



The Sponsor Connection

FOR SCHOOLS SPONSORED BY ST. ALOYSIUS

July 2019



TOWPATH TRAIL HIGH SCHOOL - DROP OUT PREVENTION DONE RIGHT

Recently the Thomas Fordham Institute published a school profile on Towpath Trail High school as a drop out high school who is succeeding at giving students the tools to build a better future. Author Lyman Millard of the Bloomwell Group offers a fascinating look at a school that engages at-risk young people through career and technical education by giving us a look into the lives of three students. One is a refugee from the war-torn Middle East who found a new home at Towpath Trail High School after the traditional district failed her. She has thrived there and now dreams of becoming a heart surgeon. This is the story-the human face-of dropout prevention done right. To read the article in its entirety please [CLICK](#) here.

STEM. ROBOTICS. IT. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. DESIGN THINKING. ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING.



What do these words have in common? They are all linked to emerging technologies and in-demand, careers!

This past school year, the North Woods Career Prep High School (formerly Life Skills High School of Columbus North) robotics team, IRON THUNDER, built their first robot, "Cozmyk." The team won the 'Rookie Inspiration' award at the Buckeye Regional Robotics competition. The award recognized that IRON THUNDER was unlike any of the other large district and private school teams that typically compete. Since that competition, students have taken coursework in Additive Manufacturing (3-D printing),

Coding, CAD, Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking and more. Two students have enrolled in colleges to study robotics and engineering and many more students will surely follow that same path.

To give their students a career advantage, North Woods Career Prep (NWCP) prioritizes technological fields including IT, digital arts and marketing, entrepreneurship and healthcare. Combining service learning, career field exploration, and credentialing, North Woods Career Prep prepares every student to not only to be college and career ready but to be lifelong learners.

FusionEd supports seven Career Prep High Schools throughout Ohio - all formerly known as Life Skills High Schools. To set their students up for success, FusionEd offers in-house career programs and also partners with districts, technical colleges and trade schools. This career focus allows students to graduate with both a high school diploma and industry recognized credentials.

PATRIOT PREPARATORY STUDENT EARNS ASSOCIATES DEGREE THROUGH COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS PROGRAM



Amya Grant was one of only 30 high school students to earn an associate degree from Columbus State Community College through the College Credit Plus program for the graduating class of 2019. Amya attended Patriot Preparatory Academy for 8 years under the leadership of Sean Smith and maintained a 3.48 grade average. She was an active member of the varsity soccer team and also did volunteer work. At the beginning of Amya's secondary years, she was accepted in the College Credit Plus program. The program afforded her the opportunity to earn required high school credits and transferrable college credits simultaneously. Amya, a determined student, set her sights on earning her associate degree. By attending the Patriot Preparatory school since the 9th grade, Amya achieved that goal on May 10, 2019 and plans to continue her education at Kent State University and major in psychology.

WHAT'S IN YOUR POLICY MANUAL?

Governing Board members have many important responsibilities. Considering the seemingly endless new and sometimes conflicting rules and regulations, it is important to have an updated set of approved policies and the support of legal counsel familiar with the unique nature of community schools. Policies help protect the school from frivolous lawsuits and provide guidance for school personnel to follow while operating the school. Familiarize yourself with the policies. Ensure you are seeing policies consistently for updates and approval. Don't be left in the dark!



SPONSOR ASSURANCES ARE UNDERWAY!

The Charter School Specialists team has been working with each of our schools on the FY19-20 Sponsor Opening Assurances process. This requirement became law in 2007 and has expanded in scope since its inception twelve years ago.

The law requires that we annually provide written opening assurances to the Ohio Department of Education no later than 10 business days prior to the opening of every community school that we sponsor. The opening of the school includes the first day of instruction for the current academic year, a change of school location, or the opening of a new or additional facility for the school.

Our team has scheduled walk thru visits with each school as well conducting a complete a thorough review of items required in the twenty (20) page assurance document. It also provides an opportunity to ensure that the OEDS (Ohio Educational Directory System) directory is updated with current and accurate information for every community school. All areas of school operations are reviewed during the assurance process, for example making sure that contracts are current; teachers are properly licensed; policies and procedures are in place protecting student data; financial viability of the school and ensuring that School Emergency Plans are in place, just to name a few.

Community schools are not permitted to open until the opening assurances process is complete, compliant and the signed document submitted to ODE (10) business days prior to school opening.

Thank you to the school leaders and others who help in this required process. Please let us know if you have questions. If you'd like to see a copy of the assurance document [CLICK here](#).

FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORNER

As you celebrate our Nation's Independence, are you also celebrating having your FY20 consolidated applications completed?

Hopefully, all of you have submitted the consolidated grants application and have obtained a substantially approved date of July 1st. If you have not yet submitted the application, try to do so as soon as possible so your school can start encumbering funds in preparation for the new school year.



A substantially approved date allows the school to encumber funds for specific purposes as stated in the budget page and budget details page. It is also important to keep track of any encumbrances from your substantially approved date until September 30th. Keeping track of these will allow you to put the encumbrances on the 9/30 report in December which reduces your carryover should your school have Title I carryover greater than the 15% carryover limit.

In preparation for the coming school year, the Ohio Department of Education is providing Resident Educator Mentor Academy training on July 31st. If your school has a teacher interested in becoming a mentor in the Resident Educator Program, please pass along this information. Also planned for the 31st is the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System Evaluator Training. If you need to be certified or re-certified as an evaluator in

the OTES system, please register for this required training. Registration for the trainings is accessed through the new [OH/ID Portal](#).

Please contact Nannette Sherman for questions or assistance regarding federal programs and navigating CCIP at 614-837-8945, extension 23 or Nsherman@charterschoolspec.com

OHIO SCHOOLS REPORT CARD TRAINING

Understanding Ohio's Local Report card can be a daunting task for both new and returning school leaders. The upcoming training on September 27th will provide insight into the Local Report Card components and measures and how they impact your school's overall grade. **This session is highly recommended for all St. Aloysius Orphanage/Charter School Specialists sponsored schools.**

This training will be led by Marianne Mottley, Report Card Project Director-Ohio Department of Education. Please plan to attend one or both of the training sessions on **Friday, September 27th** at Ashland University Columbus Campus (1900 E Dublin Granville Rd. Columbus, OH 43229).

- 1st session 10:00 am - 12:00 pm- Dropout Prevention & Recovery Schools
- 2nd session 12:30 pm- 3:00 pm - K-12 Community Schools

Registration for this training session is available [HERE](#)

VISION AND HEARING NOTICE

Administrators Remember to Send/Post the Vision and Hearing Notice to Parents prior to August 1st

According to ORC 3313.673, schools that enroll Kindergarten and 1st grade students must complete vision and hearing screening for students by Nov. 1. Schools must notify parents of this screening before August 1st of each year. Please keep a copy of your notification (dated after July 1 but before August 1) for compliance purposes. If you have any questions please contact Brian Dunbar at 614-837-8945 ext 15 or bdunbar@charterschoolspec.com.

REMINDER

July 1	School Safety Plans must be reviewed and certified no later than July 1st.
July 1	FY20 Consolidated Grants Application need to be submitted on or before July 1 to receive a July 1 substantially approved date.
Aug 1	Vision & Hearing Notice to be posted/sent to parents prior to August 1
Sep 15	New due date for resubmission of ODE school improvement plan if required
Sept 27	Ohio Report Card Training - register HERE