

December 2025

outreach



EA education alternatives

# Greetings From EA!

As we wrap up the final weeks of 2025, we want to take a moment to share a quick update on what's been happening across EA this season.

Our classrooms have been busy with projects, celebrations, and everyday moments of growth – and we've gathered a few highlights for you in this newsletter.

Gerald Swartz, our Executive Director, also shares a personal message.

And we shine a Spotlight on one of our valued staff members, and what makes EA so special.

A major highlight this year has been the continued expansion of our Autism Program, and we're also proud to share a video that showcases the incredible work and progress happening in our Coral classrooms.

## [SEE VIDEO](#)

As always, thank you to our students, families, district partners, and staff for your continued hard work, trust, and support.

Wishing everyone a wonderful winter break!

**–The EA Schools Team**

## 📅 Important Dates ▼

DECEMBER JANUARY MONDAY - FRIDAY  
**22 - 02** Winter Break

FEBRUARY MONDAY  
**16** President's Day  
(no school)

MARCH APRIL MONDAY - MONDAY  
**30 - 06** Spring Break

For a complete school calendar, check online at [easchools.org/calendar](https://easchools.org/calendar).



# A Note From Our Founder



## Dear Parents, Caregivers, and School District Partners

As we move forward this school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work happening across EA.

For 26 years, EA has remained dedicated to meeting every student exactly where they are – academically, socially, and emotionally. What began as a simple vision to create a school that truly understands and supports each child has grown into eight campuses serving more than 500 students across Northeast Ohio.

Through every step of that growth, our purpose has stayed the same: to open doors for students and help them build skills that last a lifetime.

We are especially excited about the continued expansion of our Autism programs. This year, we've added new classrooms and strengthened our partnerships with districts to ensure students with Autism receive the individualized support they need to thrive.

Watching our students grow – whether through communication breakthroughs, new friendships, or academic progress – is one of the greatest joys of our work.

To our families and district partners: thank you for the trust you place in us. Your support, collaboration, and belief in our mission make everything we do possible.

We look forward to another year filled with growth, connection, and opportunity for every student we serve.

With gratitude and best wishes to all,

**Gerald Swartz**  
*Executive Director*

# What's Been Happening at EA?



♡

There was plenty of fun, "Monster Mash" parties, and some great costumes over Halloween!

➤



Science Focus saw some of us building rubber-band airplanes and robot cars, creating ecosystems, and much more.

⚡





# What's Been Happening at EA?



PawPrints paid a few of us a visit!



We've had fieldtrips, excursions, and cookouts...



# What's Been Happening at EA?



All kinds of projects and activities...



Some excellent artistic creations...



# What's Been Happening at EA?



And best of all – lots of smiles, fun, and connection :)





## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# Brian Perusek

As Building Director at EA Willoughby Hills for the past eight years, Brian Perusek has been instrumental in shaping the positive, supportive, and student-centered environment that makes the school so successful.

Responsible for planning and overseeing the day-to-day functions of the building, he works closely with staff, students, and district partners across the region. But ask him what keeps him motivated, and the answer is simple: the kids.

“The students keep me focused on what is important,” he says. “And I have a great staff I truly enjoy being with every day.”

Brian’s path to EA began in social work, followed by a long career in Juvenile Justice. In those roles, he often worked with schools to design better supports for students – which eventually led him to realise that education was where he wanted to make a difference full-time.

“EA has been the perfect fit, and I’ve never looked back,” he says.

“I think it’s imperative to address children’s needs early – and a positive school environment with supportive staff that fosters relationships is the key.”

Opening the elementary autism classroom at WH has been a major highlight of the year so far. “There’s already been so much positive growth,” he says proudly. “The staff and students are amazing.”

But the holistic approach to all education at EA, and especially the constant focus on mental health, is what he is most proud of. “At EA, our mental-health focus is second to none,” he explains. “It permeates every aspect of the day. Education alone is impactful, but when combined with mental-health services, you see real progress.”

Outside of work, Brian is all about family, and especially his grandkids – “my current passion,” he laughs. A lifelong Northeast Ohio resident, he also jokes that he’s “Browns and the snow belt – not necessarily a winning combination, especially as I hate the cold!”

Looking to the months ahead, Brian is excited to continue supporting the growth of the autism program, getting ABA programming in place, and – hopefully – surviving winter!

When asked what he finds most rewarding about his work, he doesn’t hesitate:

“The small wins on a daily basis – and even better when staff and students see them too.” Please join us in celebrating Brian’s leadership and the impact he makes every day at EA Willoughby Hills.

To learn more about the programs and opportunities available at EA Schools, visit us at [easchools.org](https://easchools.org)



EA education  
alternatives

# LEARNING FOR LIFE

## Alternative Schools in Ohio

### EA Locations

#### **BEDFORD**

270 Union Street  
Bedford, OH 44146  
440-232-0214

#### **BROOK PARK**

5445 Smith Rd, Brook  
Park, OH 44142  
216-453-1111

#### **CUYAHOGA FALLS**

1225 Orlen Ave,  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH  
44221  
330-945-4944

#### **ELYRIA**

333 Naples Dr, Elyria,  
OH 44035  
440-324-1168

#### **CENTRAL OFFICE**

5445 Smith Road,  
Brook Park, OH 44142  
216-332-9360

#### **PAINESVILLE**

273 E Jackson St,  
Painesville, OH  
44077  
440-709-0053

#### **RAVENNA**

310 Bennett Ave,  
Ravenna, OH 44266  
330-839-9966

#### **AKRON/ SPRINGFIELD**

3258 Nidover Dr,  
Akron, OH 44312  
234-867-8260

#### **WILLOUGHBY HILLS**

2882 Cricket Ln,  
Willoughby Hills, OH  
44092  
440-347-0716

### Reach Locations

#### **ELYRIA**

992 N Abbe Rd N,  
Elyria, OH 44035  
440-406-5323

#### **RAVENNA**

507 E Main Street  
Ravenna, OH 44266  
330-967-2846

#### **WESTPARK**

3951 Rocky River Dr,  
Cleveland, OH 44111  
216-675-6360

#### **WESTLAKE**

25000 Center Ridge  
Rd, Westlake,  
OH 44145  
440-788-2948

#### **AKRON/SPRINGFIELD**

2410 Massillon Rd.  
Akron, OH 44312  
330-269-5492

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.

[enrollment@easchools.org](mailto:enrollment@easchools.org) • [easchools.org/locations/](https://easchools.org/locations/)