



OHIO'S 51 EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS RECEIVE *HIGH PERFORMING ESC* DESIGNATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE (DEW)

October 28, 2024 – Each of Ohio’s 51 Educational Service Centers (ESCs) applied for and received the **High Performing ESC** designation from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW). To achieve the *High Performing ESC* designation, an ESC must generate total cost savings of at least 5% across five ESC-selected service areas for its client school districts as compared to the district providing the services themselves or from another third-party provider. The percentage of savings for Ohio’s ESCs far exceeds this 5% benchmark, averaging 39.32% savings in Fiscal Year 2024, based on data provided by the DEW.

I am J. Mike Derringer and I am honored to serve as the Superintendent of the Preble County Educational Service Center. The communities, school districts, and families of Preble County make this an incredible place to call home. Throughout my years in school districts across Ohio, I have always desired to come back home and it truly is the honor of my professional life to serve in this role. Preble County is an innovative and close-knit community that offers hometown values with a reverence for agriculture, hard work, family, and



education. I am proud to serve as one of its leaders.

Here at Preble ESC, we place value and emphasis on knowing the whole child and encouraging their leadership in our community while also focusing on their strengths and overcoming their obstacles.

This is emblematic of our commitment to our Mission Statement which encompasses collaboration with community partners to serve the individualized needs of our students, families, staff, and districts. All-in-all, there are over 350 staff associated with Preble ESC in some capacity - each working on targeted goals for a focused group or an individual student. These professionals are focused on the results of the student and are passionate about professional growth so that our county’s students can be the best versions of themselves and I am proud to be counted among them.

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What The ESC Does



There are many that do not know what an ESC is or does. Simply put, as an Educational Service Center, it is our job to serve all who desire quality education in Preble County. We accomplish this service across Preble County providing all five school districts with specific and targeted assistance. Specifically, we provide Eaton, National Trail, Preble Shawnee, Tri-County North, and Twin Valley South schools with:

- Substitute Teachers and Substitute Aides in an efficient and reliable manner
 - Preschool programming, including social communications classrooms for our youngest learners
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- Multiple Disabilities (MD) classrooms for students to shine in their own unique way
 - Student behavior supports and behavior coaching to learn and practice coping strategies in everyday life
 - The ESC Success Academy for students with behavioral and/or self-regulation goals
 - Career Exploration and Career Connections Programs to ensure students are job-ready upon graduation
 - Speech and Language Pathology services to ensure students can communicate effectively and appropriately
 - Enrichment Programs such as our county spelling bee, county art show, all-county band and choir etc.
 - Truancy and attendance services to ensure students are attending school per Ohio law
 - Project LIFE for young adults with a developmental disability seeking a future of adult independence





- Background Checks and Fingerprinting Services for those wishing to work with children in our community
- Professional Development opportunities for those in education within Preble County
- Home education recording and monitoring for those who desire to be educated in alternative ways

This list is always growing as the needs of our community and our precious student population evolve. I am proud of our faculty, staff, and administration and as a family we are committed to providing all students with a high quality education and services that will prepare them for life. As our leader, I will not rest until every Preble County student is equipped for their own version of success once they enter into adulthood. With that mindset, we will continue to overcome tomorrow's educational needs today.

These are truly exciting times in Preble County from an educational perspective, and I am confident that the best is yet to come. I am thankful for a supportive and growing community, and I look forward to an incredibly bright future as we continue



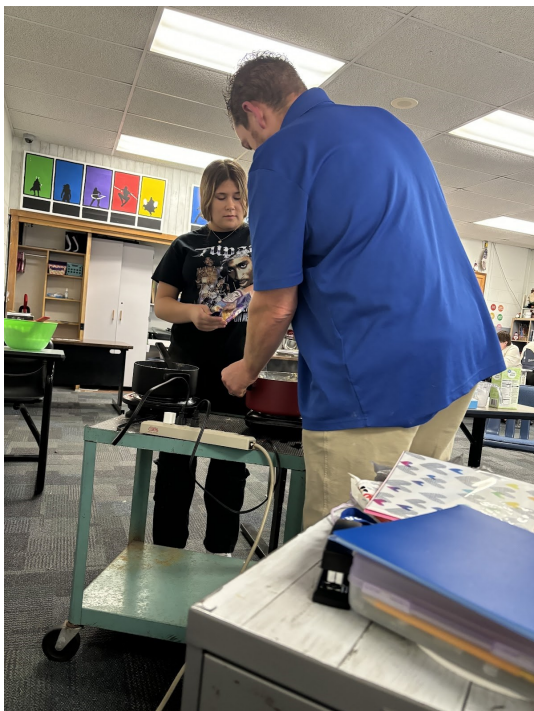
to build stronger partnerships among all stakeholders that demand high-quality education - education that will be the cornerstone of the next generation of leaders in our great county.

For more information about our involvement with Preble County school districts, the services we provide, or to inquire how you can use your talents in one of our county schools, you can visit our website at: www.preblecountyesc.org or catch me directly at mike.derringer@preblecountyesc.org. I love telling the success stories of our students and our staff.

Fall Treats With The Success Academy Classrooms



Mr. Krumdiack fixing up some mac-cheese, while teaching the students how it's done. He is our guidance counselor and mental health therapist and also provides a therapy dog; however, he makes some good mac-cheese!



Students had a chance to try and fix their own blend. This is also part of their life skills class and daily living skills, which promote self-regulation as per their IEPs. Students at the Success Academy receive academics as well as a focused approach on social emotional learning, necessary for success in today's world.

MD Classrooms

Fall Vibes



At the beginning of this month, our MD classrooms from Tri-County North made a scarecrow to enter into a local contest.



They entered the Preble County's Historical Society's and Nature Preserve's "Scarecrow Competition" and won 1st Place!

We serve nearly fifty students in our MD population from our county schools with our classrooms housed this year at Tri-County North and Twin Valley South.



PRESCHOOL NEWS



The Preble ESC Preschool Program values parent engagement and we strive to provide multiple opportunities to spend time with our students and their families outside of the school day. We recently participated in the annual Track or Treat event that is hosted by Preble County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This year, the event was held at the Seven Mile Park and they had local police and fire exhibits, food trucks, a haunted trail, and more! The Preble ESC Preschool program had a tent with games and candy, and we were able to see many of our students who came out for all of the Track or Treat fun. Although temperatures were chilly, we were still able to have a good time. Our next family engagement event will be our annual Family Dance that will take place in February 2025.

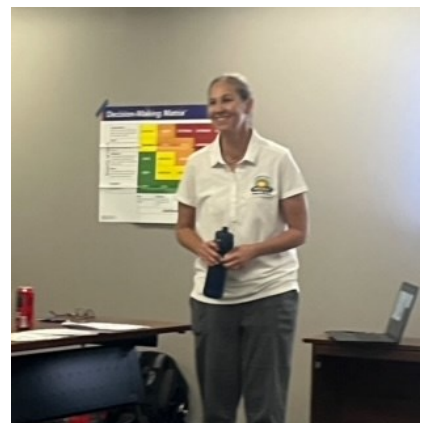
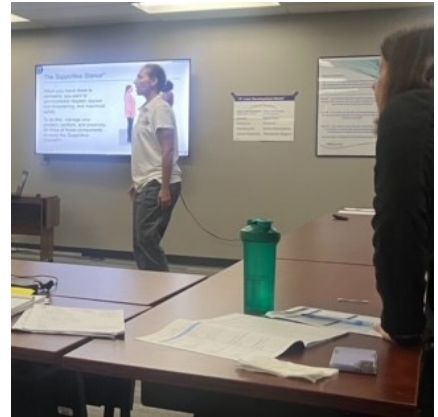


PRESCHOOL NEWS



As a public preschool program, the Preble ESC Preschool strives to develop and maintain good relationships with our districts, stakeholders, and other schools and agencies in Preble County. These relationships and partnerships are vital for our programs to be successful. One recent partnership that we have developed is with Mini Minds. Mini Minds is an early childhood care center that is opening at the end of October in Eaton, Ohio. Christi

Reveal, who is the director at Mini Minds, and Deb Barnett, who is the Preschool Supervisor from the Preble County ESC Preschool, identified areas where we can help each other. At the beginning of the school year, Christi provided the ESC preschool program with CPI training, as we were waiting for our new ESC trainers to get their instructor training completed. In exchange, the ESC Preschool Program, has provided space for Christi to work while she was waiting for her building to open. We look forward to developing ways that we can continue to partner so that we can continue to meet the needs of all of our Preble County children.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

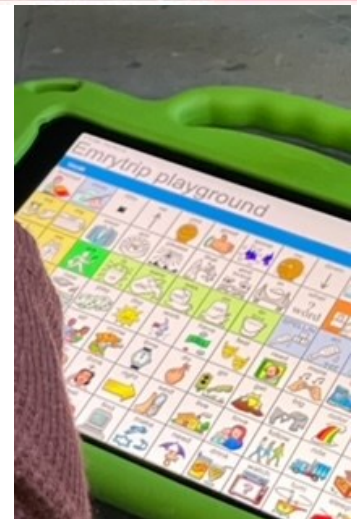


The Preble County ESC Preschool Program added a new Social Communication Classroom to our programming this year. The purpose of the Social Communication classroom is to provide our children with autism and other significant needs with a classroom that fits their needs. Stacie Eaton, who is the Intervention Specialist teacher in this classroom, develops a classroom environment that focuses on

alternative communication and sensory processing opportunities. We strive to meet the unique needs of our students. In our social communication classroom, we create a dynamic and inclusive environment that caters to the unique needs of each student by employing a variety of



individualized modalities. We integrate visual aids, interactive activities, and technology to support diverse learning styles, ensuring that every student can engage meaningfully. This tailored approach not only enhances understanding but also builds confidence, empowering our students to express themselves effectively in various social contexts.





Ag STEM Day is a great learning experience!

Preble County 3rd-grade students recently had several opportunities to explore agriculture careers and to think about their future.

Over 400 local students participated in the Ag STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) day hosted at the Bullen Equestrian Center on the Preble County Fairgrounds. All students participated in 10 stations learning about agriculture and the many career areas beyond farming that supply our country with our food and fiber needs.

The hands-on learning stations included: agriculture mechanization with a GPS-ready tractor, soil conservation, feeds and feeding, agriculture sustainability facts, as well as stations with live animals that included beef cattle, goats, dairy calves, poultry, rabbits, swine, and equine. Harold Niehaus, the Preble County ESC Career Connections Director, wanted to share a big Thank You to the Preble County Farm Bureau for their sponsorship of Ag STEM Day t-shirts that were given to all participants along with Ag Mags and rulers. Another Thank You goes out to all 5 FFA chapters (Eaton-MVCTC, National Trail-MVCTC, Preble Shawnee, Tri-County North-MVCTC, and Twin Valley South-MVCTC) whose members served as the presenters for the day. Also, all of this year's 3rd-grade students received their very own copy of the book "How did that get in my lunchbox?" through a grant received by the Eaton MVCTC FFA from the Ohio FFA Foundation and the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Throughout the day students were heard saying, "This was fun!" and "I learned so much!"

8th graders experience Career Day

More than 400 students from Preble County's five school districts learned about options for their future during the annual Eighth Grade Experience Careers Day on Thursday, Sept. 5. Held at the Expo Center on the Preble County Fairgrounds, the day allowed the students to explore four of 16 different career clusters through hands-on activities. Now in its fourth year, the event included presentations from 70 industry professionals showcasing opportunities in a wide range of fields.

According to PC Career Connections Director Harold Niehaus, the goal of the event is to help students see the practical applications of their academics and the various career paths available in Preble County, emphasizing the potential for good living and financial stability. "We have everything from architecture and construction, agriculture and environmental science to transportation, logistics, law enforcement, public safety, finance, health science, government and administration, marketing, and business. A lot of different opportunities for students, as well as the manufacturing and STEM," he added. "I hope that the students take away how their school academics can help with their future success. I want them to see how they can apply their math, science, and English in context with Social Studies and how those can apply in the workplace. He noted that there are a lot of different opportunities for a good living to be made, many opportunities for them and their family," Niehaus said. Niehaus also noted that the Preble County Business Advisory Council helps him to gather the many presenters who help with the hands-on learning experiences that take place on this day! He went on to summarize that "The eighth grader's participation was awesome" and "they were very, very involved."



MICROENTERPISE UPDATE

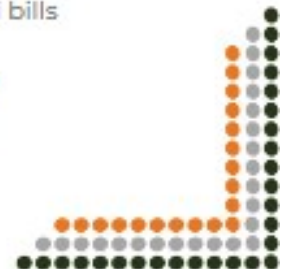
For the past month, our interns have been creating their own small business, LIFE with Paws. Bushrod Brew Works in Eaton will be providing the spent grains for the treats. We have now started to process the spent grains for future use.



BEYOND THE FUN: LESSONS IN THE CLASSROOM

If you follow our class Facebook page, you might think that all we do is have fun all day. However, there is very important learning taking place as well. Here are some of the things we learned during October:

- Determining needs and wants/responsible and irresponsible uses of money
- Deciding the appropriate response to workplace emergencies
- Recognizing safety clothing and work equipment for a variety of environments
- Responding appropriately to workplace bullying and sexual harassment
- Responding appropriately to constructive feedback from a supervisor
- Discussing and modeling verbal skills in various social settings
- Identifying and counting mixed coins and bills
- Identifying financial vocabulary words
- Making mistakes and learning from them
- Dealing with and managing frustration
- The importance of tone of voice
- Facing failure



Monthly Activities



Some of our activities this month:



- Baking chocolate chip cookies
- Made a breakfast meal
- Track and Treat
- Lunch at Wings Etc.
- Apple Day
- Henny Penny visit
- Harvest Party
- Preble County schools visit



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UPCOMING DATES

11/14/23 Last day of rotation 1
11/16/23 Project LIFE Open House
11/20/23-11/24/23 Thanksgiving Break
11/27/23 First day of rotation 2
11/27/23 Applications go out



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Junior High and High School Quiz Team October 21st - November 18th

County Spelling Bee - January 16, 2025 at 7:00 at Eaton Performing Arts Center

County Geography Bee - February 20, 2025 at Tri-County North at 6:30

Coming in March - All County Band and Honor Choir

Coming in April - County Art Show and Rotary Honor Scholar Banquet