Summit Connect

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

SUMMIT Educational Service Center
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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

On Nov. 15, the State Board of Education recognized one kindergarten through fifth-grade community school and five schools with the All A Award for earning straight A's on the 2015-2016 Ohio School Report Cards.

Additionally, it recognized schools and districts for receiving the Momentum Award. Receiving the Momentum Award means a school or district received straight A's on all value-added measures of the report card and exceeded expectations in student growth for the year. To be recognized, a school or district must have at least two value-added subgroups, including gifted, lowest 20 percent in achievement and students with disabilities.

I would like to congratulate the following Summit County schools: Akron STEM High School, Bolich Middle School, Hudson Middle School, Roberts Middle School and Woodridge Intermediate School for receiving the Momentum Award. I would also like to take this time to congratulate the Greater Summit County Early Learning Center for receiving the All A Award.

While the state report card does not always accurately reflect the quality of education that I know each of our districts provide their students, it is great to know some of our local Summit County schools are being recognized by the Ohio Department of Education for the high quality educational experiences they provide their students.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

On Nov. 18, Summit ESC recognized and celebrated the successes of the ESC personnel. Staff members stopped by the reception area to share some of the good news happening in their office, classroom, district, etc. We sometimes forget to celebrate the great work we do, and this was the perfect opportunity to do just that.

Some of the great things that were mentioned include…

"I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing staff as well as a wonderful group of kiddos! I love this job and have made many friends. Incredibly grateful." - Heather Stark

"I'm thankful for the great teamwork in our building. The ESC staff supports each other and we all pitch in to make each day successful. We also have a great relationship with out building personnel at Herbrich! I am also thankful that our ESC is providing Professional Development for us." - Anonymous

"When I get a hug from my student who is proud of the fact that they said and spelled their name and they shout, "I did it, I did it!" I love this!" - Lyn Igleheart

"Watching our kiddos emerge, shine and learn something new every day. They are so proud of what they do or have learned and are always wanting to learn more!" - Anonymous

JOIN SUMMIT ESC'S NEW WELLNESS INITIATIVE

Summit ESC has started a wellness initiative and invites you to participate. The first series is in session, but there is still plenty of time to join. This is a great way to reduce stress and take care of our own mental health.

Join Trainer Michael Meeker, ISSA Certified Personal Trainer and Strength Coach, up to twice a week for a Body Weight Conditioning Program and nutritional advice. This program is designed for beginner to advance participants. Visit www.SummitESC.org to sign up.

NOVEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 29
EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY
4:30 - 5:30 P.M.
COST: $7 PER SESSION

STAFF SPOTLIGHT!

At the Summit ESC, we strive to hire high-quality professionals that can provide our districts with the support and resources they need. This section will focus on our team members and the services they can provide. This month, our staff spotlight is Greg Thomas, school-based physical therapist.

Thomas has nearly 30 years of experience in pediatric physical therapy, including 20 years at Portage County ESC and 10 years in the private sector. He is Neuro-Developmental Treatment (NDT) trained in working with infants and children.

Thomas brings his extensive training and experience with wheelchairs, orthotics, classroom seating and other adaptive equipment to Summit ESC districts. He also has significant experience with Evaluation Team Reports (ETR), Individual Education Plans (IEP) and implementing effective treatment strategies in the educational environment.

Summit ESC's physical therapy services include direct physical therapy treatment, consultative therapy programs, comprehensive evaluations and development of the ETR, IEP planning and development, adaptive equipment assessments and recommendations, development of individualized student programs for mobility, positioning and use of adaptive equipment, collaboration with team members, staff training for safe lifting and proper body mechanics, staff education for disability awareness for teachers, paraprofessionals and transportation staff, consultation for accessibility issues and consultation for emergency evacuation.

"One of my favorite things about school-based PT is seeing the look of joy on the face of a student when they achieve a motor skill that allows an increase in their level of independence," said Thomas. "Whether its the first time they independently sit for circle time, the first time they can walk or independently propel their wheelchair between classes, or the first time they participate in gym class or walk up the bus steps - they all display the same look of accomplishment. Seeing that look is one part of the job that never gets old!"

SUMMIT OF CHANGE: SOLE STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENT HAS SUCCESSFUL TURNOUT

Summit of Change, a community outreach movement for middle and high school students, staff and parents, recently held its SOLE for Student Leadership Event on Nov. 1. The event is designed around the SOLE (Self-Organized Learning Environments) inquiry method in which students explore and investigate a big question, work in small groups and develop a presentation to answer said question.

"The Summit ESC is actively promoting the importance of enabling students to answer their own vibrant and challenging questions through technological research and collaboration with others," said Bryan Drost, Summit ESC's curriculum and instruction director. "The biggest takeaway from our SOLE leadership event is probably the development of a small-scale leadership plan students can implement to help support their peers."

Specifically, the Nov. 1 event had the 92 student attendees focus on the examination of opioids. They brainstormed ideas on how to solve opioid-related problems and created mini-presentations to articulate their thoughts.

In addition, teachers that were present expanded their knowledge on the SOLE process while students created action plans to incorporate in their respective school districts using the Health Professions Affinity Community (HPAC) Model.

The HPAC program, one of the largest health professional pipeline programs for youth, empowers students to identify health concerns and creatively invent community health programs to address said issues. This work encourages the middle and high school demographic to act as a vital community champion for health as they advance into educational pathways in the health profession.

SUMMIT ESC MATHEMATICS CONTENT CONSULTANT SUCCESSFULLY DIRECTS OHIO COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE

Summit ESC's Mathematics Content Consultant, Steve Miller, recently planned and led the 66th Annual Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) Conference at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Sandusky, Ohio. As the President of OCTM, Miller organized more than 150 sessions, exhibits, workshops and opportunities to collaborate over this two-day conference on October 27 and 28.

"More than 1,000 teachers and administrators traveled to Sandusky for the conference this year," said Miller. "I am so pleased with the turnout and hope that everyone had the opportunity to engage in and learn from multiple rewarding sessions."

In addition to the collaborative workshop opportunities offered, the jungle-themed conference also featured nationally recognized keynote speakers, including Dr. Zalman Usiskin from the University of Chicago. Finally, an awards banquet was held, and attendees staying at the Resort enjoyed free access to the water park for the weekend.

SUMMIT ESC'S KIDS FIRST STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT AT SECOND ANNUAL AUTISM SUMMIT CONFERENCE

A team of Summit ESC's Kids First staff members presented at the second annual Autism Summit Conference at the Hilton Akron/Fairlawn on Nov. 4.

The presenting team included Jessica Campagna, behavior consultant; Joe Rohr, program coordinator; Lyndsey Nopper, intervention specialist.

The presentation focused on implementing the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program in a school with individuals with autism.

Last year, SST8 consultants Stephanie Denham and Heidi Kiechinski trained the Kids First staff members on how to use the PBIS program in schools that include both students with and without autism.

During the 45-minute breakout session, the team shared how the process works and demonstrated how implementing PBIS can provide positive results.

"This was a great experience for our team," said Kristin Fazio, Summit ESC's director of student services. "We were pleased to share how the PBIS program can benefit others in helping students with autism succeed. We also learned a lot of valuable information from attending the conference that will benefit our students."

SUMMIT ESC IN, PARTNERSHIP WITH NEONET, INTRODUCES ITS TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION SPECIALIST

Summit ESC recently partnered with NEOnet to offer additional technology services to its member districts. One of the main benefits of partnering with NEOnet is the opportunity to offer districts a technology integration specialist, JC Williams, to help meet district needs.

The primary role of a technology integration specialist is to help teachers add technology to their classroom instructional processes to improve student learning. There has never been a better, or easier, time to start getting technology into your classroom than now.

Technology integration can be easily done by following a simple model called SAMR. SAMR is the newest model in technology integration and can be relied upon to integrate technology in a step-by-step manner that allows you to ease into the integration process.

"My challenge to you is to take the SAMR model and consider working toward a level every nine weeks," said Williams. "Most of us have probably already reached the substitution level of the model, but throughout the rest of the year, I urge you to look for ways to modify and redefine lessons using the technology that you have around your buildings. Always remember that technology is not the end goal, but rather a means to an end."

Williams recommends using the following chart to see how SAMR can work for you.

SAMR	WHAT IT IS	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE
S - Substitution	Replace or directly substitute something that is "non-tech" with tech, without changing the function.	Writing a story with a word processor rather than with paper.
A - Augmentation	Replace or directly substitute something that is "non-tech" with tech, while augmenting or enhancing the function.	Writing a story with an online word processor and editing, formatting, adding digital content and more.
M - Modification	The tech allows for a significant redesign of the task.	The tech allows for a significant redesign of the task. Writing a story with an online word processor to collaborate and make the story digitally interactive.
R - Redefinition	The tech allows for creation of new tasks that were previously inconceivable.	Students can take their story and create a movie trailer for the movie version of their story.

Using a model like SAMR is something that teachers can use to help infuse technology into lessons.

"The purpose of education will always remain the same, to improve the learning environment so that students can learn better," said Williams. "The process of how district teachers do this is where the art of education comes in."

NEOnet