



IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT !

Community *Update*

Three District Updates

*Willoughby-Eastlake: Excellence in Education
& Service to Our Communities*

#1—Washington Elementary - Operation Donation

The students at Washington Elementary have participated in several community service projects; however, their favorite project was “Operation Donation.” After learning what it meant to be good citizens and active members in society, Mrs. Wadworth’s third grade social studies students were inspired. The students held a donation drive they named “Operation Donation” for two weeks at Washington Elementary. All of the donations brought into the school were for Project Hope, a homeless shelter in Lake County. The students advertised for the drive with posters, newsletters and emails.

#2 - Royalview Elementary -

Christmas Stocking Project



Since the initiation of the Stocking Project in 2010, the third grade students in Mrs. Goodrich’s class at Royalview Elementary, have made a difference in the lives of 700 children. This project began in 2010 when Mrs. Goodrich shared a story about a homeless boy and his father with her class. The focus of this lesson was to teach students about making inferences. As an unexpected outcome of this lesson, the students learned an additional lesson, the importance and power of giving.

The students formed a partnership with the Cleveland Police Department, District 2, and began fundraising efforts to donate gifts to their annual Christmas party. In order to raise money for the stockings, Royalview students and their families have held bake sales, fundraisers at Chick-Fil-A, donated items they have purchased and conducted an all school Fact-A-Thon fundraiser. This year the students plan to donate

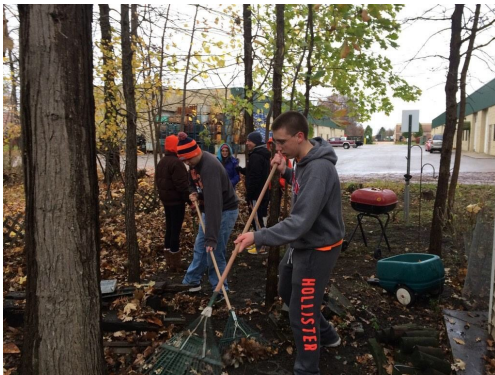
Christmas Stocking Project (cont'd.)

250 stockings to the project for children in need. In addition to the stockings, the students will also send hand written messages of encouragement.

Throughout the past four years, the students at Royalview have worked to participate in an event that relies solely on the generosity of others. The Royalview community has shown true character as their valuable lessons have extended beyond the classroom.

#3—North High School - Volunteers Club

The Volunteers Club of North High School, under the direction of Jen Schendell, operates 12 months a year and has over 150 members. The Board Members of this club conduct monthly meetings in order to make pertinent decisions. Activities conducted by the club are done by student groups as well as individuals.



The Volunteers Club has a constant stream of activities. Some of their activities include: Make A Difference Day, Board Member Sleepover (twice a year they have guest speakers and team building time, bake an average of 600 cookies for the senior citizens from Make A Difference Day and deliver them to homes), serving meals at the Eastlake Food Pantry, Christmas Angel Tree gift giving, walking in the White Cane Walk and participating in the Cleveland Heartwalk.

During this past week, the students conducted two activities. Their first activity was to create posters and display them at the North/South football game in hopes to inform the public of the upcoming election. The second activity of the club was Make A Difference Day. During this activity the club members cleaned up 22 yards in the community belonging to senior citizens. Last week the club had the opportunity to serve dinner to the families of patients in Hospice Houses.

The club advisor, Ms. Jen Schendell, shared how fortunate she feels to be working with this wonderful group of students. Her hope is to instill in students the importance of community service activities and her personal love of service to others.

Two Student Highlights

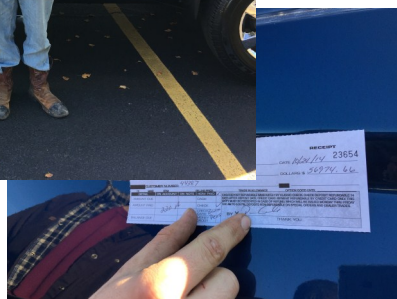
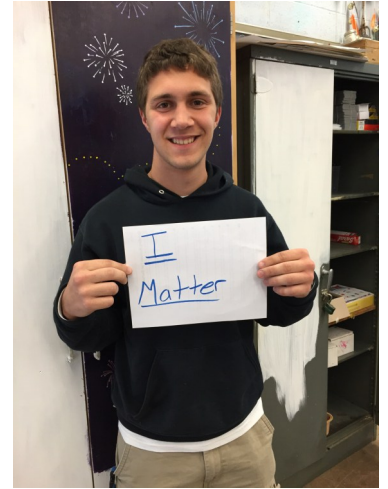
Nathan Barrus

Nathan Barrus is currently a senior at South High and has spent grades one through twelve in the Willoughby-Eastlake School District. Nathan is an AP Scholar with Distinction, National Honor Society Member, four-year cross country athlete, past member of the band, a current member of choir and consistently appears on the Principal's List for exemplary grades.

Nathan received the honor of Eagle Scout on August 21, 2014. His path to Eagle Scout was an exciting journey of service, leadership and outdoor fun. Nathan has held leadership positions of increasing responsibility in his Troop since the sixth grade. His leadership extended beyond his Troop as a National Youth Leadership Training counselor for the last three summers. He attended last summer's National Jamboree and has a level of appreciation for the outdoors and his country, as is exhibited by his visits to seventeen national parks. Nathan's culminating Eagle Scout project involved turning an unsightly and useless piece of land behind the church that charters his Troop, into a beautiful and functional space benefiting the church and the senior resident neighbors.

As a student at South High, Nathan has participated in several volunteer projects in the building. His most challenging project was to assist in the complete inventory of the library in which more than 10,000 books were inventoried using paper and a highlighter. This year Nathan was the team captain for cross country. Despite the fact that he is not the fastest runner, Nathan feels that he provides great leadership to the other runners on his team. "I may not be the fastest runner but I work hard and I am a team leader."

When leaving South, Nathan plans to attend either The Ohio State University, Purdue University or the University of Cincinnati to study biomedical engineering. He would like to work in the field of prosthetics. Nathan has been an asset to South High and Willoughby-Eastlake would like to wish him well.



Michael Houser

Michael Houser completed his training in the welding program at the Willoughby Career Academy in June of 2014 and landed his first job with J.J. White that same month. On October 24, 2014, he purchased his first new truck, a 2015 Sierra and paid cash with the money he had earned since graduation. Michael is presently employed as a welder for J.J. White in Linden New Jersey.

Michael Houser (cont'd.)

When reflecting on the training that he received at the Career Academy in Mr. Eubank's class, Ryan discussed many facets of the class. He stated that he learned how to weld, learned the things he needed for a career but more importantly, he learned how to stay out of trouble and to become a responsible adult. Michael felt that the program was not just about training but also about emotion, feelings and building relationships with others around you. He says that Mr. Eubanks was like a father to him. He quotes his teacher, Mr. Eubanks as having said, "There are three things that influence your behaviors; your environment, your friends and the way you dress. If your friends are doing drugs and stealing, that is what you will be pressured into doing. If your environment contains drugs and violence, and you don't dress neatly, you need to change those things. If you control these three things you will have success."

In the future Michael hopes to hold leadership positions within his current company but realizes that there is an important chain of command that must be followed. He states that he is aware he must work up the ladder and earn each step as he goes. When reflecting on the behaviors that he feels have helped him in his life so far he stated, "At the end of the day it is all about honor. It's about going home and being able to say, 'This is what I did today' and not having regrets. It's about being able to tell your mother what you did and not having to be ashamed. Take responsibility for yourself. I know that I can never pay back what has been given to me by teachers like Mr. Eubanks. I can only pay it forward to others."

One Family Highlight

The Lucianos



When deciding where to raise a family, Wendy and Larry Luciano chose Willoughby, knowing that Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools would be the right place for their children. The Lucianos currently have three children in the district and believe that the positive lessons learned have taken place both in and out of the classroom. Wendy and Larry have watched as their children have excelled in the classroom and participated in extra-curricular activities. Their relationships with positive role models and outstanding educators and have helped them develop a deep appreciation of community.

As fellow educators, Larry and Wendy Luciano realize the importance of strong classroom experiences as well as access to extra-curriculars. As all costs incurred by districts rise, Mr. Luciano notes, "A strong inter-scholastic set of programs isn't cheap and schools cannot be expected to provide this for students without a financial commitment. The expenses include coaches, facilities and referees. It is money well spent. The benefits from these activities have value beyond the individual athlete and students. They develop a sense of community; they are a line item in the budget and must be accounted for and supported so that our students learn valuable life-lessons."

The Luciano Family (cont'd.)

Mr. and Mrs. Luciano have been pleased by the progress that they have observed over the past three years in the district. They have seen positive changes in the facilities and in the vision of what instruction should look like. Larry states, "We can't expect our schools to do quality work on a budget that does not support the current momentum." They believe that while the changes do not happen over night, our schools are headed in the right direction and this momentum needs to be supported with both human and financial resources.

A Word From Superintendent Thompson

One of our initiatives this year is to improve communication with families. If you have not already done so, I would like to suggest that you watch the recently filmed [State of the Schools](#) presentation. This informative meeting addressed the recent upgrades to our facilities with respect to construction and safety, the improvements in academic achievement across the District, community service projects conducted by our students, and our current financial status. In addition to this video, you can also stay up-to-date with information by signing up for email, text and phone call news blasts.

Follow us on Twitter at:

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Upcoming Events

On Tuesday, November 4th, Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools will have an important RENEWAL Levy on the ballot - Issue #1.

The passage of this levy does not increase taxes and will allow Willoughby-Eastlake to continue to offer valuable services to your children.

Please remember to vote on November 4th.



It's not just about a tax renewal. It's about the quality of lives in our communities.

Teach Grow Learn