

WINTER '20-'21

outreach

"The best preparation
for tomorrow is doing
your best today.."

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
American Author



EA education
alternatives

IMPORTANT DATES

PRESIDENT'S DAY
February 15

END OF QUARTER 3
March 26

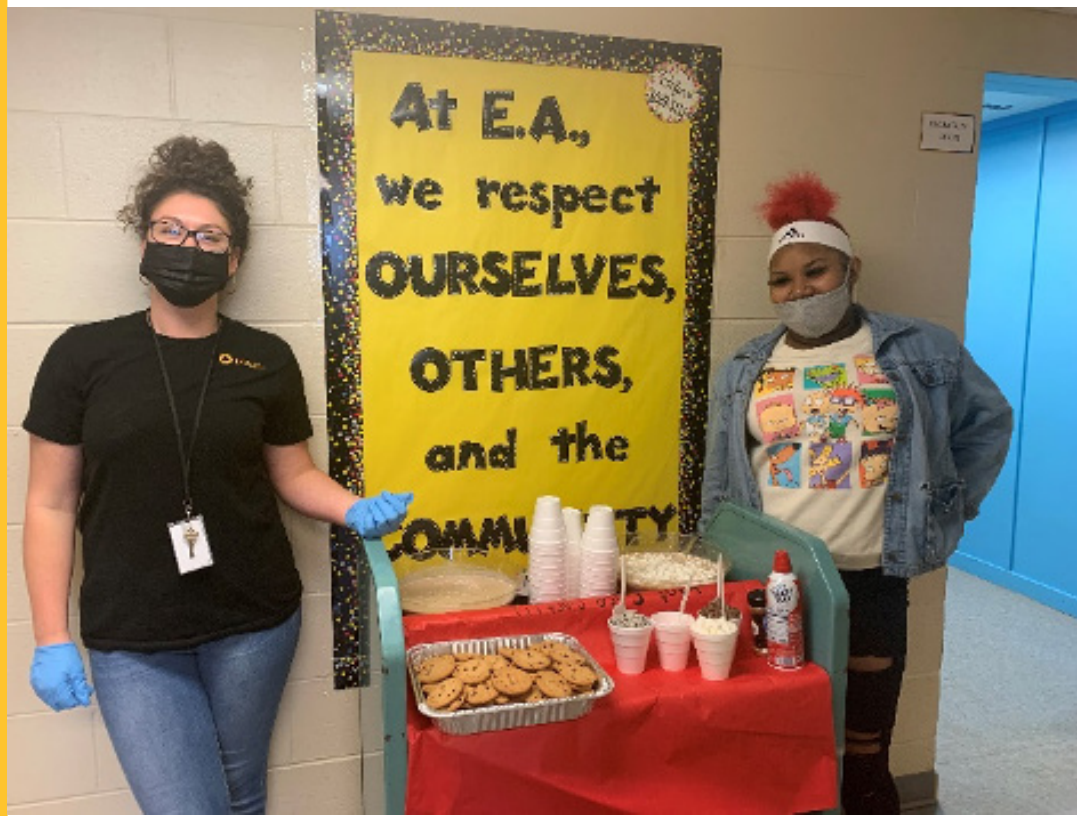
SPRING BREAK
April 5-9

CLASSES RESUME
April 12

Thank you for your support.

Last year, 2020, was an unprecedented year. As educators and mental health professionals, we understand the impact this pandemic has had on our students and their families. We have always valued providing a safe learning environment, and over the years, we incorporated the philosophy of "**safe, predictable and fun**" into everything we do. This year, that philosophy has become even more important.

In the following pages you'll see, even despite a pandemic, social distancing requirements, and mask wearing, our students and staff still learned, laughed and played in 2020. And we are confident that no matter what is going on the world, we can continue to **teach, learn, and support one another** in 2021.

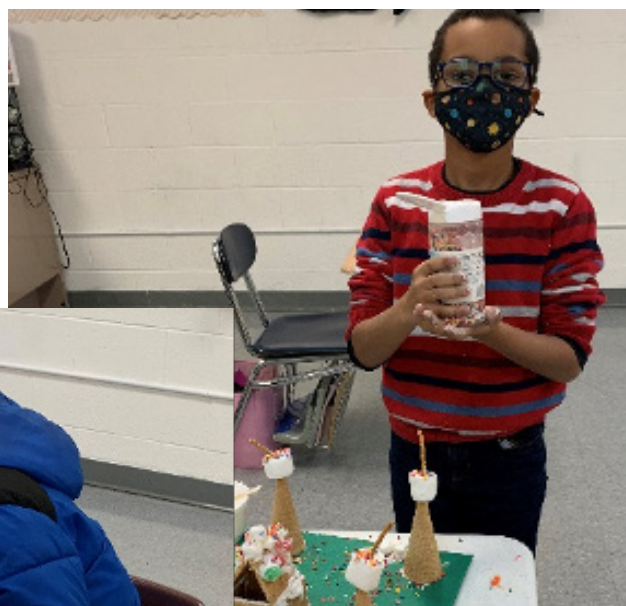


Find us on Facebook for a full list of upcoming events.

What's going on at EA?



Above: Cuyahoga Falls student dresses up to help with holiday gifts.



Above and Center: Cuyahoga Falls students make tasty holiday treats while learning engineering.



Above: Ravenna's remodeled home economics space with new kitchen.



Above: Elyria students pose with a holiday tree.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Group Counseling

Education Alternatives schools are **100% academic and 100% therapeutic**. As part of our mission and promise, we offer daily mental health services in the form of group and individual counseling to all students. Our mental health staff work together with the classroom staff to give space to the students to share with one another, learn coping skills, explore their strengths and struggles, and give each other feedback and support.

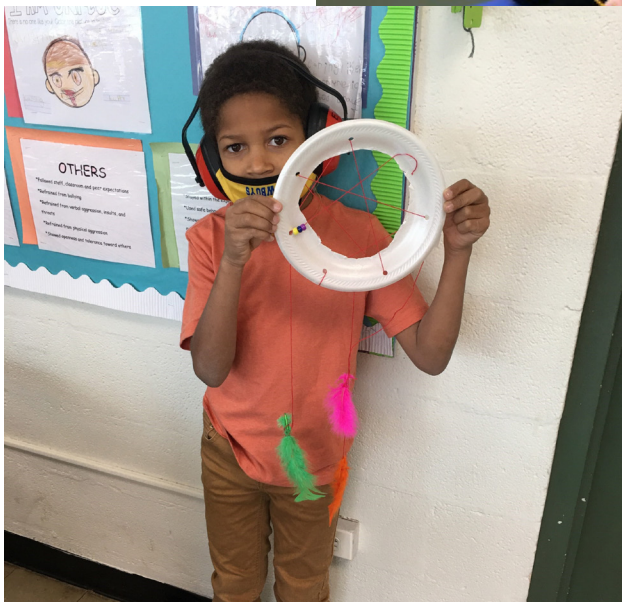
The challenges of 2020 impacted children in many ways - from stress at home to worries about family members' health and more. By committing to providing individualized academic services in a therapeutic environment, in partnership with our sister organization **REACH Behavioral Health**, EA gives students a place to learn, grow and heal. The skills that students learn in our Day Treatment program help them to stay emotionally regulated so that they can learn academically.

To learn more about group counseling or other REACH services, visit reachbh.org.

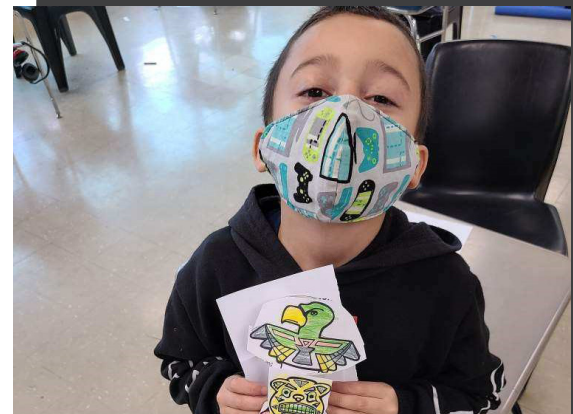


Left: An Elyria reminder to mask for safety - with a Dr. Seuss twist.

Right: An Elyria student learns mindfulness techniques in the sensory space.



Left and right: Brook Park students learn indigenous history during Native American Heritage Month.



What's going on at EA?



Ravenna Home Economics

Life Skills education is an important part of preparing students for independent living. The EA Ravenna campus recently upgraded their home economics space within the Vision Quest program with new appliances and stations to help with a variety of living skills. This space will allow students to practice healthy living and cooking, independent home maintenance, and even commercial kitchen skills.

This life skills program gives students the opportunity to learn by doing, in a hands-on, practical way. A shared space for both Day Treatment and Vision Quest students, the home economics lab bolsters multiple EA services for all ages from our youngest elementary room to life skills and vocational training beyond high school.

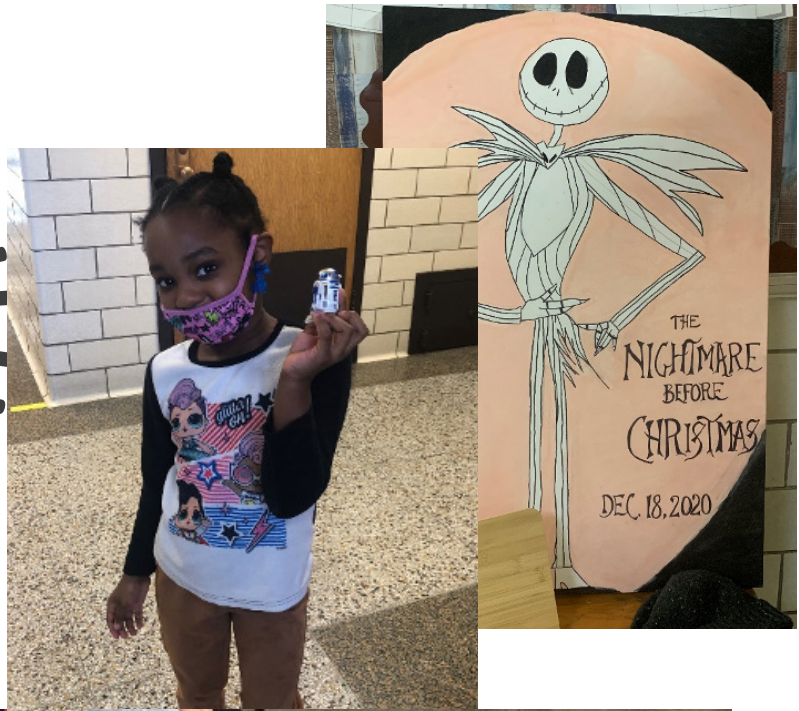
To learn more about Day Treatment, visit easchools.org/day-treatment.

Holiday Giving and Community

For over 20 years, EA has given each student a holiday gift from their wish-list. This celebration is an important part of EA's commitment to making every child feel valued. In COVID times, these celebrations required a little creativity, but the community support was incredible.

Many area businesses, including Akron's Harwick (gifts pictured below), donated gifts to support this tradition. We thank our individual and corporate donors for supporting our students' holiday season! To learn more, go to easchools.org/holiday.

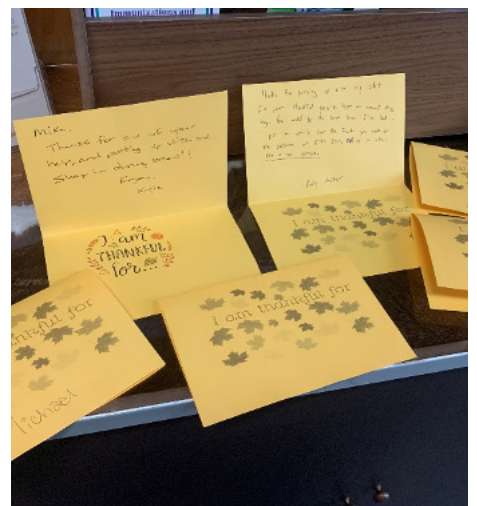




Thank you.

Business donors.

Poncho's Southwestern Grill
Grandpa Joe's Candy Shop
Metropolis Popcorn
Christian James Hair Salon
Saint Mary's - Bedford
The Farmer's Rail
Harwick
Hartville Hardware
Re/Max Pathway Real Estate



DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Montina Preston

In 2020, EA Bedford welcomed our new Building Director, Montina Preston. While new to EA, Ms. Preston has a long history in special education. She began her career as a classroom aide, eventually getting her principal's license.

Special education became personal to Ms. Preston when her daughter benefited from special education services. . "My daughter was struggling academically in school. She was smart, but she was having trouble reading." After identifying that her daughter qualified for special education, Preston became even more committed to providing a positive and collaborative experience for students and parents. She believes she can relate to EA families not only as an administrator but as a fellow parent.

Taking over at Bedford has been a welcome change for Ms. Preston, who looks forward to collaborating with the staff to put her own stamp on the building. With plans for a science lab and other hands-on learning spaces, she looks forward to further developing the curriculum in a way that excites her students. Even with big future plans, her time with students remains at the heart of her love for special education. "I have been teaching over 20 years - I still like to be in the classroom with the kids." And they like spending time with her!

A mother of four and grandmother of three, she enjoys spending time with her family when she's not working. We are pleased to welcome her to EA!





EA education
alternatives

5445 Smith Rd.
Brook Park, OH 44124

LOCATIONS

BEDFORD

270 Union Street
Bedford, OH 44146
440.232.0214

BROOK PARK

5555 Smith Road
Brook Park, OH 44142
216.453.1111

CUYAHOGA FALLS

1225 Orlen Avenue
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
330.945.4944

ELYRIA

333 Naples Drive
Elyria, OH 44035
440.324.1168

PAINESVILLE

273 E. Jackson Street
Painesville, OH 44077
440.709.0053

RAVENNA

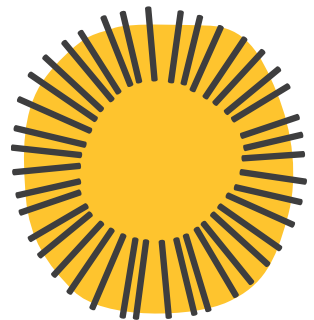
310 Bennett Avenue
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
330.839.9966

SPRINGFIELD

2141 Pickle Rd.
Akron, OH 44312
234.867.8260

WILLOUGHBY HILLS

2882 Cricket Lane
Willoughby Hills, OH 44092
440.347.0716



Education Alternatives is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) that serves children of all ages with emotional and behavioral disabilities through specialized educational and mental health services.

easchools.org