



SPONSOR CONNECTION

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Latest News for St. Aloysius Sponsored Schools

Graduation - The Most Rewarding Time of the Year!



Graduation is the most rewarding time of the year for schools. Each year it is exciting to see all the graduates that cross the stage and enter the next phase of life. It brings Charter School Specialists great pleasure this month to showcase our sponsored High Schools' graduations and accomplishments. It was evident this year that the leadership at these high schools had a very clear focus to ensure that all the graduates have opportunities after graduation as evidenced below. Whether it be providing credentials to ensure a place in the workforce, opportunities to go into a trade school or community college, enlist into the military, or attend a four-year university, it is clear that the following schools have taken college and workforce readiness by storm. The Charter School Specialists' staff

would like to personally thank the schools' boards, management companies, and school staff for their hard work, dedication, and support to these graduates. We also send out congratulations to all 1,633 graduates this year. We look forward to the coming year and watching more young people realize their potential.

School Highlights

- AchievePoint Career Academy - 61 graduates and 28 credentials earned
- Black River High School - 33 graduates and 23 credentials earned
- Buckeye London HS - 34 graduates and 7 credentials earned
- Buckeye Mansfield HS - 66 graduates and 8 credentials earned
- Buckeye Marion HS - 77 graduates and 11 credentials earned
- Capital City Career Prep HS - 42 graduates 37 credentials earned
- Cliff Park High School - 78 graduates and 68 credentials earned
- Cornerstone High School - 18 graduates, 10 earned college credits, 94% of graduates were accepted to college, Total scholarship dollar amount earned by seniors was \$3,195,452
- Cypress High School - 87 graduates and 86 credentials earned
- Fairborn Digital Academy had 29 graduates
- Franklin Prep HS - 37 graduates and 35 credentials earned
- Gateway Online Academy - 92 graduates and 25 credentials earned
- Gem City Career Prep HS - 39 graduates and 33 credentials earned
- Glass City Academy - 179 graduates and 123 credentials earned
- Greater Ohio Virtual School - 205 graduates
- Lake Erie International HS - 59 graduates and 76 credentials earned
- Liberty High School - 91 graduates and 86 credentials earned
- Marshall High School - 67 graduates and 57 credentials earned
- Mt Auburn Prep HS - 19 graduates and \$850,000 in scholarships, 26 acceptance letters to 2-year colleges, and 42 acceptance letters to 4-year colleges
- Northwoods Career Prep HS - 18 graduates and 9 credentials earned
- Patriot Prep Academy HS - 27 graduates and 139 earned college credits
- Queen City Career Prep HS - 8 graduates and 14 credentials earned
- Randall Park HS - 42 graduates and 38 credentials earned
- Rivergate High School - 43 graduates and 13 credentials earned
- Towpath Trail HS - 173 graduates and 124 credentials earned
- Westwood Academy - 9 graduates

The 2022-2023 school year at **Cypress High School** has been nothing short of extraordinary. With the addition of new career tech programs and an impressive number of graduates, the school has expanded its offerings and provided invaluable opportunities for students to explore their passions and pursue their dreams. As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, it becomes evident that Cypress Career Tech is committed to nurturing talent and empowering students to reach their full potential.

One of the highlights of the school year was the introduction of the manufacturing and construction program, as well as the Nail Tech program in January. These additions broadened the range of career paths available to students, enabling them to gain practical skills and knowledge in these growing industries. Cypress Career Tech has demonstrated its dedication to staying ahead of the curve, ensuring that students are equipped with the necessary tools to succeed in the ever-evolving job market.



A remarkable achievement of the past year was the graduation of 87 students from Cypress High School, with an overwhelming 86 of them receiving certification and Cognia seal recognition in one of the five career tech programs offered. These certifications serve as a testament to the students' hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Among the graduating class, 11 students achieved certification in construction, 11 in manufacturing, 47 in business, 12 in healthcare, and 5 in Nail Tech. Cypress High School has provided students with the practical skills and knowledge they need to thrive in their chosen fields.

Cypress High School goes beyond mere education; it encourages students to dream big and believe in their abilities. By developing their skills and expanding their knowledge, the school empowers students to build upon their unique talents and passions. Through engaging curriculum and hands-on experiences, students are given the opportunity to explore their interests and discover their true potential.

As the 2022/23 school year has come to a close, Cypress eagerly anticipates what the future holds. The success and achievements of this past year have set the stage for an even more promising 2023/24 school year. With a commitment to innovation, growth, and student success, Cypress remains dedicated to providing an exceptional learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and personal development. It is clear that Cypress will continue to provide outstanding opportunities for students to excel and make their mark in the world.



Franklinton Prep High School

"Graduates, I want you to know that none of you are ever too much. You possess unique talents, passions, and dreams that deserve to be nurtured, celebrated, and embraced. In a world that often tries to fit us into predefined boxes, I implore you to resist the pressure to shrink, to conform, or to be anything less than your authentic selves.

If you find yourself in places that require you to diminish your light, to stifle your creativity, or to suppress your true potential, then you are in the wrong place."

Cris Gulacy-Worrel (graduation Speaker)

Gem City Career Prep High School's

commencement ceremony was held on June 2nd, 2023, at Sinclair Community College. Gem City's class of 2023 contained 39 graduates. Hundreds of supporters filled the venue to support these students' well-deserved accomplishment. In addition to completing the credit requirements, these Gems graduated by meeting Ohio's Legacy & permanent requirements. Two graduates obtained their Industry Credential And Workforce Readiness credentials (IRCs) in NCCER Core & NCCER Level One-Electrical. Thirty-One students earned their IRCS using Rise-up's Customer Service and Retail sales.

The class of 2023's valedictorian was Arieonna Walker. Miss Walker utilized the flexibility offered by Gem City Career Prep High School and graduated earlier than her original graduating class. Gem City could not be prouder of her and the entire Class of 2023.



On Tuesday, June 6th, 2023, the **Greater Ohio Virtual School** hosted its 19th graduation ceremony. The event was held at Lebanon High School, and a record 205 students crossed the finish line and earned their high school diplomas. Memorable highlights from the evening included a student speech by Franklin B. Walter Award Recipient and GOVS graduate Madison Byrnes, A program designed by GOVS Junior Sophia Kreamelmeyer, who currently has artwork hanging in the State Capitol, and a visit from State Board Member Walt Davis. The GOVS staff worked incredibly hard to reach this record number of graduates, and the additional supports that were added over the past two years in the form of academic coaches, mental health supports, resource coordinator, and the opening of the new GOVS student center have impacted the increased number of graduates! Congratulations to the Class of 2023!



Black River Career Prep High School Students Take the Stage at Their High School Graduation

Black River Career Prep High School, a dropout prevention/credit recovery school serving students 15-21 in Elyria, Ohio, celebrated its 2023 graduation on May 25 at the Lorain Palace Theater. A total of 33 graduates walked across the stage that evening to receive their fully-accredited high school diploma.

Of those 33 graduates, 23 graduates also completed at least one Industry-Recognized Credential, including Rise Up Customer Service, Rise Up Retail Industry Fundamentals, Phlebotomy, ServSafe Person In Charge, Telephone Doctor, and OSHA-10. According to the 2023 Graduate Survey, 2 students are enlisting in the military, 10 are pursuing an apprenticeship/career-related training, 7 are enrolling in a 4 year college, 4 are enrolling in a 2 year college program, and 10 are entering the workforce. Hats off to the graduates! Way to go Black River Career Prep High School!



Towpath Trail High School Graduates 173 Students!

Towpath Trail High School is a free, public charter school that has been providing school choice to Akron's youth since 2012. The students at all three Towpath Trail locations (Downtown Akron, East Akron, and Barberton) are provided with the opportunity to earn their high school diploma and an industry recognized credential in a safe and flexible learning environment. During the 2022-2023 school year, Towpath Trail High School received a YouthBuild grant from the United States Department of Labor, which supports the school in providing healthcare and construction credentials to its students. On the academic side, Towpath exceeds standards overall on the state report card for community schools, which includes measures such as test passage and graduation rate.

This year's graduating class included 173 students who celebrated this momentous achievement at EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall at The University of Akron. Of these graduates, 21 earned a credential in the Healthcare field, 20 students earned a credential in Construction, and 83 students earned a credential in Business and Entrepreneurship. With these credentials, Towpath's graduates have been able to secure jobs at Open M, Summa Hospital, Pebble Creek Nursing Home, St. Edwards of Fairlawn, Ohio Living Rocky Knoll, and Habitat for Humanity.



Northwoods Career Prep High School Graduation

Tucked away in the Northland neighborhood of north Columbus is North Woods Career Prep High School. A small school with a small staff and one big goal - graduation. North Woods is a dropout prevention and credit recovery high school. The majority of their students are between the ages of 16 and 21 years old. Many of their students are either at-risk of dropping out, have dropped out in the past, or experience barriers to their education.

At North Woods, their fastest growing demographic is international students. Many of these students are between 18 and 20 years old, have earned most of their credits in their home country, and need just a few required credits, such as American Literature, American History, American Government, and a few electives. However, some local public school districts don't want them because they are "too old." In the 2022-2023 school year, nearly 50% of North Woods' student body was international.

Aside from helping at-risk students earn their high school diploma, North Woods also focuses on Career. While not a vocational program, North Woods does offer students Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs). They like to call these "resume boosters." North Woods offers the following IRCs: Telephone Doctor, OSHA-10, OSHA-30, CPR, ServSafe, Student Leadership Excellence, 3M: Head, Eye, and Face Protection, 3M: Hearing and Noise Protection, 3M: Respiratory Protection, Rise Up: Retail Industry Fundamentals, Rise Up: Customer Service and Sales, NCCER Core, and CPT+. The last several years, North Woods has also offered Phlebotomy. Four of this year's graduates completed the Phlebotomy program with one passing the National Exam. Aside from being resume boosters, IRCs can be used as an alternative pathway to a high school diploma for those students who struggle with the state's End of Course exams. Nine of this year's graduates used a 12-point IRC pathway to secure their diploma.

North Woods had 18 graduates (11 of whom were from international families), who completed 72 IRC programs, which will help set North Woods graduates apart from other candidates in the workforce. In addition to 18 high school graduates, North Woods also had 12 adult students earn their high school diploma through Ohio's 22+ Adult Diploma Program. North Woods is not just for credit recovery. They had four students graduate early in the class of 2023.



Liberty High School Graduates Earning a 12-Point Industry Recognized Credential

Liberty High School opened its doors to students during the 2016-2017 school year. In 2018, five students graduated from Liberty High School. This year, 91 students graduated from Liberty High School, and 95% of the graduates earned a 12-point industry recognized credential. Career technical education is a key element to the learning and future success of Liberty students.

The school had 15 of our healthcare students become certified phlebotomists, nine continued to become licensed patient care technicians, and 2 are now licensed medical assistants. All are certified in CPR and nine completed the Ohio pre-apprenticeship program.

All 17 of Liberty's construction students have completed CPR and OSHA training, are certified in CORE construction skills by the National Center for Education and Research (NCCER) and completed the Ohio pre-apprenticeship program. Additionally, each construction student spent well over 250 hours working on the house built as a part of the Pathway to Home ownership program which was developed to provide qualified tornado survivors the opportunity to become first-time homeowners.

The school's six direct support professional graduates have also completed CPR, the Certificate of Initial Proficiency, and the Ohio pre-apprenticeship program. Their Advanced Manufacturing students passed rigorous testing to earn credentials from the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council. Thirty-five business students successfully completed the National Retail Federation Retail Industry Fundamentals certification and the Customer Service and Sales credential.

Each high school graduate in Ohio is required to earn two seals to meet the graduation requirements. Liberty graduates earned a total of 265 seals in Science, Citizenship, Student engagement, Ohio Means Jobs Readiness, Industry Credential, and Community Service.

Due to partnerships with YouthBuild Dayton, AmeriCorp, the Dayton Food Bank, local hospitals and a number of other organizations, and the fact that these graduates are great young people, over 14,427 hours of community service work was completed this year and 38 students earned the community service seal.

Students enroll at Liberty High School for a multitude of reasons. One graduate who got pregnant at the age of 13, enrolled at Liberty this year and ended up graduating a whole year early. Another student was turning 22 this year, and she not only earned her high school diploma at Liberty, but she also got hired as a full-time phlebotomist a week after graduation. No matter why a student enrolls at Liberty High School, the school staff are focused on not only helping them earn their high school diplomas but are also committed to helping them get a high-quality job that will make a difference in their lives. Earning industry credentials is a vital part of students' success after high school.



Lake Erie International High School is a charter dropout prevention and recovery high school serving the westside of Cleveland and surrounding areas. Lake Erie's mission is to focus on graduation and growth while preparing students for success after graduation. We see students as the individuals they are and provide an educational program that meets those unique needs. From start to finish, students will be assigned to a staff mentor that will be their go-to person to answer any questions, provide encouragement, and to help address any needs the student may have. All Lake Erie staff, from the secretary to the teachers, play an integral part in our students' journey to academic success, and it all

starts with Mr. Colón the Enrollment Specialist, who helps the students become acclimated to the school environment by providing tours of the building and making staff introductions. His outgoing attitude and warm personality make him popular with the students, who seek him out just to say hello. The Family Advocate, Mr. Asche, and Student Success Coordinator, Ms. Lescook, provide the students with resources and referrals to address any barriers to success that the student may be experiencing; economically, socially, or emotionally. Students have

found with a listening ear that they can trust and rely on. Ms. Harrison, the Academic & Career Advisor assists students interested in college or careers by providing information on job opportunities, internships, or college requirements. She helps students with filling out applications and provides tips and tricks to acing the interview process. The CTE Coordinator, Ms. Bradford, exposes the students to career options and guides them in choosing the best career technical education program to take that is in their field of interest. She checks on students who are enrolled in her programs and assists them with preparing for state exams. The Principal, Ms. Hullum, and Assistant Principal, Ms. Bundy provide support and guidance by meeting with the students to inform them of their academic requirements and monitoring progress to ensure those requirements are being met. Students know they can count on one of them to address any issues they have or provide them with guidance on how best to meet their remaining requirements.



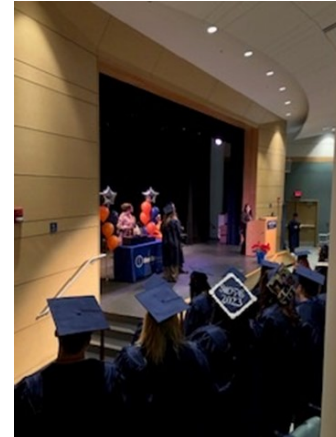
Capital City Career Prep High

School completed the 2022-2023 school year with many accomplishments. We had a total of 42 Graduates who were very busy during the year. Of the 42 graduates, 37 walked the stage with multiple Industry Recognized Credentials. Credentials included CPR, Serve Safe, Telephone Doctor, Leadership Excellence, Rise Up, NCCER, 3M, and Forklift. In addition, several students had the opportunity to explore the Manicurist Program and Phlebotomy. Many graduates earned 12 point Industry Recognized Credentials. 12 Students completed the Construction IRC and 19 completed the Rise Up IRC. In all 122 credentials entered the work world on June 2, 2023! In addition, 9 Capital City Graduates have also applied and/or been accepted to institutes of higher learning. We are so very proud of the work they have put into their academics and into their futures.



Fairborn Digital Academy holds two graduation ceremonies hosted at Wright State University every year to recognize the students who reached their graduation requirements during the school year.

This year, during the Winter Graduation, 11 students received their diplomas and 18 students walked in the Spring Graduation. This year's Valedictorian was Shelby Taylor, who graduated with the Winter class, and the Salutatorian was Haley Thompson, who was a part of the Spring class.



River Gate High School proudly graduated forty-three students this June! Thirteen of them graduated with a credential. The three students who earned an STNA credential were among the first group of students to pass both portions of the state STNA exam! We were extremely proud of them for working so hard. The other ten students passed the Rise Up Retail Fundamentals and Customer Service credential. River Gate is also proud to say this was our largest graduating class post Covid.

LEGAL UPDATE

August Legal Update -"Additions to Curriculum"

The theme in our legislative review for this month is "Additions to Curriculum". There has already been one bill that has passed this year, Senate Bill 288, that will require additional items to be included in a school's curriculum. HB 33, that was recently signed into law, incorporates a version of HB 117 which has several revisions to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. We would like to take a few minutes to review some of the other proposals that have been introduced that will require additional instructional items be added to a school's curriculum. House Bill 63 proposes to require schools to include in their curriculum conflict resolution instruction for all students in grades K-12. House Bill 103 proposes to establish a social studies task force to develop new social studies academic standards for the 2024 – 2025 school year. And House Bill 171 proposes to require the inclusion of instruction on migration, experiences, and contributions of a range of communities in the social studies model curriculum. Some of the bills discussed here are more general, while others focus on a particular area within a subject matter.

Another big change to curriculum is the adoption of science of reading techniques. DEW is required to compile a list of high-quality core curriculum and instructional materials in English language arts and a list of evidence-based reading intervention programs that are aligned with the science of reading. All schools are required to use these, starting no later than the 2024-2025 school year.

Summary of HB 33 ("Budget Bill") Changes

The Ohio Appropriations Bill, also known as HB 33, was signed into law by Governor DeWine on July 3, 2023. There are many provisions that affect community schools within the bill including changes to funding, transportation, curriculum, DOPR programs, teacher licensure and resident educator programs, professional development related to dyslexia, quality school grant recipient requirements and many more. We are hosting a CLE on August 18 from 11:30 am -1 pm to cover all of these changes. If you are not available to participate at that time, the session will be recorded and distributed on our website at <https://charterschoolspec.com/>.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee Changes

HB 33 of the 135th General Assembly that was signed by Governor DeWine earlier this month made significant changes to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Generally, third graders in 2022-23 that did not meet the promotion score on Ohio's State Test for third grade English language arts must be promoted unless a student's parent or guardian requests the student be retained. Information regarding changes for the 2022-23 and additional changes going into effect for the 2023-2024 school year can be found on ODE's Third Grade Reading Guarantee webpage linked [here](#).



Fall is a time of preparation for schools. As schools prepare for students, schools operating as a targeted assistance Title I program will want to prepare for becoming a Title I schoolwide school. The advantage of moving from a targeted assistance Title I school program to a schoolwide Title I program is that a schoolwide Title I program allows the school to spend federal funds for the benefit of all children and not just those students participating in the Title I pull-out program. There are specific activities that a school must do to move from a targeted assistance program to a schoolwide program. ODE has provided guidance on this process, available [HERE](#).

This is the final year for the ARP ESSER funds. Schools will receive the carryover funds once the Final Expenditure Report has been accepted by ODE office of Grants Management. Please know that a school does not have to wait for their carryover funds to be allocated to encumber these funds. Schools may enter a history log note identifying their intent to spend carryover funds on a specific activity. History log notes may be used until the carryover funds are loaded into the CCIP system. For example, if the school is expecting Title I carryover funds and wants these funds to be spent offering after-school tutoring, the school would simply enter a history log note stating, "the school plans on using the Title I carryover funds to support the after-school tutoring program." Be sure and check the box indicating that the history log note will be sent to the federal programs' consultant. If the school wants to specify how the ARP ESSER carryover will be spent, the school should enter a similar history log note in the FY23 history log for ARP ESSER and make sure to send the history log note to the consultant.

Finally, congratulations to all our schools who received the Stronger Connections grant! A list of all schools receiving this grant, can be found at [Stronger Connections Award](#).

For information on federal programs, please contact Nannette Sherman at nsherman@charterschoolspec.com.

Auditor of State Community School Training

This year's training will be held virtually and free of charge. The event is open to Community School Officials, including treasurers, administrators, EMIS coordinators, school sponsors, and others. Topics include a School Funding Update, an EMIS Update, Federal Update, and more. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register

New Attendance Guide for Ohio schools and Districts

[Ohio's Attendance Guide is now available](#) for the 2023-2024 school year. The guide emphasizes the importance of focusing on early intervention and prevention strategies to improve student attendance.

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