



Focus East NEWSLETTER

May 2023

“Focusing on our Future” Art Mural

“For the last few weeks, part of our art class has been working on a mural for the kitchen! The project goes all the way back to Art Day when one of the activities was to design a mural. After all of the staff members voted, Kweenallah McKee’s design was picked and the students got to work. Kweenallah, Derek, Ibrahim, and Julaun all worked tirelessly to first sketch two self portraits, and then collaborate together to create a cohesive mural that featured their portraits on a larger scale,” explains Hayleigh Cline, Focus East Art Teacher.



Cline continues, “They decided that the title of the piece is “Focusing on our Future” as an ode to the school. In their portraits, they portray their ideal selves five years from now (can you tell which one wants to be a soccer player?) They opted to put a black bar over their eyes with the explanation that by doing so, they think more kids might be able to relate to the mural and see themselves in it.”



“Not only did this project teach the students how to draw people, it also taught them body proportions, color theory, collaboration, and the blending of colors. They have come so far since the start of this project and I think they’ve created something that Focus can be proud of!”





CLASS OF 2023

FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY EAST

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Thursday, June 1, 2023
6:00PM



Focus Learning Academy East
Building - 2nd Floor

Graduates are allowed 10 guests-
no exceptions.

See Ms. Smith with any questions.

Looking Forward to Focus Prom 2023

On May 5th, 2023, students from all three Focus Schools will get together downtown at the Sonesta Hotel and celebrate the amazing year we have had. This first week of May, students will continue buying their tickets and will get the chance to vote for Prom King and Queen. We have several amazing students running this year; Danazjiah, Alyssa, Tijanae, Daiyana, JaQuan, Corey, and Malachi. This year's theme is "Hollywood Glam." We're talking a red carpet entrance, stars, trophies, and lots of photo opportunities. The event will be catered by the hotel and all students will leave with a fun goodie bag. Students can talk to Ms. Caldwell if they have any questions! See you there!



“Leading Ladies” Group Hosts Tea Party

On April 24th Focus East’s Leading Ladies group hosted a tea party. “The tea party went fantastic, we did activities around Women empowerment. Giving the girls a chance to open up and get to know one another. We started with an Ice breaker going around the room introducing themselves and to name one woman that inspires them as well as their career goals,” explained Yvonne Mundell, who runs the group. The Focus East female students enjoyed a tea party of breakfast foods, while bonding and laughter filled the room. Mundell said of the experience “The things the girls aspire to be really surprised me. They have so many different things they want to do and ideas. Everyone enjoyed themselves and the girls were excited to be shown something different from what they’re used to.”



End of School Year Important Dates:

May 4 - Athletic Banquet

May 5 - Prom

May 10 - Columbus Zoo Field Trip

May 11 - Focus East Senior Brunch

May 25 - Senior Celebration

June 1 - Last Day of School

June 2 - Last Day of School (staff only)

June 12 - Aug. 3 - Summer School

Summer School Info

Summer School will be held from June 12 through August 3, 2023. Summer building hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Please contact Ms. Caldwell regarding Summer School.



Ohio ACE (Afterschool Child Enrichment) - Receive Money for Before or After School Enrichment

COLUMBUS — The Ohio Department of Education has announced changes to the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) educational savings account program. Passed in December 2022, House Bill 45 of the 134th General Assembly expanded access and increased grant amounts for qualifying Ohio students and families.

Beginning April 7, qualifying families can receive a \$1,000 credit per child for enrichment and educational activities during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Allowable activities include before- or after-school educational programs, day camps, music lessons, tutoring and more.

Expanded eligibility includes children ages 6-18 whose family income is at or less than 400% of the Federal Poverty Level, who participate in income-based programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, and Ohio Works First, or who reside in districts identified as experiencing high rates of chronic absenteeism or include EdChoice-eligible schools.

“The changes to the Ohio ACE program provide more students access to educational activities outside of the traditional classroom,” Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Stephanie Siddens said. “The ACE Marketplace helps parents extend and enrich learning opportunities and broaden experiences for their children.”

Visit aceohio.org to apply for an ACE educational savings account and browse the ACE Marketplace for service providers.

Important New Mental Health Resource for Youth

The Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) is a relatively recent program providing behavioral and mental health services for adolescents throughout the state. In Franklin County, the services are provided through Nationwide Children’s Hospital (NCH) between 9am and 9pm. MRSS, for youth under 21, are staffed with a licensed mental health clinician and a support person. To be connected with the services, call (888) 418-MRSS (6777), and say you are calling for MRSS. They will ask you triage questions, and you will be notified if a team needs to come to you, and whether that will be within 60 minutes, or within the next 24 hours. The program was designed to provide additional adolescent mental health resources, and to provide an alternative to calling 911 when it is mental health support that is needed. You do not need to be linked with NCH to access this support. Some examples of crisis situations for which you could call MRSS are:

- Escalating emotional or behavioral issues
- Mental health concerns that put the youth at risk for harm to self or others (such as suicidal thoughts).
- Physical and emotional trauma
- Parent/child or caregiver/child conflict
- Persistent school refusal
- Addiction and substance abuse