

MONTHLY



MURRAY RIDGE COURIER

JUN 2024



Murray Ridge School Graduation!

Keynote Speaker Kurt Russell, Billy Dimitrievich, Personal Aide Michelle Kissner, and School Aide Martha Hoyt with members of the Murray Ridge School 2024 Graduating Class!

On May 30th, Murray Ridge School held its annual transition ceremony, at which a group of guests – including key note speaker **Kurt Russell**, the 2022 National Teacher of the Year for the Council of Chief State School Officers – celebrated the accomplishments of some very impressive students. While each graduate will be deeply missed by

school staff, all are excited about what lies ahead. Outside of Murray Ridge School, there will be many opportunities for the graduates to explore their interests, have new experiences, work at various jobs, give back within their communities, and live lives of increasing independence. Congratulations, **Murray Ridge School Class of 2024!**



Jose Smith during the Senior Processional



Bilyan Dimitrievich, escorted by his father Billy, getting his diploma from Murray Ridge School Principal **Dann Swift** and Board Member **Rebecca Cornman**

For more pictures, visit our Murray Ridge School Facebook Page!

House of Kolor & Ohio Technical College's Wagon Donation

Ohio Technical College, in partnership with House of Kolor, made a much appreciated donation of wagons to our younger students! House of Kolor provided the wagons and Ohio Technical College custom painted them with themed emblems and personalized license plates – Autism, Special Olympics, Down Syndrome, and our mascot, the Murray Ridge School Dragon. Ohio Technical College instructors **Dennis Hedges**, husband of Supervisor **Bre Hedges**, and **Ron Wells** presented the wagons in the gym to our students and let them take their first rides. Thank you to everyone involved!



Eli Seminator going for a ride with Ron Wells from House of Kolor



Tyrese Whitfield, Brayden Altobelli, and CJ Ackley

Murray Ridge 500

Start your engines! On May 17th, the school held the "Murray Ridge 500", where our students and staff went for a spin in front of the school in 'race-cars' that they had built and decorated.

Diane Davis, Kenny Kingsley, Teacher Kim Phillips, Lana Ayala, Classroom Aide Polly Allman, and Sariah Lugo



For more pictures like these, visit our Murray Ridge School Facebook Page!



Patrick Boey, Evey Rodgers, Teacher Rachel Oser, Chris Dodson, Personal Aide Michelle Kissner, and Jansen Plumb

ELYRIA'S 2024 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

This past May, Murray Ridge Center participated in Elyria's annual Memorial Day Parade. Decked out in red, white, and blue, our representatives proudly displayed our Murray Ridge Center banner as they marched through the main thoroughfares of downtown Elyria. Parades provide a joyous and inclusive platform for individuals with developmental disabilities to be recognized as integral parts of the community.

Left to right: HR Director **Laura Yates**, Phillip Jones, Administrative Secretary **Jen Ryan**, Lillian Yates, IT Assistant **Missi Obeshaw**, Alec Jones, Charles Johnson, Dennis Johnson, SSA Manager **Jessica Smith**, Joseph Linden



Enjoy these pictures from out in the community!



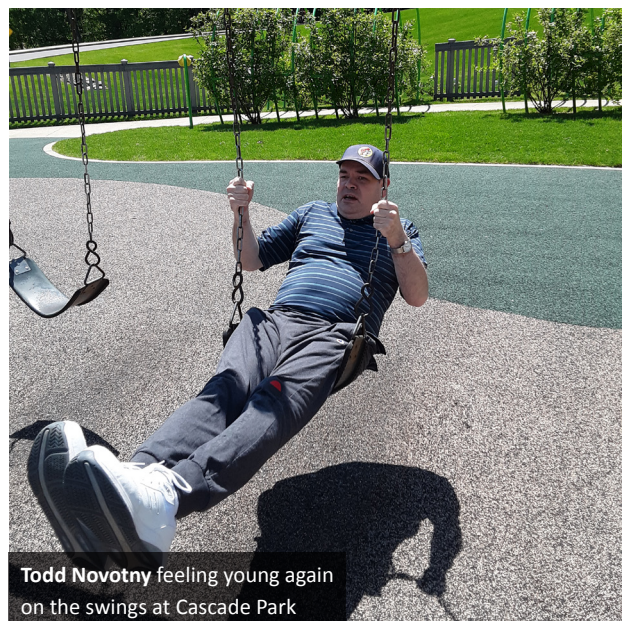
A group of ladies from Lorain Opportunity & Vocational Center had a fun girls' day out, eating lunch at Ziggy's in Amherst. Pictured, standing in back, left to right: **Ashley Tarrant**, **Jessica Massey**, **Maria Pincura**, and **Kim Nadolski**. Seated in front: **Amanda Spreng**, **Breanna Barker**, and **D'Ronda Fleming**



Left to right: **David Helton**, **John Armstrong**, **Dorion Lowe**, **Juliaunna Mason**, Adult Program Instructor **Penni Schuster**, and **David Gerhart**



Fred Biller shopping for some engagement rings for his girlfriend at Great Northern Mall



Todd Novotny feeling young again on the swings at Cascade Park

Congratulations, 2024 Graduates!

Please join us in congratulating the members of Murray Ridge School Class of 2024 and wishing them well as they move forward with the next exciting chapters of their lives!

BILYAN DIMITRIEVICH



Bilyan Dimitrievich is friendly and has a great sense of humor. He enjoys swimming, traveling, watching trains, taking train rides, and riding rides at amusement parks — especially roller coasters! After graduation, Bilyan will be attending the Lorain Opportunity & Vocational Center and continue living with this family.

CHRISTOPHER DOTSON



Christopher Dodson has a great smile, and one of his favorite pastimes is relaxing on a bean bag. He enjoys the outdoors, traveling, swimming, and watching movies. Chris was involved in Boy Scouts at the school and attended Boy Scout camp. After graduation, he will be attending Empowered, a local day program and will continue to live with his parents.

CHRISTOPHER FOWLER



Christopher Fowler is an outgoing, personable young man who loves to make friends with everyone he meets. Chris is a hard-working employee of Brew It Smooth Café, he is the Channel Zoom News Field Reporter, and he is a member of Boy Scouts. He looks forward to earning his paycheck each week by completing his crew job, cooking class with his peers, and attending field

trips. In his free time, Chris enjoys watching YouTube videos and playing video games. After graduation, Chris will be living at home with his family and attending the Lorain Opportunity & Vocational Center.

JOSHUA RICHTER



Joshua Richter is a perceptive, memorable young man. At Murray Ridge School, he was the cashier at Brew It Smooth Café, helped with the calendar and weather on Channel Zoom news, and was part of the recycling crew. Josh looked forward to changing the date on the calendar each morning and was in charge of updating the calendar with each new month. In his free

time, Josh likes to go on Google Maps and spend time with his mom. After graduation, Josh will be living at home with his family and pursuing a job at Rural King in the fall.



JAKOB SCOTT



Jakob Scott is energetic and happy. Jakob enjoys watching videos on his iPad, looking at books, taking car rides, relaxing on a beanbag, and going out to dinner. Jakob's plan after graduation is to attend Empowered, a local day program, and to continue to live with his father.

NAYA SCRIBNER



Naya Scribner is a cheery, amiable young lady. You can find Naya walking down the hallway with a smile on her face, bouncing on an exercise ball, and observing the peers and friends around her. In her free time, Naya enjoys baking, listening to music, and gardening with her family. After graduation, Naya will be living at home with her family.

JOSE SMITH



Jose Smith is very social and has a wonderful smile. He has a great sense of humor and enjoys cars, being outside, and socializing with his friends. Jose can make a friend wherever he goes! Jose participated in Special Olympics and enjoyed going on field trips. After graduation, Jose will be attending a day program and will continue living with his family.



Supervisor **Stacie Starr** snapped a quick selfie with the graduating class and special guests! For even more pictures from the ceremony, be sure to visit our Facebook page!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS HIGHLIGHTS



Murray Ridge Volleyball Team members Robert Assanakis, Noah Griffiths, Shari Reitenbach, Cathy Pence and Tony Harris, Jr. cheering on their teammates



Ryan Brown with a spike!

Enjoy these pictures from some of our recent Special Olympics activities!



JoAnn Gall at tennis practice



Bobby McFadden with a perfect forehand



The Murray Ridge Soccer Team! Front row, left to right: Diana Clement, Sean Ware, and Andrew Prihoda. Back row: Megan Craig, Tim Dammeyer, Andrew Westover, Jeremy Foster, Victor Elder, Ryan Eliason, Volunteer Scott Geezer, George Giganti, Dorian Chaffin, Nathan Geezer, Nicol Lazu, and Jeffrey O'Brien



Sean Ware about to score a goal

Boardroom Briefing

The Lorain County Board of Developmental Disabilities convened at 6:30 p.m. on May 28, 2024

The Board passed a resolution authorizing for public release a draft of its 2023 Strategic Plan Progress Report, and gave notice of a public forum on this document to be held on June 12, 2024, at 1:45 p.m. at the Board's Administration Building, 1091 Infirmary Rd., Elyria, Ohio; a copy of the Draft 2023 Strategic Plan Progress Report can be accessed at www.murrayridgecenter.org or by calling (440)329-3734. The Board discussed site visits to its Adult Opportunity & Vocational Centers. Superintendent Amber Fisher provided updates on events including: the Murray Ridge School Prom, the Breaking Down Barriers XII fundraiser, the Murray Ridge School Transition Ceremony, and the upcoming Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities accreditation review.



Nominations Sought for Exceptional Service Awards

Do you know a Murray Ridge employee whose work efforts reflect remarkable dedication and have significantly contributed to the well-being of people with developmental disabilities? Nominate that employee for an Exceptional Service Award! If you are a community member; consumer; or parent, guardian, sibling or other relative of a Murray Ridge program participant, submit your nomination to Kevin Naughton, Director of Communications. Please include a brief paragraph outlining your reasons for nominating the employee. All nominations will be forwarded to the Board for consideration. The Board presents Exceptional Service Awards on a quarterly basis. If you have any questions, contact Kevin at (440) 329-3734 or kevin@murrayridgecenter.org

Now Hiring!

FEATURED positions



Direct Support Professional (Home Setting)

We have openings available for full-time, part-time, and PRN (as-needed) positions to care for residents of our Meister Road Home. Hours vary based on position and/or assignment.

Assistant Manager, Residential

This is a full time management position at our Meister Road Home.

Licensed Practical Nurse

We have openings for part-time, full-time, and PRN Licensed Practical Nurses.

Provider Compliance and Resource Specialist

This is a full time position within our Service and Support Administration Department.

Intervention Specialist

We have openings for full-time and PRN (as-needed) teachers at Murray Ridge School.

School Aide

We have openings for PRN (as-needed) and Full-time (9-month) School Aides at Murray Ridge School.

Custodial Service PT

This is a part time position in our Maintenance Department.

Service & Support Administrator

This is a full time position in our Service and Support Administration Department.

Adult Program Instructor

This is a full time position in our Adult Services Department, likely assigned to Supported Employment.

We provide the training.
You provide the ♥

To see our current openings and to apply, go to the Murray Ridge website and click "Join Our Team"

All candidates:

Must have valid Ohio drivers license, good driving record, and High School Diploma/GED.
Must pass background check, drug test, and physical.

Lorain County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

Murray Ridge Center
1091 Infirmary Road
Elyria, OH 44035

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Photo of the Month: Lorain Opportunity & Vocational Center Adult Program participants Diana Clement, Kim Nadolski, Chelsie Jenkins, Alicia Lawrence, Michelle Miller, Catherine Laverty, Annie Cirilo, and Jean Morosky out on a recent visit to Marblehead Lighthouse State Park

Contact Us

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