

What's Happening

www.molina-esc.org

330.723.6393

Winter 2021



Krista Wasowski, Medina County Health Department Director, was recently recognized by OESCA for "Outstanding Leadership in Community Service"

WELCOME!

Winter's Greetings! From all of us at the ESC, we sincerely hope you had an opportunity over the winter break to get some respite from the extraordinary craziness of this school year. In education we are constantly serving others - and never relenting in our pursuit of providing our students with the best educational environment possible. One thing educators don't often focus on, though, is our own self-care. It's not in our nature to be selfish; we're constantly giving. We've all seen this year, though, that our "gas tanks" are regularly running close to empty. A little self-care—whether taking time to shut down your computer or cell phone in the evening, doing something special with friends or family, or just taking a walk to clear your mind—can go a long way to ensuring you can continue to give everything you can to our students. Best wishes for an amazing second half of the school year!

TRENDS IN EDUCATION: Substitutes

It is no secret that there is a nationwide substitute teacher shortage. School districts in Medina County are not immune from this trend. Competition in the job market, fear of contracting COVID, and a general decline in the number of college students graduating with an education degree have contributed to the decline in the substitute teacher pool.

Many potential candidates are not aware that you do not need to have a bachelor's degree in education to become a substitute teacher. In some cases, depending on the district, a bachelor's degree is not needed for the 2021/22 school year.

The ESC will be hosting a Substitute Teacher Job Fair on January 25, 2022, at the Medina County District Library. Representatives will be onsite to help candidates complete the onboarding process. Anyone interested but unable to attend is encouraged to call us at 330.723.6393 x127 or x140.

Please [click here](#) or visit our website for more information and what candidates should bring.

TRENDS IN EDUCATION: Virtual Academy

The ESC Virtual Academy enrollment is currently 220 students from nine districts. Seven of the districts are in Medina County.

Literacy is the foundation for learning. Kindergarten students have read 621 books; first graders have read 955 books on Epic! The third grade has read 1,361 books on Epic and completed four chapter books during daily read-aloud time after lunch. The fourth-grade class has collectively read 2,006 books on Epic for a total of 444 hours!

Third graders recently learned about different family and holiday traditions around the world. Students were allowed to teach lessons to the class about their families' cultures. Some different countries/cultures we learned about included China, Russia/Ukraine, India, Mexico, and Germany! Throughout this unit, students also worked with families to write a family recipe in a Holiday Recipe Book, highlighting different cultural dishes from around the world.

The Creative Writing Club is booming with over 20 kids who are writing some amazing stories! Some of these stories will be featured on the school website and blog as well.

Visit the [link](#) to learn more about blended learning.

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MEET THE ESC STAFF



Name: Barbie Ferrell, RN

Position: Communicable Disease District Liaison

Years with the ESC: 4 years

School District: I work with all of our school districts answering questions regarding communicable diseases.

Favorite Part of My Job: I love working with elementary students and teaching them how to stay healthy.

Hobby: In my free time, I enjoy watching football (Go Browns!). In the summer, I enjoy being outdoors, fishing, and helping coach my daughter's softball team.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

For over 30 years, Parent Mentors of Ohio have helped families of children with exceptionalities to navigate state and federal special education processes and services so that those children can access schooling in a way that is individualized and meaningful and sets the students up for success.

Parent Mentors are parents of children with disabilities. They are peers and mentors who help to empower families to become positive advocates for their children. They review ETRs, IEPs, behavior plans, attend meetings with families, and serve as a sounding board to problem solve challenges during the special education process.

Parent Mentors also work to facilitate positive relationships between families and the school districts in which they live. This allows the entire team to work together proactively to support the child. Districts can refer families to Parent Mentors for support.

All Medina County families have access, free of charge, to Parent Mentor services through grant funding from the Ohio Department of Education.

To access services, you can contact the Medina County Parent Mentors:

Cheryl Mendel cmendel@medinaesc.org:
Cheryl serves Black River, Buckeye, Cloverleaf, Highland, Medina, MCCC, and Wadsworth.

Sandie Cooper scooper@bcsoh.org
Sandie serves Brunswick City Schools.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 11, 2022 – Project Search Westfield Open House

January 17-March 4, 2022 - Student Artwork Display, Medina Hospital Medical Office Bldg.

January 25, 2022 - Substitute Teacher Job Fair

January 26, 2022 - Countywide Special Education Directors Meeting

February 23, 2022–Countywide Special Education Directors Meeting

