



Hancock County Educational Service Center



"Meeting Student Needs Through Cooperative Efforts"

Larry J. Busdeker, Superintendent

ESC is Ready to Assist in Meeting the Many Challenges Ahead

As we all clearly realize, just like during the closing months of the previous school year, 2020-2021 will continue to offer numerous challenges that will need to be addressed due to the pandemic. Furthermore, as was expected, a major portion of the summer has been utilized "getting-up-to speed" for the new school year in light of these serious circumstances. Once again, the ESC, with the assistance of the local schools and community, has been properly preparing to address the students' dynamic educational needs in this unique environment.

It is important to emphasize that the Hancock County ESC is very fortunate to have a productive relationship with the eight local schools that it directly serves, as well as many other educational and community entities. Beyond a doubt, there is much to be proud of at **Arcadia, Arlington, Cory-Rawson, Liberty-Benton, McComb, Riverdale, Van Buren, and Vanlue**, and I am confident that additional successes will be attained and celebrated as the school year moves forward. Basically, it is more important than ever that we all STAY STRONG and STAY POSITIVE. Please accept my sincere best wishes for another productive and safe school year.

Larry J. Busdeker, Superintendent
Hancock County ESC

Mesa Grine Receives Rieck's Gallery Award



Mesa Grine

Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, the **Rieck's Gallery Award** was initiated in order to honor a senior art student who has shown outstanding talent in the area of visual art. Importantly, in exchange for a monetary donation, the recipient of this award is asked to permanently display the selected piece of his/her artwork in the main hallway of the Hancock County Educational Service Center. Currently, 22 pieces compose this special exhibit.

The 2020 winner of the Rieck's Gallery Award is **Mesa Grine**, a recent graduate of Arcadia High School. Mesa was a student of Dan Brown, art instructor at Arcadia. Entitled "*Watercolor Peacock*," her artwork is a fine example of the use of multi-media – watercolor paints, India ink, and acrylics. Mesa plans to attend Wright State University majoring in Biology. A special thanks is extended to Mesa for this beautiful addition to the ESC art collection.



Did You Know ...

... After Hancock Public Health moved into its own facility last year, the need to provide additional office and meeting space at the ESC could be finally be addressed. The Hancock County Commissioners agreed to lease to the ESC the remaining space on the first floor, the north hallway, which is approximately 2,000 sq. ft. Action was then taken to paint, carpet, and install the necessary telecommunications so this additional space could be fully functional for staff and students. These modifications were completed at the end of July, and occupancy occurred in August. This renovated space should serve the ESC well for many years to come.

... In order to assist in providing a safe and secure educational environment, the Arlington Local Schools, the Vanlue Local Schools, and the Hancock County ESC have once again entered into an agreement with The Sheriff of Hancock County to share a School Resource Officer for the 2020-2021 school year. This partnership will continue to aid in protecting students and staff, as well as promoting a positive image regarding law enforcement in the schools.

... Now more than ever, the schools need to have direct access to public health services; therefore, through a contract between the Hancock County ESC and the Hancock Public Health Department, Arcadia, Arlington, Cory-Rawson, McComb, Van Buren, and Vanlue receive the services of a school nurse. This arrangement has worked well in the past and it is evaluated each year.

ESC Focused on Accomplishing Six Priorities

In order to maintain necessary direction and accountability to its various constituents, the Hancock County Educational Service Center is committed to addressing the following six priorities. As in the past, a mid-term report will be provided to the ESC Governing Board on the progress being made in these areas, with the final summary of accomplishments provided to all stakeholders in May.

1. To continue to enhance the numerous services that are provided to **special needs** students and their parents in the eight local school systems.
2. To provide relevant **general education services**, with an emphasis on professional development, curriculum revision, and technical assistance.
3. To develop pertinent countywide **resource materials/programs**.
4. To maintain and strengthen the **educational partnerships** with the Findlay City Schools, Findlay Digital Academy, St. Michael's School, the Millstream Career Center, the Blanchard Valley Center/DD, The University of Findlay, Bowling Green State University, and Owens Community College.
5. To build upon **community collaborations**, such as the Family-Children First Council, Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, ADAMHS, United Way of Hancock County, Raise-The-Bar, Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Findlay Rotary Club, and Challenged Champions Equestrian Center.
6. To maintain the ESC's primary commitment to **team building** and **continuous improvement** in all areas of operation, with an emphasis on **cost effectiveness** and **efficiency**.



ESC Welcomes New Members to Its Service Team

Assuming a *Speech-Language Pathologist* position is **Madi Schwable**. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Toledo. Madi has served HealthPRO Rehabilitation (Birchaven Village and Independence House) as a SLP (Clinical Fellow and CCC-SLP) for the past three years. Madi has also assisted Kindred Healthcare (Oak Grove Healthcare Center) in Deshler; and she completed her internship at the Byrnedale Elementary and Junior High School in Toledo.

Taking over the teaching responsibilities of the *Preschool* program located at *Vanlue* is **Taylor Losh**. She is a recent graduate of Bowling Green State University, with a Bachelor's degree in Inclusive Early Childhood Education. Taylor completed student teaching experiences at Otsego Local Schools and at Conneaut Elementary School in Bowling Green. She has worked as a lifeguard for the Putnam County YMCA, a volunteer teacher aide at the Ottawa Elementary School, and a camp counselor at Camp Mowana.

Accepting the role as a *TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language) Instructor* is **Angelina Starkey**. Angelina has a Bachelor's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University in Elementary Education and Master's degree from The University of Findlay in Bilingual Education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. For the past year, she has been a first grade teacher in the Oxford Schools, Amman, Jordan. Taylor has also taught second and third grade English at the American Academy in Zarqa, Jordan; fifth grade Sheltered Instruction teacher at the Holt Crossing Intermediate Schools in the South-Western City Schools in Grove City, Ohio; and a third/fourth grade combined teacher at the Puebla Christian School, Puebla, Mexico.

Joining the instructional support team as the *ABLIS (Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills) Provider* is **Mia Giano**. Mia is a magna cum laude graduate of Bowling Green State University. She has worked for Capable Kids with the students with developmental disabilities, and at The Center for Autism and Dyslexia assisting children in meeting ABLIS goals.

Taking on the position of *Middle School Multiple Disabilities Teacher* at Van Buren is **Jennifer Kahle**. Jennifer earned an Associate's degree from Rhodes State University in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor's degree from The University of Findlay as an Intervention Specialist. For the past six years she has been a Pre-Vocational Instructor at Simon Kenton School – Hardin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Jennifer has also served as a One-on-One Student Assistant at the Blanchard Valley School.

Becoming the new *Parent Mentor* is **Claire McCumber**. Claire has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management/Human Resources from Tiffin University. She has served as a Bank Teller for Huntington National Bank, 5/3 Bank, and Woodforest National Bank all in Findlay, as well as Customer Service. Herself a mother of a special needs son, Claire will be able to provide valuable assistance to children with special needs and their families.

Assuming the new role as *Fulltime Building Substitute Teacher* is **Briana Digby**. She is a Riverdale graduate, and Briana just received her Bachelor's from Bluffton University in Early Childhood Education. Her presence at Riverdale on a daily basis will insure that quality instruction is maintained for the special needs students even when absences in the teaching staff do occur.

As is evident, the Hancock County ESC has been able to recruit a fine group of educators for these key professional positions. A special "welcome aboard" is once again extended to each of these new team members.



“Service” is Our Middle Name

Since the **Hancock County Educational Service Center** is committed to “*meeting student needs through cooperative efforts*,” the ESC diligently works to accomplish this mission by assisting and supporting the eight local schools in the following **service** areas:

General Education Improvement: Specialized help is provided with curriculum review, the textbook/classroom resources selection process, the Resident Educator program, and intervention strategies. Technical assistance is also given to the Hancock Literacy and Leader-In-Me initiatives, as well as facilitating pertinent professional development for both teachers and administrators in OIP (the Ohio Improvement Process) and OTES (Ohio Teacher Evaluation System.).

Gifted/Enrichment Programming: The ESC coordinates the High School and Middle School Quiz Bowl programs, the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society Inductions, and the countywide Spelling Bee. Assistance is provided with the identification of gifted students and the maintenance of the local service plans, as well as extensive professional development. The ESC coordinates the Marie Berry Scholarship program, and it is also actively involved in the selection process of numerous scholarship programs through the Hancock County Community Foundation.

Special Needs Services: Besides directly supervising the ED (*emotionally disturbed*), ID (*intellectual disabled*) and MD (*multiple disabled*) programs, the ESC provides critical services to special needs students through occupational therapy, physical therapy, adaptive physical education, behavioral specialists, and a parent mentor. Specific programming by the Challenged Champions Equestrian Center (*therapeutic horseback riding*), as well as ABLLS-R program (*Assessment of Basic Language and Learning Skills-Revised*) are also offered to these youth.

Special Needs Pre-Schools: A total of fifteen state-funded special needs pre-school classes are operated and supervised by the ESC, which are located at all eight schools. The services of an itinerant preschool instructor are also provided. Additionally, due to Community Foundation and United Way funding, a pre-school program for low socio-economic students is offered at Riverdale, as well as a county-wide preschool scholarship program for needy young people and their families.

Psychological Services: Six fulltime school psychologists, as well as a “Teacher on Special Assignment”, provide a wide variety of necessary technical assistance to the local schools.

Speech/Language Therapy: Eight full time speech/language therapists provide these required services to PreK-12 county students.

Community Collaboration: The ESC actively collaborates with the Findlay City Schools, The University of Findlay, Findlay/Hancock County Community Foundation, United Way of Hancock County, Findlay-Hancock County Chamber of Commerce/Alliance, Hancock Literacy Coalition, the Findlay Rotary Club, the Hancock County Sheriff’s Office, and the Findlay/Hancock County Workforce Development Coalition (Raise-The-Bar).

Miscellaneous Services: The ESC manages the Hancock County School Insurance Consortium, directs the Hancock County Alternative Opportunity Center/Digital School, and it coordinates the Hancock County Schools Business Advisory Council. It also provides the services of a part-time attendance officer and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) staffing.