



## SPONSOR UPDATE

DECEMBER 2023



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[Jennifer Schorr, VP of Education](#)

[Jason Moore, Senior Director of Education](#)

### 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.



The BCHF 2022-2023 Sponsor Annual Report is out now. Click below to view the report.

[2022-2023 Annual Report](#)

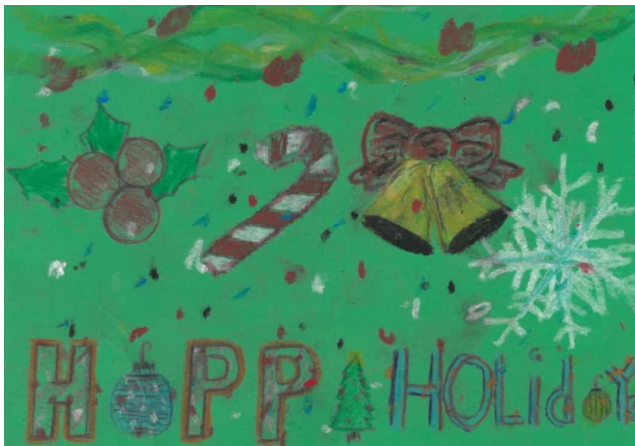
## BCHF Holds Holiday Art Contest

For the cover of this year's holiday card, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation is excited to be featuring student artwork. Students of all ages were able to submit a festive design.

Congratulations to our winner, Alonnie, from Constellation Schools: Puritas Community Middle!



Thank you to all who took the time to participate! Check out some of the wonderful student entries from the contest:



King McCall, Lincoln Park Academy



Rayāunna Bonton, Lincoln Park Academy





Ava Davis, Victory Academy of Toledo



Kimberly, Constellation Schools: Puritas Community Middle



J'mari McCargo, Noble Academy Cleveland



Emily Gonzalez, Westside Community School of the Arts

## Richland School of Academic Arts Teacher Awarded

Mr. Jon Johnson has been recognized by the Ohio Art Education Association (OAEA) for his commitment to the arts.

One of the programs OAEA offers is recognition of their members for outstanding performance as art educators. These individuals, through their engaging work and tremendous impact they've had on their students, are nominated by inspired colleagues and fellow OAEA members.

In addition to supporting students and their art, Mr. Johnson creates the sets for all of the shows at The Richland School.

The arts are an integral part of education. Congratulations, Mr. Johnson!



## Home-Visits for the Holidays

Teachers at Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School have been making home visits to students.

This 10-year tradition is a way for teachers to spread some holiday cheer to students. Teachers volunteer and bring a card as well as some treats for students and families. This year's treat was a shortbread cookie tin.

"Students look forward to these visits and often share their excitement," said Jamie Gibson, school principal. "They are also very motivated during this time of year to make sure we have their physical address correct."

Staff are able to opt in or out depending on their availability; the goal is to visit 100% of the student's families.

"Teachers often have a better understanding of students after visiting their homes and this tradition really seems to benefit our entire school community," said Gibson.



# 7 Ways to Institutionalize a Culture of Celebration in Your School

By Zoe Plotnick, School Improvement Representative, English Learner Supporter

*What makes your school's culture distinctive? How do members of your school's community express these distinctive values and traits?*

If you stopped to reflect on these questions, there is a good chance that your thoughts turned towards your school's core traditions, many of which are celebrations of one kind or another. This month students and staff might be decorating cookies, playing games, enjoying classroom parties, or singing songs to kick off the holiday break. Whatever the case may be, these traditions are occasions for the community to come together and celebrate the values – and people – that define your school's culture.

Celebrations may focus on academic achievement, principled citizenship, or simply gathering as one to reaffirm the meaning of community, but all are vibrant expressions of what it means to belong to your school. While formal celebrations are exciting, smaller ones can be equally powerful. Just because celebrations may be informal or even impromptu, however, does not mean that we cannot be intentional about making them happen.

Here are ways that schools can institutionalize informal celebrations:

## Celebrating Students

- *Good News in school:* Setting aside five minutes at the beginning of a class to invite students to share good news is not just an effective way to set a positive tone – it is also a proactive classroom management strategy. Students often need an outlet to share their excitement before they can fully concentrate on an academic task.

- *Good News at home:* Incentivize positive parent phone calls, which are incredibly powerful but rarely done. While working with multilingual students, I have often heard the same sentiment from interpreters: “I’ve probably done hundreds of these calls for schools, but this is the first one where the teacher wanted to give *good news*.” Fortunately, you will not need to offer the incentive for long. Teachers will discover that these calls feel wonderful, and that their impact on student behaviors is even more addictive.
- *Goody Jar:* Keep a jar in the front office filled with a wide variety of little prizes: squishy stress balls, coupons for popular local businesses, tickets to school events or games, snacks, and coupons for special privileges like dress-down days or parking passes can all be enticing goodies. Let staff know that they can award goodies however they see fit, but the goody jar must be empty by the end of the week. If lunchtime rolls around on Wednesday and the jar is still mostly full, send a reminder to all staff.
- *Student ownership of classroom “jobs”:* Rather than rotating classroom jobs weekly, teachers can create professional-sounding job titles and have students complete an application process. Older students might submit a resume and undergo an interview. Individuals or teams of students remain in their job title for the whole quarter or semester. Job titles can relate to students’ personal and career interests: for instance, an Interior Designer can maintain a bulletin board displaying student work and select aesthetic elements reflecting the learning community that works in that space.

### Celebrating Staff

- *Friendly competitions:* **House systems** are an increasingly popular approach to culture-building and social-emotional learning among students, but such a system can also be impactful with staff. Teachers can earn points for their house by demonstrating outstanding professional and relational behaviors.
- *Recognition through shared leadership:* Observing expert teachers is a common mentorship practice, but observations are at their most powerful when both novice and expert know what, specifically, should be observed. Consider inviting teachers who are accomplished in certain skills – relationship building, classroom management, using small groups effectively, leading creative and engaging activities – to become experts. Experts are added to a building directory that is organized by skill. Novice teachers can then be matched with experts to observe based on their own improvement goals.
- *Mobile awards:* Choose one or more qualities or practices that you would like to prioritize among staff: creativity, positive relationships, supporting colleagues, leadership, and so on. The school leader gives the first set of awards during a staff meeting, informing staff that they can keep and display their award for two weeks. Then awarded teachers will pass on their award to a colleague at staff meetings every two weeks. As teachers spend two weeks trying to catch colleagues being awesome, a culture of mutual trust and authentic appreciation will take root.

### References

Bennet, D. (2023, June 9). 6 steps to launch your own house system. LiveSchool.

<https://www.whyliveschool.com/blog/launch-your-own-house-system>

Muhammad, A. (2017). *Transforming school culture: How to overcome staff division*. Solution Tree Press.

Lieberman, A., Hanson, S., & Gless, J. (2012). *Mentoring teachers*. Jossey-Bass.

## Board Member Spotlight

Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) recognizes the important work that governing board members do in supporting their school community. In recognition and support of this hard work, BCHF is highlighting one board member each month in our sponsor newsletter.



This month we are featuring James Keys, vice president of the Riverscape Career Tech High School board. *The mission of Riverscape Career Tech High School is to empower students by integrating rigorous classroom instruction with diverse pathways, relevant enrichment opportunities, unique educational experiences and by providing students a personalized quality education.*

James has been a board member for three years. Outside of school, James is married to his wife of 30 years, has two daughters, and three grandchildren (with one on the way).

"I enjoy working out, riding bikes, and training youth on having the best life possible, regardless of what they call their best," said James. "I am currently working as a Regional Extension Associate, and also have a youth mentoring ministry called Raise The BAAAR!"

**What have you learned over the years about board meetings, and what changes have you made as a board member that help meetings run more efficiently?**

As a board member, I have learned that there are a lot of behind the scenes decisions being discussed and made for the betterment of the school and community we serve. The efficiency comes down to having an agenda, and reviewing the reports beforehand so you are familiar with the discussions during the meeting. Also staying engaged with the school and activities is very important.

**How do you solicit and retain new board members?**

New board members have been a challenge as many people have very busy schedules. I am looking to do more collaborative events with the board in addition to being more present at the school including within the classroom.

**What are some of the proudest moments you have had as a board member?**

As a board member, it has been a pleasure to come into the school and sit with the students - discussing ways we can improve the school and communication. As the students are our end user, it is imperative that we meet their needs and also provide a safe learning environment.

**What part of the school's mission do you most connect with?**

Within the mission, I relate to it all. I do find myself moving more towards helping individuals move from believing they can to proving they can through their efforts in the classroom and outside of the school at public facing events.

All of us in the Education Division of BCHF appreciate the commitment to students James Keys has shown. We hope, in sharing these stories, others will consider serving as community school governing board members.

## Upcoming Board Member Development Opportunities

Thank you to all who attended our 2023 Board Member Training. Your participation and conversation was much appreciated. A special thank you to Adam Schira for his presentation on public records and open meetings.

Please see the below board member development opportunities in December.

**2023 Sunshine Laws Training (Virtual)**

Date: 12/21/2023

Time: 9:00 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Register here: <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Legal/Sunshine-Laws/Sunshine-Law-Training>

# December Compliance Update

## School Safety Training Requirements:

Within two (2) years of commencing employment, each school staff member shall complete at least four (4) hours of in-service training in the prevention of child abuse, violence, substance abuse, the promotion of positive youth development, and youth suicide awareness and prevention. Thereafter, each staff member shall complete training on youth suicide awareness and prevention every two (2) years and all other above topics every five (5) years.

The in-service training shall also incorporate (1) training on school safety and violence prevention, including human trafficking content; (2) training on the Board's harassment, intimidation and bullying policy; (3) training on the prevention of substance abuse; (4) training on youth suicide awareness and prevention; and (5) for those staff employed to work in middle school or high school grades, training on prevention of dating violence.

## School Spotlights

Spreading kindness - **Global Ambassadors Language Academy** students made over 200 cards of encouragement for children at the Cleveland Clinic. A wonderful way to spread positivity this holiday season!



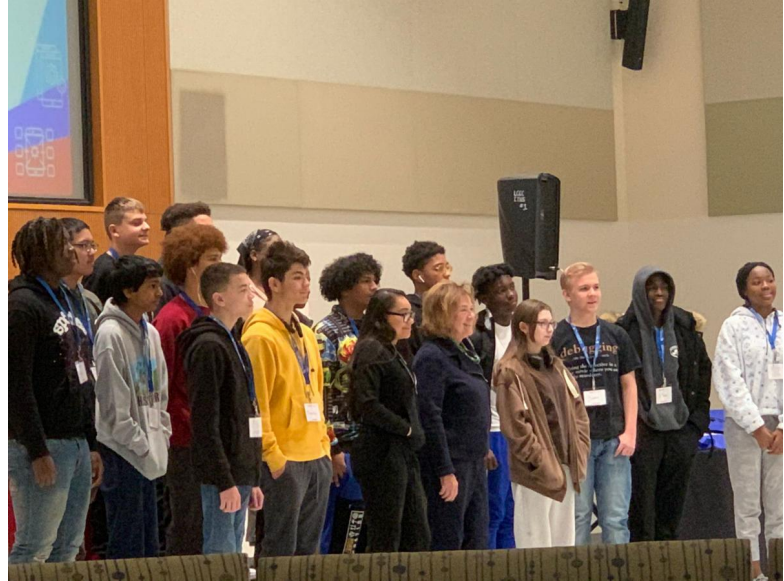
The Robotics Team at **Horizon Science Academy of Lorain** took part in a 12-hour Hackathon at LCCC, which brought together students from all over Lorain County.

Volunteers, mentors, and judges for the event included representatives from large companies, such as



Google and Huntington. After the event, some mentors handed out business cards to students, including Tim from HSA Lorain!

The HSA Lorain team scored the third place spot. Congratulations on your hard work and incredible skills!



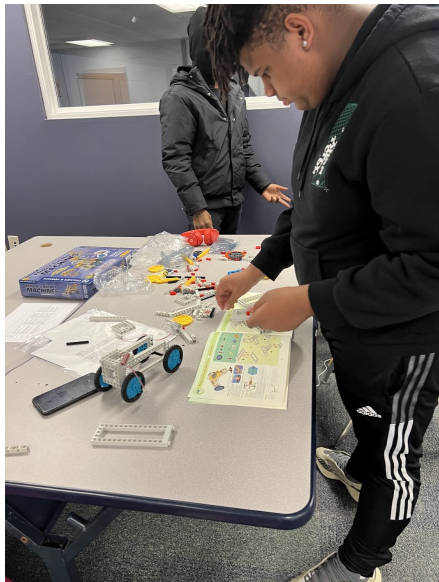
Staff at **The Academy for Urban Scholars Youngstown** took some time out of the day to bond with students and show them love and emotional support. From having motivational speakers come to the school, to creating vision boards, the students had a wonderful time.



Mrs. Smith's 5th and 6th grade class at **Main Preparatory Academy** researched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and then created their own parade balloons. Check out their great designs:



STEM club at **Promise Academy** has been hands-on, working on constructing their own remote control machines.



## Upcoming Events

What is BCHF's gift to you this season? We are offering some very worthwhile professional learning opportunities as well as a complete "refresh" of our catalog for second semester! You may register by clicking on the session name OR by going to our catalog [available here](#).

**THE HOUSE WE BUILD: USING A HOUSE SYSTEM TO BUILD COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL UNITY**  
– December 4, 2023 – 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. – Online via Zoom

We all know that relationships and a sense of community are the foundations of a positive school

culture and improved student learning. This session will walk school leaders, step by step, through developing a "house" system in your school.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION COHORT #2 – December 5, 2023 – 3:00 to 4:30 P.M. – online via Zoom

Join us for an exciting and collaborative session where colleagues can engage in thought-provoking discussions about current topics in special education. Our goal is to cultivate a professional learning community where people can share their best practices, legal precedents, and knowledge. During the sessions, we will provide updates on various topics in special education and encourage participants to bring their current issues to the community to discuss and work through together.

### INTRODUCTION TO 'THE WRITING REVOLUTION': A WRITING STRATEGY FOR ALL AGES – December 7, 2023 – 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. – Online via Zoom

The Writing Revolution (TWR) is a systematic program of writing instruction for learners of all ages and grade levels. Join us as we explore this method, using training materials from Judith Hochman and Natalie Wexler. Give your students the power of the pen. This session will also determine if there is sufficient interest in training for each phase of the instructional process of the TWR.

### MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS' COHORT WINTER GATHERING – December 12, 2023 – 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. – Online via Zoom

What if it takes longer than 5-7 years? This session focuses on how we can support our long-term emergent multilinguals -- i.e., students who have received EL/MLL services for six or more years without exiting. Participants will leave with strategies for filling the gaps for those students who are "socially bilingual" but have not yet achieved cognitive academic language proficiency. Even if you work with younger students who aren't yet LTEMs, you won't want to miss this session where we share ways to develop academic vocabulary and support the transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."

### Workforce Literacy: December-Assessment Tools and Processes – December 13, 2023 – 2:30 to 4:00 P.M. – Online via Zoom

In this session, we will discuss how to develop pre- and post-tests for a pilot project in workforce literacy. How does assessment interplay with program implementation? How will assessment help us determine the impact of workforce literacy efforts? This session is for Workforce Literacy school coordinators, but others may join in!

### SPECIAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP NETWORK: WORK SESSIONS ON RESULTS INDICATOR PLANNING – December 13, 2023 – 4:00 to 5:30 P.M. – Online via Zoom

This session will concentrate with special education leaders the results indicator findings and planning for addressing the indicators.

### GRADUATION SUCCESS COHORT: CTE PATHWAY PLANNING AND SUBMISSION – December 14, 2023 – 3:00 to 4:30 P.M. – Online via Zoom

and apply to offer Career Technical pathways at your school? How do pathways differ from industry credentials? Discuss how to use local market indicators to plan for and offer career technical opportunities at your school. We will discuss using community data, selecting pathways, the CTE application process, and the role of community partners.

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Have a story or event at your school you would like to share? Send it to Hana, Strategic Communications Specialist: [hchandoul@buckeyehope.org](mailto:hchandoul@buckeyehope.org).

BUCKEYE COMMUNITY HOPE FOUNDATION

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