

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS SPECIAL ISSUE

Elyria Board of Education
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Pioneer

THE ELYRIA SCHOOLS



Press

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WWW.ELYRIASCHOOLS.ORG

Robotics — just GOOGLE it!

Brian Kokai
IT director

Elyria Robotics is running on all cylinders heading into the VEX World Robotics Championships in April in Louisville, Ky.

Elyria Robotics will field three teams in the middle school division and two high school teams, all competing against the best youth robot programmers and drivers in the world.

Elyria Robotics is currently in its third year of competing.

The team has grown from 12 members in year one to more than 40 in year three. In the current season, called Turning Point, the team has captured 31 different awards in 12 tournaments.

The middle school team, dubbed “42111N,” recently qualified for the world championship by winning the Excellence Award — the highest award — at the Kalahari Classic in Sandusky in early January.

They were the first middle school team in the country to do so this season.

They followed up that performance by heading out to an invitation-only event at Google headquarters in Mountainview, Calif., and they repeated their feat by winning the Excellence Award again, beating out more than 60 teams from across the country.

At the state VEX Robotics Competition in Marion, Ohio, the weekend of March 1, the Elyria Robotics middle school teams swept the competition, capturing every available award and qualifying another team to the world competition in April.

The VEX World Championships are scheduled for April 24 to 28. More than 500 teams from 60 countries compete in the four-day tournament.

The tournament is available to watch via livestream, so check out the district’s social media pages closer to the event date for details.

Be sure to follow @elyriarobotics on all social media platforms for up-to-date tournament information and news on upcoming events, and to find out how to involve your student in the program.



PHOTOS COURTESY ELYRIA ROBOTICS

ABOVE: The Elyria Robotics middle school team of 42111N accepted the Excellence Award at the GOOGLE Signature Event in California earlier this month. Team 42111N was the only team in Ohio invited to compete. From left, Coach Mike West, a GOOGLE representative, Vicky Jones, Mia Yates and Kloe Koeppe.

BELOW LEFT: The Elyria middle school robotics team captured every award at the VEX Robotics State Championship match in Marion, Ohio, earlier this month.

BELOW RIGHT: Elyria High robotics team 11124X members Andrew Moore, left, and Deric Martin secured in place in the World Robotics tournament during the VEX state championship.



School board names Ann Schloss new superintendent

Amy Higgins
Communications Director

At a special meeting Jan. 29, the Elyria Board of Education named Ann Schloss the new superintendent of Elyria Schools.

Schloss has served as associate superintendent since 2017. She is a 25-year veteran educator who has served her entire career in Elyria Schools, much of it as director of academic services.



Schloss

Under Schloss’ leadership in that department, Elyria Schools earned recognition as a model district in the state, receiving attention locally, regionally and statewide for innovative programs, curriculum options and teaching strategies that enrich classroom learning and give Elyria students a wealth of opportunities to succeed at all levels.

Schloss also has been highly instrumental in the development of planning and construction details for the district’s new master plan, which calls for five new facilities, including three campus sites serving elementary and middle school and two elementary schools.

“We’ve seen Ann flourish in leadership roles and bring the expertise that sets Elyria apart from other districts,” Elyria Schools Board President Greg Elek said. “What Ann brings as a person and as a professional is a wealth of experience and talent. She is a tremendous asset to the district — we’re confident in placing her at the helm.”

Schloss’ new contract runs through July 31, 2021.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Superintendent Schloss is standing behind the Pioneers sculpture.

Gaining STEAM

Ann Schloss

Elyria Schools superintendent

When you're immersed in your work and going about the routines of your day, it's probably not that often that you sit back, take a breath and reflect on what you've accomplished.

You're so accustomed to setting a pace that puts you on target for meeting your goals and objectives that you don't give yourself time to appreciate the steps you've taken to get there.

We're guilty of this in education. We hit the ground running in August with detailed curriculum maps, pages and pages of lessons and one event after another, meticulously detailed in our yearly planners.

We rarely budge from our schedules. And we're always trying to be ahead of the game, looking to tomorrow before today is done.

Well, this special edition of Pioneer Press is among my favorites because it takes a bird's eye view of the year and calls out some of the special moments and projects that are so much a part of our day-to-day work, yet deserve to be noted for the positive impact they hold for our students and community.

In the pages ahead, you'll read about the construction project that will bring five state-of-the-art schools to Elyria, replacing our antiquated elementary and middle schools with modern educational facilities.

You'll also catch up on new improvements to the athletic complex — Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium — that opened last August to the jaw-dropping delight of fans.

The new facility is ready for the adventures that await with spring sports, the Special Olympics in May and the Elyria High School Commencement Ceremony in June.

We'll share with you photos from a professional development seminar hosted in February by the Academic

See **STEAM**, 7

Game of 'Krone'

Amy Higgins
Communications director

Sodexo Foodservice of Elyria Schools is a bustling hub of activity.

The small army of 75 employees that make up the foodservice division prepares, delivers and serves more than 1 million meals per year in the Elyria Schools.

Here's how it breaks down in an average year:

- 466,555 breakfast meals.
- 631,208 lunches.
- 10,000 bag lunches.
- 25,000 pink cookies.
- 15,000 summer lunches.
- Plus \$275,000 in ala cart sales.
- And \$50,000 in special functions.

Sodexo General Manager Greg Krone heads up the program in Elyria.

Krone was named general manager in February after many years as the district's head chef and kitchen manager at the Elyria High School Central Kitchen, the nerve center of the foodservice program in Elyria.

The massive kitchen on Middle Avenue is the prep site for every meal that makes it way to students in the Elyria Schools. Each day, thousands of meals are loaded onto three big box trucks and a van, and transported to the district's 11 elementary and middle school sites.

A walk through the Central Kitchen will reveal eight double-stacked ovens; four, 100-gallon kettles for macaroni and cheese; five double-stacked steamers; and a boatload of cooking utensils, pans, coolers and travel carts.

There's also an industrial-sized dishwasher machine and several operators who wash more than 3,500 trays and 500 pots and pans every day.

Krone and his team manage the purchasing of more than \$1.3 million in food. One week's shopping haul includes more than 5,000 cartons of milk and more than \$2,000



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

worth of fresh fruits and vegetables for the lunch lines.

Sodexo works closely with Second Harvest Food Bank to send out 300 backpacks per week to families in need.

The team also caters all special functions in the district, from fast-serve, grab-and-go-style lunches to upscale evening affairs

with high-end hors d'oeuvres, entrees and desserts.

Sodexo hosts a number of signature events, as well, including the annual Future Chef Competition, the Culinary Throw-down, Elyria High School's Scholastic E Dinner and Senior Brunch, and this year, Sodexo will cater Elyria High's Senior Prom.

Ely's David Watkins, grade 5, celebrates a win at the 2019 Sodexo Future Chef Competition that was held this month at Elyria High School.



The 2019 slate of competitors in the Sodexo Future Chef Competition included, from left: David Watkins, Ely; Nikki Wyatt, Oakwood; Elaynah McDonald, Windsor; Warren Beasley, Crestwood; Brayden Warner, Prospect; Aniya Jackson, Franklin; and Emily Harding, McKinley.

TEACHER SCHOOL



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

More than 500 teachers and staff took part in a full day workshop hosted in February at Elyria High School by the Elyria Schools Academic Services department. Each staff member selected three areas of study from more than 90 sessions covering all aspects of education and personal growth. Most of the sessions were taught by the in-house experts of Elyria Schools. Some assemblies called for outside professionals as trainers, including NASA, Cleveland MetroHealth System, and even some private social workers and psychologists.

Going up! Ely, Northwood,

Amy Higgins

Communications director

Construction is in full swing at the sites of Ely Elementary School on Gulf Road and Northwood Campus on North Abbe.

Next up on the schedule? Hamilton Elementary School on Middle Avenue.

For a rundown of what's happening and what's to come for each of the new school sites, read on.

Ely Elementary School

The new Ely Elementary School is going up where Gulf Road and Ohio Street meet, just steps away from the existing Ely School building on the same property where the school has stood for more than a century.

With the project in full-scale construction mode, every precaution is in place to ensure student and staff safety on the grounds, including an extra crossing guard on school days at the construction vehicle

entrance.

The new Ely Elementary School building will encompass approximately 61,000 square feet. It will house elementary through fourth grade.

The underground sanitary and water lines are all in place and the construction work has moved above ground. Crews have finished pouring the concrete footers, essential to the new building's foundation.

Next will be the concrete block and brickwork, as the building begins to go vertical.

Ely will open in August 2020.

Northwood Campus

North-siders have a great view of the construction work in progress between North Abbe Road and Rosalee Drive, at the former sites of the Pioneer Soccer Field and Spring Valley School.

This expansive space is home to the

future Northwood Campus, a 129,000 square foot building that will house elementary and middle school through eighth grade.

Like Ely, the action at Northwood has been largely underground, with miles and miles of trenching and the installation of sewer and water lines.

And like Ely, Northwood is looking up with footers and foundation work in process and block and brickwork soon to follow.

Northwood Campus will open in August 2020.

Hamilton Elementary School

The vacant land at the corner of Middle Avenue and 13th Street on Elyria's south side is the future home of Hamilton Elementary School, a 58,000 square foot building that will house preschool through fourth grade.

The Elyria Board of Education had its

first glimpse of the stunning new Hamilton Elementary School presented as an architectural rendering at the Feb. 20 school board meeting.

At that same meeting, the board approved documents to move the building forward in the construction process. The project is now out for bid with contractors and the sitework is expected to begin this spring.

With every project, there are four phases of development in the building approval process before blueprints ever come to fruition:

- The first phase is called Program of Requirements. The architectural engineers and school district meet to discuss the needs of the building and the general and unique spaces inside its walls.
- The next stage, Schematic Design, is akin to the "rough draft" stage of a project, with architects taking what they learned in the Program of Requirements phase and



Hamilton to open in 2020

applying it to paper while exploring the potential costs of the project.

■ The third phase, Design Development, is a refinement stage where drawings now illustrate clear details and specifications of the building, showing how it will look and function. More budget estimations are made at this level to hone in on the final price, called the Guaranteed Maximum Price.

■ The fourth and final phase before construction begins is called Construction Documents, which are the actual documents or “blueprints” that contractors will use to build the building. At this phase, the GMP has been set and the contractors are held to a price for their work.

Ely and Northwood Campus have moved through all four phases of the process and are at GMP. Hamilton is in phase four, Construction Documents, and is out for bid.

Like Ely and Northwood, Hamilton will open in August 2020.

Eastern Heights Campus

At over 146,000 square feet, Eastern Heights Campus will be the largest of the three campus schools. The building will house elementary and middle school through eighth grade and it will be closely located to the existing Eastern Heights Middle School on the property between Garford Avenue and Prospect Avenue.

Like Ely, Eastern Heights students will continue attending school while their new school is built right next door.

Eastern Heights is in phase three of the planning and development process, Development Design.

In the coming months, the district will announce plans for a groundbreaking ceremony at the Eastern Heights Campus location.

The building will open in August 2021.

Westwood Campus

Westwood Campus is in the preliminary phase of development, Program of Requirements, yet plans are moving swiftly along. Westwood, too, will open in August 2021.

This campus site, more than 94,000 square feet, will house elementary and middle school through eighth grade.

Plans for a groundbreaking ceremony will be announced in the coming months.

To keep up on the construction progress of Elyria's five new school buildings, please visit www.elyriaschools.org and find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/elyriaschools, on Twitter @ElyriaSchools and on YouTube at Elyria Schools Pioneer TV.

Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium

Open for business! The beautiful new athletic complex on Middle Avenue is home to the Pioneers. If you attended football games this past fall, you can attest: It is a sight to behold!

The 4,000-seat arena boasts a top-of-the-line synthetic turf field for football, band and soccer, a competition-grade track, practice fields, a field house with team offices, locker rooms and a weight room, new concession areas and plenty of restroom facilities, as well as new parking areas off Middle Avenue.

The complex features a unique design element, as well: a sculpture of the word “Pioneers,” similar in scope to the well-known “Cleveland” structure in downtown Cleveland.

The Pioneers sculpture looms large, just inside the grand promenade entrance. The spaces are colorfully lit with light-changing LEDs — the perfect place for game-day photos!

When the stadium reopens this spring, fans will see new tennis courts and expanded parking off Middle Avenue and Oberlin Road.

Over the winter months, the district added 250 parking spaces in the complex near the baseball fields, as well as a paved walkway to the stadium entrance areas. New fencing and bollards were added at the north end of the complex.

The baseball fields will be groomed for the new season. A new gazebo/shelter is planned for the future in the open space between the baseball fields and tennis courts.



Northwood Campus



Ely Elementary School



View from Middle Avenue



Hamilton Elementary School

Progress with PAX

Amy Higgins

Communications director

Everyone has “off” days.

It could mean you’re less focused and unable to concentrate, or testy and unable to quite put a finger on what’s bothering you.

Maybe what’s on your mind has got you acting in ways that are distracting to yourself or others.

Now put yourself in a classroom of about two dozen other individuals who may be having an “off” day. That can be a tough environment in which to iron out your emotional and intellectual wrinkles.

That’s why education environments place such a premium on identifying effective intervention options that truly help students and staff develop the skills and strategies they need to stay on task and build positive environments.

Enter the PAX Good Behavior Game.

This clever program helps kids develop self-regulating strategies that lead to better outcomes inside and outside the classroom.

What kinds of outcomes? You name it — academic, interpersonal and social, community, physical, cognitive and such. It effectively helps students understand they

possess the power to bring health and happiness into their own lives and the lives of others.

One educator described it thus: “It helps their mind and brain grow in positive ways.”

Elyria Schools has applied for a state grant that would fund PAX training in grades K-10 districtwide. The district will know this spring if the state has awarded the money.

PAX is already being used in certain Elyria Schools classrooms.

For example: Students can describe a situation or feeling by choosing from options on signage that lists senses — sight, sound, hearing, etc.

One of the most salient features of the program is its emphasis on positive concepts and its aversion to negatives. To obtain the attention of students, for instance, a teacher might blow into a harmonica rather than yelling.

By placing an emphasis on positive behaviors, school districts using the PAX program have seen reductions in disciplinary referrals.

These types of approaches can ultimately bolster behavioral support for students and teachers throughout the district.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

McKinley Elementary students play ‘Jeopardy’ with questions in categories that reinforce kindness, positive choices and school rules.

Elyria Schools behavior specialist Dr. Regina Costantino, of the Pupil Services Department, is working with staff and building-level teams to develop behavior intervention plans designed to teach and reward positive behaviors in students. Her work also centers on training for teachers and staff in the areas of crisis prevention, non-violent crisis intervention and trauma awareness.

“Dr. Costantino’s expertise in behavioral interventions has been a great asset and addition to the Pupil Services Department,” said Denise Blatt, Elyria Schools pupil services director.

Elyria Schools: Staying connected

Adrienne Scheithauer

Communications administrative assistant

Looking for up-to-date board meetings, student concerts, news stories and bulletins about the Elyria Schools? We have you covered through the Communications and Marketing Office.

This year the district introduced new cable television programming on the Elyria Schools Education Station, Channel 1022 on Spectrum.

Channel 1022 offers a full slate of programs, including school board meetings, musical concerts and theater performances, entertaining school stories from the classrooms and informational bulletins.

A new spring concert season is upon us and you’ll find all of the vocal and instrumental performances currently airing on Channel 1022.

Don’t have Spectrum cable? Take heart, you can find all of the same videos on Elyria Schools Pioneer TV on YouTube, as well as current information about the district online at www.elyriaschools.org, and on the district’s social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Thanks for watching!

Elyria Schools gettin’ techie

Brian Kokai

IT director

As technology progresses, so does the need for schools to adjust their curriculum to ensure students are being prepared for their next steps in whatever life brings them.

At Elyria High School, staff are constantly adjusting technology course offerings to remain cutting-edge and relevant for students.

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, Elyria High School will begin offering three new courses: Introduction to Personal Fabrication, Advanced Robotics and an upper-level STEAM course.

Introduction to Personal Fabrication will be in the EHS maker-space, called the Imagineering Hub. It will focus on implementing all of the tools in the maker-space and design process. Students will then develop individual projects to demonstrate their

learning.

Advanced Robotics is a continuation of the Robotics Programming course that was introduced this year. It will focus on robotics design and movement simulation using the Fusion 360 digital platform.

EHS has offered a freshman level STEAM — an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math — for two years. This time, it’s introducing an upper-level class that will incorporate the use of drones to demonstrate and reinforce the covered topics.

Students will be able to construct, program and develop real-world applications for drones and how they can have a positive impact on society.

All for one, one for all

Amy Higgins

Communications director

Elyria Schools is rolling out a new unified district calendar system that puts all school events in one location on the district’s website.

The Web-based software that powers the system is called DynaCal.

“The system will provide our parents and community members with far better communication and make it easier to find when and where events are taking place,” Business Services Director Jake Carmany said.

“A key feature of this system is that it allows you to make a customized calendar for events that interest you,” he said. “Once you create a MyDynaCal account, you can sign up for alerts to go to your phone or email address when events in your areas of interest are added or changed.”

The MyDynaCal app is available at the upper left of the calendar screen on the district’s website, www.elyriaschools.org.

Registration is in full swing

Elyria Schools looking for brand new Pioneers

The Elyria Schools Central Registration office is now accepting new and returning enrollments for the 2019-20 school year.

The office is at 42101 Griswold Road and is open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The district also offers online registration at www.elyriaschools.org/Page/754.

Questions may be directed to Central Registration Office at (440) 284-8220.

Registrations (K-12) that are received with complete documentation on file by April 26 will be automatically entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card.



SARA SHADE / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

The Elyria Early Childhood Village Gold Room celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with funny hats. The Elyria Early Childhood Village is now accepting preschool enrollments. Call (440) 284-8250 for information.

Elyria Schools treasurer earns top finance award

Amy Higgins

Communications director

For the second consecutive year, Elyria Schools earned a top award in financial reporting: The "Auditor of State Award with Distinction."

Elyria Schools Treasurer Joy Clickenger learned the good news in a letter from Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber.

"Clean and accurate record-keeping are the foundation for good government, and the taxpayers can take pride in your commitment to accountability," Faber said in the letter.

"The Auditor of State Award with Distinction' is given to those entities that file an annual CAFR and timely financial reports in accordance with GAAP, as well as receive a 'clean' audit report," Faber said.

There's a lot involved in earning a "clean" audit, but it boils down to excellent stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

The Auditor of State Award is the top distinction from the auditor's office in financial reporting.

Clickenger said she's honored to accept the award for the second straight year on behalf of Elyria Schools and credits her team for exceptional care and responsible reporting.

"We keep a keen eye on the district's finances and work as a team to ensure the taxpayers are getting the best bang for their buck," Clickenger said. "Elyria Schools is an excellent value, providing residents with top-notch educational programming and services. And with new schools on the horizon, it's truly a great time to be a Pioneer."

Clickenger has served as Elyria Schools treasurer since 2016.

Oh, the places you'll go

Denise Blatt

Pupil Services director

Elyria High School students have been busy visiting local employers and organizations in the community and learning about job opportunities after high school.

The field trips are made possible through a \$100,000 grant the district received last summer to expand college and career programming for students with special needs.

The tours have taken them to Elyria Nick Abraham Auto Mall, JC Penney and the Army Recruitment Office, to name just a few locations.

Elyria Schools was one of only 16 districts in the state to be awarded the funds through a competitive grant process.

The monies are supporting additional curriculum materials, vocational skill-building and training, work shorts and shirts and transportation for associated field trips.

Students at the high school and middle school levels also participated in team-building activities at Play CLE and Main Event in Avon.

New bus tracking tool puts parents in the driver's seat

Jake Carmany

Business Services director

All good things come in time.

In last year's State of the Schools Special Issue of Pioneer Press, we wrote about FirstView, a new app based on GPS technology. It tracks

school busses minute-by-minute as they travel to and from school.

The district's transportation provider, First Student, rolled out the service in Elyria Schools last month.

This handy tool gives parents of bus riders a quick update on the whereabouts of

their child's bus and alerts them of delays while estimating a new arrival time.

The information gets sent right to their smartphones, tablets or computers.

To learn more about this service, please visit <https://www.elyriaschools.org/Page/175>.

STEAM

From 2

Services Department that offered more than 90 sessions for Elyria teachers and staff to hone their trade. The best part: The sessions were taught by our own in-house expert educators.

You'll read with amazement the accomplishments of our robotics program at the middle and high school levels.

Just three years young, this program has reached unparalleled heights in the highly competitive world of youth robotics, and it just keeps gaining steam.

And speaking of steam — by that, I mean STEAM — the science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics offerings and advancements in the Elyria Schools are off the charts.

It would be near impossible to overstate the value and significance of our STEAM offerings at Elyria Schools, particularly when you consider that many of the types of programs and courses we offer are virtually unrivaled by any other school district in the region.

Can you think of any other local districts, or even in Ohio, that sent a robotics team to

Silicon Valley this winter? Exactly.

In this issue of Pioneer Press, you'll be introduced to the new curriculum offerings at Elyria High School that will further advance robotics and even put students in the pilot's seat of a drone.

I could go on highlighting the fun stories ahead, but rather, I'll encourage you to find a comfy seat and settle in for a great read on the many achievements of our students and staff in the Elyria Schools.

Happy reading!

IN BRIEF

Seeking qualified candidates

Jaime Barnier

Human resources director

Do you enjoy being around children and watching them grow, learn and excel? Elyria Schools may be the place for you.

The district has substitute positions available for those interested in making a positive impact on students. Substitute teachers must have a bachelor's degree. Starting pay is \$105 per day.

The district is also seeking substitute paraprofessionals, food service, cleaners and secretaries. These positions require a high school diploma or GED. There is flexibility in the hours for these positions, and they could eventually turn into full-time positions. Salary starts at \$9 to \$11.95 per hour.

For more information call Elyria Schools human resources department at (440) 284-8232 or (440) 284-8211. Visit the website at www.elyriaschools.org.

The 'IT' factor

Brian Kokai

IT director

Elyria Schools continues to be a leader in instructional technology and using technology for efficient operations.

The Information Technology Department is working closely with the architects of the new buildings to ensure new building designs incorporate tools and technology our teachers want and need for effective instruction.

We currently have mock classrooms setup at Westwood and Windsor where classroom teachers are testing items such as tables, chairs and interactive displays.

This feedback helps us make better-informed decisions on the items we select for the new buildings.

In other technology news, the Elyria Performing Arts Center located at Elyria High School has been upgraded with energy-efficient LED house lighting, a wireless microphone system and a new projection system.

These upgrades were largely paid for through fees collected by facility rental to private organizations.

No limits for Special Olympics

Games set for ADA-compliant arena for 1st time

Denise Blatt

Pupil Services director

On May 17, the Lorain County Special Olympics will mark a new chapter in its storied history. For the first time in the event's 39 years, the games will be played in an ADA-compliant arena with full accessibility for wheelchairs.

The event historically has been held at Ely Stadium but the previous facility offered limited accessibility and antiquated amenities.

The new complex at Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium, where the games will be played this year, is grand in appearance and in accommodations.

The new complex offers wheelchair-accessible restrooms and facilities equipped with changing tables. The bleachers have wheelchair ramps with a fully accessible front row seating. All sidewalks and walking paths leading to the stadium and throughout the facility are paved and accessible for wheelchair use.

It all ups the excitement for athletes and fans alike.

The annual event draws more than 600 student athletes, elementary through high-school age, from 17 school districts and charter schools in Lorain County.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

The grounds of Elyria's new athletic complex are fully accessible for wheelchair use, opening spaces and pathways that will improve the experience for athletes and families attending the Lorain County Special Olympics in May.

Elyria Schools has hosted the event for 38 years at Ely Stadium.

Each year's event is a mammoth undertaking by the Special Olympics committee of Elyria Schools.

Planners map quadrants throughout the field and track, meticulously plotting the location and scope of each event in the games. The events run simultaneously throughout the day.

And it's truly a family affair, with entertainment that includes face painting and balloon animals, special attractions like the DARE car, and guest appearances from favorite superheroes and fairytale characters through Heroes United.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

To help fund the Lorain County Special Olympics, the committee hosts a yearly craft and vendor fair at Elyria High School in the dining hall.

This year marks the fifth annual fair. It's slated for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 30.

More than 50 crafters and vendors will be on display, along with live entertainment and activities for kids, including an Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Leo Club.

Here's a look at the day's events:

■ Craft and Vendor Fair: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Easter Egg Hunt:

10:30 a.m.: 3 years old

11:30 a.m.: 4 to 6 years old

12:30 p.m.: 7 to 10 years old

■ The free entertainment in the EHS dining hall:

11 a.m.: Sharon's Signers

Noon: Elyria High Madrigals

1 p.m.: Elyria High Jazz Band

2 p.m.: Mike Brand Singer/Songwriter

New from human resources

Amy Higgins

When employees are happier and healthier, they perform better on the job and there are fewer absenteeism issues. Employee morale increases, too.

This is why the human resources department at Elyria Schools has created an employee wellness program. When you invest in your workers, you're more likely to get more in return. This holds true not just with training, but with all things related to health and

wellness.

To ensure long-term success, Elyria Schools needs to retain its employees, so they can build long-term connections with students and their families. Among the many components in this process is employee health.

Human resources director Jaime Barnier has overseen the creation of a wellness committee, made up of district employees who serve as representatives from each school building.

"These wellness champions help disseminate communication in their school building by bringing back information that was discussed at the wellness committee meetings," Barnier said. "They help promote wellness activities in their buildings, such as walking clubs and fitness contests."

The committee, which meets once a month, has already implemented several positive changes for the district staff.

SAVE THE DATE

March 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Elyria High School Dining Hall: 5th Annual Special Olympics Craft and Vendor Fair.

March 30, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Elyria High School: Easter Egg Hunt, Toddler to 3 years old, 10:30 a.m.; 4-6 years old, 11:30 a.m.; 7-10 years old, 12:30 p.m. Sponsored by EHS Leo Club.

April 12 and 13, 7 p.m., Elyria Performing Arts Center: "Mamma Mia" by The Elyria High School Drama Department.

May 7, 4 to 7 p.m., Nick Abraham Ford Elyria: Education Celebration Community and School Fundraiser. Food, Prizes, Fun! Sponsored by the Elyria Citizens Committee for Quality Education.

May 10, 7 p.m., Elyria Performing Arts Center: "Shrek Jr." by Northwood Middle School Drama Club.

May 17, 9 a.m., Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium: The 39th Annual Lorain County Special Olympics.