



ROBO WARS

Robotics teams set to compete
SEE PAGE 5

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 9, ISSUE 1

Spring 2022

WWW.ELYRIASCHOOLS.ORG

Art from the heart

Amy Higgins
Communications director

Walk the halls of any school in Elyria City Schools and you are instantly transported to the most delightful of art galleries.

Crayola scenes depict friendly people and spaces that were inspired by the imagination of the artists.

Construction-paper people practically leap off the walls with their bendy limbs, tangle hair and wide toothy grins.

Bold, masterful drawings, paintings and sculptures, or three-dimensional displays, draw the eye and inspire wonder with their beauty and brilliance.

The many pieces of art that line the walls of the classrooms and the halls of the schools could easily find new homes in the most sophisticated of museums.

Art is powerful. It's a vessel for the imagination and creativity of a child.

In March, the district celebrated a national movement — Youth Art Month (YAM) — to recognize the impact of art and art education in schools.

Every day in March a new work of art was displayed on the district's social media sites, and the students who created the pieces were touted as the YAM Artists of the Day.

You'll find this virtual gallery on Facebook/ElyriaCitySchools and Twitter/ElyriaSchools.

With only 31 days to work with in March, there's no way to fully represent the thousands of art pieces our students have created but you can see many of the submissions



Artwork created by Lydia, Westwood Middle School, grade eight.

for Youth Art Month here in the pages of Pioneer Press.

We're also planning a special theme for the district's annual school calendar and that theme

is student art. Watch for the new district calendar in April but until then, check out the samples here of the amazing work by Elyria's young artists.

**SEE MORE ARTWORK
ON PAGES 6 AND 7**

Welcome home!

Amy Higgins
Communications director

Elyria Schools will roll out the welcome mat for families and community members of Elyria on Saturday, April 2, during a district-wide Open House event.

The new schools of Eastern Heights, Ely, Hamilton, Northwood and Westwood will be open for visits and tours from 9 a.m. to noon.

"The community provided us with such wonderful buildings and we just haven't been able to do this yet (due to the pandemic)," said Superintendent Ann Schloss. "The buildings will be open for three hours for the entire community to visit. We're really excited about finally being able to do this."

The open houses from 9 a.m. to Noon will take place at:

- Eastern Heights Campus, 528 Garford Ave.
- Ely Elementary School, 312 Gulf Road.
- Hamilton Elementary School, 1215 Middle Ave.
- Northwood Campus, 570 Abbe Road North.
- Westwood Campus, 42350 Adelbert St.

Visitors can look forward to cookies and punch, balloons and activities at each site and the opportunity to leisurely tour the inspiring learning spaces of the new schools.

For more information, please contact the Communications Office at 440-284-8203 or email ask@elyriaschools.org.

See photos of the schools on Page 12

New beginnings for Elyria Schools

The days are getting longer. The air, while still crisp, hints at warmer temperatures to come.

The first signs of spring are here. And with it, the final months of school.

It hardly seems possible. So much has transpired since the first day of school in September.

After introducing three new school buildings last year, the district kicked off the 2021-22 school year opening an additional building, Eastern Heights Campus, as yet another — Westwood Campus — waited in the wings.

On January 3, 2022, Westwood Elementary and Westwood Middle students proudly walked the halls of the new Westwood Campus for the first time.

With the brand-new schools complete, Elyria Schools will host a community-wide open house event on April 2, giving residents the chance to tour the new schools.

You can read all about this event on Page 1.

One piece of the puzzle has remained: preschool. The district offers two sites for preschool, the Elyria Early Childhood Village (EECV), located near Westwood Campus in Elyria Township, and Hamilton Elementary, a preschool program for residents of Hamilton's attendance area.

EECV is home to hundreds of students, ages three and four, and provides AM and PM half-day programs. The school currently resides at 42101 Griswold Road, sharing the space with the main administration center of Elyria Schools.

Next fall, EECV's preschool students will relocate to beautifully renovated classrooms and spaces in the former Crestwood Elementary school next door to Westwood Campus.

If you have a child that will turn 3 to 5 years old by Sept. 30,



ANN SCHLOSS

now is the time to reserve your child's spot in Elyria's preschool and kindergarten programs. Much more about this on Page 4.

It is truly an exciting time for Elyria's students, parents and staff. It's also exciting for community members, who have shown unwavering support for the growth and advancement of the district.

The past two years haven't been without their challenges, given the unfortunate reality that COVID has presented.

We wish to extend our sincerest appreciation to the students, parents and staff members who have bravely weathered the many changes and challenges that the pandemic has presented since

March 2020.

On the Web

This year the district launched a brand-new website chock full of information.

We encourage families to find us online at www.elyriaschools.org, and on our many social media platforms.

We're continuously updating news and information to keep families abreast of the many exciting activities and events in the Elyria Schools.

We encourage community members to reach out to us with questions or concerns, and we've created an email address for general inquiries at ask@elyriaschools.org.

If you are a parent seeking or sharing specific information about your student of Elyria Schools, please reach out directly to your child's home school. You'll find a full directory of schools

online at www.elyriaschools.org.

As we kick off a new, fresh year in the Elyria Schools, we look forward to welcoming a new generation of learners. Registering has never been easier thanks to the online enrollment process on the district's website. Simply find the "Enroll" tab and follow the cues to the 2022-23 enrollment forms online.

If technology isn't readily available, or if you prefer a one-on-one experience, our registrars are here to help.

Please call the Elyria Schools Central Registration Office at (440) 284-8220 to schedule an appointment.

We hope to see you on April 2 during the community open house events at your neighboring schools. Thank you for supporting the students and staff of Elyria Schools!

Ann Schloss is superintendent of Elyria Schools.

BUZZING ABOUT THE BEE



Madison Moran, a seventh-grade student at Eastern Heights Middle School, competed in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee qualifying match on March 10. Madison made it through four rounds of competition before being eliminated. This was Madison's first year competing and she plans to be back for a rematch next year. Congratulations, Madison, on your accomplishment at the Bee!

CHARLENE HARTLEY

FUN WITH MAPS



Second-grade students, staff and families gathered at Hamilton Elementary School to learn all about maps!

We are the champions, my friends

Amy Higgins
Communications director

A group of athletes from Eastern Heights Middle School set out this year with two ambitious goals: Go undefeated. Win the title.

They did both.

The eighth grade Boys Basketball team of Eastern Heights Middle has been the talk of the Southwestern Conference (SWC) all season long. Not just for the team's grit and sheer talent, but for the players' show of sportsmanship and the obvious bond they share on and off the court.

"They come to practice every day and work hard," Coach Paul Skorvanek said. "Some of them have been playing basketball together since they were in fourth grade, which is awesome. They have a natural bond."

The team was unbeatable in the regular season and showed that same spirit in the conference semifinals. On March 10, Eastern Heights went head to head with Amherst Junior High School for the conference title and won with a score of 51 to 39.

"Last year's seventh grade team came one win away from the championship and going undefeated for the whole season. They lost in the championship game last season," Skorvanek said. "We



The SWC Conference Champions Middle School Boys Basketball Team pictured left to right: Cam Bell, Conner Lattea, Liam Quinn, Antonio Pride, Jaxon Lattea, Rondell Grimmert, Jozayah Smith, Coach Skorvanek, Jacory Bradley, Jermiah Daniels and Tucker Knappins.

set out this year to go undefeated and win the championship in the new conference to bring home the title to the new Eastern Heights building. They are the No. 1 seed.

"It's been a while since eighth grade boys have won a title in their respective division," he said. "They came close last year but the last time eighth grade finished with a trophy was two years ago, and they finished third in their

conference. This year we're hoping for a little bit more."

They earned it. Congratulations, Eastern Heights!

You will find coverage of the Eastern Heights eighth grade basketball team, and highlights from the Conference final, on Elyria Schools' PioneerTV YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheElyriaSchools/videos>.



Elyria Girls soccer finds new coach

Amy Higgins
Communications director

The Elyria High School Girls Soccer program has a new head coach: Alyssa Church.

Church is a teacher at Northwood Middle School and a seasoned soccer coach.

Assisting Alyssa in this top spot is another coaching dynamo, Todd Church.

Todd — also a middle school teacher at Westwood Middle — is Alyssa's father. Todd has been a constant in Alyssa's soccer career from childhood to college.

"My first experience with soccer was here in Elyria. My dad coached my GESA travel team and he pretty much coached me my entire career, even club and high school," Alyssa said. "It's cool

coming back to the city where it all started."

Alyssa is a graduate of Strongsville High School where she played soccer for four years. She continued her soccer career in college at Ohio Northern University.

Before coming to Elyria, Alyssa assisted coaching in Strongsville in 2018-19. The Strongsville team made the state finals that year.

Alyssa came to Northwood Middle School in the 2020-2021 school year, and she joined Elyria's soccer staff as an assistant coach.

"I'm so excited to keep building on the connections that I made last year," she said. "Being in the middle schools I see the girls that are coming up and I know our players currently are excited

about the players coming in, as are we as a coaching staff.

"Anything to grow on what we did last season," said Alyssa. "They are a fun group of girls; great to talk to, the best culture of a team that I've been a part of so far."

Todd is an Elyria High graduate who began his teaching career with Elyria Schools in 2005. Todd has assisted coaching the Elyria Pioneers Boys Soccer Team and served as head coach of the program for one year.

The majority of Todd's coaching was in Strongsville where he spent 17 seasons as the head coach of the Strongsville Girls Soccer team. With Todd at the helm, the team earned three state titles and three state runner-ups.

Church conducted a skills camp



Alyssa Church

this month for students in grades four and up to introduce them to the sport. You can watch the video



Todd Church

at <https://bit.ly/3CBU8af> on Elyria Schools Pioneer TV YouTube.

Crafts, eggs and the Easter Bunny!

Amy Higgins
Communications director

The Elyria Special Olympics Spring Craft and Vendor Fair is back!

The fair will take place Saturday, April 2 at Elyria High School, 601 Middle Ave., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Spring Craft and Vendor

Fair has grown considerably over the six years since its inception, displaying many hand-made and specialized products and services that can only be found together at a venue such as this.

This year's event coincides with the community-wide new-school open houses 9 a.m. to

noon April 2.

Residents can make a day of it by visiting the new schools and campuses of Ely, Hamilton, Northwood, Eastern Heights and Westwood, and capping off the day at Elyria High School with the Spring Craft and Vendor Fair!

The Fair will also host the

Easter Bunny and an Easter Egg Hunt (tentative) for children ages 10 and under. The Easter Egg Hunt kicks off at 10:30 a.m. for the ages toddler to three years, 11:30 a.m. for children four to six years old, and 12:30 p.m. for children seven to 10 years old.

Some of Elyria's fine arts stu-

dents will also be there to entertain guests during the event.

The Spring Craft and Vendor Fair is a fundraiser for the Elyria Special Olympics program. For more information, contact Sharon Goodsite, goodsitesharron@elyriaschools.org.

We hope to see you there!

School days, school days

On Saturday, March 12, Elyria Schools held a registration drive at Ely Elementary School to enroll new preschool and kindergarten students for the 2022-23 school year.

There is still to enroll! Children who will be ages 3 to 5 years old by Sept. 30 are eligible for preschool and kindergarten. Please visit www.elyriaschools.org to complete the online enrollment process.

To enroll, parents must provide a photo identification and two proofs of residency, as well as their child's birth certificate and immunization records. Proof of custody is also required if applicable.

To make an in-person appointment with the Central Registration team, please call us at 284-8220.

Be a Pioneer in the Elyria Schools!





ELYRIA ROBOTICS

The Elyria High School Robotics Teams earned more than 51 awards this year, including 13 Tournament Champions, seven Excellence Awards for the best overall team and five Design Awards for documentation. Five teams from Elyria High School qualified for Worlds.

Domo arigato, Mr. Roboto

Angie Burgess
Robotics coach

The World Robotics Tournament is the stage and Elyria Schools will be there.

In May, six teams from the Elyria Robotics program—middle and high school levels—will travel to Texas to compete with teams from across the globe in the 2022 VEX World Robotics Competition in Dallas.

On Saturday, March 12, Elyria Robotics competed in the Ohio State VEX Robotics Competition and clinched multiple spots in the world championship games to come.

Here's a rundown of the World Championship qualifying teams:

Elyria Robotics Team 11124X
—The Butterfly Effect.

Teammates: Mia Yates, Vicky Jones, Kloe Koeppe, Jaymie Reynolds, Abby Young, and Kirsten Young.

The Butterfly Effect earned

the "Excellence Award" at the state championship as the "best overall robot in the state of Ohio" with respect to "build, code, skill, rankings, engineering notebook and judged interviews."

Elyria Robotics Team 11124R
—T-Rex Push Ups.

Teammates: Ethan Boyes, Noah Hearn, Camden Burgess, Tiffany Schuman, Arabella Truxall and Brooklynn Guidicelli.

T-Rex Push Ups earned won "the Amaze Award" at the state championship for "a team with an amazing, well-rounded and top performing robot," according to judges.

Elyria Robotics Team 11124W
—Wonder.

Teammates: Owen Clarke, DaVon Miles, Michael Taylor

Elyria Robotics Team 11124P
—Project 25.

Teammates: Andrew Peacock, Nathan Harding, Naylan Boddy, Anthony Schmitz

Elyria Robotics Team 11124K
—The Kraken.

Teammates: Jason Lawson, Myles Jefferson, Alex Buckway, Drew Roberson, Dan Webster, Orien Price

Elyria Robotics Team 42111P
—Peas in a Pod

Teammates: Marissa Peacock, Emily Harding, Kyrrah Boddy and Brooke Dumonthier.

Peas in a Pod won the "Amaze Award" at the Ohio State Championship for having a "high-scoring, competitive, reliable/robust robot with consistently successful autonomous code," said the judges.

All told the Elyria Robotics Teams of Elyria Schools enjoyed their most successful year ever, earning 67 awards and sending six of 10 teams to the World Championship match in May. Congratulations to the students and to coaches Mike West, Angie Burgess and Craig Corfman. Well done!



ELYRIA ROBOTICS

The Elyria Middle Schools of Weetwood, Eastern Heights and Northwood earned 14 awards this year, including one Tournament Champion, five Excellence Awards and one Design Award. Pictured is the middle school team of Peas in a Pod, which qualified for Worlds.

Wham, bam, YAM!



ABOVE: Rozlynn, Eastern Heights Elementary, grade four.



RIGHT: Chamille, Hamilton Elementary, grade three.



FAR RIGHT: Gabriella, Westwood Elementary, grade two.



ABOVE: Breana, Northwood Middle School, grade eight.
LEFT: Faith, Elyria High School, grade 12.

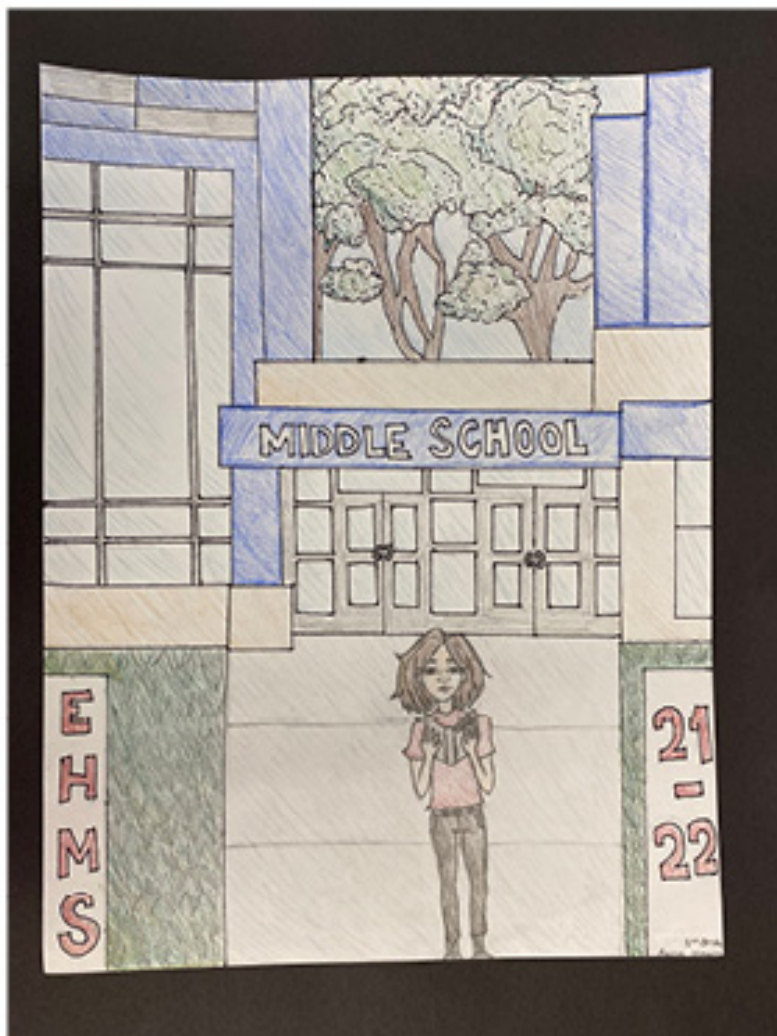
Youth Art Month on display



ABOVE: Tyler, Elyria High School, grade 12.
 UPPER RIGHT: Gracelynn, Eastern Heights Elementary, grade three.
 RIGHT: Anna, Eastern Heights Middle, grade eight.



ABOVE: Sarah, Westwood Middle School, grade eight.
 LEFT: Juan, Elyria High School, grade 12.



Celebrating successes of Elyria graduates

Amy Higgins
Communications director

Where are they and what are they doing now? This was the premise of a video collection created by Elyria High School alumni, Robert Fenn.

Fenn wrote and produced the videos for Black History Month. Each video tells the story of a graduate of Elyria High School or Elyria West High School.

"(Robert Fenn) had the idea of putting together a video montage of former graduates. We (Elyria High School) usually do a February celebration but because of COVID, we decided to feature these videos as our Black History Month contribution," Elyria High School Home Liaison Troy Hill said.

Elyria High School already had the perfect platform for Fenn's videos through a news show that the current students use each day

to deliver the morning announcements.

"When he contacted us we weren't really sure what the platform would be or what it would look like and then Troy and I decided that morning announcements would be good," Counselor Betsy Trump said.

"Robert really took the reins of contacting the people to make the videos," Trump said. "Each person that created a video was contacted

by Robert and he asked them to say certain things about themselves so there is continuity to the videos, and each person that made a video addressed what year they graduated and what career field they are in."

Hill said the individuals who are featured in the videos come from all walks of life.

"Some are in music production, medical fields, working for the government; it's a wide range," he

said. "It was nice to see the enthusiasm that everyone exhibited."

"I think students noticed it too," Hill said. "I've been in classrooms when these (videos) are on and you can see them perk up. When we watch them we feel it too, like...we've got a little more energy now."

You'll find more about this program at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rW8x8Jfrk> on Elyria Schools PioneerTV YouTube.

Learning from leaders

The city of Elyria and Elyria Township first responders are regular visitors to the Elyria Schools, and they are the best guests. Officers from the Elyria Police Department enjoy a daily presence at our campus sites as school resource officers and the Lorain County Sheriff's Office regularly visits to teach the DARE program in middle school.

On this day, the Elyria Fire Department visited Eastern Heights Elementary School. Chief Joe Pronesti talked with third-grade students about the role of fire chief, and Elyria firefighters came with a fire engine for students to see and touch.

Thank you to our first responders. We appreciate your hard work and service.



Smiling faces, new spaces



Classrooms at Ely Elementary School were celebrating 100 days of school (above) and the 2/2/22 anomaly of February 2, 2022 (below).



Students shine in musical showcase



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

The Eastern Heights Drama Club hosted a cabaret featuring music, dance and theater in January. The group takes the stage again in March with a dramatic performance of 'The Giver.'





Coming soon to a theater near you

Amy Higgins
Communications director

Now through the end of the school year, the Elyria Performing Arts Center at Elyria High School is the place to be.

The full-service theater is home to dozens and dozens of orchestra, band and choir concerts all year long and the program selection this spring will not dis-

appoint.

In March, students from the elementary, middle and high school will take the stage with voices and instruments. Find the full schedule of concerts on the calendar at www.elyriaschools.org.

In April, the theater will showcase a classic story, "The Wizard of Oz," performed by the Elyria

High School Drama Department. Performances will be held April 8-10, and tickets can be purchased at www.elyriaschools.org, through the Performing Arts Center section.

May is chock-full of activities, as well, including vocal and instrumental concerts at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Find the schedule on the

district's website.

Middle school students from Eastern Heights, Westwood and Northwood will shine brightly in three separate productions this spring.

Eastern Heights Middle School Drama Club will perform "The Giver," March 30 and 31 at St. Andrews Church, 300 Third Ave. Tickets are \$5.

Westwood Middle School Drama Club will perform a music revue-style show in May. Date and location to be determined.

Northwood Middle School Drama Club will perform "Annie Jr.," May 6, 7 p.m. at Elyria Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$7.

Stay tuned to PioneerTV on YouTube for highlights and full show performances.

Welcome to your new schools

The Elyria City School District has opened five new school sites since 2020: Ely Elementary School (K-4), Eastern Heights Campus (K-8), Hamilton Elementary (PK-4), Northwood Campus (K-8) and Westwood Campus (K-8).

On Saturday, April 2, these schools will be open for public tours from 9 a.m. until noon. Read more about this on Page 1.

Pictured at right is the main dining area of Ely Elementary School. The colored paths along the floors designate specific grade levels. This is a consistent feature off all new school sites.

Pictured in the bottom right is the grand gathering stair of Northwood Campus.

The gathering staircase is a common element in all of the middle school wings of the campus schools. Students are able to use the wide carpeted stair steps as a seating area. The stairs have built-in charging stations for students' Chromebooks, as well. Teachers also are able to use the space for classes and study halls.

Residents are invited to see these spaces and so much more at 9 a.m. to noon April 2 at the community-wide open houses. Refreshments and fun activities are planned at each site. Hope to see you!



**We're rolling out
the welcome mat!**

PLEASE JOIN US! COMMUNITY-WIDE
OPEN HOUSE EVENT:
APRIL 2, 9 A.M. TO NOON

