

WINTER '18-19

outreach

"Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I
remember. Involve
me and I learn."

Benjamin Franklin

Politician, Founder, and Visionary



EA education
alternatives

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING QUARTER

January 18

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

January 21

PRESIDENT'S DAY

February 18

RAVENNA OUTREACH NIGHT

February 21

RAVENNA PLAY/ART SHOW

March 14

END OF QUARTER

March 29

It's a New Year.

Winter quarters is a busy and exciting time for EA. The holiday season is about giving and belonging, and we are committed to sharing these values with our eight campus communities. At EA, we know our students face many unique challenges, and we are amazed every day by their bravery, commitment, and perseverance. This winter, we worked hard to recognize their tremendous progress with lots of celebrating! From Thanksgiving feasts to gifts from Santa, every EA campus shared in a little bit of holiday magic. We hope you feel a part of our family and know that you play an important role in everything we do for EA kids. We can't wait to share more of what we've been up to with you, and we hope you'll share your amazing EA moments with us, as well. From all of us at EA, thank you for being a part of what makes our schools great - and Happy New Year!



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



Engaging Creativity.

Creative outlets are an important part of emotional regulation, and studies show they can play a critical role in trauma recovery and de-escalation. EA's campuses offered lots of creative time this winter, from Kent's coloring and decorating contests for the little ones to the beautiful and functional mind-mending pillows students constructed in Willoughby Hills. Cuyahoga Falls and Elyria spent some time on holiday crafts, as well, making and painting cut-out ornaments and gingerbread houses.

While visual arts are a classic example of creativity, Ravenna put a fun spin on a theme by hosting a family outreach night with a decidedly culinary arts angle. Students and their parents made apple pies together, participated in fun book giveaways, and took home some yummy apples to enjoy. Building Director Michael Horning reports that the event increased their sense of community while giving kids and families a chance to relax and have fun. Ravenna's older

students also performed S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* to a packed house before holiday break!

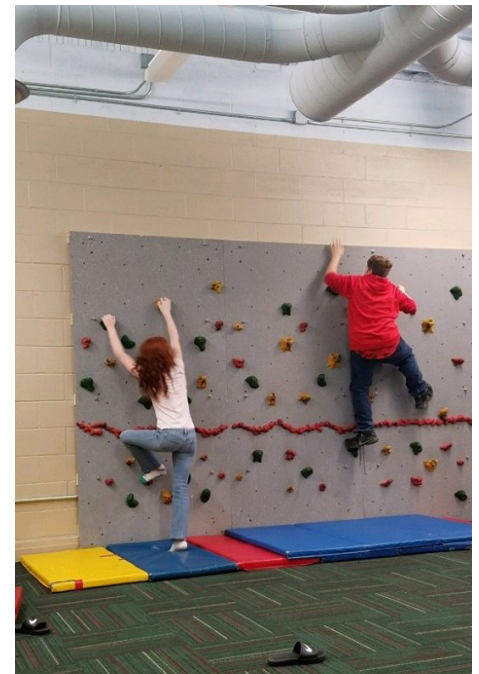
Exploring STEM

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) fields are among the fastest-growing in our 21st century economy. EA schools prepare our students for the future by nurturing a natural curiosity for science, building in lots of fun, curiosity-stoking activities along the way. Kent students flexed their engineering muscles with an "egg drop challenge." Using common household items, students were challenged to construct a device that would protect an egg from breaking on impact. Whether or not their eggs broke, students learned that science is about trying new things and learning from mistakes. Teachers introduced the scientific method and discussed what went well and didn't go so well to help illustrate otherwise abstract physics concepts.

In Bedford, students learned some hands-on biology by dissecting owl pellets to find out what owls eat, how their

environment affects their diet, and what types of things concern area ecologists when they study our biome.

Finally, our Ravenna students are the proud owners of some excellent classroom pets, including a rabbit and some hissing cockroaches! Students learn basic biology as well as some personal responsibility skills involved in keeping them happy, healthy, and fed.



Learning Teamwork

Sports can be much more than a fun diversion – evidence suggests that all students benefit from the opportunity to move more during the day, to function as a team, and play together in safe spaces with support close at hand. EA schools teamed up in more ways than one to make even more activity happen this winter. Some of this time was structured, including a Bedford vs. Willoughby Hills basketball tournament and a Bedford vs. Brook Park soccer game. Some was less so - in Ravenna, students hit the gym for some fitness-focused fun with a life-size version of Hungry, Hungry, Hippos while Painesville students enjoyed 1 hour per week free at their local YMCA. EA schools are committed to giving kids the opportunity to build healthy enjoyment of play while highlighting the important lessons they learn along the way. Go teams!

Interpersonal Skills

Through REACH, EA's Day Treatment programs include more than just academics.

Students have opportunities for group and individual therapy and work hard to develop healthy boundaries, enhanced interpersonal skills, and increased trust (often a challenge for at-risk youth). This winter, Brook Park, Cuyahoga Falls, Bedford, and Willoughby Hills came together to watch *Kicked*, an interactive play about bullying presented by the Cleveland Playhouse. The in-school performance generated an engaging, healthy discussion about empathy, and students enjoyed the opportunity to practice these skills at a group pizza party after the show.

In Cuyahoga Falls, group therapy curriculum included trust exercises that helped bolster students' ability to rely on each other while following directions.

Finally, the EA family is a family in every sense of the word! Building Director Leah Walters brought her infant son to visit the elementary class, who learned basics of infant care and spent time reading him stories to build reading skills and confidence with an adorable audience of one.

EA also provides sensory rooms to help students with emotional regulation and de-escalation as part of day treatment.

RESEARCH SHOWS the importance of sensory rooms for emotional regulation, de-escalation, and focus. In Elyria, the brand-new sensory room features a climbing wall, swings, and an array of special items designed to help students self-soothe when their emotions and stress become overwhelming.

DEEPER DIVE. As an additional step, Elyria built a "firefighter station" with ADDITIONAL sensory items for students who need to de-escalate in an emergency or, importantly, to "rescue" a friend. Brook Park spent some time discussing safe spaces with their students and even built physical representations of safe spaces out of cardboard to help bring the concept to life. Students intuitively got the message about boundaries and how to set healthy ones – emotionally and physically.



What's going on at EA?

Festive Fun.

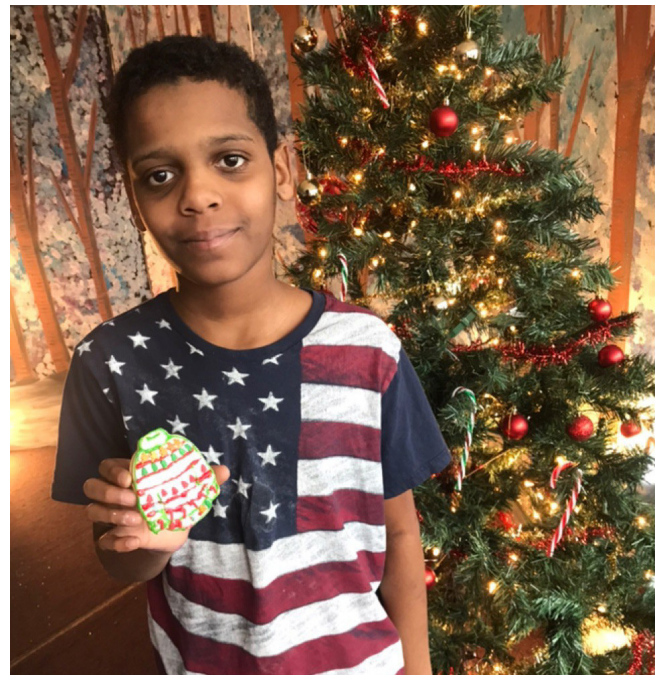
The holiday season packs a lot of fun and excitement – and EA's eight campuses are no exception! Decorations are a big part of the fun, with many classrooms decorating their doors, trimming trees, making ornaments, and hosting fun family nights.



We kicked off the season with a round of Thanksgiving feasts and festive fun! Kent and Cuyahoga Falls students spent some time designing custom gratitude boards to show what they're thankful for, this year. At Brook Park, students built intricate, festive floats to share at a holiday lunch. As part of Thanksgiving, each campus took some time to give back, with Bedford putting together baskets of food for families and students in need and even hand-delivering them to homes! Elyria competed against Brook Park in a canned food drive and, by giving back, everyone felt like a winner. At EA, we partner with our community to make sure our schools enrich the communities we serve as well as accept the generosity of others.

Through December, we added even more excitement for Hanukkah and Christmas. At Kent, students learned about the meaning and traditions of Hanukkah and created themed art projects to share. In later December, each campus prepared for a special visit from Santa with lots of fun build-up, including Willoughby Hills Santa confetti and "Santa Was Here" graffiti, a Ravenna clubhouse classroom stocked with Christmas treats, and a Grinch day complete with green pancakes in Elyria. The final week before break, Santa himself visited every school to take pictures with students and spread holiday cheer! Thanks to our community and individual efforts, all our students receive a special present from Santa directly from their wish list - and a little extra holiday magic for all ages.





Welcome, new friends.

New Students.

Ariga G.
Marchael J.
Desmond M.
Timothy G.
Kylie S.
Colten C.
Kae'Jon M.
Purshja C.
Sha'Kye M.
Ja'Mya F.
Karl J.
DaShawn M.
Brandon F.
Patrick S.
Mar'Key J.
Jesse F.
Nicole M.
Jesse M.
Tyree M,
Kayden S.
Jasmine P.
Levi K.
Randy K.
Brooklyn C.
Aiden L.
Connor W.
Toby G.
Rodell W.
Immanuel C.
Alexis K.
Aden W.
Tre-Sean M.
Zackary D.
Christopher F.
Brandon M.
Jacyn C.
Ryan T.
Joseph W.
Justin M.

Michael G.
Jai-Kai W.
Daevon A.
Santavian S.
Collin O.
DeAngelo S.
Ja'Karrion B.
William S.
Nicole S.
Faith W.
George U.
Isaiah W.
William S.
Vaughn D.
Anthony R.
Makala M.
Holly L.



DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Rockwood

As EA's longest-running Building Director, Cuyahoga Falls' Jennifer Rockwood has mentored a lot of students and teachers over the years. "The most rewarding thing," she says, "is seeing the kids come in and approach the day treatment program with an open mind – and seeing it work! Seeing students be successful, whether they stay in the building or take the steps to reintegrate, is extremely rewarding." Jennifer would know – as a 13-year EA employee, Jennifer has experience in and out of the classroom.

While she misses teaching middle school at the Bedford EA, her true passion is making an impact at the administrative level. "The first thing – coming in as a new Director and being able to gain the staff's respect, to make changes was imperative," she explains, "adding more artwork, definitely using the staff's input on streamlining procedures, and connecting with the students, helped play an important role in building a positive school culture." She adds, "we try to do something fun on a daily basis but the focus is always on academics and the students overall wellbeing."

Jennifer knows that EA makes an impact – because she's seen it, and she believes in working tirelessly to keep improving. From implementing professional development curriculum to hosting a back-to-school football party, Jennifer is committed to giving her all to a job she loves. Her biggest challenge? "There is so much I want to do – and it feels like there's never enough time to do it all!"

When Jennifer's not working, she's putting her love for teaching to use as a group exercise instructor and spending time with her husband and family. We are so thankful to have this amazing mentor and educator on our team!





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

KENT

6662 State Route 43
Kent, OH 44240
330.956.7182

PAINESVILLE

273 E. Jackson Street
Painesville, OH 44077
440.709.0053

RAVENNA

310 Bennett Avenue
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
330.839.9966

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