



Circleville City School Foundation RoundAbout



“Enriching Educational Opportunities”

“Kids will be kids,” but students attending summer program on OCU campus often uncover stepping-stones for what’s next.

Keeping with a tradition of funding scholarships for eligible students, the Circleville City School Foundation (CCSF) continued providing funds for the 2015 edition of the popular ‘Kids on Campus’ program held at Ohio Christian University. This year the Foundation opened the doors for 20 children in grades 1-4 to attend.

Organized through Pickaway County H.E.L.P.S. (Higher Education Learning Partners for Students) and coordinated by Executive Director Christy Mills, ‘Kids on Campus’ is a summer enrichment program designed to provide students with an early awareness of STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and math). Beginning last year, visual arts were added to the schedule and it has proven to be a popular addition. Now in its ninth year, the program also receives support and assistance from Pittsburgh Plate Glass and Ohio Christian University. And with teachers from local area schools the program is a county and community-based success story.

“Our mission is to ‘Enrich Educational Opportunities,’” explained Clare Hall, past chair of the CCSF Mini Grants and Scholarships Committee. “The ‘Kids on Campus’ program aligns perfectly with our intent – we simply want to open doors for school success throughout, and on every level possible, the district.” Hall, who recently completed her final term on the CCSF board noted that the ‘Kids on Campus’ program has proven to be “a valuable experience for children still in their early phases of learning, especially as these subjects become more interwoven in our daily lives.” Enrollment for this year reached 243, an all-time high – the program began its first year with just 19.



Feedback from those attending has always been among the best rewards from programs like ‘Kids on Campus’, noted Mollie Hedges, CSSF Chair and a retired teacher herself. “Super fun!” is (thankfully) a common reaction but one student said that he had felt “... like a smart teenager” after attending the weeklong session. Those are good endorsements, among many, by young participants.”

CCSF plans to continue working with Pickaway H.E.L.P.S., OCU, and PPG Industries to offer opportunities for local students to attend the 2016 weeklong ‘Kids on Campus’.

Robotics Set to “Take Off” in 2015-2016 School Year

Before even completing the first year of the new Robotics course at Circleville High School, teacher Josh Thomas had to ‘readjust’ the dials some. Midway through and preparing his students for the school’s first participation in the National Robotics Challenge, things changed. The ‘seed money’ provided by the Circleville City School Foundation (CCSF) had sprouted – and a technology award from PPG coupled with an anonymous donation by a local family meant he could imagine starships instead of just Model-Ts.

“The initial start-up funds from the Foundation were critically important. But the continuing interest and support from a local manufacturing plant and from two generous donors makes the program’s potential more far-reaching. We can now see well beyond Lego robotics kits and the mastery and building of limited-use autonomous vehicles. In some ways we can reach for the stars,” Thomas explained.

CCSF made the initial robotics course investment, of a three-year step down grant of \$9,000, a little more than a year ago. Today, CHS and the district are well underway to expanding what can be offered, due in great measure to an interested plant manager and a couple who stepped forward with a donation extending out for five years. Those supporting funds alone will exceed the Foundation’s initial award several times over.

The first year was well received and focus was centered around an inaugural class of 17 students who were not only high interested but had shown their analytical skills in their previous science and math courses. Now, just as the second year begins, much more is on the way. Thomas envisions Robotics I, II, and III courses and a middle-school introductory engineering course, an important basis for successful robotic ‘architecture.’ Thomas explained, “Selection of the students for that class will require some early math and science success indicators but also an obvious passion for technology.”

But robotics reaches beyond the courses now being written and prepared. Principal Chris Thornsley notes that it extends well beyond just the students in the classes. “We see an academic vitality building among the entire student-body,” he noted. “There is a sense of pride and ownership in what those robotics students can do and what they may achieve. We are seeing a growth of interest in our sciences, math, and technology courses. Students can relate to robotics in ways we might never have considered,” he added.

And the starship envisioned by Thomas? Look for next year’s classes to launch some drones – designed, programmed and flown by CHS robotics students. Drones are already in demand for the military and security services as well as the agricultural, manufacturing and energy industries. They are also widely used for sports events, news programs, entertainment productions and travel venues.

“Adding this course offers students a chance to soar. We are thankful that the Foundation was ready to help it get off the ground,” he added.



Popular ‘Raise Your Paw Auction’ Slated for February 27th

Again in 2016, CSSF will sponsor its annual auction to raise funds for programs, scholarships, and grants. The third edition of the auction is bound to incite purchases, generate laughter, and tingle taste buds with good food and drink. This coming year’s venue will again be at AMVETS on Tarlton Road with auction lots provided by many local businesses and community members. Art, getaways, jewelry, crafts, sports memorabilia, special gift baskets, and even catered dinners (among other auction lots) will be on tap for the evening of bidding fun. Be sure and mark your calendar for one of the top community outings of the year.



Mark your calendar for the 3rd Annual Circleville City School Foundation auction, ‘Raise Your Paw,’ on **Saturday, February 27, 2015 at AMVETS on Tarlton Rd.**

If you would like to donate an auction item for the event please contact Patty Truex (pattytruex@yahoo.com).

CHS Art Class Visits Columbus Museum of Art



Circleville High School Art Club members and their advisor, CHS art teacher Robert Wright, spent a day at the Columbus Museum of Art (CMA) last October thanks to an art enrichment initiative sponsored by Circleville City School Foundation's Gasper Learning Fund. During the 2014-15 school year CMA's educational program theme was "Sleuth". The students were invited to observe, describe, interpret and look for proof in the artwork on display as part of their tour through the museum.

CMA opened its studio to the students for some "hands on" opportunities. Working in groups of two to four students, they collaborated on creating pumpkin characters. The parameters of their creation were that it had to relate to a fairy tale, incorporate one medium and one small pumpkin and utilize an assortment of odds and ends (wire, duct tape, foil, skewers, markers) made available to them. Students entered their whimsical creations in the arts and crafts division during the 2014 Pumpkin Show.

In past years CCSF has sponsored elementary school trips to CMA and will return to this tradition with another visit by elementary students this fall. Introducing students to the world of creative arts through the Columbus Museum of Art experience continues to be one of Circleville City School Foundation's goals.

2014 Scholarship Recipients



The Circleville City School Foundation presented three "Make a Difference" Scholarships this spring, with each recipient awarded \$2,000.00 for the upcoming school year.

Allison Maynard, (CHS '13, *Top*) is pursuing a double major in Animal Behavior, Conservation, Ecology, and Digital Media Arts at Canisius College in New York. **Dakota Dowden**, (CHS '13, *Middle*) is studying Early Childhood Education, with a focus on special needs education at Ohio University Chillicothe. **Kayla Theis**, (CHS '11, *Bottom*) graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA degree from The Ohio State University and has been accepted into a Masters program at OSU in Integrated Language Arts.

The "Make a Difference Scholarship" was established to encourage the pursuit of a post-secondary degree, certification, or license for a Circleville High School graduate from the previous school year or earlier.



CHS STUDENTS' TRAVEL TO LAKE ERIE'S STONE LAB

For the third consecutive year, the CCSF sponsored a field trip to Stone Lab on Gibraltar Island on Lake Erie. Fifteen students and two science teachers participated in a two-day adventure studying fish dissection and classification, macro and micro invertebrates, herpetology, ornithology and island geology. The "hands-on" experience promotes future studies and career paths in the sciences. (Pictured - Right)



For more photos from these events visit CirclevilleCitySchoolFoundation.org and follow us on Facebook.

We have the perfect gift idea for your family, friends, birthdays or Christmas... notecards adorned with original artwork by Circleville City School students in grades K-12.

A package of 10 note cards sells for \$18.



Questions??? Email molliehedges52@gmail.com or ebranham906@hotmail.com.

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CCSF Funds Chromebooks for Circleville Students



Schools are among the biggest users of Google's popular Chromebooks – these small, highly portable laptops are designed to interface conveniently with the internet and use the resources of the 'cloud' for programming, searches, and formatting. Sound a little far out for you? Well, for some 5th grade school students in Circleville, using Chromebooks will become part of everyday classroom activities, thanks to the Foundation's recent grant.

This school year 25 new Chromebooks are already being used regularly by 5th graders attending the Circleville Elementary School – and the activity will help prepare them for middle school, where beginning in the 6th grade there is now a one-for-one ratio of students and computers. The fifth graders will not only have more computer training but substantially more quality time to conduct rudimentary research, practice tests, work on classroom projects, prepare presentations and write reports. The purchase, made possible by the largest single program grant awarded by the Circleville City School Foundation (CCSF), allows the students more individual time to explore technology and more opportunities to absorb the capabilities of computer technology.

"These additional computers will be extremely valuable in getting students comfortable with technology and how it can be used. They will help us bridge the differences between elementary school and middle school," explained Intermediate Elementary Principal Karen Bullock.

Fifth grade teacher Tami Clark, who was instrumental in submitting the grant application to the Educational Projects and Grants Committee, stated that fifth grade teachers "would like to move to a STEM-based (science, technology, engineering, and math) curriculum." She noted that with the addition of the new Chromebooks that "a culminating activity or performance-based activity" would be possible as well as practical for the fifth grade students.

In addition to enriching the students educational experiences (and personal capabilities), Clark added that "computers would assist the school in monitoring progress of individual students and help identify students who may need additional instruction or help."

There are approximately 161 fifth graders enrolled for the 2015-2016 academic year. Additional Chromebooks will provide substantially more time for each student to learn more about the capabilities of a computer. "This will carry us into the future and ensure that the students are comfortable with the technology that they need to succeed in school and beyond the classroom," offered Bullock. "It will touch all the students in the fifth grade," she added.