

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS SPECIAL ISSUE

Elyria Board of Education
42101 Griswold Rd.
Elyria, OH 44035

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
Residential Customer
Elyria, Ohio 44035

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ELYRIA, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 257

Pioneer

THE ELYRIA SCHOOLS



Press

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

Spring 2018

WWW.ELYRIASCHOOLS.ORG

Vision for the future: 2020

Thomas Jama
Superintendent

It's hard to sum up a year chock-full of so many exciting achievements, but we believe this special edition of Pioneer Press serves as a helpful snapshot of the things we've accomplished in Elyria Schools in 2017-18.

It also gives our readers the "scoop" on what's to come.

Master plan of facilities

As superintendent, I've been laser-focused on the task of building new elementary and middle schools in Elyria, and in May, the district received good news after traveling a rocky path earlier this year.

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission gave the nod to an amended budget for five school sites in May. Construction will resume on the project after temporarily stalling when early bids came in millions over budget and the district had to revisit the plan, and its options, for keeping costs in check.

So much work has happened since those early meetings and I'm happy to say we're on an accelerated track for a five-school plan.

You'll can read more on the timeline inside this issue of Pioneer Press. But rest assured: Our team of architects, builders and district administrators went back to the drawing board, cut square footage out of the plan and condensed the timeline to achieve savings that are expected with economy of scale.

We've held groundbreaking ceremonies for the two new elementary schools and the Northwood



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Hundreds of students, staff and parents turned out for the Ely Elementary groundbreaking ceremony June 1.

Campus and one for the Westwood Campus will take place this fall.

The construction schedule for each site will overlap, with Ely, Northwood, Westwood and the south side elementary school (now named Hamilton Elementary School) tentatively scheduled to open in 2020.

The Eastern Heights Campus will likely be the last to open in 2021.

Hiring local

The Human Resources Department has stepped up its efforts to hire residents of Elyria and alumni



TOM JAMA

of Elyria Schools and Elyria Catholic High School.

In the 2017-18 school year, 14.7 percent of the new certificated hires were Elyria residents, and 5.9 percent were Elyria alumni.

For the calendar year of 2017, 66.7 percent of new classified (support) hires were Elyria residents and 16.7 percent were Elyria

alumni.

Minority hiring has increased, as well. In 2016-17, minority hiring accounted for 17.6 percent of the district's new certificated employees. In 2016-17, that percentage was 5.7 percent.

In the calendar year 2016, minority hiring of classified staff was 18.9 percent. In 2017, that number increased to 33.3 percent.

All in all, this has been year to be proud of. We hope everyone has a safe and happy summer and we're looking forward to seeing you in September!

Get the 411 on bus ETA

Amy Higgins

Communications director

How handy would it be to know the location of your child's bus while it's headed to or from school?

If the bus is delayed, how reassuring would it be to receive a quick little message explaining why — and an updated estimate of the new time of arrival?

This and much more is what parents can expect from a new transportation app First Student is rolling out this fall.

The service, called FirstView, sends real-time GPS information about your child's bus ride right to your smartphone, tablet or computer.

Parents in other First Student-supported districts have endorsed the tool on the company's website, lauding the "minute-to-minute" travel information and noting that it offers "peace of mind," particularly on days when there's harsh weather.

Nikki McDaniel, First Student manager for Elyria Schools and Euclid City Schools, said the software has received excellent feedback from parents. It's currently in use in Euclid's district.

The app will be available for parents in Elyria Schools this summer. Details will be forthcoming — check the district's website and social media channels for updates!

\$1M grant bolsters middle school literacy

Ann Schloss

Associate superintendent

Elyria's three middle schools recently received a \$1 million boost toward literacy improvements as a result of a grant proposal written by the Elyria Schools Academic Services Department.

The U.S. Department of Education previously awarded \$35 million to the state of Ohio for language and literacy development throughout the state, and Elyria's



Schloss

Academic Services team crafted a grant proposal to earn a share of those funds for literacy initiatives in Elyria Schools.

The proposal sought more than \$1 million to achieve three goals in middle school literacy:

- Goal 1: Boost student comprehension through upgraded literacy instruction for all students.
- Goal 2: Improve reading, comprehension, fluency and general literacy for struggling adolescent readers, using a highly successful online program that is closely monitored by trained coaches.
- Goal 3: Increase 21st century communication skill sets, including critical thinking, reading comprehension, writing, speaking and listening.

The state funded Elyria's grant at the full request: \$1,054,144.95.

It will cover the cost to hire implementation coaches, as well as supporting professional development and purchasing supplies for all aspects of the program.

Class of 2018: One for the history books

Tim Brown

Elyria High School principal

The Elyria High Class of 2018 has left a lasting impression on the community and in the history books of Elyria Schools — they are the last group of Elyria High seniors to walk the field for commencement at the historic Ely Stadium.

Graduation was June 6. The stadium demolition was slated to begin almost immediately afterward.

Some of the academic highlights of the EHS Class of 2018:

- 460: Students graduating from Elyria High, provided they meet the Board of Education's credit requirements and the Ohio Department of Education's state testing requirements.

- 61: Seniors graduating with a 4.0 grade point average or higher. This number is approximately 13 percent of the graduating class.

- 78: Seniors graduating with a 3.75 grade point average or higher, and earning the Scholastic E.

- 55: Seniors receiving an honors diploma.

- 17: Seniors receiving an asso-



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

The Elyria High School commencement ceremony June 6 was the last event at Ely Stadium.

- ciate of arts degree from LCCC.

- 49: Seniors receiving the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence.

- 64: Senior members of the National Honor Society.

- 1: Senior member of the National Technical Honor Society.

- 2: Seniors took the rigorous challenge of completing the senior project/job shadow.

- 27: Seniors enlisted in one of

the armed services.

- 278 (60 percent): Seniors on the merit roll, honor roll and/or high honor roll this year.

- \$2.5 million: Collective scholarships earned by the Class of 2018.

Channel 1022 FOR YOU on Spectrum Cable TV

Amy Higgins

Communications
and marketing director

The Elyria Schools Education Station is making a return to cable television with new call numbers and dynamic content.

Last fall, the district's local cable access station, Channel 95 on Time Warner Cable, was grounded when the server that powered the channel broke down.

While the district set out to replace the defunct setup, Time Warner Cable changed hands and became Spectrum Cable. With that change came a new lineup of channels.

The district's new cable TV channel is 1022.

Over the summer months, the Elyria Schools Communications and Marketing Office will build the content of the district's new cable channel. Viewers can roll the dial to 1022 anytime to check out the progress.

The Elyria Schools Education Station 1022 will host board meetings, concerts, student programs, news stories and bulletins featuring important school information.

Be sure to tune in regularly as the channel is shaped to deliver the latest education news and information from the Elyria Schools.

Renewal in November would not raise taxes

Joy Clickenger
Treasurer

In November, Elyria Schools will ask voters to renew a levy that was first approved in 1999 and has been renewed every five years since.

Renewal of the existing levy will not increase taxes.

The 4.95-mill levy generates \$3.5 million per year and is crucial to maintaining educational programs, technology and services in Elyria Schools.

The administration and staff at Elyria Schools continually seek innovative, new ideas to ensure all students reach their greatest potential. The district invests in programs that align with this goal, while disinvesting in outdated programs.

These progressive new programs provide students with exceptional learning and growth

opportunities. Some great examples of these are Pioneer Academy, the Robotics Program and TechClubs.

The district places top value on advanced curriculum options for all levels of learning; state-of-the-art technology and educational software in classrooms; expanded bussing to help boost attendance; and all manner of co-curricular offerings.

All of these critical elements — along with a recent award from the Ohio Auditor of State, acknowledging the high standard of financial management the district upholds — ensures residents' tax dollars are put to good use.

With all-new elementary and middle schools and a new sports complex in the works, it's an exciting time to continue the tremendous progress underway at Elyria Schools.

Elyria's young authors claim scads of awards at countywide competition

Michele VroomanKennett
GATE Teacher

Some students type theirs into Chromebooks. Others jot their thoughts by hand.

Some artists draw pictures first, then let those images suggest a story. Still others bring theirs or their classmates' words colorfully to life.

Regardless of their processes, creative, hardworking students who take their Young Authors books across the finish line truly have something to say — and they use their energy and effort to proclaim it proudly.

Through inspiration and sheer force of will — and a little support from staff—the young writers and illustrators in Elyria Schools yielded big results in the annual Young Authors Conference on May 16, 2018, at Lorain County Community College. The Educational Service Center hosted the event.

Three of Elyria's writers and

artists struck gold at Young Authors, winning first-place awards at the county-level competition.

Elementary-level artists winning first place were Alaina Mathis, Oakwood third-grader, and Emilie Conley, Prospect fourth-grader. Both young illustrators chose distinctive colors and intricate visual content to help tell stories they had written.

Elyria's middle school champion, Dunya Malkieh, attends Westwood. Dunya's story won first place among all Lorain County sixth-grade entries. Her story vividly describes the challenges faced by a teenager suffering from amnesia after an accident.

Representing Elyria Schools as grade-level finalists at Young Authors were: Lucas Kokai, third-grade author (Prospect); Zoey Pol, fourth-grade author (McKinley); Katherine Heighberger, fifth-grade author (McKinley); Alivia Zack,

fifth-grade illustrator (McKinley); and Zakery Jockel, sixth-grade illustrator (Northwood).

Along with these eight award-winners and finalists, more than 25 other creative young Pioneer writers or illustrators attended the Young Authors presentation at Stocker Center. They had all written or illustrated their own books.

Author Laurie Wallmark, the event's featured speaker, described her writing methods and encouraged students to see writing as a journey, advising them that "trying again is a good idea."

First-place author Dunya Malkieh agreed.

After a taste of success with her fifth-grade book, she was determined to win this year. Lo and behold, after trying again and never giving up, she achieved it.

Congratulations to all the young authors and illustrators. Keep on creating!



BRIAN KOKAI / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Award-winning young authors from Elyria Schools were present at the Lorain County Young Authors Conference at LCCC.

Financial forecast is on solid footing

Joy Clickenger
Treasurer

The financial forecast for Elyria Schools shows a dip in reserves, but stays positive through 2022.

The district will spend less than it takes in for Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019, thus boosting the ending cash balance. Not until 2020 does the forecast show a need to use reserves.

The reserves will carry through the next five years without additional funds. The forecast also assumes passage of the 4.95-mill renewal levy in November.

It is important to remember that the dollars in the five-year forecast are separate from funds used for the new school building project.

By law, operating funds for day-to-day expenses and salaries cannot commingle with building funds.

The dollars used for the new construction project were generated by the passage of the bond



Clickenger

issue in 2016. That money will cover 33 percent of the construction costs for the new schools, with the Ohio School Facilities Commission contributing the remaining 67 percent of the cost.

As noted, by law, those dollars cannot be used for the general operating expenses of the district.

Revenues at Elyria Schools are expected to remain virtually flat over the next five years, decreasing less than 0.25 percent. In contrast, over the previous five years, revenues grew at an average rate of 1.7 percent. State funding accounts for 48.6 percent of the district's operating revenue, while local taxpayers contribute 35.8 percent.

The district's expenses are expected to jump 3.3 percent over the forecasted period.

Given that the district's mission is to educate each child to the fullest potential, it makes sense that personnel costs (salaries and benefits) account for the largest expense in the budget (61.8 percent).

The new school buildings under construction will inherently introduce cost savings in the way of utilities and other improved operating measures, but it is difficult to forecast these aspects precisely until the buildings are up and running.

In forecasting the financial future of Elyria Schools, however, many assumptions must be made. These assumptions are based on historical precedent, combined with the current economy.

Unanticipated changes in state aid, enrollment, tax values and the tax levy renewal will all play a big part in this forecast. When changes outside these assumptions occur, the forecast will be updated.

But currently, the financial picture of the Elyria Schools is solid.



BRIAN KOKAI / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Students from the robotics teams of Elyria High School and Elyria's middle schools practice their driving and maneuverability skills for an upcoming tournament. The course is set up in the Elyria High School ImaginEering Hub. Robotics is one example of programming the district has invested in in recent years.

Children find their inner inventor at Camp Invention

Kathy Koepp

Teaching and Learning
Coordinator

Camp Invention, a nonprofit summer enrichment program that has been recognized at the national level, has returned to Elyria for the third straight year.

As many as 220 elementary students participate in the week-long event in June at Elyria High School.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, in partnership with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children to find their “inner inventor” by learning about the process of innovation.

Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning, as well as building resourcefulness and problem-solving skills and encouraging entrepreneurship — all in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of our nation’s most brilliant inventors — the



Koepp

designing smart homes and a variety of clever gadgets. They also learned about careers in science and engineering.

At the program’s close, campers got to take home their own personalized robots.

Thirty Elyria Schools educators teach and facilitate Camp Invention and more than 40 high school and middle school students serve as volunteer assistants.

The program is typically \$225 per camper, but thanks to generous funding by the Community Foundation of Lorain County and the Elyria Schools, Elyria parents pay just \$10 to secure a seat for their child. The children also receive free breakfast and lunch thanks to Sodexo Foodservice.

National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year’s Fast Forward curriculum had campers working with self-driving robots and robotic pets, in addition to



KATHY KOEPP / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Camp Invention puts students to work in science, technology, engineering and math.

Tech courses on the rise at Elyria High

Brian Kokai

IT Services Director

Many new technology courses are coming to Elyria High School in the fall.

The first is Robotics Programming, a course that will have students building robots with motors, sensors and gears of all kinds.

From there, students will learn how to program these robots to perform tasks and make decisions without human interaction. No programming or robotics experience is necessary to take the course.

Students can also learn how to build 3D printers and scanners and how to design using the TinkerCAD platform in a new class called 3D Design.

Both courses will be housed in a newly created classroom space in the Imagineering Hub, Elyria High’s high-tech makerspace and taught by Robotics Coach Craig Corfman.

These courses meet the technology requirement for graduation and are the perfect next step for any student entering Elyria High who previously participated in elementary and middle-school level TechEClubs.

The place for innovation

Teachers in the Elyria Schools are all in on technology — and thanks to one-to-one computers in grades three through eight, so are students.

All math and language arts classrooms are suited with one-to-one computers, too.

In the Elyria Schools, students use special Internet devices called Chromebooks for easy access to online textbook materials, Internet research and much more.

Commonly called a “one-to-one” program, Elyria Schools differs than most school districts in that devices

are assigned to classrooms instead of students. This ensures the devices are ready to support learning each and every day and lessens the burden on families who do not need to be responsible for lost, stolen or broken devices that would have to be carried back and forth to school each day.

This summer the district is expanding these devices to second grade and to science and social studies classrooms at Elyria High School.

— Brian Kokai, IT services director

FIND ELYRIA SCHOOLS ON FLICKR, TWITTER, YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK

Groundbreakings usher in new schools

Amy Higgins
Communications director

The large canopy and seating for hundreds said there was something special happening in the backyard of Ely Elementary School.

The substantial mound of dirt, shiny shovels, hardhats and the mammoth backhoe at the scene all said it had something to do with the plan for new schools in Elyria.

On Friday, June 1, 2018, Ely Elementary students, staff and neighbors came together to break ground on the new Ely School.

In waves from youngest to oldest, Ely students took turns at the heaping pile of topsoil. Hardhats on and gripping their shovels, they sent dirt flying with gusto.

The Ely Elementary building, more than 90 years old, stood as the backdrop for the celebration of its replacement: a new, state-of-the-art K-4 elementary building.

The all-new Ely School is tentatively scheduled to open in June 2020.

Ely is one of five new school sites planned for Elyria. The district is also building a new athletic complex at the current site of Ely Stadium on Middle Avenue.

The plan also calls for a PK-4 elementary school, the new Hamilton, on Middle 1215 Middle Ave., and three new, large campus schools serving elementary and middle school students."

The campuses of Westwood, Eastern Heights and Northwood will be built on land the district already owns at the current sites of Westwood in Elyria Township, Eastern Heights on Garford Avenue, and the former Pioneer Soccer Field on Abbe Road.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the Northwood campus site in November 2017.

The new elementary school on Elyria's south side saw its groundbreaking on June 8, but at press time the event hadn't yet occurred. Photos from that event will be published in the late summer issue of Pioneer Press, and video will be coming soon.

Northwood and Ely are in the final design stages. Contractor bidding will begin this summer and the real construction work will kick off this fall.

The plan is on an aggressive schedule for completion.

Ely Elementary and the Northwood Campus are the first schools slated to open in June 2020, with



Ely Students throw dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for their new school.

AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

the Westwood Campus and the new south-side elementary school opening on the heels of Ely and Northwood in August 2020.

The Eastern Heights Campus is tentatively slated to open the following year.

Ely students will attend their current school as the new school is built behind the existing building.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Ely students fanned out several rows deep across Ely's field, listening to speakers and waiting for their turns at the dirt pile.

They heard from their principal, Dr. Jack Dibee, and Superintendent Tom Jama, along with Elyria School Board President Kevin Brubaker and Elyria Mayor Holly Brinda.

Dave Stahl, president of AECOM and partner of AGS, the construction management team charged with building all five buildings and the new athletic complex, was the last to speak during the opening remarks.

"Where you guys are sitting right now, we are going to be building the building," Stahl said. "Over the summer, we are going to get started moving dirt and putting stuff in the ground.

"Over 500 people, men and women, are going to be working on the project, putting in over 160,000 man hours of work," Stahl said. "There is going to be over 100,000 bricks and 240,000 pounds of steel."

Once students move into their new schools, the old buildings will be demolished.

Ely Stadium nears opening day

Ely Stadium is on track for opening with the first football game of the season, Aug. 24, 2018, against Avon Lake. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Four massive 90-foot-high light poles were installed at the stadium in May, and infrastructure for the turf field is going down in stages this month.

The large field house near the entrance to the field will include a weight room, locker rooms, restrooms — with separate facilities for guests and athletes — interior office space and concession areas for fans.

With the 2018-19 sports season, the new athletic complex will be ready to host football, track, soccer, tennis and, of course, the Elyria High School Pioneer Marching Band.

Softball and baseball will continue at their existing fields.

The 90-year-old grandstand of Ely Stadium is slated for demolition this month. The existing field will be seeded and readied for recreation and community space until the new softball and baseball fields are installed in Phase 2 of the project.



PHOTO PROVIDED

An aerial shot of Ely Stadium under construction.

Get on the bus! Free transportation to preschool

Amy Higgins
Communications director

Elyria Schools and First Student now offer free preschool transportation to and from school for Elyria residents with preschool-aged children.

The Elyria Early Childhood Village, 42101 Griswold Road, is rated five stars — the highest quality standard a preschool can receive in the Ohio Department of Education's Step Up to Quality rating system.

The program's engaging, inspirational environment features the latest technology and equipment for preschool-age students, helping them grow to their fullest potential.

The Village serves children ages 3 to 5, and students who are typically developing, as well as those with special needs.

Classrooms are integrated and staffed appropriately, keeping student-to-teacher ratios low and services high.

Both morning and afternoon half-day classes are available at the Village, four and five days a week, with tuition free to many families who qualify based on income.

The district also offers a five-star preschool program at Franklin Elementary School for residents of the Franklin attendance area.

Yet another exceptional learning environment, the Franklin preschool program is funded by The Stocker Foundation. Franklin offers a full-day experience, four days per week, and free transportation to and from school.

To enroll in the Elyria Schools preschool program, call the district's central registrars at (440) 284-8220.

EHS crew builds robots, reputation

Mike West
Robotics coach

Just two years into their journey, the Elyria High Robotics Program has already taken on the world.

For one of the six robotics teams in the district — Team 11124R at the high school — the season concluded with a trip the Vex Robotics World Championship Tournament in April. It was truly a celebration of the team's year-long venture in collaboration, inclusion, development, problem-solving, competition and diversity.

The team earned the opportunity to compete against the best robots from around the world.

More than 20,000 robots competed this season, with the top 5 percent making it to the World Championship. Team 11124R competed against some of the world's best programmers, builders

and problem solvers, including teams from Canada, Mexico, Australia, Singapore and China.

The female members of the team took part in a Girl-Powered Connect event, giving them the chance to work alongside other students and mentors in the STEM community to promote female involvement. Over the week, the team worked on team-building activities and participated in outings with peer schools, creating friendships that will last a lifetime.

During the tournament, the team faced real-world problems such as a mechanical breakdown, a blown motor, a partial rebuild and a referee challenge that resulted in a replayed match.

The Elyria Robotics team looks forward to a shot at qualifying for the World Championships in 2019.



MIKE WEST / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Taking a break from the action, the Elyria High School team enjoyed dinner at a restaurant called Troll Under the Bridge in Louisville, Ky., during the Vex Robotics World Championship. From left are Chris Canonizado, 11th grade, Deric Martin, 11th grade, Molly Fenik, 10th grade, Calli Fenik, 11th grade, and Nate Weese, 10th grade.

Making sacred spaces for the imagination

Angela Burgess
MakerSpace teacher

Make something that does something. That's the goal of Makerspaces in Elyria Schools.

These designated areas give students the equipment and elbow room to design, create and build virtually anything they set their mind to.

In the 2017-18 school year, Elyria Schools opened three new Makerspaces, coined "ImaginEering Hubs," in the middle schools of Northwood, Westwood and Eastern Heights. Elyria High School also has a Maker-space, now in its second year of operation.

Students are encouraged to explore, play and transition from being "users" of resources to "creators" of their own designs.

Makerspaces were devel-

oped to engage learners in problem solving, divergent thinking and innovation. Students are encouraged to work through failures and push through frustration.

They have access to all manner of resources, from no-tech to high-tech, including basic tools, robotics, circuitry, 3D printers, video game components and digital assets.

The students are encouraged to branch out and learn new skills while helping each other.

Ultimately, Makerspace students develop sensible, practical skills that help them work through their ideas and solve problems, setting them up for success in contemporary academic and professional environments.



MIKE WEST / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Creation spaces can take many forms. Shown here are ninth grade students Emma Clarke, right, and Desirae Dalton at the LEGO wall in the ImaginEering Hub at Elyria High School.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

McKinley Elementary hosted a rally for its students who were participating in the Lorain County Special Olympics. Watch for full coverage of the Special Olympics in the summer edition of Pioneer Press, and at Elyria Schools' YouTube channel.

Oh, the places you'll go

Adrienne Scheithauer

Communications and marketing administrative assistant

Congratulations and best wishes to the teachers and staff of the Elyria Schools who have retired after many years of dedicated service. Thank you for your professionalism, loyalty, enthusiasm and, above all else, the care you've shown for our students and community. You'll always be Pioneers!

David C. Baeder
Jeffrey P. Bates
Sally Bring
Teresa L. Brown
Susan J. Bryant
Susan Cavaceci

Pamela J. Christian
Ann M. Garvelink
Renee D. Harbert
Barbara R. Messaros
Kathy T. Peterson
Mary Ratliff

David J. Schuster
Peggy A. Schuster
Vicki L. Sebastian
Dorothy Edna Smith
William C. Stiwald
Annette M. Will



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Students enjoyed a field day at Prospect Elementary themed by life-sized games. Here, they play Ants in Your Pants. The games were designed by teachers Andrea Love, Heather Hale and Anjanette Hignett.

Meal add-on: All-you-can-eat veggies

Amy Higgins

Communications director

Sodexo Foodservice is a busy division of the day-to-day operations of Elyria Schools.

The foodservice department has an operating budget of \$3.3 million, \$1.2 million of which is devoted to food expenses. The rest goes to labor.

The department serves more than 1.1 million meals per year, with extras by the tens of thousands like bagged lunches, additional milk and weekend backpacks.

Summertime foodservice is about to begin. Sodexo serves more than 21,000 meals in the summer at designated locations for the 10 weeks between the end of one school year and the start of another. All community members ages 18 and younger can eat for free at these locations, which will be published at www.elyriaschools.org.

The meals are prepared at the Elyria High School central kitchen.

Sodexo also operates a robust catering division, serving everything from breakfast and simple

lunches, to upscale hors d'oeuvres and multi-course meals.

The company already caters many events during the school year, but it will bump up its services in the 2017-18 school year.

New in 2018-19

Sodexo will feature salad bars in all elementary schools thanks to a recent grant. The salad bars will feature a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables that will be available to students every day. Students can eat as much as they want of the selection.

Elyria High School will see its lunch service area in the main dining hall updated with new decor and a new foodstation called Taste4. More details will be provided in the summer issue of Pioneer Press.

Summer Pink Cookie Day: July 12

The Pink Cookie is a world-renowned specialty of the Elyria Schools Sodexo catering division. Pink Cookies are the duty of Elyria Schools employee Dee Dee Schullick. Last year alone, Dee Dee made more than 25,000 Pink

Cookies.

Pink Cookies are sold at special events, individually and by the dozen. Thousands of them are sold at the Elyria Apple Festival in September.

These celebrated, sought-after cookies can be ordered during the school year by calling the Sodexo office at (440) 284-8262.

For one special occasion during the summer, Sodexo also hosts Pink Cookie Day.

If you have a sweet tooth for these one-of-a-kind treats, you can place your order now by calling 284-8262. Be sure to leave your contact information with your message, including your name, phone number and the number of cookies you're ordering.

Pink Cookies can be ordered by the dozens and are boxed one or two dozen to a package. A dozen cookies cost \$10.

Customers can pick up their Pink Cookie orders from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 12 at the Elyria Schools Administration Building, 42101 Griswold Road. Don't miss the special one-day-only pickup event!



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Sodexo hosts many special events for Elyria students throughout the school year including this one, the Future Chef Competition for fifth-grade students.

A six-week primer in peacefulness for teachers

Denise Blatt

Pupil Services director

The Elyria Schools Pupil Services Department is the gateway to services related to special education, safety and security, open enrollment, school climate and student conduct.

This issue of Pioneer Press highlights some of the major undertakings of the department in the 2017-18 school year and carrying forward in 2018-19.

In the winter issue of Pioneer Press (available online at

www.elyriaschools.org), readers were introduced to the concept of "mindfulness" in schools.

School psychologist Annemarie Nosse described mindfulness techniques that were taking place at Crestwood Elementary School.

This summer, in a six-week online course, hundreds of Elyria educators will be trained in the fundamentals of mindfulness — including how to understand the impact of mindfulness meditation and how to cultivate the practice at home and in school.

Mindfulness means maintaining moment-by-moment awareness of thoughts, emotions, bodily sensations and the surrounding environment with openness and curiosity. It has a variety of research-backed impacts, including reducing stress and improving job satisfaction, not to mention emotional regulation and focus.

This six-week course teaches:

- Mindfulness meditation basics.
- How to work with thinking that arises while practicing mindfulness.

- Techniques for meeting and navigating intense emotions.
- Practices that cultivate positive states of mind like gratitude, kindness, joy, and compassion.
- The role mindfulness plays in communication and interaction.
- And support for developing a daily sitting practice.
- Safety and security.

This past spring, hundreds of staff members in Elyria Schools learned how to use tourniquets to stop catastrophic bleeding in an emergency.

Metrohealth System, Cleveland's most experienced Level I Trauma Center, facilitated the training.

A number of employees were also trained in administering naloxone, a medication that counteracts the effects of heroin overdose. This makes them valuable assets in a society that is struggling with the ongoing impacts of addiction.

Those trained in administering naloxone are now qualified to train others in the district.

**ENROLL NOW IN PRESCHOOL AND FREE, ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN
BY CALLING (440) 284-8220 TODAY!**