



New Heights Educational Group
Educational Resources to Help You Reach Your Goals

Monthly Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 4

April 2016

New Heights Educational Group, Inc.

Monthly Points of Interest

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My Autistic Son is Reading me the book he wrote

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Big Issues that Worry Parents Today!

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Spring Photo Essay by Shirley Li

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How You Can Help NHEG

=====

Driving With ADHD

=====

Got an A in Algebra...That's Worth \$120

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Strawberry Pretzel Dessert

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Our Mission Statement

The New Heights Educational Group Inc. supports literacy for children and adults by offering a range of educational support services. Such services include assisting families in their selection of schools, organization of educational activities, and acquisition of materials. We promote a healthy learning environment and offer Enrichment programs for families of preschool and school age children, including children with special needs.

New Heights Educational Group, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization located in Defiance, Ohio. We provide educational support services beginning 2006 for families in Ohio to bridge the gap from inadequacies in home school, charter school, and public school systems.



April 2016

Goals are only reached through dedication and hard work.

Pamela



ON MY MIND

Pamela Clark



Ever Dream of having you own Radio Show

New Heights Educational Group is a Resource and Literacy Center based in Defiance, Ohio. We share a concern with families having access to information for those with special needs, including the topic of Autism.

We offer live internet radio shows to discuss various educational topics and we are looking for a VOLUNTEER to host a half-hour radio show on special needs once a week. We would give the necessary training and the volunteer can choose the time of the show on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday. This show would keep all listeners up to date on anything to do with Autism and other special needs. This will include discoveries in medical fields. Anyone interested in applying please email us at NewHeightsEducation@yahoo.com or call 419-786-0247 for more info.

You can learn more about us by visiting our website www.NewHeightsEducation.org



[Please support our library and](#)

[satellite office at:](#)

gofundme.com/9z4paprw



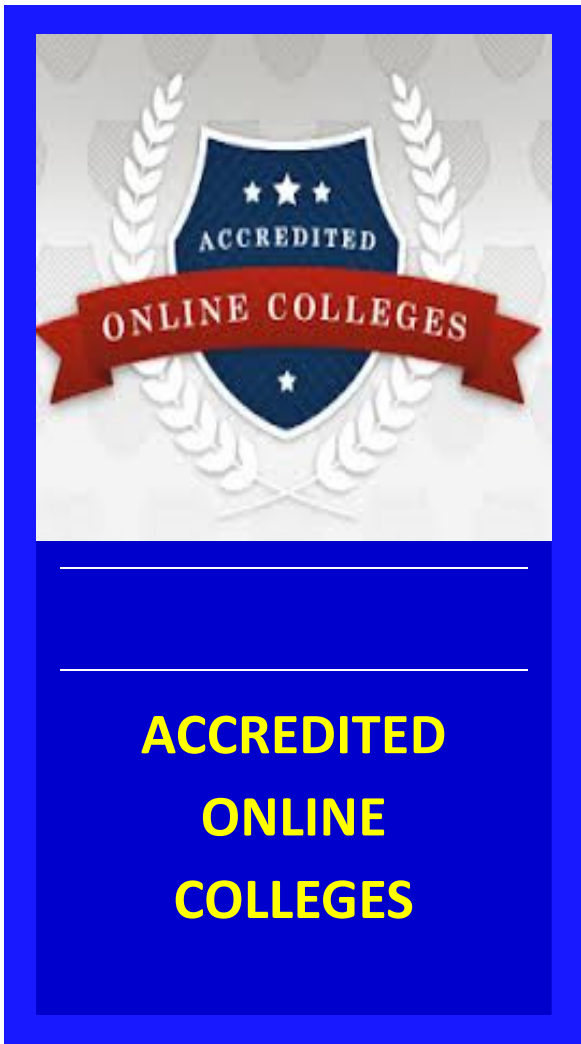
The New Heights Show on Education

Internet radio program

Join Shannon Williamson



As she shares a new story each week on this pre-recorded show



Here at AccreditedOnlineColleges.com, we recently published our 2016 College Resources for Students with Disabilities. In the course of our research, we found that most students with disabilities were not aware of all the grants, scholarships, and education resources that are available to them. So we decided to create a user-friendly guide that explores rights and protection provided by law, the many different education opportunities, as well as in-depth grants and scholarship programs designed specifically to support higher education. We hope our guide will not only answer common questions, but make it easier for those living with disabilities to leverage the educational benefits.

You can see the entire guide along with some of its features here:

<http://www.accreditedonlinecolleges.org/resources/accredited-online-colleges-and-disability-education/>





THE PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE ADULT FITNESS TEST



Are you above the rest?
Take the test.

[Learn More>>](#)

Track Your Progress and Earn Awards It's easy and fun to earn the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA+). All it takes is a commitment to being active and eating healthier for 6 out of 8 weeks. You can choose all kinds of activities to meet this goal—gardening, walking, playing sports, running, yoga, bicycling, and more—all while fueling your body with nutritious foods. Stick with the program and you'll earn an award in less than two months. Track your progress along the way using our free personal activity log. You can access it online after you create an account. Keep track of your physical education hours and earn recognition from the president.

<https://www.presidentschallenge.org/>

Create your account and choose our group NHEG1
Group ID NUMBER 14959



Here's How It Works

K
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Kids and teens (between 6 and 17 years old): Physical activity. Be active 60 minutes a day, at least 5 days a week, for 6 out of 8 weeks. Or you can walk 12,000 steps a day. You can use a pedometer to count your steps. Healthy Eating. To start, choose one of the 8 healthy eating goals to focus on. Each week, add a new goal while continuing with all previous goals. After 6 weeks, eating Healthier will be part of your routine.

Adults : Physical Activity. Be active 30 minutes a day, at least 5 days a week, for 6 out of 8 weeks. Or you can walk 8,500 steps a day. You can use a pedometer to count your steps. Healthy Eating. To start, choose one of the 8 healthy eating goals to focus on. Each week, add a new goal while continuing with all previous goals. After 6 weeks, eating healthier will be part of your routine.

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Greetings

This year, our HR Department will be sending out birthday cards and seasonal cards. All cards have been designed by Marina Klimi from Patras, Greece. We are thankful for her beautiful designs and dedicated service. Marina has been with us since August 2013. Thank You Marina!



The New Heights Show on Education

LIVE Internet radio program

Join Host Briana Dincher

Friday 12:30pm - 1:00pm EST



As she explores a new topic on education every week

NHEG Volunteers of the Month

NHEG's Volunteer of the Month program recognizes the dedication and work of some of our most active volunteers. NHEG relies on volunteers to help with our education programs, our special events, public outreach, and other activities that help fulfill our mission of supporting literacy for children and adults by offering a range of educational support services. Contact us to learn more about volunteering.

This month we recognize a special group of volunteers: those that have gone above and beyond what is needed in their everyday duties. NHEG is an all-volunteer organization. We have volunteers from all around the world!

Special thanks to Kailyn, Cuyler, and Kathryn Spangler for volunteering as models in demonstrating Brain Gym exercises for our upcoming to be released book "Unraveling Reading".

Bill Naugle	Brittany Brzezinski	Pamela Unruh
Shirley Li	Jiawei Chen	Arianie McGee
Jyoti Dave	Samuel Custer	Lisa Schroder
Sheila Wright	Vanh Vue	Briana Dincher
Kevin Adusei	Robert Hall	
Dr Marina Kamenetskiy	Faranak Aghdasi	
Brian Steinberg	Daniela Silva	
Marina Klimi	Khrista Cendana	
Brad Williams	Geetha Lingasamy	
Fatema Chinikamwala	Tanushree Tiwari	

March
2016

Volunteers
are just ordinary people
with extraordinary
hearts.

They offer the
gift of their time
to teach, to listen,
to help, to inspire,
to build, to grow,
to learn.

They expect no pay,
yet the value of their
work knows no limit...

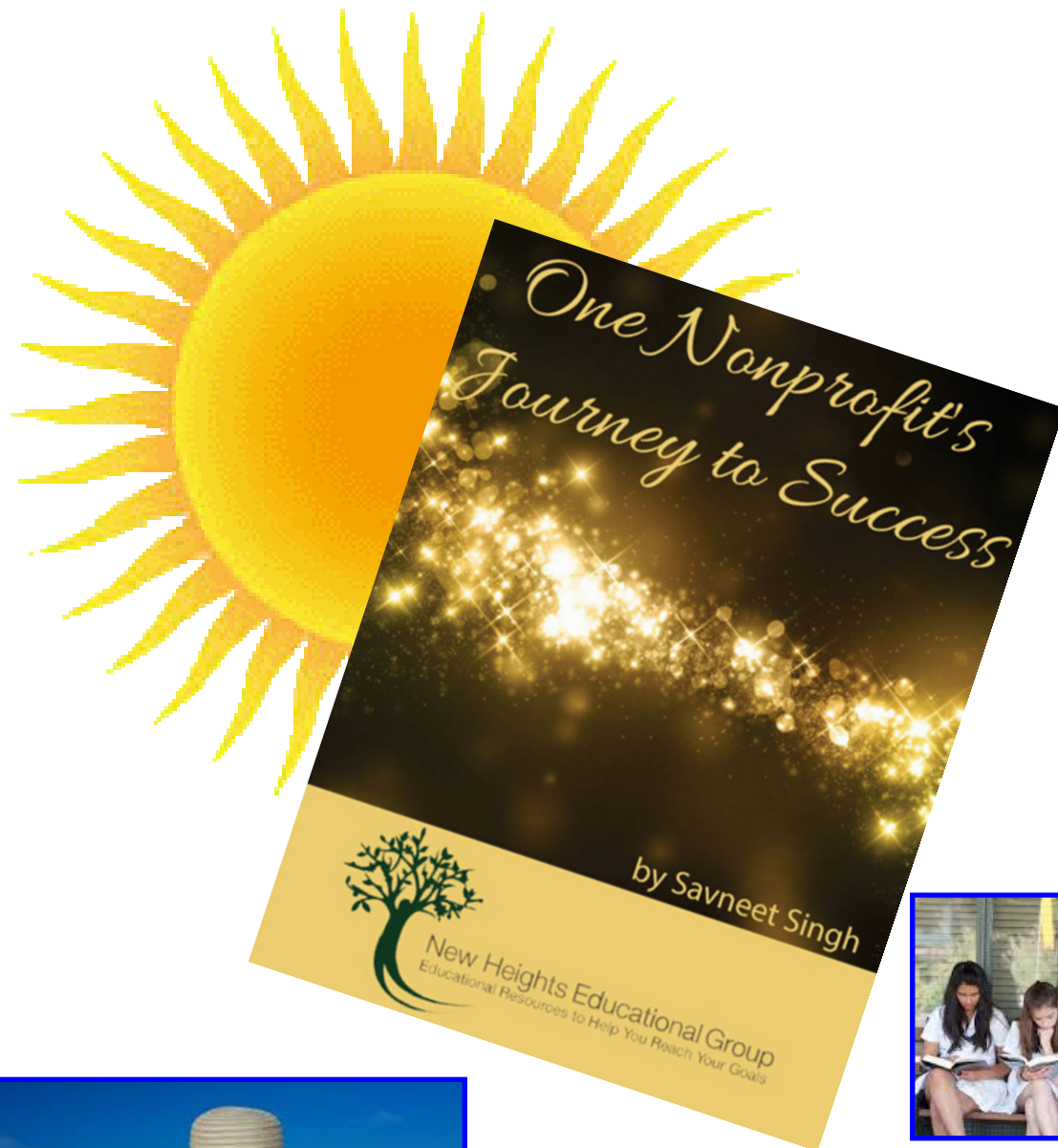
They've known the
unexpected joy
of a simple hug.

They've planted tiny
seeds of love
in countless lives.

Volunteers
are just ordinary people
who reach out
and take a hand
and together
make a difference
that lasts a lifetime.



It's not too early to get your Spring and Summer reading lists ready !!!



And we have the perfect book !!!



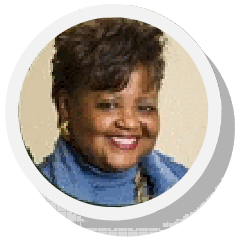
Book review:

I finished reading this book in a few hours.

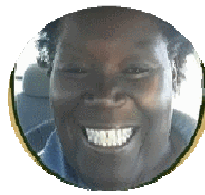
Even though in the beginning it was describing the set-up of the NHEG, the way it was written made it very interesting.

I have worked as a volunteer with Pamela for more than two years. I had not understood clearly the scope of the organization. With this book I had a detailed insight and realize how important the work of New Heights is.

Pamela, thank you for the nice reading journey. Wish you all the best. Marina Klimi



Charlotte McGuire



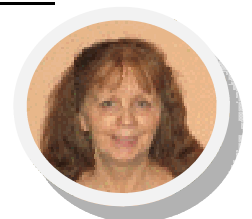
Priscilena Shearon



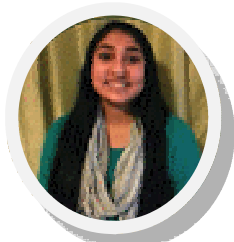
Maria Ortiz



Briana Dincher



Kathy Woodring



Sadia Ejaz



Kaden Behan



Pamela Clark



Shannon Williams



The Voices of *NHEG*

2016 Clean Tech Competition
Challenge your students to “Make an Impact”
Win up to \$10,000!
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



Registration is now open for the 2016 Clean Tech Competition, a global research and design challenge for 15-18 year old students. This year’s challenge is to “**Make an Impact**”.

This educational opportunity challenges students to develop innovative, **clean technology solutions to real-world issues**. Solutions may take on aspects of plastics or the need for cheap, clean energy. Student participants will gain experience with focused research, critical thinking, and the scientific process – making it a great **project based learning opportunity**.

There is **no entry fee**, and students can participate through school, extracurricular programs, or on their own. The 1st Place Team will **win \$10,000** and the Finalist Event will be held on a cruise from Miami, Florida, USA to the Dominican Republic, when Finalist Teams will meet to explore fun and educational activities, present to a live panel of judges, and network with industry professionals. **Should your team make the final, there is only the cost of getting to Miami—your cruise will be paid for!**

There is no limit to the number of Teams per organization – so **spread the word!** Each stage of the competition is designed to be a rewarding process, and more student participation means inspiring more young scientists to help build a better future for our planet.

And there is something for the teachers of the schools and those teachers who are team leaders! This year’s Clean Tech Competition happens on board Fathom’s Cruise Ship **Adonia**, where there will be **opportunities for professional development** with workshops that include: Project based learning, Hands-on science activity ideas and demonstrations, Dinosaurs, Weather, STEM questioning techniques, Earth Science, Endangered species, and much more! This opportunity for an **educational cruise is open for teachers of any age or grade or Education Professors**. So spread the word to any teachers and Education Professors you know. We want them and you there too!

Learn more and register at:
www.CleanTechCompetition.org



Labels for Education

We have some sad news. In the past few years, participation in *Labels for Education*® has declined. As a result, Campbell has come to the very difficult decision to wind down the LFE program. The good news is nothing changes this program year. There will be changes for next year's program starting August 1, 2016. We will continue to support American kids through our *Grand Stand for Schools*™ sweepstakes and

our community efforts, which we annually contribute \$70 million in food and funding to tackle obesity and hunger amongst our country's most vulnerable families.



HomeSchool Fair

Northwest Ohio/Southwest Michigan Homeschool Fair

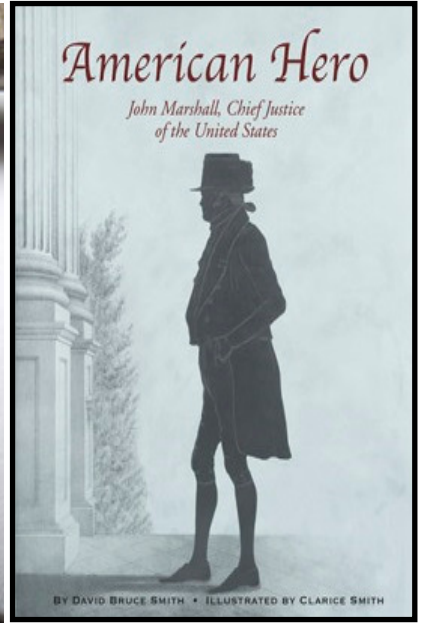
Saturday, April 23, 2016

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Toledo Christian School White Center

2303 Brookford Drive, Toledo, Ohio, off the Anthony





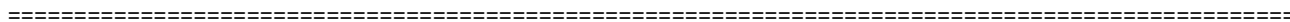
John Marshall was a good son, a kind older brother, a loving father and husband, and a dear friend to many. He was a soldier for the Revolutionary Army, a successful lawyer, a congressman, and Secretary of State. Most importantly, he was Chief Justice of the United States. As Chief Justice, John Marshall made the Supreme Court the strong and powerful body it is today. Richly illustrated in graphite and watercolor, “American Hero” tells the life story of the founding father history almost forgot—John Marshall, the Great Chief Justice.

The book is for sale online from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [DBS Publications](#) and the publisher [Belle Isle Books](#).

[REVIEWS for “JOHN MARSHALL, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES”](#)

“John Marshall reveals a great man and a great judge who was a warm and admirable human being. It is a book young readers will enjoy — and so will their parents.”

[Thomas Fleming](#), Author of “First in Their Hearts: A Life of George Washington”



“With their evocative words and pictures, David Bruce Smith and Clarice Smith recount the story of a great American life and bring the past alive on the page. This is a book for children and parents to enjoy – and to learn from – together.”

[Adam Goodheart](#), Author of “1861: The Civil War Awakening”



“This is a fascinating tale of a boy growing up in the late 18th century, a beautifully illustrated celebration of the joy of a life with few amenities and no modern luxuries. David Bruce Smith’s captivating story-telling ability and Clarice Smith’s wonderful paintings lovingly capture the flavor of the life and the story of children in that period. Young readers will delight in the cunning way young John spends his time, triggering questions about the roles of important figures in American history. This is a perfect book for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-graders. It is a perfect teacher’s tool for teaching about and preparing for President’s Day, a Presidential Election, and the concept of democracy, as it captures the critical notion of the separation of powers and the role of the judiciary. Through vivid descriptions and outstanding drawings, this authentic portrayal of late 18th century life will allow young readers to relate to the story through their own lives.” **David**

[O. Stewart](#) Author of “The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution”

When My Son With Autism Read Me the Book He's Writing



By Kathy Tyson

For the longest time, my youngest son said that when he grew up, he was going to be a cheetah. Then, after enough people told him it wasn't possible, he changed it: "Fine, I'll be a scientist who turns myself into a cheetah." That persisted until his older brother politely asked him to stop telling people that because it was "kind of embarrassing." His alternative of becoming Pikachu from Pokemon, however, didn't sit much better with his big brother.

Interestingly enough, once everyone stopped asking him what he wanted to be or telling him what he couldn't be, he boldly informed us that he was going to be a famous author. I tried to hide my excitement about this since I clearly have a bias about this creative path. My first attempt at writing a book, "Ralph and the Talking Wheelchair," was in the second grade. With its floral, Joann Fabric cover, it now sits with the rest of my unpublished efforts in a small bin in my attic.

To my surprise, I woke up the other morning and saw a light shining from beneath my son's bedroom door. Typically, he sneaks downstairs quietly to get his gigantic bowl of goldfish and starts playing his iPad before we can begin monitoring his screen time, or he startles us awake when he chooses to blare SpongeBob SquarePants from the TV at 6 a.m. So, I tiptoed down the hall as the sun was just peeking over the hillside, and I peered through his doorway to see him sitting at his desk. He was writing. He must have felt someone staring at him, and he turned to me and said, "Oh, hi, Mom, I am on my next chapter. Do you want to hear it?"

Holding back tears, I replied, "Of course, tell me." As my big 8-year-old boy proudly tried to read his words back to me, I could still see the little boy who used to pull and drag me to everything he wanted because he couldn't get his words out. He started therapy when he was 20 months old, and he was diagnosed with autism a few months later. Language has been an issue from the very beginning, yet here he was sitting at his desk, writing stories. Even though he had trouble reading the words he had written about his Minecraft adventure story, it didn't matter. He was writing words on a page. He was drawing intricate pictures on paper, the same pictures I know play on repeat on the reel in his mind. My boy, the same boy who shouted, screamed, and banged his head to communicate, was now sharing his inner world with me and anyone who would want to read his book.

For years, I sat at a table and held up one picture card at a time, "What is it? *Pause* What is it – ball? *Pause* What is it?" He would hopefully repeat, "Ball." Word by word, he learned language discretely. During all the years sitting at our little table working with our stack of cards, I tried not to look backwards and ask, "Why?" I tried not to look forward and wonder, "What if..." or "Will he?" I tried to live in a day, working with one goal and one word at a time. That approach brought me to his doorway, watching him write his first book. Despite my unwavering belief in him, I must admit that I assumed he would never find joy in things he had trouble with. Clearly, he is my teacher.



His perseverance and his hard work prove that any of us can find joy in places we might have never thought possible. Who knows, maybe he will publish a book about the scientist who turns the boy into a cheetah.

P.S.B.B.

To be a volunteer, it takes...

Generosity, a willingness to give your time to others

Understanding, because their lives might be very different from your own

Empathy, an ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes and feel what they must feel

Compassion, to truly care about making someone else's life better

Patience, because the process doesn't always go as smoothly as it might

Dedication, to stick with the project and see it through

You've shown these qualities and so

VOLUNTEERING: THE HEART OF AMERICA

64.5 million people over the age of 16 volunteer each year.

NHEG RULES

A Most



felt
THANKS!

Volunteers are love in motion.

- Author Unknown



Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are PRICELESS!

CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERS!

giving the gift of time to improve our community

National Volunteer Week



A Recipe Selected Just for You

(In honor of pretzel day)

Strawberry Pretzel Dessert Recipe



Ingredients

- 2 cups crushed pretzels (about 8 ounces)
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons sugar



FILLING:

- 2 cups whipped topping
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar

TOPPING:

- 2 packages (3 ounces each) strawberry gelatin
 - 2 cups boiling water
 - 2 packages (16 ounces each) frozen sweetened sliced strawberries, thawed
- Additional whipped topping, optional



Directions

1. In a bowl, combine the pretzels, butter and sugar. Press into an ungreased 13x9-in. baking dish. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.
2. For filling, in a small bowl, beat whipped topping, cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Spread over pretzel crust. Refrigerate until chilled.

*For topping, dissolve gelatin in boiling water in a large bowl. Stir in strawberries with syrup; chill until partially set. Carefully spoon over filling. Chill for 4-6 hours or until firm. Cut into squares; serve with whipped topping if desired. **Yield:** 12-16 servings.*



Ranked: The Big Issues That Worry Parents Today

It used to be that when parents worried about their kids' health, it was mostly about things like smoking and teen pregnancy. But these days, digital safety issues have left those problems in the dust. Parents now rank internet safety as the fourth-biggest childhood health threat they worry about, according to the 2015 C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll, an annual **survey**, released on August 10.

Sexting is another major concern. Finding out that their kids shared naked or suggestive images of themselves with others online — or having their children's private photos become public against their wishes — ranked as parents' sixth-biggest worry. (Last year, sexting was ranked 13th.)

Childhood obesity, bullying, and drug abuse were the top three parental concerns, the survey reported. Child abuse came in fifth, and smoking, school violence, teen pregnancy, and stress rounding out the top 10.

Teen Texting

"The increasing level of concern about internet safety and sexting that are now ranked even higher than smoking as major childhood health issues really dominates the story this year," poll director Dr. Matthew Davis, a professor of pediatrics and internal medicine in the child health evaluation and research unit at the University of Michigan Medical School, said in a news release.

The results suggest that parents feel they are on shaky ground when it comes to understanding digital threats and knowing what their kids are doing online. "Parents are dumbfounded to hear that their child has been bullied online or is involved in bullying someone else," **Parry Aftab**, a digital privacy and security lawyer and founder of Stop Cyberbullying, tells Yahoo Parenting. "And they're clueless about sexting."

But you don't have to be digitally savvy to help keep your kids safe online, says Aftab. Protect them with these ground rules all kids, tweens, and young teens should follow.

Teach them to never post personal information. Addresses, phone numbers, school names, family members' phone numbers — having these out there on the internet in any way can jeopardize a child's safety, says Aftab, because child predators and other types of creeps look for this information.

Keep them off social media until age 13. Under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule, social media companies don't allow kids younger than 13 to sign up for accounts, and it's smart to obey that rule, says Aftab.

Ranked: The Big Issues That Worry Parents Today

(Continued)

Make sure all privacy settings are used. When your children are old enough to join Instagram or Facebook, don't just ask them if they've set the privacy controls to the highest level; have them show you on all their social media accounts, says Aftab.

Remind kids not to share passwords. "A password is a powerful weapon, allowing someone to get into your child's accounts and impersonate him or her," says Aftab, who says that surveys show 70 percent of kids give their passwords to their friends, not realizing how damaging that can be.

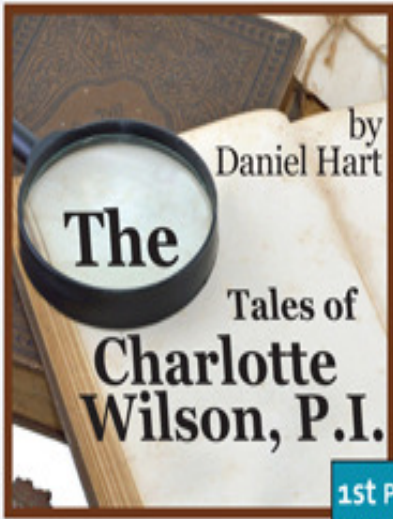
Do a phone spot-check. Every so often, ask your child to show you his or her photos or recent texts. "This lets you see if he or she has sexting images on their phone, or if bullying is going on," says Aftab. Don't feel like you're spying; you're only viewing it with your child's

knowledge, and such checks should be an established rule when you agree that your child can have a phone in the first place.

Agree to help them if they're in danger online. "The most important safety move," says Aftab, "is to sit down with your kids and tell them that if they are ever bullied or find themselves the victims of sexting extortion or some other online behavior, that they can come to you and you'll help them."



If your child has a phone or a tablet, then you're probably worried, too.



by Daniel Hart

The Tales of Charlotte Wilson, P.I.

1st Place Staged Production

FESTIVAL WORKSHOP
Conversation on the Art of Adaptations with Playwright Douglas Post



All festival plays are followed by post discussion led by Douglas Post

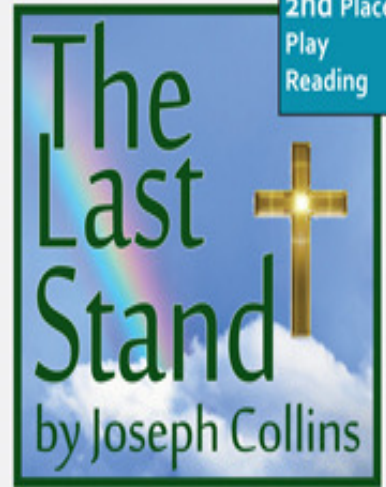
One Day - Three New Plays!

Festival brochure online at fwcivic.org
Tickets at (260) 424-5220



3rd Place Play Reading

Sir Lancelot Jones by Jim Henry



2nd Place Play Reading

The Last Stand by Joseph Collins

7th Annual Northeast Indiana Playwright Festival
Civic Theatre
Saturday, March 19

Full festival events pass just \$40



National Pretzel Day
www.NationalDayCalendar.com

April 26

Top 10 Issues Facing Our Youth Today

BY LEE STANDBERRY

Now that we are well into the new Millennium, society has begun to recognize serious concerns with issues that kids have to deal with today. Some issues have always been there, but are now coming to the eyes of the public to find solutions. Other issues are new trends as society begins to adapt to a faster pace of life. Below are the top 10 issues facing our youth today.

10. Single Parent Households

The problems begin at home. Since the 1950s, the number of single parent homes has consistently increased to the point of catastrophe. Today, 14 million single parents are responsible for 28 million children. Raising a child is difficult enough in a two parent home, especially in tough economic conditions. The situation is even direr when there is only one parent. Economically, a single parent is likely to bring less income home. This equates to fewer opportunities for such vital necessities as education. Trying to make ends meet also takes time – time that is spent away from children who need a parent’s guiding/influence. Absent a parent’s diligent guidance, children become subject to higher dropout rates, higher risk of dangerous sexual behaviors and pregnancies, higher chances of drug and alcohol abuse, etc. It truly takes a village to raise a child.

9. Drug/Alcohol Abuse

There was a time in cinematic history where virtually every actor/actress was portrayed on screen with a cigarette in hand. Smoking, it was implied, was cool. As a result, everyone was doing it—including kids. Well, as awareness to the danger of smoking increased, “cool” images of smoking disappeared. Unfortunately, the same can’t be said about drugs and alcohol. These vices are staples in everyday media. Simply, drinking and using drugs is shown as being cool.

The numbers bear the tale: 21% of high school seniors say they get high and 41% of the same group report drinking alcohol. Our kids are literally moving around in an intoxicated daze. Immature behavior is then amplified due to being under the influence. [Drunk driving](#), poor grades and attendance, anti-social and violent behavior, and the list goes on.

8. Growing up too Fast

There are times he or she is bombarded with sexual suggestions. In fact, there are entire TV series marketed directly to kids dealing with sex – the most egregious being “The Secret Lives of an American Teenager” and “Teen Mom”, to name two. Music is a culprit as well. Songs have always had [sexual innuendos](#), but at least “back in the day” you had to be old enough to understand them. Today, it’s all about “How low can you go” and “baby let me sex you up.” Kids are having sex as early as 10 and 11, with teen pregnancies increasingly on the rise. The concept of childhood is literally being wiped out.

Top 10 Issues Facing Our Youth Today

BY LEE STANDBERRY

(Continued from previous page)

7. Violence in Schools

A child's education is the foundation from which he or she will be able to go forth out into the world and build a life. Schools play a major role in this endeavor. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that these places of learning would be safe havens for the children while they are preparing for adulthood. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. In many instances—especially in low income, urban settings—schools can be a war zone. We are not talking about minor bullying, but rather serious violence. Consider that in the last decade, 284 kids were murdered due to school violence – these were [shootings](#), stabbings, fighting, and suicides. Growing up is tough enough without having to be worried about being killed while going to math class.

6. Materialism

We live in a society that promotes materialism, and so we perpetuate this particular malady by instilling [bad habits](#) into our children. We teach our children that the measure of success and happiness in life is how much stuff you have. Kids naturally want things –especially if their friends have something similar. Unfortunately, there seems to be little restraint on accompanying guidance as we go about this. Essentially, we provide our kids with whatever they want that is within our financial ability to do so. The concept of “earning” what you get or the idea that some things “you don't need” seem to have been lost and discarded. Is there really any wonder why the average adult is \$15,000 in debt at any given time? We have a mentality of getting what we want, when we want it; that has been ingrained in us since childhood. The unfortunate result is that there are devastating consequences for such continued behavior later in life.

5. Obesity

Our kids are fat and getting fatter. Recent numbers show that 20% of American children are obese. Not chubby –OBESE! Video games, TV, the internet, and fast food are partly to blame. Kids are spending more time sitting in front of a TV/ computer screen than running around outside. This [sedentary lifestyle](#) has consequences. Socially, it's no secret that overweight kids are going to be subject to ridicule from their peers – it's sad, but nevertheless true. This can result in such issues as low self-esteem, depression, etc. Then there are the health concerns. High blood pressure, diabetes, and other maladies that are associated with obesity. Psychologically and physically, obesity is an issue that can be resolved with a simple increase in activity and awareness.

Top 10 Issues Facing Our Youth Today

BY LEE STANDBERRY

(Continued from previous page)

4. Education Disparity

Education is important. Few people would dispute this well regarded fact. A **good education** (in comparison with a bad one) will provide a child with an increased chance of taking advantage of opportunities to be successful in life.

Unfortunately, some people have it better than others. This is not an issue of just one school being better than another school. Rather, we are talking about whole classes of American children being denied a proper education that will prepare them to compete in a job market with their peers and have the same access to the American Dream.

Disparity in educational quality is delineated by race and financial status. If you live in a poor neighborhood or are a minority, there is a good chance that the schools you attend are lacking many necessities. While Asians and Whites enjoy high graduating rates, African American and Latinos continue to lag behind. Not surprisingly, because job opportunities are scarce for dropouts, these two groups have the highest incarceration rates.

3. Shifting Economy

America used to sustain itself by manufacturing its own products and selling them. The economy is shifting to more of a service industry versus a manufacturing industry. In order to cut costs and keep product prices down, companies are forced to outsource manufacturing to other countries where products can be produced at much lower labor costs. Some companies have even begun to **outsource call center** jobs to keep labor costs down. Not only is America now having lower paying service jobs than the average blue-collar job with a sustainable income, but our economy is now a global economy.

For example, what happens in Japan or Iraq can drastically alter prices for our stock exchanges, gas/oil, and many other products. What exactly does this mean for our youth? The youth cannot graduate or even dropout of school without going through the pains of a low-income job. The jobs offered with no experience pay very little, with limited room for pay increases. In fact, the competition to get a promotion can be fierce. In the past, your high school senior could graduate and go work at the local factory for the rest of his or her life and make a good living. They would not necessarily need to have a college education to survive. On the other hand, youth today will graduate from college with multiple degrees and still struggle to find work that pays enough to sustain a decent lifestyle.

Top 10 Issues Facing Our Youth Today

BY LEE STANDBERRY

(Continued from previous page)

2. Poverty

The federal poverty level is \$22,050 for a family of four. This equates to 21% of all children (15 million children) are considered in poverty. Just to cover basic expenses for a family of four, you would need to have a salary of \$45,000. This means that nearly 50% of our children are living in poverty. Half of those kids receive no government assistance because their parents earned more than \$22,050 that year. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP), that poverty is the single greatest threat to children's well-being.

Poverty impedes learning and contributes to social and behavioral problems. And guess what? There is no income to counteract these problems. Mommy cannot afford a tutor or Daddy cannot afford a counselor. There is a huge opportunity for society to stop being so materialistic and, in turn, poverty wouldn't be such an issue; most children would have all the same things –things they need instead of what they want. This would decrease violence in schools because fewer kids would be teased.

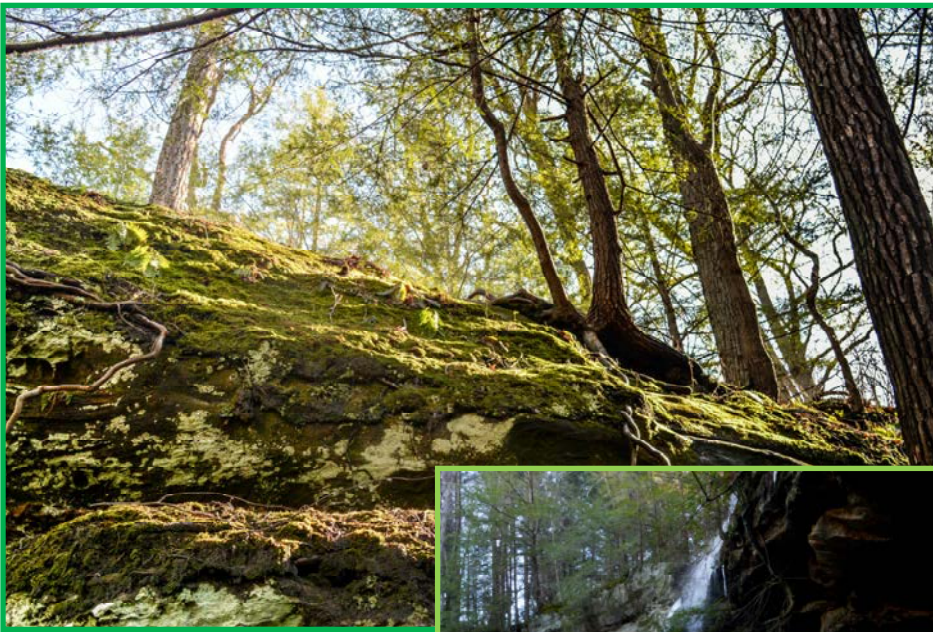
1. Erosion of National Pride/Identity

If the Olympics were held every year, this probably wouldn't be a problem. This list is indicative of the fact that America (like any nation) has problems. The issue at hand is collective, though, amongst the people affected about how to deal with them. Unfortunately, most folks tend to focus on themselves and not the whole. We see these problems as affecting "them" and not "me/us". When we hear that America's children are the fattest among Western nations, this doesn't sting. When we learn that America's children lay educationally behind other industrialized nations, we don't cringe.

There is very little sense of collective identity among Americans. This is a result of our children not being properly educated and guided. There was a time when every child would begin the school day by standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Children were taught the significance of the 4th of July (besides fireworks). These practices are long gone and so is our sense of common destiny. With so many diverse nationalities, races, and ethnic groups that comprise America, the one common bond we all have with one another is that we are Americans.

The Future Isn't All Bleak

Many children grow up just fine, and there are some great children who were and are heroes. Or, take a look at some adults who were heroes during the Holocaust.



Spring . . .

Assorted spring flowers, naked, rise in morning sun
Breaking through a thin blanket of snow, earth spun.
Cascades of dainty Narcissus smile with golden faces
Drinking up the sun as morning warmth embraces.
Enjoy the heavenly floral scent that gardens bring.
Fledglings high in tree nests sense that it is spring.
Growing fast they will soon gain courage to take flight,
Hovering low over canopies, it is their birthright!
Irises spring forth in hopes to match the sky
Just as daffodils claim the colors of sun's eye.
Keep the cherry blossom's imprint in your mind
Leaving memories of pink poetic petals that you find.
Moments spent in this season's refreshing rain



Nurture and inspire a poet's muse again.
Only spring can coax the lovely lilac's bloom
Perfuming breezes, singing springtime's tune.
Spring reclaims our joyful mood as winter ends,
Quaint bird houses dot the country lanes
Rewarding visions viewed through window panes.
Treating us to vivid colors this season sends.
Uncloaking animals in snowy hibernation,
Verdant becomes the blessings of vegetation.
Wealth is seen in all the colors of sweet spring
Xylogenous creatures in forests are welcoming.
Yellowthroat warblers singing in trees greet melting snow.
Zephyrs enchant, as they scatter blossoms down below.

Poetry By: : Connie Marcum Wong

Photography By: Shirley Li

DID YOU KNOW?

NHEG

DISABILITY RESOURCES

We have a huge collection of data regarding various disabilities and how to manage education for your kids. Click the links below to find articles, websites, etc. on various disabilities ranging from Autism and ADHD to Prader-Willi Syndrome. We have hands-on experience in dealing with kids from various backgrounds. If you have any questions or information to contribute, please contact us.

Autism spectrum disorder
ADHD
ALS
Bipolar disease
Cancer
Celiac disease
Cerebral palsy
COPD
Cystic fibrosis
Down syndrome
Driver education
Dyslexia
Disabled persons
Edward's syndrome

Fragile X syndrome
Hearing loss
Irlen syndrome
Neural tube defect
Paralysis
Phenylketonuria
Prader-Willi syndrome
Rett syndrome
Sickle cell disease
Spina bifida
Spinal deformity
Stroke
Tay-Sachs disease
Traumatic brain injury

NHEG

Can we help?





Celebrate National Poetry Month this April by giving your children a creative incentive to write a poem of their own!

HSLDA's **annual spring Poetry Contest** gives all homeschooled students from ages 7 to 19 a place to have fun practicing their poetic techniques in a creative response to one of three classic poems.

Open to HSLDA members and non-members alike, and offering **cash prizes upwards of \$200**, this contest promises to be a fun, educational experience for all!

[View Contest Info & Guidelines](#)



Category 1 – Ages 7-10* “Sick”

Renowned for his brilliantly humorous children’s poems and illustrations, Shel Silverstein gave us “Sick,” a poem in which a little girl tells of all her aches and woes to avoid having to go to school, only to learn something surprising at the end. The story blows up like a big fat bubble and suddenly goes *POP* in the final lines! Can you write a poem with a surprising twist at the end like that?

Category 2 – Ages 11-14* “Daffodils”

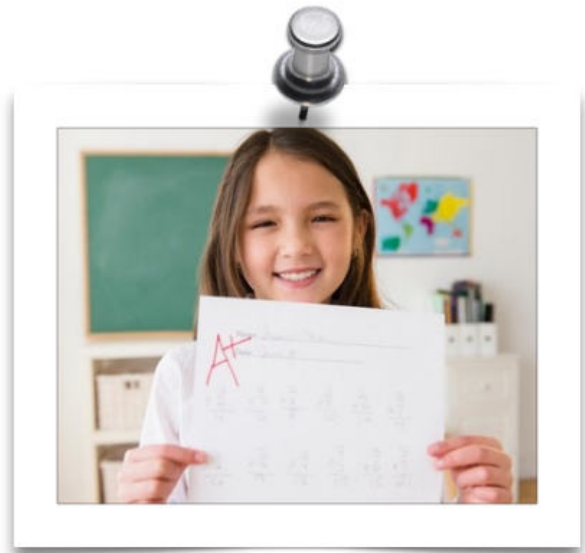
One of Wordsworth’s most famous works, “Daffodils” sends you on a journey through majestic scenes and nudges you to look for such splendor in your own surroundings. Perhaps you treasure many small memories when time seemed to stand still, or perhaps a few important moments simply made you burst with enthusiasm! Share one or more of those special memories with us in your poem this year.

Category 3 – Ages 15-19* “What is White?”

In her beloved collection of thought-provoking treasures, Hailstones and Halibut Bones, Mary O’Neill addresses the many forms that the color white takes. White can be concrete, like a “marshmallow” or “a ship’s sail!” White can also be “the part you can’t remember in a dream.” Challenge your creativity this year by selecting an adjective and writing a poem that describes or gives shape to it.

To get a sense of what to include or avoid when writing a poem, you can [view the judges’ comments](#) or [read the winning poems from previous years!](#)

Share Your Story!!!



Do you have an educational story to share either by video or in written form? Has NHEG made a difference in your life? Would you like to be part of a video sharing your story and how NHEG has helped you?



New Heights Educational Group

Educational Resources to Help Reach Your Goals

Resource and Literacy Center



419-786-0247



NewHeightsEducation.org



NewHeightsEducation@yahoo.com

Our Newest Cartoonist



Kevin is currently a junior at South High Community School. He loves art, mathematics, and science (especially anything relating to the brain), and he's always looking for opportunities to challenge himself and be exposed to new people and environments. Kevin says, *"If someone were to ever describe me as reserved, I think anyone who knows me would start laughing, because I'm very outspoken and assertive. However, unlike other loud mouths, I actually enjoy listening and hearing opinions and then replying. So I always enjoy a good back and forth conversation"*. In the future Kevin wants to help push scientific discovery forward, especially in subjects that we still do not know. According to Kevin, *"I'm not asking for my name in history books, but I strive to help people around me in any way possible whether through discovery or through wealth"*.



People who laugh actually live longer than those who don't laugh. Few persons realize that health actually varies according to the amount of laughter.
-James J. Walsh

The New Heights Show on Education

Internet radio program

BRIANA DINCHER

SHANNON WILLIAMSON



JOIN US



FRIDAYS
12:30 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. EST

PRE-RECORDED

As Briana and Shannon explore a new topic each week

Missed a show? Check out past shows here:

As they explore a new topic on education every week. . .

We're working hard!

We are working hard on creating a brand new, easy to navigate website.

Coming in 2016!





2016 SCHOOL CELEBRATION DAYS

THU. ★ **THU.** ★ **WED.** ★ **THU.**
April 28 May 12 May 25 May 26

This is a great opportunity for students to have fun while learning. Imagination Station will be at the ballpark with some eye-popping science experiments! A pre-game interactive Career Day event will be held at 9am before the three May games.

All games start at 10:30am. Tickets are only \$5. Add a lunch ticket for \$4, which includes a hot dog, chips and pop.

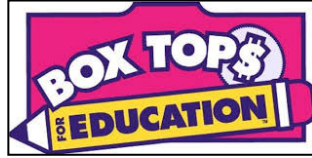
START PLANNING YOUR OUTING TODAY!

Call your Group Fun Consultant, Scott McGorty
419.725.9296 ★ smcgorty@mudhens.com



Help us Reach Our Fund-raising Goals

Please collect the following items and share with NHEG to help us reach our fundraising goals.



TerraCycle

Outsmart Waste

Cell Phone Brigade®

E-Waste Brigade®

Inkjet Brigade®

Laptop Brigade®



[DONATE YOUR OLD CAR, BOAT OR RV](#) [Make a Car Donation](#) | [Make a Difference](#)

Call 1-800-240-0160 and a friendly car donation specialist will schedule your pick-up appointment.

A public charity 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization

The New Heights Show on Education

LIVE Internet radio program

Join Host Kathy Woodring
Sundays 11:00 pm - 11:30 pm

As she explores a new topic in American History every month

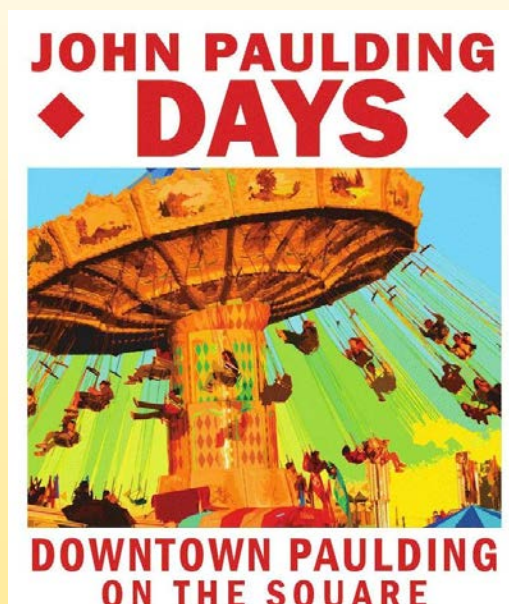




John Paulding Days

John Paulding Days are going to be on July 8-9, 2016. We have been invited as a local non-profit to be a food/game vendor. We are looking for volunteers to see if anyone is interested in setting up a game or food booth at JPD as a fundraiser for our non-profit. I don't have every detail ironed out yet, but if you are interested, please let me know so I can keep you in the loop! The Clark family won't be able to attend because this is a busy time for our family, so we really need someone to take the lead for this event.

If you can volunteer and help please email NHEG at NewHeightsEducation@Yahoo.com



Resource and Literacy Center

Project in progress

What is your wish for this project?

New Heights Educational Group provides one-on-one tutoring and group activities for students of all ages. These services are provided for all children regardless of school choice, race, beliefs, social-economic status, or developmental disability. Students receive services ranging from tutoring in basic subjects such as Math, Reading, History, and English to group learning environments that help the children better cope with the stresses placed on them in everyday classroom situations. We are truly a one-stop shopping center in education. Our project will consist of creating brochures, fliers, and posters to distribute to the community.

How are you going to do it?

The New Heights Educational Group, Inc. promotes literacy for children and adults by offering a range of educational support services. Such services include: assisting families in the selection of schools; organization of educational activities; and acquisition of materials. We promote a healthy learning environment and enrichment programs for families of preschool and school-age children, including children with special needs.

- See more at: <https://www.rootsandshoots.org/project/resource-and-literacy-center#sthash.YozssCPZ.dpuf>

Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots is the Jane Goodall Institute's (JGI) global youth-led community action program, comprised of thousands of young people inspired by Dr. Jane Goodall to make the world a better place. The program builds on the legacy and vision of Dr. Jane Goodall to place the power and resources for creating practical solutions to big challenges in the hands of the young people.



New Heights Educational Group

Educational Resources to Help Reach Your Goals

Resource and Literacy Center

Pamela S. Clark
Founder/Director
14735 Power Dam Road
Defiance, Ohio 43512
Phone: 419-786-0247
NewHeightsEducation@yahoo.com
www.NewHeightsEducation.org

NEW HEIGHTS EDUCATIONAL GROUP HAS AMAZING, AWARD WINNING TEACHERS AND TUTORS AVAILABLE TODAY, TO HELP YOU START ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS.

MEET OUR TEACHERS AND TUTORS:



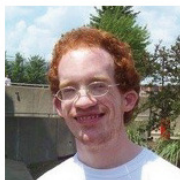
CHAD STEWART - CHAD HAS BEEN AN ANIMATOR SINCE 1992, WORKING ON PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE THE SIMPSONS, THE EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE, AND THE POLAR EXPRESS. IN 2007 HE BEGAN TEACHING AT AN ONLINE ANIMATION SCHOOL FOR CAREER-MINDED ADULTS AND NOW TEACHES SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS. CHECK OUT ONE OF HIS COURSES HERE:



JENY ESPINAL - I HAVE MY MASTER'S OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DEGREE IN FINANCE AND ALSO HAVE A BACHELOR'S IN ECONOMICS. CURRENTLY, I AM STUDYING FOR CFE EXAM TO BECOME A FRAUD EXAMINER. ALSO, I AM LOOKING INTO DOCTORAL PROGRAMS IN ECONOMICS. I WORKED IN FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SINCE 2006, AND HAVE 4 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. I AM AN EASYGOING, LAID BACK, INDIVIDUAL. I LOVE READING, ARCHERY, AND PLAYING THE VIOLIN. I ENJOY HELPING OTHERS AND I LOVE LEARNING NEW THINGS.



VANH VUE - VANH RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, GREENSBORO WITH A DEGREE IN ANTHROPOLOGY. SHE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOLUNTEER AT A LOCAL CHURCH AND HELP CHILDREN IN NEED. VAN HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED ASSISTING OTHERS WITH THEIR HOMEWORK, INCLUDING MATH, READING, SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE. VAN ALSO HAS ALSO TAUGHT JAWS, A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS A BLIND PERSON TO USE THE COMPUTER.



SAMUEL CUSTER - SAMUEL HAS A BACHELOR'S AND AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING. HE ALSO HAS STRONG PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND COMPUTER SKILLS. HE HOLDS A CERTIFICATE AS A MICROSOFT OFFICE USER SPECIALIST IN WORD.

CONTACT US TODAY:



419-786-0247



NEWHEIGHTSEDCATION.ORG/



NEWHEIGHTSEDCATION@YAHOO.COM



April Trivia

1> If you were born in April, what would your flower be?

- a. Sweet Pea
- b. Peony
- c. Bee Balm
- d. Foxtail

2> If you were born on the 15th of April, what would your zodiac sign be?

- a. Aries
- b. Cancer
- c. Scorpio
- d. Libra



3> Which U.S. President was born on the 13th of April 1743?

- a. James Madison
- b. Thomas Jefferson
- c. John Quincy Adams
- d. Andrew Jackson

4> If you were born on the 28th of April, what would your zodiac sign be?

- a. Aquarius
- b. Leo
- c. Sagittarius
- d. Taurus



5> If you were born in April, what would your birthstone be?

- a. Sapphire
- b. Emerald
- c. Ruby
- d. Diamond

6> Which classic board game is honored on the 13th of April?

- a. Monopoly
- b. Clue
- c. Chess
- d. Scrabble

7> The Titanic hit the infamous iceberg on which day in April?

- a. 29
- b. 14
- c. 22
- d. 7



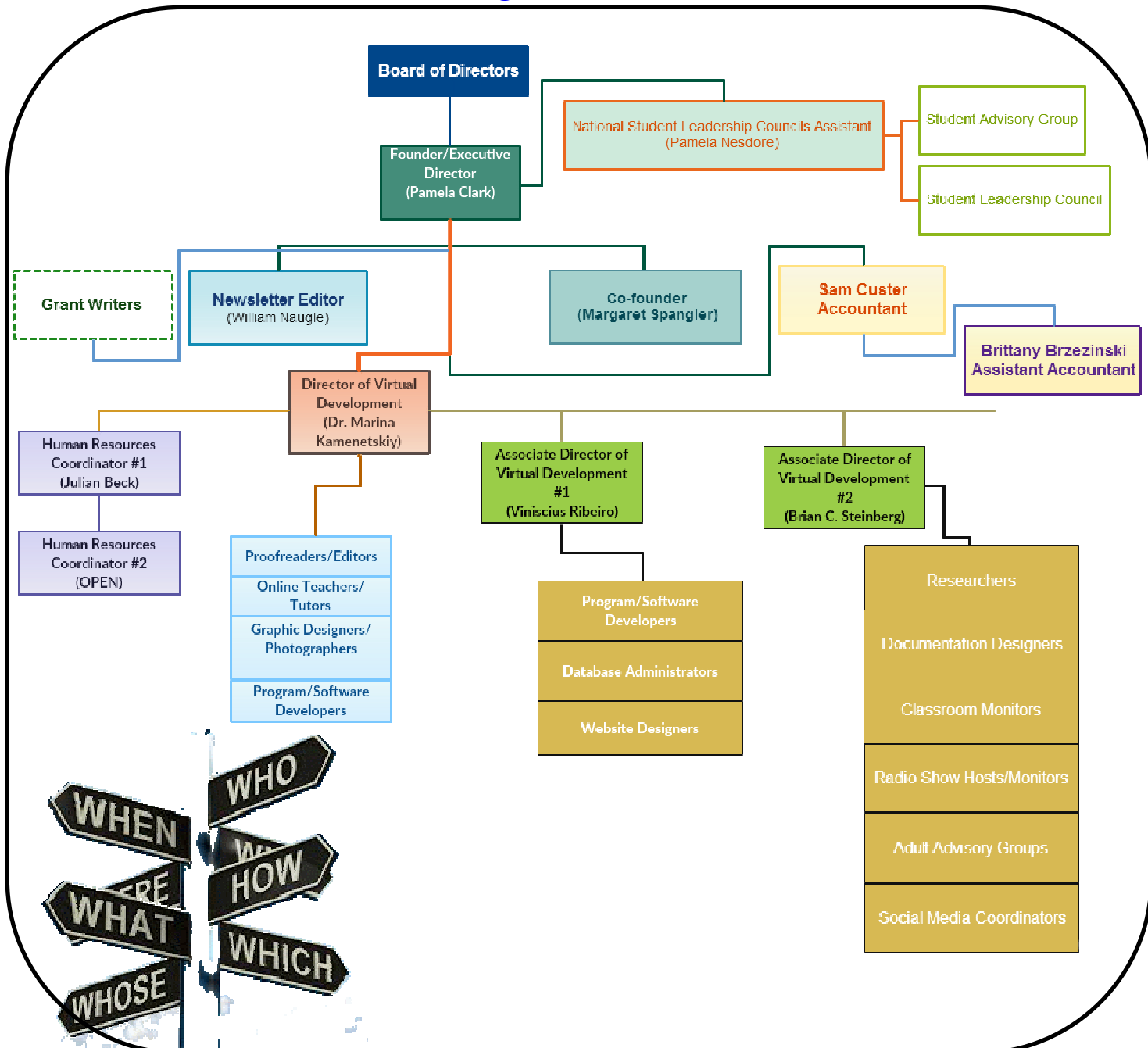
8> Which fast food franchise first opened its doors on April 15th, 1955?

- a. Dairy Queen
- b. Jack in the Box
- c. McDonalds
- d. A and W

9> Which famous fictional character celebrates a birthday on the 17th of April?

- a. Sherlock Holmes
- b. Daffy Duck
- c. Shrek
- d. Peter Parker

NHEG Organizational Chart



23% + America is illiterate

One in five Americans lacks the basic skills beyond a 4th grade level. Could you be one of them?

A few years ago, the U.S. Department of Education conducted the National Adult Literacy Survey. The figures are for 2003, the latest year available.

TYPES OF LITERACY

Prose:
Reading news stories, brochures, instructional materials

Document:
Info applications, payroll forms, maps, flighted labels

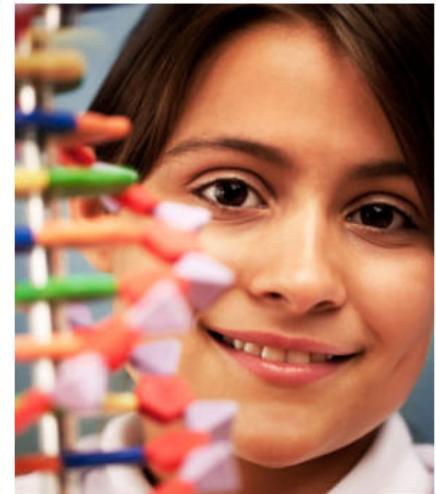
Quantitative:
Borrowing a checkbook, completing an order form

Share Your Story!!!



Type to enter text...

Do you have an educational story to share either by video or in written form? Has NHEG made a difference in your life? Would you like to be part of a video



New Heights Educational Group
Educational Resources to Help You Reach Your Goals



419-786-0247



NEWHEIGHTSEEDUCATION.ORG/



NEWHEIGHTSEEDUCATION@YAHOO.COM



Volunteers

Many will be shocked to find, when the day of judgment nears,

That there's a special place in Heaven, set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners, satin couches and footstools,

Where there are no committee chairmen, no yard sales or rest area
coffee to serve,

No library duty or bulletin assembly, there will be nothing to print or
staple,

Not one thing to fold or mail, telephone lists will be outlawed.

But a finger snap will bring cool drinks and gourmet dinners and rare
treats fit for a king.

You ask, "Who'll serve these privileged and work for all they're worth?"

Why, all those who reaped the benefits, and not once volunteered on
Earth.

17th Annual

SECOND AND SEVEN

FOOTBALL CAMP

PRESENTED BY



Huntington

THE DATE IS SET!

FOOTBALL CAMP FOR KIDS 7 TO 14
JUNE 20, 21, 22, 2016
AT HILLIARD WEAVER MIDDLE SCHOOL



The 17th annual Second and Seven Football Camp presented by Huntington will allow kids to enjoy three days of drills, contests and speakers, with a focus on having fun.

The kids will learn basic fundamentals of football and be introduced to important attributes such as teamwork, goal-setting, positive attitude, and commitment. Campers receive an official camp shirt, snacks and lunch every day along with special instruction from former Buckeyes, NFL players and local high school football coaches. All proceeds from the camp benefit The 2nd & 7 Foundation.



SIGN UP EARLY FOR DISCOUNTED PRICE!

If you sign up by April 30, the cost to attend camp is \$100.

SIGN UP NOW!

www.secondandseven.com

Stop. Pay Troll.



Across

- 1. Tibia
- 5. Respond by changing
- 10. Mold
- 14. Yield
- 15. The original "10"
- 16. Beach banquet
- 17. Result of a rice theft?
- 20. Pickle portion
- 21. Treacherous curve
- 22. Gives the boot to
- 23. Hardy heroine
- 25. Give a single star, perhaps
- 26. Miss Manners' métier
- 29. Twitchy
- 33. Water quality evaluation?
- 35. Fidel's friend
- 37. Type of tennis or bowling
- 38. She played Gia on Full House

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
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48	49	50					51	52			53		54	55	56
57						58				59					
60						61						62			
63						64						65			

- 39. James of Rollerball
- 40. Suffix with lex- or morph-
- 41. Succinct Sahara summary?
- 43. Former senator D'Amato
- 45. Edmonton skaters
- 46. Gore and Sharpton
- 47. Eso Beso balladeer
- 48. When Macbeth kills Duncan
- 51. American Uncle
- 53. Mutual of ___
- 57. Midmorning fruit dish?
- 60. Rapids rider
- 61. Like some verbs, abbrev.
- 62. Kind of garden

- 63. T-men, generally
 - 64. Mercantile establishment
 - 65. Squid sprays
- Down**
- 1. See 30 down
 - 2. Give a hand
 - 3. Like some hands
 - 4. Denial
 - 5. Member of the colonial army?
 - 6. Saharan fruits
 - 7. Fruity refreshments
 - 8. Bowlers' targets
 - 9. Children's chase game
 - 10. Show off and show often

- 11. Avignon eyes
- 12. Rave's partner
- 13. Rumble
- 18. Last name in vacuums
- 19. Treatment for a cow or a celeb
- 24. Sunday speeches
- 25. Ideal example
- 26. Fit
- 27. Golden Globe category
- 28. Wheel of Fortune buy
- 29. Buying binge
- 30. With 1 down, govt. students
- 31. "See if _____!"
- 32. Meeting maestro
- 34. Eyeglass holders?

- 36. You'd like to make them meet
- 39. Squid snack
- 41. Kind of acid
- 42. Big name in cameras
- 44. Swoons
- 47. Decorative resin
- 48. Incantation initiation
- 49. Alpine perch
- 50. Clump of curls
- 51. Reorder
- 52. Retro do
- 54. Very prolific auth.?
- 55. Wield a machete
- 56. Says "who?"
- 58. Towel label
- 59. Iron or Bronze, e.g.

This Website Donates to Charity Every Time You Go Online



In principle, I think that just about everyone supports giving to charity. But in reality, most of us don't make the effort to pull out the checkbook and donate some of our income to a charitable endeavor. But a new website aims to make it simple to donate to NHEG, and it doesn't cost you a penny.

The internet has made so many things so much easier, from communication to networking to viewing media to gaming and entertainment. Most of us go online at least once a day (or like many of us, we log on to the web a number of times throughout the day). So what better way to encourage and enable the support of charities than by using one of our favorite things. A new startup

called Welzoo wants to take our daily internet habit and turn it into a force for good, by donating to charities, such as NHEG, every single time we go online.

“At Welzoo, we believe in contributing to the world around us. That’s why we built a website that pioneers a new trend in giving. Through detailed research, we’ve discovered that while most people wish to improve the world, only few believe they can do anything about it. On the contrary! We’re here to demonstrate that anyone and everyone can support worthy causes, no matter their resources. Welzoo enables Internet users from all walks of life to help a non-profit organization, such as NHEG, by simply changing their homepage. Registration is 100% free for both users and non-profit organizations. In these tough times, Welzoo offers a way for people to truly and directly support what matters to them without ever reaching into their own wallets. Each day that a Welzoo user goes online, an additional donation is being made because of his or her presence. Each and every person that uses Welzoo makes a real and immediate difference for NHEG.”

Users only have to sign up and make a single change—that of their choice of homepage for their browser—and every time they use that homepage, Welzoo will donate to NHEG. After signing up and choosing topics of interest to them, users can pick their [charity](#) (NHEG) to support with their activity, and then specify [Welzoo.com](#) as their homepage. Every time they load their homepage, a post from a website that matches their topics of interest will be loaded onto the page, along with the Welzoo toolbar.

It's quick to sign up and set Welzoo as the homepage, it's a completely painless way to donate to NHEG, and you might even discover some interesting websites and articles that you haven't seen before through Welzoo.

Teacher Of The Year Contest

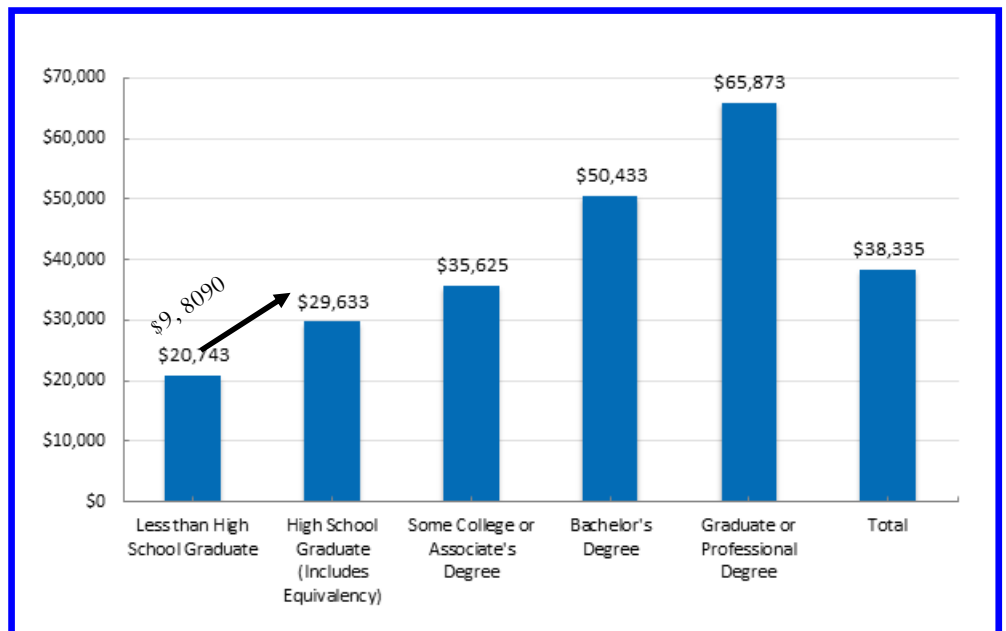


Teacher Of The Year Contest!

Think you have the best teacher? Nominate them for our Teacher Of The Year Contest! **In 250 words or less**, tell us what makes your teacher outstanding! Drop off your essay at any United Art and Education retail store and your teacher will be **entered to win a \$250 gift card!**

Entries will be taken in stores through **Friday, April 1st**. Winner will be announced during Teacher Appreciation Week in early May.

The
difference a
diploma
makes!



April Celebrations

- 1 [April Fool's Day](#)
- 2 [Children's Book Day](#)
- 3 [World Party Day](#)
- 4 [School Librarian Day](#)
- 5 [Go for Broke Day](#)
- 6 [National Tartan Day](#)
- 7 [Caramel Popcorn Day](#)
- 8 [Draw a Picture of a Bird Day](#)
- 9 [Winston Churchill Day](#)
- 10 [National Siblings Day](#)
- 11 [Barbershop Quartet Day](#)
- 12 [Russian Cosmonaut Day](#)
- 13 [Scrabble Day](#)
- 14 [International Moment of Laughter Day](#)
- 15 [Titanic Remembrance Day](#)
- 16 [National Stress Awareness Day](#)
- 17 [Pet Owners Independence Day](#)
- 18 [Patriot's Day](#)
- 19 [National Garlic Day](#)
- 20 [Volunteer Recognition Day](#)
- 21 [Kindergarten Day](#)
- 22 [Girl Scout Leader Day](#)
- 23 [Lover's Day](#)
- 24 [Pig in a Blanket Day](#)
- 25 [East meets West Day](#)
- 26 [National Pretzel Day](#)
- 27 [Tell a Story Day](#)
- 28 [Take Your Daughter to Work](#)



Weekly Celebrations:

- Week 1 Library Week
- Week 1 Read a Road Map Week.
- Week 2 Garden Week
- Week 3 Organize Your Files Week
- Week 3 Medical Labs Week
- Week 4 Administrative Assistants
- Week 4 National Karaoke Week

Month:

- National Humor Month
- International Guitar Month
- Keep America Beautiful Month
- Lawn and Garden Month
- National Poetry Month
- National Pecan Month
- National Welding Month
- Records and Information Management Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Update on the Minimum School Year and How Students Count as Full Time

The General Assembly recently passed legislation to modify the way students in high school count for funding. Starting March 23, 2016, full-time equivalency for these students is based on how many graduation units the student is enrolled in for the current school year.

This change in law only applies to the calculation of full-time equivalency for individual students. It does not change the minimum school year required for school buildings. Schools still must be open with all students having access to educational services for the required number of hours (or days for districts that have not yet transitioned to hours). For more information on the minimum school year, please visit the department's [website](#).

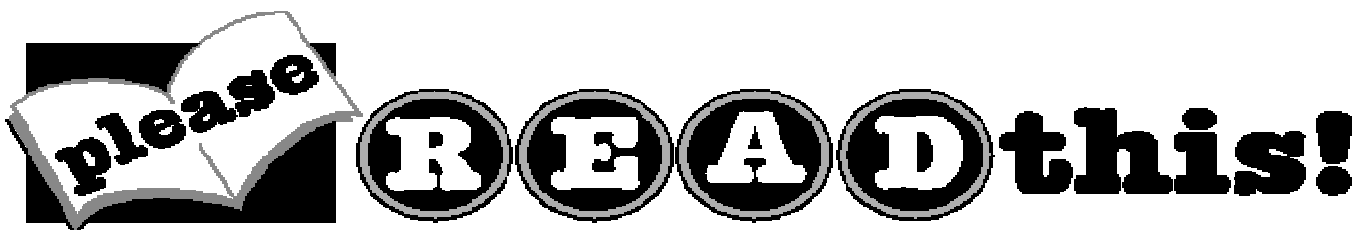
The change in full-time equivalency modifies the way that the student percentage of time is calculated for students in grades 9-12 within the state's EMIS data reporting system. Currently, the full-time equivalency is based on the percentage of the normal school day that a student is enrolled. Starting March 23, the percentage of time is based on the total number of graduation units ("credits"):

- For courses that the student has already completed in the current school year;
- For courses in which the student is currently enrolled; and
- For courses yet to start in the current school year in which the student is enrolled.

Only courses eligible for high school graduation credit, as outlined in law, will count. This includes the main subject areas and electives. However, study halls and other non-credit courses are not included in this calculation.

If this total number of credits for a student is five or more, the student is a full-time student in Ohio. The district where the student is enrolled will report the student as 100 percent of time. If the student's total credit enrollment for the year is less than five credits, the percent of time reported for that student will be the total credit enrollment divided by five.

This change in law affects other aspects of calculating full-time equivalency, including concurrent enrollment. The department is creating an FAQ document to address these specific issues. It will be available on a website dedicated to guidance on this change by the end of the month.





College Credit Plus 2016-17: Overview

Ohio's College Credit Plus can help you earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from community colleges or universities. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. Taking a college course from a public college or university is free. That means no cost for tuition, books or fees. If you choose to attend a private college or university, you may have limited costs.

Your high school may have an agreement with a local college for specific courses; however, you can choose to take College Credit Plus courses from any college that offers a course that would benefit your future. This could include online courses.

New This Year:

All public school, private school, and homeschool students must declare their intent to participate, even if they participated last year. Letters of intent for each group can be uploaded in the "Forms" section below.

To enhance data security, parents of private and homeschool students are required to establish a SAFE Account before their student can apply for funding (<https://safe.ode.state.oh.us/portal>).

A summer session has been added this year. These sessions can start as early as May, so don't delay in establishing your SAFE account and completing your letter of intent.

Important Dates

Process to Participate Runs From February 15 Through April 1

Talk with your school counselor or contact NHEG. Discuss your interest in taking college courses and how it fits in with your overall academic plan and career goals.

Prior to **March 1**, your district will provide information about the College Credit Plus program to all students in grades 7-12. An informational session will be held and all colleges and universities within a 30-mile radius will be invited to attend before **March 30**. If you cannot attend, schedule an appointment with your school counselor.

By **April 1**, notify your school counselor if you intend to participate in College Credit Plus next year. After April 1, you will need permission from the school district superintendent to participate.

You and your family should contact colleges for information, application forms, and criteria for acceptance into College Credit Plus. Some materials are available from your high school counselor and at the college's website. You must go through the procedures established by the colleges/universities to apply to College Credit Plus and to enroll in the course(s). You may have to take a college placement test to make sure you are college-ready. [A map showing all Ohio public colleges can be found here.](#) A map showing Ohio private colleges can be found [here](#).

Prior to college class attendance, your high school counselor will assist you in determining a course's equivalency to a high school course(s).

For more information and forms please check the webpage at: [College Credit Plus | Info for Students & Families | Ohio Higher Ed](#)



Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund Information for Students and Their Families

Thank you for your interest in the Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund! We provide need-based scholarships to families throughout northwest Ohio, growing minds and creating futures for young people with tuition assistance that enables them to attend the independent K-8 schools of their choice.

Our experience shows that NOSF recipients are motivated to succeed in school and in life. A recent survey of 2010 graduates revealed a 100% high school graduation rate. *(See Summer 2015 NOSF newsletter)*

Our scholarships are 100% need-based. Each year, NOSF provides hundreds of thousands of dollars in tuition assistance, with an average scholarship award of nearly \$1,200. If you believe that your family is eligible, and you are ready to make a commitment of \$500 toward tuition costs, we encourage you to begin the application process today.

Or to apply online click: <http://tinyurl.com/NOSFI6APP>

Deadline to apply for the 2016-2017 school year is *Friday, April 29, 2016.*

\$11.4 Million
in scholarships awarded

13,400 **N**
scholarships awarded
to students in
Northwest Ohio



KIDS CAN COOK

Cheesy Chicken Bagel Pizzas

What You Need

- 2 (4 1/2-inch, 2 1/4-ounce) plain bagels, sliced in half
- 1/2 cup lower-sodium marinara sauce
- 1 cup shredded rotisserie chicken breast
- 1 cup pre-shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Make It

1. Preheat broiler.
2. Place bagel halves, cut sides up, on a baking sheet. Broil 2 minutes or until lightly toasted.
3. Spread 2 tablespoons marinara on cut side of each bagel half. Top each half with 1/4 cup chicken, and sprinkle with 1/4 cup cheese.
4. Broil bagel halves an additional 2 minutes or until cheese melts.



PAMELA S. CLARK
 Founder/ Executive Director

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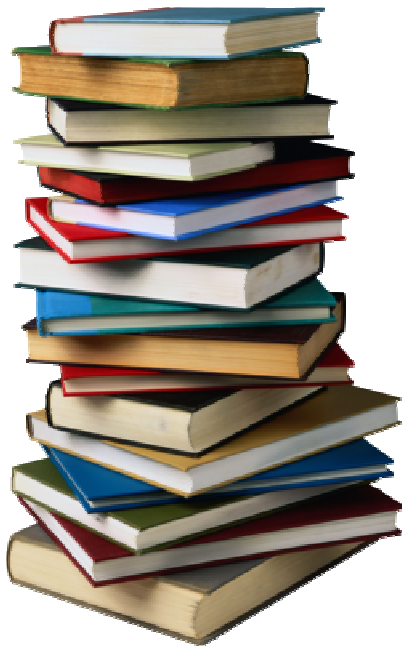
New Heights Educational Group
 Educational Resources to Help You Reach Your Goals

Knowledge

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Take a look at our new Facebook cover and look for us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/NewHeightsEducationalGroup/>

SURPRISING BOOK FACTS



33% of High School Graduates never read another book the rest of their lives

42% of college grads never read another book after college

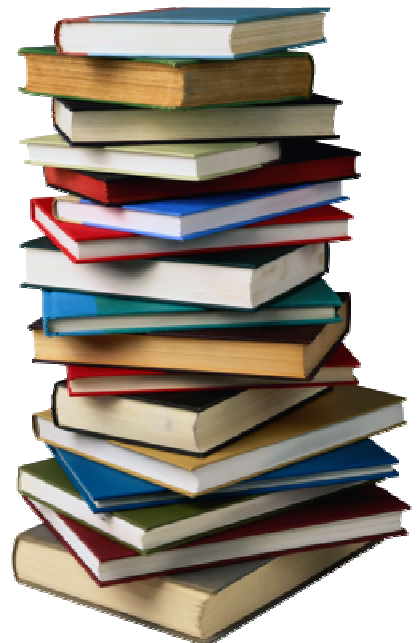
57% of new books are not read to completion

70% of US adults have not been in a book-store the last five years

80% of US families did not buy or read a book last year

The more a child reads, the likelier they are able to understand the emotions of others

Reading one hour per day in your chosen field will make you an international expert in 7 years.



© RobertBrewer.org

Sources: The Jenkins Group, Brian Tracy

CALLING ALL YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS!

January 2016

HYT's annual mentoring program will match your child with an adult theatre expert to assist them in devising a short, one act play. We then choose up to 4 of the plays to perform at our One Acts in April!

Cost: \$15 per student. *Suggested minimum grade level is 4th grade.*



DRAMA CLUB

February 11th

March 10th – April 14th – May 12th

New Location! St. Mark's Lutheran Church
315 S. College, BG (upstairs classrooms)



WORKSHOP: DEVSING

Instructor: Cassie Greenlee

Saturdays 9:00 – 11:00 Jan 23rd – March 26th (10 weeks)

Location: First Presbyterian Church

126 S. Church St, BG (upstairs classrooms)

Maximum of 10 students with waiting list.

WORKSHOP: CLOWNING

Instructor: Wendy Guion

Saturdays 9:00 – 11:00 Feb 6th – March 12th (6 weeks)

Location: First Presbyterian Church

126 S. Church St, BG (upstairs classrooms)

ONE ACTS

April 8-10, 2016

HYT presents a program of short, one act plays. Written by students and performed by students. One play will be created and acted by the Devising Workshop; the others will be chosen from those written in the Mentoring Program.

Ages: 8 – 18

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK

June 2016

Director: Cassie Greenlee



We Are More and More

Senior Humor

During my brother's wedding, my mother managed to keep from crying until she glanced at my grandparents.

✧ My grandmother had reached over to my grandfather's wheelchair and gently touched his hand. ✧ That was all it took to start my mother's tears flowing. ✧ After the wedding, Mom went over to my grandmother and told her how that tender gesture triggered her outburst. ✧ "Well, I'm sorry to ruin your moment," Grandmother replied, "but I was just checking to see if he was still alive."

At My Age

**Sometimes I Stop To Think
And Forget To Start Again.**

Senior Humor by kokobaby

Friday's Funny

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the older woman replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked **'NO REFILLS!'**"

Friday's Funny

Three sisters, ages 92, 94 and 96, live in a house together.

One night the 96-year-old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94-year-old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses. "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92-year-old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood." She then yells to them, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

SENIOR CITIZEN TEXTING CODE:

1) ATD-At The Doctors	10) OMSG- Oh My! Sorry Gas
2) BFF-Best Friend Fell	11) ROFLACGU-Rolling On Floor And Can't Get Up
3) BTW-Bring The Wheelchair	12) TTYL-Talk To Ya Louder
4) BYOT-Bring Your Own Teeth	
5) FWIW-Forgot Where I Was	
6) GGPBL-Gotta Go Pacemaker Battery Low	
7) GHA-Got Heartburn Again	
8) IMHO-Is My Hearing-aid On	
9) OMMR-On My Massage Recliner	

Posted by: www.facebook.com/yoursooscribblelaugh2011



Senior Humor

A guy is reading his paper when his wife walks up behind him and smacks him on the back of the head with a frying pan. He asks, "What was that for?" She replies, "I found a piece of paper in your pocket with 'Betty Sue' written on it."

He says, "Jeez, honey, remember last week when I went to the track? 'Betty Sue' was the name of the horse I went there to bet on."

She shrugs and walks away.

Three days later he's reading his paper when she walks up behind him and smacks him on the back of the head again with the frying pan.

He asks, "What was that for?"

She answers, "Your horse called."

609-883-8188

www.NJSeniorCare.com

Vision Therapy can help Children with Reading Problems



All children with reading disabilities should have an exam by a Doctor of Optometry. The office of Dr. Hollis Stavn in Santa Rosa, CA offers an assessment and a computerized therapy program for children and adults with reading difficulties. The assessment of reading difficulties begins with a visual and perceptual skills evaluation. Vision Therapy is a program of activities and exercises taught in every Optometry School and used by specially trained Optometrists that has been shown to be effective in improving reading difficulties and certain other vision conditions. While often used in a multidisciplinary approach in conjunction with educational therapies, Vision Therapy is often more effective than special education, tutoring, and speech and language therapy, and often succeeds where other treatments have had limited success.

Vision Therapy Background

Optometrists have taken the lead in investigating the important links between reading and vision. Over the last century, people have come to Doctors of Optometry for difficulty with reading or comprehension. Many have been labelled, and more often mislabeled, as dyslexic. Today they are often mislabeled with ADD or attention deficit disorder. The word optometry virtually means "to measure the eyes." Optometrists began to measure what we now call "visual skills" to see if they could define differences in these "visual skills" between good readers and poor readers. By improving these skills can you also improve reading ability? It turns out that this is the case. It is possible to determine why a child has trouble reading and to eliminate reading difficulties in most cases. Many different skill areas have been defined, and hundreds of activities are available to work on improving them. Most of these activities differ from the academic level instruction taught in the schools. Rather, they are perceptual level or pre-reading level skills which are not taught in the schools. This explains why tutoring alone is often ineffective—it is usually academically based and not perceptually based! Modern vision therapy is the culmination of decades-worth of work by a few dedicated individuals and only one profession—Optometry. Vision Therapy is taught only at Schools of Optometry in the United States.

Vision and Reading - Developmental Skills

The visual system is dependent on developmental experiences. We are not born with good vision, but rather with the ability to develop good vision. If this development is interfered with, then amblyopia may result—or poor vision due to a lack of proper developmental stimulation. The lack of a clear image in the eye early in life can lead to a lack of nerve connections with the eye in the brain. There is a critical period for this proper development to take place—usually the first several years of life. This is an example of development requiring proper stimulation at certain critical ages. This can serve as a model system for the development of other visual attributes as well. Visual and perceptual development is hierarchically based. The perceptual mechanisms of vision develop in a sequential way. A child who is 4 may be able to draw a circle but not the more complex square. A child of 5 may be able to draw the square but not the more complex diamond. A child in second grade may be able to read and track large print and short, second grade words, but not the longer smaller words a third grader can read. How does a child acquire these visual skills from one level to the next? Does it happen automatically or is it dependent on interaction with his or her environment?

Vision Therapy can help Children with Reading Problems

Continued From Previous Page

Some of the important visual and reading skills are:

- ◆ **Binocular Vision-** The ability of the eyes to work together well. Common problems that can affect reading are over and under convergence of the eyes. This is also referred to as eye muscle balance.
- ◆ **Refractive-** undiagnosed farsightedness can contribute to reading difficulty.
- ◆ **Accommodative ability** to easily and quickly change focus without fatigue. This is a common contributor to reading difficulty.
- ◆ **Visual Tracking-** the ability to read without skipping lines and losing ones place.
- ◆ **Visual Perception.**
- ◆ **Auditory Perception.**
- ◆ **Visual Memory.**

In the model system these skills are related to each other. For example, good binocular vision and tracking skills are needed for the development of visual memory, which is needed for reading.

The Vision Therapy Eye Exam

If you want to have a developmental eye exam to test for reading or learning difficulties, you need to make an appointment with a Doctor of Optometry who has received training in vision therapy. Only about one in twenty optometrists do such testing. This testing cannot be done by ophthalmologists. Despite their medical training, ophthalmologists receive no education in reading difficulties. In addition to a standard eye exam, additional tests should include:

- ◆ **A developmental, academic, and behavioral history.**
- ◆ **A dilated eye exam.**
- ◆ **Binocular Vision tests.**
- ◆ **Focusing facility tests.**
- ◆ **A tracking test.**
- ◆ **Visual Perception tests.**

Reading tests.

Unless these tests are done, your doctor will not be able to help you find the cause of, or help you correct, a reading difficulty. People expect a standard eye exam to tell them these things, but a standard eye exam will determine if you need glasses and if your eyes are healthy. Additional testing is required when evaluating reading problems. Every child with a reading difficulty should be examined by an optometrist.

THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

For Immediate Release:

3/17/16

For more information, contact:

New Heights Educational Group: Pamela Clark, Executive Director 419-786-0247

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK – Briana Dincher has been honored for her exemplary volunteer service with national awards: the Certificate of Excellence from the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, and the President’s Volunteer Gold Service Award granted by the program on behalf of President Barack Obama. Presented annually by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honors young people across America for outstanding volunteer service.

Certificates of Excellence are granted to the top 10 percent of all Prudential Spirit of Community Award Applicants in each state and the District of Columbia. The President’s Volunteer Service Awards recognize Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country. The New Heights Educational Group of Defiance, Ohio nominated Briana Dincher for national honors last fall in recognition of her volunteer service. Ms. Dincher is President of the organization’s National Student Leadership Council and an Internet Radio Host, and she helps interview new hosts. Her show airs live on Fridays from 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm.

Pamela Clark, Executive Director of the New Heights Educational Group, stated “Briana Dincher has been a valuable member of our team since 2014. She is a bright, talented, compassionate, and hard-working young woman. We are sure that this is only the beginning to a bright future.”

“Prudential is honored to celebrate the contributions of these remarkable young volunteers,” said Prudential Chairman and CEO John Strangfeld. “By shining a spotlight on the difference they’ve made in their communities, we hope others are inspired to volunteer, too.”

“These students have not only improved their communities through their exemplary volunteer service, but also set a fine example for their peers,” said JoAnn Bartoletti, executive director of NASSP. “Each of their stories is proof of the impact one young person can have when they decide to make a difference.”

THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS






Are you sharing our newsletter and would like to be added to our Newsletter mailing list.....
 Drop us an Email to: Newsletter@newheightseducation.org

BUT ARE HOMESCHOOLERS A LITTLE ODD? STUDIES SAY NO

In a study measuring communication, daily living skills, socialization, and maturity, homeschoolers outscored public school kids on every level:



	COMMUNICATION	DAILY LIVING	SOCIALIZATION	MATURITY
HOME-SCHOOL	113.45	112.10	109.50	115.55
PUBLIC SCHOOL	98.08	90.77	95.08	93.00

An education system that produces smart, mature students?
 No wonder homeschool is expected to continue expanding.

Social media: What parents should know



Children and teens are creating and sharing information more than ever using digital media such as cell phones, smart phones, and computers. They send text messages, use Facebook and Twitter, write blogs, and share photos and video to stay in touch with friends and family and to make new friends.

Social media offers lots of opportunity to help your child and teen be creative and stay connected and informed. But it's important to learn about the different technologies and how your children use them so you can help keep them safe online.

The social media landscape changes quickly. Because this document is only an introduction, we've included links to other websites you might find helpful.

What is social media?

Social media refers to the online tools that connect people with common interests on the Internet. Unlike traditional media (TV, radio, newspapers, and so on), social media allows users to interact with each other. Popular social networking websites include [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Flickr](#), and [MySpace](#).

There are many different ways that people use social media:

Online profiles: Most social media sites require users to set up a profile. A profile usually includes a name, e-mail address, birth date, interests, and a photo.

Friends: Depending on the kind of social media, users "follow" or "request friends" from people they know such as classmates or family. They may also use social media sites to find and meet new friends.

Messaging: Sending short text messages over the Internet, using instant messaging and between cell phones.

Walls and boards: Social media sites allow people to post or send messages in many different ways. On Facebook, for example, information is posted to a "wall". Some messages are visible to a wider audience, while others can be sent privately like e-mail.

Photo and video sharing: Social networking sites allow users to upload personal photos and videos. Some sites, such as Flickr for photos and YouTube for videos, are used solely to share images.

Blogs: A blog is a website kept by an individual who updates it with regular entries of text or photos and videos. It is a lot like a journal, only on the web. People who read blogs can comment and share published content among their own online networks.

Joining groups: Many kinds of social media allow users to create groups. People join, "like", or follow these groups to get access to information and have conversations with other members.

To play games: Children and teens visit online sites to play games, alone or with their friends. Some, like Facebook, include free online gambling applications.

How can I keep my children safe while they are using social media?

- ⇒ Learn about the technologies your children and teens are using.
- ⇒ Ask how they communicate with friends online. Tell them that you are willing and interested to learn about it.
- ⇒ Keep computers in common areas where you can watch while your children use them. Be clear about the rules for using the computer and set limits on the amount of time and how they can be used.
- ⇒ Set limits on cell and smart phone use. Talk about when it's a good time to use a cell phone. Your child or teen's school, for example, likely has rules about where and when they can or can't be used.
- ⇒ Teach them the value of "unplugging" from devices and computers for technology free time. Reinforce that no e-mail or message is so important that it can't wait until the morning.

Missing

Darren Hill Endangered runaway



Missing from: Brimfield Township, Ohio
Missing since: 2/22/2016
Missing age: 16
Current age: 16
Date of birth: 1/20/2000
Gender: Male
Race/Ethnicity: Biracial
Height: 5'10"
Weight: 130 lbs
Hair color: Brown
Eye color: Brown

Details

Darren Hill was reported missing on February 22, 2016. Darren may be located in Akron, Ohio.

Contact

If you have information contact **Brimfield Township Police**

Have You
Seen
These
Children?

Missing

Passion Smith Endangered runaway



Details Missing from: Mt. Vernon, Ohio
Missing since: 2/14/2016
Missing age: 17
Current age: 17
Date of birth: 4/1/1998
Gender: Female
Race/Ethnicity: White
Height: 5' 3"
Weight: 129 lbs
Hair color: Red

Eye color: Hazel

Passion Smith was reported missing on February 14, 2016 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. Passion was last seen wearing a pink hooded sweatshirt and black pants. Passion may be in Newark, Ohio or in West Virginia.

Contact



We just received permission from Hillsdale College in Michigan to share their courses on our website. Each link offers a group of classes.

Some of the non-credit courses being offered:

Course Catalog

- [An Introduction to C.S. Lewis: Writings and Significance](#)
- [Winston Churchill and Statesmanship](#)
- [The Federalist Papers](#)
- [A Proper Understanding of K-12 Education: Theory and Practice](#)
- [The Presidency and the Constitution](#)
- [Great Books 102: Renaissance to Modern](#)
- [Constitution 101: The Meaning & History of the Constitution](#)
- [Great Books 101: Ancient to Medieval](#)
- [Economics 101: The Principles of Free Market Economics](#)
- [History 102: American Heritage, From Colonial Settlement to the Reagan Revolution](#)
- [History 101: Western Heritage, From the Book of Genesis to John Locke](#)
- Other Lectures and Programs
- [Hillsdale Dialogues: A Survey of Great Books, Great Men, and Great Ideas](#)
[Kirby Center Lectures Archive](#)

Coming Soon



Risky Business: Driving with ADHD



February 1, 2016

The only driver more dangerous than a drunk driver is a teen driver with ADHD. According to an [article in The New York Times](#), “Young drivers with A.D.H.D. are two to four times as likely as those without the condition to have an accident—meaning that they are at a higher risk of wrecking the car than an adult who is legally drunk.” These were the findings from a study by Russell A. Barkley of the Medical University of South Carolina and Daniel J. Cox of the University of Virginia Health System. For parents of teens with ADHD—and those who share the highways and byways with them—that’s a worrisome statistic.

The mix of inexperience, inattention, and impulsiveness is a potent cocktail for those who get behind the wheel.

“It’s a bad combination,” explained Dr. Barkley, who also noted that many drivers with ADHD overestimate their driving skills. “They’re more prone to crashes because of inattention; the reason their crashes are so much worse is because they’re so often speeding.”

PREVENTING PROBLEMS

Experts agree that teens with ADHD can become safe drivers, but the process of getting there is likely to be slower and more challenging than it is for their peers without attention issues.

Some suggest teens with ADHD may be better off postponing driving. “If I were a parent of an ADHD or other special-needs kid, my goal would be to delay licensing,” said Dr. Bruce Simons-Morton, senior investigator at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development.

“They mature, they accommodate to their deficits, and they’re more likely to take medication.”

Medication seems to play an important role. A number of studies have found that ADHD medications that focus attention can reduce the risk of accidents. In fact, Dr. Barkley maintains that medication should not be optional and he further encourages the use of extended-release formulations that work into the night hours when most accidents occur.


Other experts focus on maturity as an important indicator. As stated in the article, “If a teenager with ADHD is showing consistent poor judgment or has earned only limited independence, he may not be ready. Behavioral problems can be a red flag, regardless of whether they have to do with driving.” Adds pediatrician Dr. Patty Huang, “If your kid is that oppositional and defiant, she shouldn’t be driving.”

Other helpful strategies include hiring a professional driving instructor, allowing for an extending learning period, close parental monitoring *after* the license has been obtained, and forbidding the use of cellphones.





Graduated High School Students vs. Dropouts

by Neil Kokemuller, Demand Media 

The personal satisfaction of earning a diploma is just the starting point of benefits.

Studies of the differential in earnings, employment, relationships, and quality of life between high school

graduates and dropouts are alarming. The increased opportunity to succeed in each of these areas by completing high school is significant. Students who graduate have the chance to continue with education, gain better work experience, find productive careers and relationships, and avoid negative life experiences.

Sponsored Link

Employment

Graduates experience a much higher likelihood of gaining employment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated a 2012 unemployment rate of 12.4 percent among people without a diploma, compared to 8.3 percent with a diploma. Additionally, opportunities to continue with education beyond high school and to gain quality work experiences as young adults contribute to access to higher quality and better paying jobs down the road.

Income

The income differential between graduates and non-graduates is staggering. According to 2012 U.S. Census Bureau data, a dropout could expect annual income of \$20,241, compared to \$30,627 for diploma earners. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found similar results in its 2012 pay assessments. It showed that weekly median income without a diploma was \$471, compared to wages of \$652 per work for people who graduated. This is a \$181 per week difference, or \$9,412 per year.

Relationships

The Northeastern University Center for Labor Market Studies released a report in November 2011 showing that 18 - to 34-year-old residents of Chicago without a diploma have more family and relationship struggles than those who graduate. Thirty percent of those with children were married among the non-graduated population, compared to 46 percent with a high school diploma. Civic and community involvement is also lower among non-graduates -- 26 percent voted in 2010, compared to 40 percent of people with a diploma.

Life Choices

The Northeastern University report also showed that dropouts faced a much higher likelihood to land in jail than graduated peers. Males had an especially high incarceration rate of 15 percent compared to 2 percent of female non-graduates. The rate among young black males, at 28.8 percent, was also well above rates of other ethnic groups, including white males at 6.5 percent and Hispanic males at 6.6 percent. Lack of employment, income struggles, and limited confidence are among factors contributing to higher rates of criminal activity among non-graduates.

Got an A in Algebra? That's Worth \$120

As the first person in her family to apply to college, Ashley Ayala-Perez was completely new to the undergraduate admissions process. Even more daunting, she had to figure out how she was going to pay for college — and navigate the scholarship bureaucracy.

Then, when she was a senior last year at [Northeast High School](#) in Philadelphia, her school's lead counselor posted an announcement about a new program called [Raise.me](#). Unlike other scholarships, it did not require student essays or teacher recommendations. Students simply had to enter details on the site about their high school achievements and they would immediately accrue incremental scholarship credits — contingent on admission — from certain colleges.

For Ms. Ayala-Perez, who was born in Puerto Rico and moved to Philadelphia with her family when she was 13, the program sounded almost too easy to be true. She quickly used Raise.me to calculate the amount she could amass if Pennsylvania State University, her first choice, accepted her.

She instantly picked up a \$100 scholarship credit just for having taken her high school pre-algebra class, she said, and an additional \$1,500 for getting A's in more than a dozen courses. She added an additional \$250 for having visited a local Penn State campus.

"It was kind of addicting. You kept adding in things and you could see how much money you kept making," Ms. Ayala-Perez told me recently. "It made it more concrete."

For first-generation college students like Ms. Ayala-Perez, the undergraduate application and financial aid process can seem like a black box running on sluggish, opaque mechanisms. High school students typically learn the specifics of the aid packages colleges are prepared to offer them only in the spring of their senior year, after they have been admitted. But many students in low-income families never learn about the scholarships and grants at all — because they decide not to apply to college, figuring they will never be able to afford it. Raise.me, a three-year-old start-up in San Francisco, aims to make the admissions criteria clearer and the costs a bit more feasible, particularly for first-generation collegegoers. High school students may sign up on the free site to accrue incremental scholarships from about 100

participating institutions, including Oberlin, Temple University, and soon, the University of Iowa.

Amassing scholarship points from a college does not constitute an offer of admission. But if students are accepted and attend one of the schools, they receive the Raise.me credits — on top of federal or state grants for which they might be eligible.

On average, participating colleges have awarded scholarships to incoming students of nearly \$5,000 a year for four years. In the past, those institutions may have offered students similar scholarship amounts upon acceptance; by apprising students of their eligibility earlier, administrators hope students can make more informed choices.

"It allows them to set immediate goals," says Preston Silverman, chief executive and co-founder of Raise.me, "and we give them feedback that lets them see their progress as they go."

The start-up's approach is a mash-up of two popular economic concepts. One is "nudging," that is designing systems to influence the choices people make, ideally for their own good. The other is microfinance — incremental loans for entrepreneurs who would not otherwise have access to funding.

Mr. Silverman calls Raise.me's tuition grants microsolarships.

Raise.me charges participating institutions annual fees of \$4,000 to \$20,000 based on a college's size and scholarship program. Each college sets its own criteria.

Penn State has made its Raise.me program available to students at five high schools in Philadelphia, as well as six rural Pennsylvania high schools. Those students may earn scholarships of up to \$4,000 a year for four years. Among other awards, the university offers them \$120 for each A grade in a core course, \$400 for each advanced placement course, \$100 for each year of perfect attendance, \$100 for a leadership role in a sport or extracurricular activity and \$5 for each hour of community service, up to \$500.

Jacqueline Edmondson, Penn State's associate dean for undergraduate education, says the scholarship program is intended to motivate high school students to default to choices that better prepare them to succeed in college.

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“Maybe we change the criteria to fit the students.” The hope is that, by highlighting and rewarding certain academic and extracurricular activities, Raise.me helps level the college playing — and paying — field for low-income students who may not receive the same kind of parental advice at home as their higher-income peers. The potential risk is that introducing monetary rewards could curb students’ intrinsic motivation to succeed in school, or their innate enjoyment of activities like reading, in favor of striving for scholarship dollars. “Hinging dollar amounts on individual microachievements probably creates a bunch of kids running around thinking, ‘How can I get the next 250 bucks?’ instead of focusing on what’s really important — which is learning,” said [Suzanne Gurland](#), the dean of curriculum at Middlebury College in Vermont, who has studied processes that help children thrive in school.

Rather than using microsolarships to micromanage students’ educational pathways, Professor Gurland said, colleges could simply pledge lump sums to promising ninth graders if they agreed to work diligently during high school on whichever subjects or projects interested them most. “If a kid is interested and hard-working,” Professor Gurland said, “they will take that calculus course anyway.”



Ashley Ayala-Perez used the program Raise.me to accumulate scholarship credits to attend Pennsylvania State University. She received \$1,500 for getting A’s in more than a dozen courses. Credit Will Figg for The New York Times

Mr. Silverman of Raise.me said that the scholarship program did not displace students’ inner enthusiasm, but rather enhanced their motivation by showing them additional ways they could prepare for college.

Ms. Ayala-Perez says using Raise.me did alter her approach in high school. She had wanted to drop an advanced placement literature course last year, she told me; then she saw she was eligible for a \$400 scholarship from Penn State for the class.

“I decided I should not drop it because I will lose all that money,” she said. She noted that she found the financial reward structure empowering because it focused solely on her own actions — not on her family’s income or job titles.

“My achievement, my studying, it was all me,” Ms. Ayala-Perez says. “It’s a confidence booster.”

Ms. Ayala-Perez is now a first-year pre-med student at Penn State’s Abington campus, where in-state tuition costs about \$13,600 this year. The university ultimately awarded her about \$2,500 a year in Raise.me scholarships. She also received federal and state education grants.

Ms. Ayala-Perez said she was just relieved she could focus on her studies and not have to take on extra jobs. “Mostly it’s peace of mind,” said the first-generation college student, now 18. “It was the first time I heard my grandfather cry.”