy, the area coordinator for Praxis III Assessment in this region.

Ohio Teacher Education and Licensure Standards require successful performance on the part of beginning teachers. Ohio's Entry-Year Programs must include both a formal program of support for beginning teachers and assessment of their performance. Ten areas were identified as being critical to such success. The State Board of Education adopted Praxis III as the instrument to be used to assess these areas.

The Entry-Year program provides direct assistance to Ohio's beginning teachers via mentors, who offer the support necessary to help Entry-Year teachers meet "real-world," full-time classroom and building challenges. To qualify for a professional license, all beginning teachers must successfully complete the Entry-Year program and pass the performance-based assessment (Praxis III).

Continued Entry-Year Programs for the 2008-2009 school year will include a Praxis III review on **October 2** from 4:15 to 6:30 p.m. at the Medina County Career Center (MCCC) and a four-hour Child Abuse Awareness in-service on **October 22** from 4:15 to 8:15 p.m., also at the MCCC.

*Dan Vincent, Ph.D., Director of Curriculum*  
[dvincent@medina-esc.k12.oh.us](mailto:dvincent@medina-esc.k12.oh.us)

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## Special Needs Initiatives

The Medina County Schools' ESC takes pride in announcing that we are opening an autism preschool classroom for the 2008-2009 school year. The program will be taught by our preschool teacher and her assistant. This team has over two years of experience working with preschoolers who have disabilities as well as working together. Medina County Schools' ESC will provide its own speech and language pathologist and behavior/autism specialist to work with the staff. All staff will be trained by a certified behavior analyst in Discrete Trial Training as well as receive training in TEACCH. Student-to-adult ratio will be 1:1 or 1:2, depending on the activity. The MCSESC Autism Preschool will incorporate an active parent component and, for interested parents, will provide a supplemental early intervention home consultation service.

*Nancy Nimmo, Director of Special Needs Initiatives*  
[nnimmo@medina-esc.k12.oh.us](mailto:nnimmo@medina-esc.k12.oh.us)

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## September Events/Workshops

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| September 8-12 | Pre-Service Bus Driving Class (Medina Co. Univ. Center) |
| September 9    | Medina Special Students Transition Action Team Meeting  |
| September 9    | ParaPro Study Group                                     |
| September 10   | Curriculum Leaders Meeting                              |
| September 11   | ParaPro Study Group                                     |
| September 15   | MCSESC Staff Meeting                                    |
| September 15   | Compact Meeting   |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| September 15    | Special Education Forum   |
| September 16    | ParaPro Study Group   |
| September 17    | Countywide Special Education Directors' Meeting                           |
| September 17    | Transportation Supervisors' Meeting                                       |
| September 17    | Ohio Department of Education Meeting                                      |
| September 17    | Online Courses Start (9/17/08-10/31/08)                                   |
| September 18    | Medina County Resource Center Committee Meeting                           |
| September 18    | Early Childhood Transition Meeting – SST Region 8                         |
| September 22    | MCSESC Governing Board Meeting  |
| September 22-26 | Pre-Service Bus Driving Class—New Drivers Only<br>(Westlake City Schools) |
| September 23    | ParaPro Study Group   |
| September 25    | ParaPro Testing   |
| September 29-30 | Pre-Service Bus Driving Class—Re-certs Only<br>(Berea High School)        |

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## "Technology Today"



Hello everyone and welcome back to "Technology Today." My articles will keep you informed about all the changes going on with your school's audiovisual equipment. This week we will go over our AV service tags and give you some cable converter box tips. Here we go!

### **Our Different Color Service Tags**

Over the years we have made and sent out to our schools different color service repair tags. They all can still be used. We will accept all of them. The current color tag is **blue**. I know there are **red** and **green** tags too. Please feel free to use them all.

### **Summer Service 2008**

We have finished up our Summer Service Program. Thank you all for using our program. Remember, we will send to you a customer service survey later this year to fill out. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

### **Digital Converter Boxes**

Here are some helpful tips regarding the digital converter boxes.

- Call your local cable company if you do not know whether a box will be needed.
- The standard rule is that if your TV is connected to cable, no matter how old it is, you will receive the new digital cable signal. The cable company has equipment that will change the signal over so your older TV will have a normal picture and sound.
- You may purchase a converter box locally from Wal-Mart and Radio Shack. These boxes will work okay.
- If you have no cable provider and currently using rabbit ears and an older TV, a converter box will be necessary. An outside antenna may also be needed.
- Do not use the Internet or unfamiliar companies that offer special deals, warranties, or incentives. Chances are their boxes are not a good value and might not even work.
- To get a converter box coupon from the government, please apply online. Go to [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).

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## Please Send in All Your AV Repairs Now

You are welcome to send in all of your audiovisual repairs to me at this time for prompt service.

**Do you know someone who would like to receive our weekly Internet newsletter?** If you know somebody, please let us know. We will be happy to add the person's address to our e-mail list.

Have a great day and thank you for reading our weekly Internet newsletter.  
Have a great school year!

*Ed Knowles, Sr. Technician/AV*  
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## Thank You

We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the events and the latest services that our ESC offers. Through this newsletter, you are learning about our ESC and what type of services we can provide to you, our customers.

***What's Happening at the MCSESC!*** is a service of the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center and may be copied and distributed to everyone.

"He who loses wealth loses much; he who loses a friend loses more;  
but he who loses his courage loses all." - Miguel de Cervantes