

Building Communities. Rebuilding Lives.

Peggy Young, Director

Jennifer Schorr, Associate Director

Mission

The mission of the Education Division of Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is to establish strong public community schools by adhering to quality authorizing practices, ensuring responsible oversight, and setting high standards for school performance.

Vision

The Education Division's vision is strong communities of healthy, well-educated students, and a future in which all students have access to a high quality public education. Ohio thrives as increasing numbers of schools graduate students equipped to assume a positive role in society.



Annual Needs Assessment



We develop our best service and technical assistance plans when you tell us what you and your school need. So once again, we're asking that you give us input about how we served you, how we can best plan our 2022 School Leadership Summit, and how our 2022-23 work plan should look.

Please give us a few minutes of your time by responding **by March 15, 2022** to our brief Annual Needs Assessment. We sincerely appreciate your time and input!

[Complete Survey Now](#)

Public School Works



In providing support to our schools, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation offers specific trainings within Public School Works for governing board members and school leaders. But did you know that Public School Works also offers many beneficial features for use at the school building level which can

help streamline everything from student behavior management to staff training?



Student Behavior Management

Streamline your behavior management program and improve communication between schools and families.

StudentWatch is a comprehensive program that provides tools for fully addressing and managing student health, safety, injury, and behavioral issues. Implementing the online Behavior Management System in StudentWatch puts an end to piles of paper and helps administrators quickly identify issues and protect victims. This system reduces the amount of time an administrator takes to process a referral, supports data-based interventions, and automates communication through emails and custom letters. Features include Student Accident Management, Student Bullying Reporting, Student Behavior Management, and more, allowing for improved communication between schools and families.



Online Staff Training

Automate your staff training and comply with complicated state and federal training mandates.

The Staff Training System, part of the award-winning EmployeeSafe Suite, eliminates the “knot in the stomach” administrators often feel as to whether they are in compliance with regulatory requirements. The Staff Training System includes 500+ online courses addressing workplace safety, student safety, human resources, state and federal specific issues, and other safety topics. Additionally, a school may add custom-made trainings for school-specific trainings (i.e., employee handbook).

For more details on how Public School Works can assist with better managing your school building, [contact Account Executive Ben Brooks](#).

Transportation Update



Per ORC 3327.016, your community school must establish START and END times for the 22-23SY no later than **April 1, 2022**. To ensure your eligible students receive transportation services from their school district, you must notify that school district with your school's start and end times. The school district must use these start and end times to develop a transportation plan with routes and schedules within sixty days (by June 1, 2022) after receiving the information and provide the plan back to your school.

IMPORTANT NEXT STEPS:

- Reach out to all districts you expect to receive transportation services to ask how they are collecting start/end times.
- Establish start/end times by April 1.
- Notify districts by April 1 per their collection process.
- Receive transportation plans(s) by June 1.

Interested in learning how to provide your own transportation? Please reach out to [Jason Moore](#).

Robotics Team State Championship



We were proud to feature Horizon Science Academy Columbus Elementary School's Robotics Teams in last month's newsletter and Concept Schools continue to rock robotics competitions across the state with four teams moving on to the State Championship!

Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School's Robotic Teams participated in the VEX IQ Robotics competition on February 12, receiving the Teamwork 2nd Place Award, and the VEX IQ Challenge on February 26, receiving the Creative Award.

This qualified the teams for the 2022 Ohio VEX IQ Middle School State Championship that will be held on March 5 in Marion, OH. And, as we previously reported, Horizon

Science Academy Columbus Elementary School will have two teams compete in the 2022 Ohio VEX IQ Elementary State Championship on March 4.

Concept Schools Superintendent Murat Efe said, "I am especially pleased with our school success because it demonstrates the kind of intellectual excellence that is one of our goals for Horizon and Noble Academies. We wish all the best for our schools and our teams in the State Championship."

BCHF is proud of the amazing work the leaders and students of these robotics teams have put into making it to the State Championship competition! We're rooting for you!



Donuts with Dad & Muffins with Mom

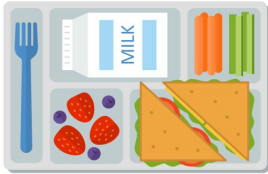


Main Preparatory Academy in Akron hosted family-fun events in February. As reported on the school's Facebook page, "It was a glowing success! Our scholars and families enjoyed treats & community conversation!"



*Share your school's stories with us to be featured in an upcoming Sponsor Update!
Reach out to [Amber Brossia](#) about proud parents, superior students, or top-notch teachers!*

Compliance Update



Food Service Licenses

Food service licenses expired statewide on March 1, 2021. Updated licenses for schools, vendors, and caterers should be uploaded to SharePoint and posted in school buildings.

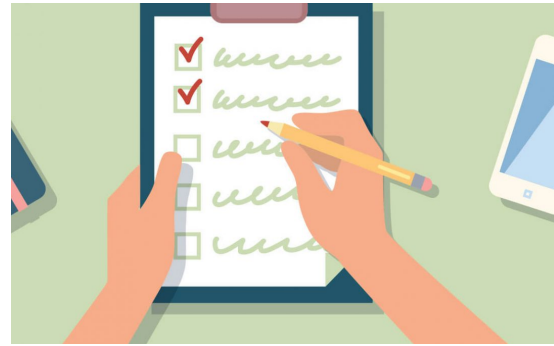


Virtual Board Meetings Approved

HB 51, allowing virtual public meetings - including school board meetings - has been signed by Governor DeWine and takes effect immediately under the emergency measure in the bill.

Important Reminders:

- You must provide public access to the meeting (i.e. zoom link).
- Notice of the meeting must be provided and posted at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
- Virtual meetings where board members can be counted for quorum and vote **expires June 30, 2022.**



Governing Board Member Training Reminder

If a governing board member has yet to complete training for the 2021-22 school year, it is imperative that it is completed soon. Board training is a contractual obligation. Students are better served when board members stay current in the knowledge of policies, fiscal responsibilities, and school culture. BCHF offers online training modules through [Public School Works](#) that will satisfy your board training requirement. Please contact your sponsor representative for more information.

Upcoming Professional Development Events

Suddenly, it is going to be Spring in Ohio! Let us help you put a SPRING in your step with amazing, innovative ideas through professional development! Join us for one or more of the sessions below by clicking on the green titles and following directions to register in Frontline Education. You may also browse our [Professional Learning Opportunities Catalog](#) at your convenience! Please also share with teachers and staff at your school.

To see more information about a session, or to register, click on the titles below.

Writing Challenge Assistance (Grades 6-12)

March 3 @ 4:00-5:30 P.M. Virtual via Zoom

Are your students getting ready for their Writing Challenge submissions? Secondary teachers, join us for an open question and answer session about preparing your students for their best submissions!

Collaborative Improvement Cohort: Living Improvement Science

March 10 @ 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. *Virtual via Zoom*

We already know more than we need to about successfully instructing ALL children and youth. But, how do we put what we know into practice? How do we continually improve and make it happen, regularly and well? It is easier to say and harder to do. This session will help you make concrete plans to incorporate school improvement science as a regular practice at your school.

Successful Classroom Management Online Course (Third and Final Offering!)

March 15 to April 15 *Online Course via Moodle*

This course examines the key factors that make a classroom successful in terms of both climate and achievement. The behaviors of the teacher determine the behaviors of the students. By implementing the procedures and strategies discussed in this training, your students will exhibit model behavior and decorum and they will be prepared to excel academically. This is an online asynchronous course opening on March 15 and closing on April 15, 2022. Participants work at their own rate and are responsible for submitting work products to earn participation credit. Workload is approximately 5 hours per week. You must participate and complete a project to earn a certificate of completion.

Culturally Responsive Classrooms

March 15 to April 15 *Online Course via Moodle*

Explore the beauty and depth of a culturally responsive classroom! This asynchronous learning experience will guide you in exploring culturally responsive classrooms. Learn how to assess and improve your learning environment, access to culturally responsive materials, culturally responsive themes within the standards, appreciate your students' cultural richness! Prepare to deepen your own knowledge and appreciate how cultural diversity is a key to rediscovering a love of learning! This is a month-long asynchronous (online) course. Expect to devote about 5 hours per week for four weeks. Participants complete a capstone project to earn a certificate of participation.

Early Literacy Network #4

March 15 @ 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. *Virtual via Zoom*

Join us for a follow-up session with author Dr. Carlotta Penn that will discuss use of challenging and culturally responsive children's literature!

Courageous Leaders Network #4 - Reflection and Planning

March 21 @ 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. *Virtual via Zoom*

It has been a year of challenges, expected and unexpected. Good leadership comes from deliberate reflection followed by planning and goal setting for the future. Join us for a year-end structured reflection and planning session to wrap up our year and plan ahead.

Special Education Network: Developing High-Quality IEPs

March 22 @ 3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. *Virtual via Zoom*

How do you make your special education program one of high quality? Join our Special Education Network for all or any of the sessions. The goals of the 2021-22 Special Education Network are: 1) provide special education updates and 2) complete a collaborative book-study on creating a meaningful and compliant IEP. The network will meet six times throughout the school year; each session will focus on critical aspects of creating a high-quality IEP. Session 1) Foundations for Understanding the Development of a Meaningful IEP, Session 2: Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance, Session 3: Developing high-quality goals, Session 4: Short-Term Objectives Session 5: Measuring and Reporting Progress and Session 6: Least Restrictive Environment and Accommodations and Modifications

BCHF Annual School Leadership Summit

June 9-10 @ 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. *Virtual*

Join us for the premier professional development event of the year! BCHF's School Leadership Summit

meets the unique needs of school leaders and school leadership teams. The 2021-22 Summit is once again virtual (though we have hopes for the future to be in-person once again). BCHF will announce a theme for the Summit as soon as we have gained input from our school leaders. Register and reserve the date now! Remember to give us your input about the Leadership Summit sessions! Complete the [BCHF Annual Needs Assessment](#) by March 15!

[View the 2021-2022 Professional Development Catalog](#)

School Improvement Update

Keeping Schools Open: What Does It Take?

by Carol S. Young, Ph.D., Department Lead, BCHF Accountability and School Improvement
([Download PDF](#))



Mr. Akkaya (center right) is proud of Horizon Middle's award-winning robotics team. "We keep school goals in the forefront always," he says.

Most would agree that 2021-22 has been a rough year for schools. COVID outbreaks, teacher shortages, behavioral issues, and a lack of substitutes are among the challenges. Despite these odds, though, schools in the BCHF portfolio have risen above it all, kept schools open, and shown progress. I reached out to three of our resilient charter school leaders and asked them to share their secrets!

During his five years of tenure at Horizon Science Academy Middle School, Mr. Hasan Akkaya, School Leader, has intentionally emphasized high quality relationships and clear goals. The school earned its second Bronze PBIS award in 2021-22. Plans for formal STEM designation as well as new facilities have also remained in the forefront. "I check on and talk about these goals all of the time," reports Mr. Akkaya, "They were not forgotten

with COVID." On its STAR learning data, the school recently saw Fall to Winter growth of 1% in reading and 9.6% in math. Over 40% of the faculty have been with the school five to ten years. Mr. Akkaya's conversations start with "How can I help?" All teachers have two planning periods and a lunch period during the school day. "This helps them plan at school, not at home," he said.

"Listening to understand, not judge" has helped Mr. Akkaya and his "tireless team" navigate the teacher shortage. Listening helps identify solutions to problems of students, families, and teachers. This may lead to resource re-allocation. Horizon Middle School has added a counselor at every grade level this year. Recently its management raised class coverage pay. The school also certified paraprofessionals as substitutes and trained them in how to cover classes effectively. Years ago, the school went to 1:1 laptop availability for students, and teachers earned incentives if they completed Google certification. Having lessons on Google Classroom, whether in person or remote during the early pandemic, has given the school continuity in planning and technology integration. Horizon Middle also has a structured program of Tier 1 and 2 interventions, of which Lexia and ALEKs are core. "Teachers can use other resources, but we stress everyone using Lexia." Mr. Akkaya added, "We are seeing the results, especially in math. Results are important," Mr. Akkaya emphasized, "but in education, we build

relationships first.”

Mr. Scott Will is an experienced school administrator, but he began this year, midst a pandemic, as new Superintendent for The Richland School of Academic Arts. When asked his secrets for keeping school open, Supt. Will is quick to say, “The mindset going into the year!” He recalled, “The staff came together, and all of them bought into the mindset of staying open. We knew the impact of the pandemic on students, and we set out with the determination that kids needed to be in school. COVID is not the focus,” he emphasized, “Kids are.” This determination helped tremendously when absences spiked. “We realized that we could worry about the percentage who were absent, or we could focus on the 250 or so students who were present to be educated.” Careful protocols for masking and safety nearly eliminated outbreaks from school. In terms of student behavior, Supt. Will says, “We took a developmental approach. K-1 students had not been in school; they needed to ‘learn school.’ Older kids had missed peer interactions. They needed to re-orient. The staff focused on supports and we have had very few problems.”

The Richland School has a unique focus on arts integration and Supt. Will is quick to point out the importance of compelling school mission. “Our school’s mission is centered on creativity and self-expression. Everyone has a purpose and place in the mission; even the custodian here has an integral role in seeing that the lighting and spaces are ready for performances. And, it has meant so much to our students, families, and staff that those productions could go on despite COVID. Sometimes we had to get creative and, yes, sometimes there were moments of stress or anxiety. But we kept going.” The artistic atmosphere and creativity spill over into all aspects of schooling, including an environment where teachers can experiment with approaches like Flipped Classroom, Brain-based Learning, and interdisciplinary studies. “Teacher autonomy is valued,” said Supt. Will. The school provides high-quality curricular resources for teachers and attractive classroom spaces. About 60% of the schools’ teachers have been at that school for more than five years. “It’s all intentional and purposeful,” said Supt. Will. Results speak for themselves. The school’s COVID learning slide in Spring, 2021 was around 5%, well below the statewide average learning loss. In addition, the school’s norm referenced testing data indicate recovery of that loss from Fall to Winter 2021. And the “shows **have** gone on” for all students with performances, arts events, and even musicals in 2021-22.



Performances have gone on at the Richland School of Academic Arts during 2021-22. “Everyone has a place in our mission,” states Superintendent Scott. Will.

Mr. Kadir Parlar is the 6-year veteran School Leader of Noble Academy Columbus. While juggling his own doctoral studies at The Ohio State University, Mr. Parlar is keeping a laser-like focus on social-emotional learning (SEL) supports at Noble. “We knew if students were well supported, we would see academic growth. But first we had to make their social-emotional needs a priority.” Mr. Parlar believes you must translate caring into collective efficacy. “We decided to measure what we found most important,” he said. “We use Panorama as a social emotional tracking tool, and we identify students who need to be ‘on the radar.’ Someone needs to be checking in with them; someone needs to be spending time with them.” Mr. Parlar recalls when he made the bold move of eliminating the position of Assistant Principal of School Culture. “School is not jail,” he emphasized. “We hired three social workers and the results are simply amazing!” Mr. Parlar told the story of a student who spent hours with a social worker because she came to school with unkempt hair. “Her attitude going back to class after a chance to groom and a chance to talk was so different. She was ready to learn.” Mr. Parlar is a true believer in time spent with students and their families. He rotates his own personal interviews with students. These are two-way conversations with students about “what happened” in the student’s life.

“You begin to understand when you hear their stories,” Mr. Parlar says. “A student may be sleeping in class, but he is also a fifth grader who is waking up early to catch the bus and trying to deal with the limited resources in his home (water, food, clothing, etc.)”



Mr. Parlar shares a lunch with students at Noble Academy Columbus. “I want to see the pride on their faces,” he affirms.

The SEL focus has paid off. On recent Fall to Winter STAR testing, Noble students showed 3% growth in English Language Arts and 10.7% growth in mathematics. In addition, SEL, attendance, and behavior indicators are all headed in a positive direction. Progress has encouraged faculty and families as well. “Our staff are a team of true believers,” says Mr. Parlar. No teaching positions have turned over this year at Noble Academy. “We have an attitude of service to our teachers--- if you need to, take a break! We are all teachers and even I can fill in for you!” Mr. Parlar and his staff are working toward challenging goals for their school, one of which to become a Blue-Ribbon School. “I don’t want it for the name recognition,” says Mr. Parlar. “I want it to see the pride in our students’ faces. Our students and our parents deserve a great school. They deserve a school that is caring and embracing. This is my passion.”

BCHF applauds these school leaders for their deep commitment to their students, and thanks them for their willingness to share their stories. We know there are other stories to share, and we are immensely proud of our schools and their efforts to “keep school going” in challenging times!

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