Why collaborate?

- Our students deserve the very best teachers, mentors, opportunities, and access to high-level learning and engaging learning experiences.
- Our students need champions – family members, friends, school contacts, community supports, and other organizations – who challenge and support them along their educational journey.
- State funding for Kentucky K-12 public schools has received so many cuts that Kentucky now ranks third in the nation for the most drastic cuts to public education funding.
- A $38 decrease per pupil for services directly impacting students more than wipes out a $14 increase in a per pupil funding formula and negates any claims of so-called “record funding” for schools.
- Overall, K-12 education in Kentucky has received a 16 percent cut in per pupil funding compared to funding in 2008, when adjusted for inflation.

What’s being done?

We are determining needs and locating partners to assist us in meeting those needs. When we work together, we are able to provide accelerated learning, college dual credit, AP courses, career on-site learning and career exploration, career certifications, early childhood learning (ages 6 weeks through Pre-K), K-12 individualized personal learning, extra-curricular programs, arts programs, and family engagement and empowerment opportunities.

How does it work?

We work to be as efficient and as effective as possible as we provide high-level learning opportunities for students ages 1 to 21. We provide college and career readiness opportunities, while simultaneously meeting our students’ academic and social-emotional needs. We seek partners who are able to assist us with our goals, yet who are also committed to our students and families. This year we will enhance the work of our partnerships to provide more opportunities for our students.

Some of those partners include:
- Gateway Community & Technical College
- Northern Kentucky University
- Thomas More University
- Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES)
- Erlanger-Elsmere Early Childhood Community Collaborative (E3C)
- HealthPoint
- Kenton County Public Library
- Children’s Home of Northern Kentucky
- DCCH Center for Children and Families
- NorthKey
- NaviGo
- Children, Inc.
- The YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati
- United Way
- Northern Kentucky Education Council
- Brighton Center
- Cities of Erlanger and Elsmere
- etc.

... just to name a few.

So, what’s new?

College and Career Readiness:
An exciting new partnership with NaviGo will expose our students to new career hubs and provide opportunities for students to attend stimulating programs.

STEM & Literacy:
Tremendous cuts in state funding have led us to diligently pursue grants to support literacy and STEM education. This extra effort and collaboration through NKCES have resulted in receiving some significant resources through a generous federal grant. (See Pages 10-11 for more about this.)

Early Childhood:
We have applied for and received preschool grants to increase access to and opportunities for high-quality early learning for our youngest learners.

Community Awareness:
Even as overall state funding for public schools continues to decline, school districts across the state – including ours – are providing excellent learning opportunities for students and taking on more, as are local communities and local community partners. The students of the Erlanger-Elsmere School District are our top priority in all we do. Our main goal is to assist all of our students in achieving all of their hopes and dreams for the future.

In order to keep our students – the future of our state – a top priority for all Kentuckians, our 2019 New Year’s resolution will be to increase community awareness about all that schools and local communities are providing and the importance of adequate and equitable funding now and in the future.

We appreciate your partnership and look forward to our continued work together on behalf of our students.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Burkhardt, Superintendent
Fueled to learn
District food pantries help reduce barriers to student success

UPCOMING FOOD PANTRY DATES:
Tuesdays, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
December 18  March 12
January 8   March 26
January 22  April 9
February 12 April 23
February 26 May 7
Arnett Elementary also offers morning hours on all of the above dates! 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

LOCATIONS:
Arnett Elementary School
3552 Kimberly Drive
Erlanger, KY 41018
Contact: Mrs. Tracy Molley
859.342.2351
Tichenor Middle School
305 Bartlett Avenue
Erlanger, KY 41018
Contact: Ms. Amber Evans
859.342.2426

It’s hard for a kindergartner to listen to a story if her tummy’s growling. Likewise, it’s difficult for a high schooler to concentrate on his algebra homework if he hasn’t had lunch. Helping her third-grader with a book report becomes a lower priority for the mom who’s not sure what she’s going to feed her family this weekend.

To ensure each and every student has the best possible opportunity to thrive, the Erlanger-Elsmere School District operates two food pantries, open to all district families. Combined, the pantries serve an average of 50 families each month.

Located at Arnett Elementary and Tichenor Middle School, the food pantries are open twice a month. To keep things simple, the only requirement for pantry visitors is that a student living in the household is enrolled in an Erlanger-Elsmere district school (any district school – not just one where a food pantry is located). Visitors to the food pantries complete an easy form consisting of just the names and the number of people living in the household. That’s it! Families can visit any time the pantries are open; there is no maximum number of visits.

The pantries are “choice” food pantries, meaning families can choose the food items they prefer, decreasing food waste and increasing the benefit. The pantries offer nonperishable/pantry items, household items and even frozen meat and other frozen foods.

Need holiday assistance?
Contact Mrs. Molley or Ms. Evans. Through partnerships with local churches and community groups, they can likely help connect you to what you need.

Produce pop-up!
From time to time, the Freestore Foodbank provides the district with fresh produce, which it can share with district families. Connect with Erlanger-Elsmere Schools on Facebook to stay in the loop and pick up some healthy food at no cost!

Free meals for all students
Students in the school district benefit from the Community Eligibility Provision program during the 2018-2019 school year. This program provides breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost, and also covers lunches needed for field trips.

In addition, all of the district’s students have the option of participating in the After-School Supper Program, available at each school from 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Like breakfast and lunch, the dinner program is absolutely free.

A warm welcome
At Tichenor’s food pantry, visitors are assisted by Ms. Amber Evans, Youth Service Center coordinator at Tichenor, and Mrs. Maryanne Moore, who holds the same position at Lloyd.

At Arnett, Mrs. Tracy Molley, the school’s Family Resource Center Coordinator, welcomes visitors and helps them find what they need.

The cities of Erlanger and Elsmere offer some community-based food pantries, but many are not in easy walking distance from where the district families live, and transportation can be a barrier. Because Erlanger-Elsmere is a walking district, these school food pantries are more accessible to district families. Plus, it’s a familiar place, and, in many instances, families are going to school anyway.

“We have a lot of families who come especially at the end of the month, apologizing – saying every little bit helps,” said Ms. Amber Evans, Tichenor’s Youth Service Center coordinator. “We hear lots of stories of what a difference this food has made. I just had a grandmother contact me, and she admitted her family didn’t have any food for the weekend, so I delivered some to her. We just want to help. It’s hard to concentrate when you’re hungry all the time.”

Food is available through a wonderful partnership with the Freestore Foodbank.
Healthy bodies, healthy minds

School-based health center offers medical services ... at school!

Students in the Erlanger-Elsmere School District can visit the doctor or the dentist without leaving school!

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools and HealthPoint (a private, nonprofit medical and dental practice) partner to offer school-based health and dental services to the district’s students. The clinics help minimize the impact student health and dental issues have on learning and also provide a convenient care option for students and their families.

The district’s School-Based Health Center can provide many of the same services a student would receive at a doctor’s office. Ms. Joanie Combs, a family nurse practitioner, cares for students who may be ill, administers immunizations, performs physicals, assists with chronic conditions like asthma and can even give stitches when needed.

On-site medical services include:
- Well-child exams, school physicals and sports physicals
- Immunizations and flu shots
- Sick visits and prescriptions for routine illnesses
- Assistance in management of chronic illnesses
- Vision screenings
- Reproduction and sexual health services
- Referral to specialty and behavioral health services

Open wide!
The health of the mouth impacts the health of the whole body. Yet cavities are the most common chronic disease among children aged 6-19, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Untreated cavities can cause pain, infections, and most definitely distractions. Research shows that children with poorer oral health are three times more likely to miss school for dental pain and to perform more poorly in school overall.

HealthPoint operates a portable dental office that rotates between Tichenor Middle School and Howell Elementary during the school year, bringing full-service dentistry to students during school hours. Students from other schools in the district can be transported to the mobile dental office to see the dentist.

The dental team provides a full line of school-based services, including:
- Routine dental exams with X-rays and cleanings twice a year
- Fluoride and sealant treatments
- Fillings, extractions and most procedures offered in a dental office
- Over-the-counter medications (i.e., Tylenol) for dental pain

Students in the Erlanger-Elsmere School District can visit the doctor or the dentist without leaving school!

Meet the HealthPoint team!

Ms. Joanie Combs
Family Nurse Practitioner
As a family nurse practitioner, Ms. Combs is able to provide most of the same medical services in our schools that students would experience at a typical doctor’s appointment. With a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Miami University and a Master of Science in nursing from Northern Kentucky University, Ms. Combs has nine years of primary care experience and has been a part of the district’s school-based services since 2013. Ms. Combs works together with a medical assistant and the school nurse to provide quality care to all students.

Dr. Lindsey Willoughby
General Dentist
Dr. Willoughby, a general dentist, will be returning to the district’s school-based dental program in January. A graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry, she has five years of experience working with diverse populations. Accompanying Dr. Willoughby is a dental hygienist – licensed to do dental cleanings and education – and two expanded-duty dental assistants.

What is a School-Based Health Center?
A School-Based Health Center (SBHC) is a safe and easily accessible place on school grounds where students can receive comprehensive health services. Findings show SBHCs provide the same high-quality services students would receive in a traditional medical office. SBHC staff and services are organized to help identify and prevent health problems and benefit student health, well-being and academic success.

HealthPoint’s SBHC at Erlanger-Elsmere Schools requires annual school-year enrollment. Services are supported by program revenue through billing Medicaid, third-party payers and self-pay using a sliding-fee scale.

Flexible payment options
HealthPoint conveniently accepts:
- All Ky. Medicaid MCO plans
- Medicare
- Anthem
- Humana
- United Healthcare
- Tricare

Uninsured? Need assistance?
HealthPoint has outreach workers available to help you.
HealthPoint utilizes Kentucky’s Health Benefit Exchange, formerly the Kynect program, to help enroll individuals or families for insurance coverage including Medicaid, CHIP, or private health insurance.

Call 859.655.6100 to connect.

HealthPoint in the community
Outside of school, students can visit HealthPoint at several locations across Northern Kentucky for medical, dental, behavioral health, as well as OB-GYN specialty services. The HealthPoint location closest to our district is the Florence office at:

7607 Dixie Highway
Florence, KY 41042

Daytime and evening appointments along with convenient walk-in hours area available:
Monday – Friday
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Engage
Winter 2018-19

Hometown spirit

The Holtman Family

Heather Hunt met Trevor Holtman in homeroom on the first day of their freshman year at Lloyd High School. After dating briefly in high school, they reunited at 18 and have been together ever since. Today, they’re working hard to give their four kids a childhood similar to the one they loved so much. Traditions they took pride in as students are now customs for the family they’ve built. A sense of community spirit and school spirit infuses most everything they do.

And the Holtmans are most definitely a school family. Not only are their four children attending Erlanger-Elsmere Schools, Heather is the financial secretary at Tichenor. Trevor teaches at Ryle High School. Every morning, the entire family leaves the house to go to school.

A few years back, the Holtmans were looking for a new home. When they reached the backyard of a particular house, a merry-go-round was cemented into the landscape – the very one that had left Miranda lives in Elsmere with her parents, younger brother (a Lloyd freshman) and two dogs.

Meet the Holtmans!

Trevor and Heather Hunt Holtman: Lloyd High School Class of 1996
Eli: A senior at Lloyd
Micah: A freshman at Lloyd
Kaleb: A fifth-grader at Miles
Gabriella (GG): A third-grader at Miles

look out for each other, and everyone looks out for each other’s kids.”

Best of all, the Holtmans know their kids are not just getting a strong sense of community, they’re getting a top-notch education. Most of their son Eli’s classes at Lloyd this year are college courses, which he’s taking for free; their son Micah is on that same trajectory. And their teachers nurture their interests, as evidenced by Eli’s participation in a regional photography program last year.

“Kids here are not just a number … we’re very pleased with the education available to our children,” Mrs. Holtman said. “They’re going to be very well-prepared, whatever they decide to do.”

With both Heather and Trevor’s parents living only a few miles away, they come to everything to support the kids at school, making it truly a family affair. Perhaps someday, Heather and Trevor will be doing the same thing for their grandchildren.

Because just like that merry-go-round, the Holtmans are here to stay.

Welcome to the Board!

Two Lloyd seniors represent on school board this year

For SHAUNA KITTS, serving as the student rep to the district’s Board of Education is the culmination of the many leadership roles she’s held at Lloyd.

In addition to serving as secretary of the senior class, Shauna participates in the NKU School-Based Scholars program, where she’s taking three college classes to fulfill general education requirements. She is also involved in the school’s energy club, academic team and student council. Next year Shauna plans to attend the University of Kentucky to pursue a degree in public health, aspiring to one day obtain a doctorate and direct a health department.

Shauna has been part of the school district since moving to Erlanger from Ashland, Ky., in the third grade. She lives in Erlanger with her dad.

MIRANDA MASSMAN is happy to be involved in the district’s decision-making process ... and glad to have the opportunity to update the Board of Education on the positive aspects of Lloyd High School.

As a student at the school, Miranda stays very busy! She’s part of the energy club, academic team, Spanish club and National Honor Society, in addition to serving as president of the senior class and co-president of student council.

She’s also an emergency room volunteer at St. Elizabeth Hospital and is active in the youth group at the First Baptist Church in Cold Spring. Next year Miranda plans to attend either the University of Cincinnati or the University of Louisville, majoring in biology on a pre-medicine track. After shadowing several doctors, she quickly fell in love with surgery and plans to pursue that as a career.

Miranda lives in Elsmere with her parents, younger brother (a Lloyd freshman) and two dogs.

During their senior year in 1996, Trevor Holtman was homecoming king and Heather Hunt Holtman was prom queen. And the tradition continues... Eli was Lloyd’s homecoming king this year, and his girlfriend, Maya Carroll, was queen.
Reading Our Own Books

Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant to make significant impact on district’s children

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools is thrilled to be one of seven school districts in Northern Kentucky celebrating a $5.2 million boost to literacy for our students.

Working collaboratively through the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES), the Bellevue, Bracken County, Dayton, Erlanger-Elsmere, Silver Grove, Southgate, and Williamstown school districts secured the significant grant funding for the region from the U.S. Department of Education’s Innovative Approaches to Literacy program, which promotes literacy activities and book distribution for children from birth through 12th grade in lower-income communities.

Our district’s inclusion in the grant is through a program dubbed Reading Our Own Books, which provides $2.25 million to be shared among Bracken County, Erlanger-Elsmere and Silver Grove schools to serve nearly 4,500 children.

“This grant award will provide literacy resources, technology, family engagement resources and teacher training,” said Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, superintendent of Erlanger-Elsmere Schools. “At a time when state funding for education is being reduced and is at the same level as 2008, these much-needed resources will assist districts in providing research-based literacy instruction and student access to STEM opportunities.”

The grants are the result of ongoing collaboration by leaders of the region’s school districts. The grants bring an infusion of $5.2 million into the local economy to create new jobs and purchase new equipment, technology and books – resources to better prepare Northern Kentucky students for college and career.

Most of all, these funds represent the promise of a better future for so many of the region’s children who are unfairly disadvantaged by the widening gap between children in families with middle to high incomes and those in families with lower incomes.

In each of the school districts benefitting from the grants, the percentage of students at or below the U.S. Census poverty rate exceeds 20 percent — and in some cases is as high as 32 percent.” Although schools provide proven reading instruction and interventions, research shows that literacy rates are impacted by this level of poverty and its challenges. Half or more of the students in these districts are reading below proficiency, with more than one in four students stalled in the novice status.

The grant projects will address these critical issues by expanding the number of usable books in each school library, increasing staff and upgrading resources in libraries that include technology. New books will be carefully selected at each school to meet interest, demand and academic standards. Library environments will be upgraded to enhance use of both books and technology to promote STEM learning. This plan will improve book-to-student ratios, access to books and digital library resources.

**How will the money be used?**

- **Enhancing school library resources**: Each participating district’s libraries will receive nearly $30,000 annually, supporting the addition of approximately 700 new books each year to enhance existing collections.
- **Providing children with their own books**: This program will provide each student with a broad range of his or her own books and accompanying activities to be integrated into everyday learning at school, at home and in the community.
- **Ensuring reliable access to technology to support literacy and STEM learning**: While the impact of low literacy is felt in all subject areas, it is notably apparent in STEM areas. The grant will improve access to technology to support the literacy and STEM learning by providing schools with a menu of options for technology, devices, software and professional development.

**Support is significant**

The $5.2 million project will be financed 100 percent with federal money secured by the NKCES Grants Consortium, which develops grant-funded projects to support school district and regional work to promote student achievement.

Since September 2010, the NKCES Grants Consortium has brought more than $50 million in federal, state, local, foundation and corporate funding into the Northern Kentucky economy in support of students in participating school districts. Current membership in the Consortium includes: Bellevue, Bracken County, Boone County, Covington, Dayton, Erlanger-Elsmere, Ft. Thomas, Newport, Pendleton County, Silver Grove and Southgate school districts.
Literacy and libraries: a natural fit

If literacy is critical to learning, then libraries are essential spaces in our schools. So how do the libraries in the Erlanger-Elsmere School District work hard to meet the evolving needs of our students?

**Arnett and Howell Elementary Schools**

At Arnett and Howell Elementary Schools, librarian Mrs. Theresa Siefert makes good use of the resources she has, even though she maintains an inadequate supply of books and limited technology. Every student visits the library at least once each week, and in addition to checking books out, they participate in hands-on, STEM-oriented enrichment activities.

Students experiment using makerspace items borrowed from the schools’ 21st Century afterschool programs. Or they play games like Library Bingo or Jeopardy! For Thanksgiving, children got their hands dirty planting seeds while talking about how things grow.

Because funding is limited, Mrs. Siefert often purchases supplies out of her own pocket, and she doesn’t have much access to technology or resources. She believes getting newer books, building a makerspace, and obtaining Chromebooks to access the Kentucky Virtual Library are critical to expand the 21st century skills offered at her schools.

“It’s essential that we enrich these children with more books and reading,” Mrs. Siefert said. “I absolutely love working with the kids, and I am an avid believer in children reading – it’s a skill we use every day.”

**Lindeman Elementary**

Mrs. Alison Gray works hard to make Lindeman’s library welcoming, comfortable, and fun. Every student in the school visits the library each week, and while they’re there, she gets them acquainted with the library ... while having a great time.

To start library time, Mrs. Gray takes kids to the gym to get their wiggles out. Then they reconvene to discover books and authors, share a story, and learn to use the Destiny catalogue system. As time allows, they play games to better understand how library books are organized or watch educational rap videos about finding nonfiction books.

“It’s really important students learn to find their way around,” Mrs. Gray said. “To a little kid, the library can be overwhelming ... how would they find the book they want to read? If they gain those skills here, then they’ll know how to find books in any library they visit.”

**Lloyd High School**

Lloyd librarian Mrs. Janelle Hawes likes to think of the school’s library as a workspace for all sorts of activities. Some students come just to read. Other students come to do group work. Sometimes a teacher brings a whole class to research a project. Sometimes a student comes in to research on their own.

Whatever the need, Mrs. Hawes works hard to maintain a flexible space that caters to the needs of all who use it.

As an interesting shift toward 21st century learning, in the past few years Lloyd’s library has actually let go of a number of books. Many reference books – particularly in the areas of science and technology – were so outdated that they could have been seen as more of a hindrance than a help; plus, the library has access to online and virtual resources, to give students access to the latest information. There is also the option to borrow from other schools in the district, and a strong collaboration with the teen librarian at the Kenton County Public Library’s Erlanger branch expands possibilities even further. An updated computer lab and Chromebook carts help make this shift to the digital space a workable option.

“Typically whatever a student is looking for, whatever a teacher needs, we can find it,” Mrs. Hawes said.

Though the library has pared back its nonfiction section, Mrs. Hawes hopes to beef up its fiction offerings. For example, she thinks it would be nice to have copies of each year’s Kentucky Bluegrass Award nominated books to create reading groups and encourage discussions. She’d like more high-interest and popular fiction that will get students reading.

Over the past few years, the library has evolved to a genre or “bookstore” layout to help students find the books they like. And this year, Mrs. Hawes started working with English teachers to bring their classes down every week to check out a book of their choosing to read for pleasure.

“I am always looking to update, and always trying to find different ways to get students to take a look at what we have,” Mrs. Hawes said. “We have to start somewhere.”

**Miles Elementary**

At Miles Elementary, the library is never closed. Mrs. Ryan Eimore maintains an inviting, cheerful space and fosters a love of books and reading throughout the school. But the shining star of the Miles library is its makerspace. Learn more about it on page 14.

**Tichenor Middle School**

Tichenor has recently renovated its library to incorporate a 21st century makerspace. The school has likewise reduced its nonfiction collection, instead accessing the latest information via the Kentucky Virtual Library, but maintains fiction and special interest books, which students can check out from a high school volunteer. (The school has no librarian.) Similarly, teachers can bring their students to the library to check out books or work on projects. But there is definitely a movement toward the makerspace. Learn more on page 15.
MEET ME AT THE MAKERSPACE!

While books and reading are still vital educational components, hands-on experiences are essential to preparing today’s learners for 21st century life. Makerspaces – areas that provide tangible, creative ways to encourage students to engage more deeply in science, technology, engineering and math through design, building, invention and experimentation – are popping up in schools across the country, and libraries seem to be a natural space to encourage such learning through exploration.

Two of the district’s schools have turned some of their library efforts toward the creation and promotion of a makerspace.

Miles Elementary

At Miles Elementary, students are gaining valuable 21st century skills through a range of extraordinary activities – starting at a very young age.

The 3D printer and 3D pens are certainly impressive components, but those are just a few tools the space has to offer.

Kids in primary grade levels begin to learn coding using Perler beads and directional caterpillars. As they get older, those skills advance as Ozobots, Code & Go Robots, Code: Rover Control and more engage students as they take them through various coding challenges. Intermediate students work together with alphabetized stickers and color-coded grids to create famous works of art – which remain a secret to them as they work through the tasks. Last year they completed Expressionist artist Edvard Munch’s ‘The Scream’; they will soon take on Vincent VanGogh’s ‘The Starry Night.’

Kindergartners learn about electronics following task cards with a squishy circuit set and Play-Doh. Older kids use Snap Circuits to make electronics easy and fun, taking students through steps to build AM radios, doorbells, alarms and more. Cubelets break down the steps to help even younger children build robots, flashlights, and more motion sensors.

Simpler components are equally popular. Students have created structures using only dowel rods and rubber bands, and have built masterpieces with empty cardboard ice cream tubs. Marble runs and Legos are popular choices that challenge thinking and produce impressive results.

Many of the activities follow a similar formula: follow the steps, see the results, troubleshoot and keep trying until the desired result is reached. All the while, they’re learning about teamwork, problem solving, and building together.

Tichenor Middle School

Tichenor Middle School began the process of repurposing its library into a makerspace this summer. The collection includes a wide variety of items, all of which support learning objectives and nurture interests that develop essential 21st century skills.

In the library itself are a number of art and craft-making materials, from the common to the unique. Using simple materials such as tape, glue, paint, markers, popsicle sticks, tissue paper, ribbon, paint, cardboard, egg cartons, baby food jars, and more, students can harness their creativity and make things for class projects or just for fun. What’s more, Tichenor’s teachers can pull from these supplies to support classroom activities or stock up the mobile maker cart and move it to a location in the school convenient for their work.

Other hands-on activities promote reasoning, creativity and teamwork. A Lego wall entices students to build, and they work together to make remarkable creations. Similarly, a collection of board games brings students together to not just play, but to cultivate critical thinking and sportsmanship.

The space also boasts a variety of tools that encourage the creation of homemade items. At a recent evening event, students and teachers used the makerspace’s Cricut die-cutting machine and a heat press to personalize t-shirts in real time. Basic tools, such as hammers, pliers and screwdrivers encourage creativity and support maker activities.

The makerspace this summer. The collection includes a wide variety of items, all of which support learning objectives and nurture interests that develop essential 21st century skills.

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This summer, students used the tools to take apart old VCRs and computers to harvest parts to make a mini robot.

But of course, embracing technology is crucial to today’s learning. To support the learning that will likely be essential for the job opportunities that will be available to them and to foster the interest of middle school students, the makerspace has a plethora of technology devices. Bloxels help students create their own video games using an iPad. Cubelets allow kids to create their own robots. LittleBits and Snap Circuits impart basic electronic skills. Makey Makeys turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the internet. Ozobots and mBots teach coding and robotics. 3D pens are creative and fun.

By all accounts, the new space has been a huge success.

“They get so excited about all the hands-on stuff they get to do,” said Mrs. Melanie Gleason, Tichenor’s instructional coach. “The makerspace allows us to incorporate our curriculum standards, but in a different way. It allows us to meet the kids at what interests them and engage them in a meaningful way. And along the way, we develop valuable skills – collaboration, for sure, but also thinking outside the box and working to fix problems instead of giving up.”
Dreaming big, clowning around

Schools enjoy visit from Circus Mojo

Erlanger-Elsmere students have been taking a break from their hard work to learn about the art of clowning around … all thanks to Circus Mojo!

Each of the district’s elementary schools and sixth-graders at Tichenor Middle enjoyed an interactive circus adventure with a visit from Dream Big with Circus Mojo, an educational and motivational experience that allows children to explore their big dreams and see a live circus show!

Each participant was encouraged to think about big dreams and to strive to obtain them as they engaged in activities like juggling and balancing on a tight rope with assistance from the Circus Mojo troupe.

The shows are part of the Circus Mojo Dream Tour, which is visiting schools and libraries across Northern Kentucky this fall.

Thanks for helping students dream big!

The Circus Mojo Dream Tour is made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Dater Foundation and the generous collaboration of the Kenton County Library. The Dater Foundation provides enriching activities for children in Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

Added inspiration

Many of the circus performers obtained their big dream of joining the circus and traveling. Plus, when Mr. Paul Miller started his own circus – Circus Mojo – in Ludlow, Ky., many doubted it would be successful … but it was!

About Circus Mojo

Circus Mojo is a circus arts program which combines physical skills such as juggling, balancing and stilts walking with creative expression such as improvisation, character development and group performance. Through the multidimensional program, combining artistry with athleticism, participants conquer doubt and develop skills in a collaborative, non-competitive environment.
Club students learn and grow at Middle East Day

Food. Décor. Apparel. Students were immersed in a new culture during Tichenor’s Boys & Girls Club 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool program’s Middle East Day.

Ms. Rania Abusharar, who works in the district and has children in its schools, brought her culture to life right in the Tichenor Middle School cafeteria with traditional food, decor, henna and garments from her home country of Jordan to give students a tangible way to experience another culture. She also shared educational videos, complete with trivia games and prizes for the winners. To further enhance the experience, she shared some personal experiences of her life in America, all with an overarching theme of open-mindedness and tolerance.

“This was such a unique and important experience for the kids – they loved it,” said Ms. Kristyn Disibio, the club’s director. “Students unable to attend the event were inquiring about when we would do it again because they heard all the buzz from others. Our staff agreed it was one of the best things that our club has done.”

“It’s crucial to teach tolerance in these times, and, truly, I cannot think of a better way to do it than this,” Ms. Disibio continued. “I was in awe at how prepared she was to involve our middle school students – a tough audience at times – and how engaged they were.”

Lloyd students explore STEM+H at NKU

Lloyd students recently joined more than 300 of their peers from across the region at the High School STEM+H Day hosted at Northern Kentucky University. The students converged on campus to take part in hands-on STEM+H (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Health) demonstrations and teambuilding challenges. Students also enjoyed a keynote address from Wendy Rice, one of Fiona the hippo’s caretakers.

Cross Country runs along

Lindeman’s cross country team celebrated a wonderful running season! The team’s mascot, Charlie the “Lion,” was on hand to root on the team, and the team enjoyed a lot of success – including some first place finishes – along with a lot of fun! Keep running, Lindeman Lions!

Kids experience learning adventure ... thanks to PNC!

Kids and their grownups recently enjoyed a fun and beneficial experience when PNC brought its Grow UP Great program to Arnett Elementary School. More than 150 students and family members attended the event, which provided wonderful opportunities for parents and caregivers to engage in fun and educational activities together. The adventure included interactive learning kiosks, and participants left with a “When I Grow Up” framed photo of their time at the event, along with lots of other giveaways including activity books, ready-for-school kits, and tips and information for parents. Thanks, PNC, for a great day!

College is cool!

Howell students had the chance to learn more about higher education this fall during the school’s College Week. Through special guests, a focus on the variety of college opportunities available, a door decorating contest and a field trip to Northern Kentucky University, students learned a lot about what life might be like after high school. Fourth- and fifth-graders participated in a College Info Road Show with a visit from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority’s mobile classroom, which uses state-of-the-art technology to connect students with the information they need to research, pursue and succeed in their educational future beyond high school. It’s never too early to start planning for the future!

Bingo! Miles has fun learning

Miles welcomed students and their families for Fall Family Night, which included lots of family fun, a book fair and a very special game – Mindful Strengths Bingo!

Part of The Character Effect™ program being implemented at Miles, Mindful Strengths Bingo was designed to help parents and caregivers gain insight into increasing a child’s self-control, improving their classroom participation and cultivating an atmosphere of respect for others. The event was a huge success – everyone had a great time and learned a little something, too!
Alternative education:
Doing what it takes to make a difference at Bartlett
By: Jordon Floyd and Stefanie Stubblefield

We started our journey at Bartlett Educational Center at the same time, two years ago – Mrs. Stubblefield as assistant principal, and Mr. Floyd as teacher leader. Although Bartlett was a school within our district, it seemed like a completely different world. But we both have special education backgrounds and 23 years of collective experience working with “difficult populations,” so we were up for the challenge.

After two years of hard work, we have a vision for Bartlett: We want to change how the public views our school – or any alternative school for that matter. We want to show that Bartlett – and the students within our four walls – are more than the labels they may have.

Simply put, there aren’t many differences between the students in a traditional school and those in an alternative setting like ours. Students need support, period. Although they won’t always admit it, these students crave routine, they want to be a part of something, and they want to be challenged. They are smart. They are talented. They are capable of so much. They are searching for that adult who will offer them an ear, who will lend them a shoulder or who will just show up.

The biggest difference between a traditional school setting and an alternative school like Bartlett is that our students often need more support in order to be successful. In a way, we feel like participants of a marathon. Imagine being that person handing out water as the runners pass by, one after another. But this is a marathon that doesn’t end, and neither does the parade of runners who need water to keep going. We spend the days scrambling to our proverbial cooler, trying to get as much water as we can for each runner until the end of the school day. Then, we refill the coolers for tomorrow.

Many of our students have experienced trauma in their lives, and some of them still experience it daily. This is the toughest part of our job. We don’t have control over what happens once they walk out of our doors. Some don’t know where they are going to sleep each night, and some have family members in prison. Some no longer speak to their parents. Some struggle with addiction or live with someone who does. Would you be interested in taking a test about 18th century British literature if you hadn’t eaten in a couple days? We can’t imagine we would be interested either.

Each day we get a short amount of time to spend with these young people. We can choose to work with them, or we can be another barrier in their path. We always choose to work with them. Sometimes that means being tough and holding them to certain standards; being consistent, but also understanding that what may work for one might not work for another. Other times that means talking, sitting in silence, grabbing something to eat or shooting hoops in the gym. We do this day in and day out. We have the flexibility and luxury to work on what each student needs, and we really do cater to each child. Sometimes that is all it takes.

At the end of our students’ time here at Bartlett, we hope that they see us as a source of unconditional support, rather than another barrier. We will never be able to change what they face in the outside world, or truly even know what they have experienced. But we can teach them resilience and grit and a belief in themselves that will hopefully follow them far into their careers, colleges, families and life beyond.

When our students approach the end of their marathon and head toward graduation, we are the first ones to celebrate, regardless of the obstacles they faced. No matter how long it takes them to reach the finish line, we will be there each day with a fresh cooler full of water ... because they need us, so they can keep going.

The Bartlett Educational Center provides an alternative learning environment for middle and high school students who need additional support to progress in school. The school provides individual students with a safe, structured, and supportive learning environment that empowers them to mature behaviorally in order to succeed academically. Bartlett offers personalized learning programs that allow students to work at their own pace. Family engagement is encouraged, and every effort is made to help students receive their high school diploma and become positive and productive members of the community in which they live.

The school currently serves 71 students. Last year, 24 students graduated from Bartlett – an all-time high.
The afterschool classroom

RC Durr YMCA and Boys & Girls Club provide extended support for students

The bell rings. Officially, the school day is over. But for a number of students, it’s not time to go home; it’s just time to move on to the next phase of learning.

At each of the district’s four elementary schools and at Tichenor Middle, 21st century afterschool learning programs are an extension of the school day, providing tutoring and academic intervention along with valuable enrichment activities. Students benefit from a nutritious hot meal, access to tutors and mentors, fun activities, and caring staff. The program is dedicated not just to providing a space for students to hang out after school; it takes a holistic approach to giving kids the tools and support they need to succeed in life.

Tichenor's afterschool program is tops!

Tichenor Middle School was named Program of the Year at the Boys & Girls Club Regional Awards, topping all club sites in Greater Cincinnati! The honor is due in no small part to the program’s leadership. Program Director Ms. Kristyn Disibio was named Site Director of the Year at the same awards ceremony.

The club received the highest quality score in the region among all youth programs assessed (not just Boys & Girls Clubs) after an independent assessment of the program’s quality. It also topped the region’s scores on a private members’ survey gauging participant satisfaction and safety.

“On behalf of the entire Tichenor staff, we thank the Boys & Girls Club for all they do for our students,” added Mr. Mac Cooley, Tichenor’s principal. “They are an invaluable part of our staff and do an absolutely wonderful job supporting our students and families.”

Our community's children need you!
District seeks community's support with microgrant

Howell Elementary is seeking community support for its 21st century learning center. For years the program has been the cornerstone of the school’s afterschool offerings. But now, it is in danger because of funding cuts.

The school district has partnered with the United Way to establish a microgrant in the amount of $25,000 that will allow the program to operate at its fullest potential.

To support the grant, anyone can give a monetary gift of any size. Once the grant’s total is fulfilled, it will provide the needed funding to extend the afterschool program to serve 50 more children.

Critical importance, low funding

The benefits of these programs are without question. Not only do they provide a safe, structured environment for hundreds of children of working parents in our community, they are known to boost academic performance, reduce risky behaviors, and even promote physical health.

In addition to offering these essential academic supports, the enrichment programs expose students to activities they likely wouldn’t otherwise experience. In addition, program funding purchases vital resources that can be shared for use during the school day – a crucial advantage considering school funding is at the same level it has been since 2008.

Yet, funding for the programs continues to decline. The programs are financed federally, but at the last opportunity Kentucky’s senators voted against continued support. At the elementary level, the YMCA already subsidizes the cost of the program by over $62,000 each year. Most schools are not able to operate their afterschool programs at capacity due to budget constraints, and nearly all maintain lengthy waiting lists.

“These programs are vital for our community,” said Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, superintendent. “It allows parents to go to work and know their children are safe and nurtured. This is not babysitting – it’s an extension of the school day. It’s essential we let people know how important these programs are, how much they benefit our students, and how critical it is that they be supported.”

Enrichment activities are a program hallmark, and help students learn while having fun. Here are just a few examples …

At the middle school level:

• Tech/STEM Club – Science comes alive with hands-on projects — like building and testing a catapult.

• Fitness – Fitness programs are popular, including Zumba and karate.

• Cooking – A donation from King Arthur Flour allowed kids to make bread from scratch to share with neighbors.

In elementary schools:

• Video Club – Students make a movie, from writing a script, developing storyboards, filming and editing, to everything behind the scenes.

• Zoology Club – Takes a love of animals to the next level, taking an in-depth look at animals, environments, and more.

• Ukulele – Exposes students to music fundamentals and puts an instrument in their hands.

To make a gift:

Visit the grant’s page directly on the United Way website: uwgc.org/give/ways-to-give/howell-elementary-campaign

Or access the link from the school district’s webpage: erlanger.kyschools.us
Athletic updates

**FOOTBALL**

The Lloyd Juggernaut varsity football advanced to the regional playoffs, capping off a 6-4 season. The Juggernauts defeated Washington County 50-44 at home in the first round of the playoffs before losing in the second round to the Christian Academy of Louisville.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Two district cross country runners competed in the state meet at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. Lloyd student Hunter Belville finished with a time of 19:23:66 and Tichenor Student Emmah Morton ran the course in 24:49:93.

**TICHENOR VOLLEYBALL**

Congratulations to the Tichenor girls JV volleyball team! The team was undefeated for the year and won the middle school JV volleyball tournament! Way to go, Trojans!

Committed to hope

The Westwood Family has always been generous to Lloyd Memorial High School’s Youth Service Center, donating to supplement Lloyd’s mental health programming. This year, however, came a gift of an unexpected and unprecedented size.

The Westwoods presented a check in the amount of $7,000 to the school following the 2018 Chelsea Ryann Festival of Hope, an annual event held in memory of their daughter who was a student at Lloyd.

The Festival of Hope is an afternoon celebration of games, fun, and activities that raises money to help students who are searching for hope while dealing with mental health issues, while also showing the impact for good that people can have right in their own backyard.

“We want to spread hope all over the world; we just happen to be starting in Erlanger,” the Westwood family said.

“The Westwoods are wonderful people, for sure,” said Mrs. Maryann Moore, the school’s Youth Service Center coordinator, who was on hand to humbly accept the donation. “These funds will go a long way in helping to reduce any barriers our high school students are experiencing that may be getting in the way of their education. We can work outside of the box to build relationships so that together we help the people who need our help. We are so grateful.”

The Alumni Spotlight

A continuing legacy

Chad Molley, ’89

Chad Molley has spent 47 of his almost 48 years in Erlanger ... and much of that time within the walls of Erlanger-Elsmere Schools. As an administrator, athletic director, assistant principal, parent, neighbor, student, and child of an educator, there are very few titles Mr. Molley hasn’t held.

The Molley name is well-known in Erlanger. In addition to Chad’s own impressive tenure in the district, his wife, Mrs. Tracy Molley, has worked in the district for the last decade and is currently a family resource coordinator. And his father, Mr. James Molley, had a 30-year career in the district that spanned many roles – most notably, superintendent.

So the younger Mr. Molley grew up in the schools, around classrooms and locker rooms while his father worked, and as a student and year-round athlete. When it came time to decide what to do upon graduating from Lloyd in 1989, a career in education seemed like a natural fit.

However, the state’s education department was in turmoil at that time, and the future of Kentucky’s education system was unclear. Chad had shown talent for broadcasting in high school, so he headed to Eastern Kentucky University as a communications major. He stayed there for just a semester before realizing it wasn’t for him. He returned to Erlanger and enrolled at Northern Kentucky University. He graduated four years later with a bachelor’s degree in social studies and certification to be a high school teacher.

Mr. Molley spent the first eight years of his career teaching and coaching in Kenton County. In 2002, an assistant principal/athletic director position opened up at Lloyd, and he returned to the district that had always been such a big part of his life.

Ten years later, when an instructional coordinator position that fit his strengths became available in the district’s board office, he was ready for the new challenge of working with each school to coordinate new state initiatives. A few years later, he advanced again, and, in 2015, was named assistant superintendent. Now in his 24th year in the education field, Mr. Molley often runs into former students; the kids he had in his first classes are in their mid-40s.

“If you’re around long enough, you get to see the fruits of your labor, and it’s very satisfying,” Mr. Molley said. “It’s neat living in this community, and neat to be part of a continuing legacy.”

Chad Molley lives in Erlanger with his wife, Tracy, and their two children: daughter Tatum, a sophomore at St. Henry High School, and son Payton, a seventh-grader at Tichenor Middle School. His parents, Cheryl and Jim Molley still live in Erlanger, and his father can be seen regularly around town, attending sporting events or walking his dog.
Erlanger elects new officials

Voters in the City of Erlanger elected a new mayor and new City Council members in November’s election. Nine council members are returning; three new members will join.

The elected City Council runs Erlanger’s municipal government. City Council members are elected every two years; the mayor is elected every four years and chairs all council meetings. The new elected officials will begin duties in January.

Upcoming Events
In the City of Erlanger
Erlanger Business Council Meetings
Tuesdays
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Erlanger City Building

Holiday Train Display
Erlanger City Building
Friday,
December 7
1:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday,
December 8
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday,
December 9
12:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Residents are invited to comment on issues at City Council meetings or via email.
City Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Erlanger City Building. Emailed comments can be sent to: info@cityoferlanger.com. Please call 859.727.2525 for additional information.

Elsmere Police help secure 30 tennis rackets for Arnett, Howell elementary schools

Arnett and Dorothy Howell elementary schools have 30 brand-new tennis rackets, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor and the unwavering partnership of the Elsmere Police Department.

The department coordinated the donation after hearing of the need from Mr. Eric Campbell, physical education teacher for both schools.

“I’ve always wanted to teach my students the basics of tennis to prepare them for additional tennis instruction later in their academic careers,” Mr. Campbell said.

But purchasing enough rackets to instruct an entire class during PE was more than Mr. Campbell’s limited budget would allow.

When Elsmere Officer Scott Nottingham, the school resource officer for Howell and Arnett, heard the schools were looking for a set of rackets to help the community’s children achieve better, healthier lives, he knew there was probably something the police department could do.

“We reached out to one of our community partners who stepped up and anonymously provided the needed equipment,” said Elsmere Police Chief Steve Bohman.

“We were very happy to facilitate this acquisition; we view it as part of our continuing commitment to a strong partnership among the police, the schools, and the community.”

The rackets are a wonderful gift for the schools because tennis’ benefits to kids are numerous. Physically, tennis promotes hand-eye coordination and is great for motor skills. Psychologically, tennis teaches responsibility, focus, discipline and problem solving. Plus, as an individual sport, it can be a lifelong hobby.

“This is such an exciting opportunity for our kids,” Mr. Campbell said. “I am sure they will enjoy and appreciate the experience!”

Upcoming Events
In the City of Elsmere
Light Up the Park!
Saturday,
December 16
6:00 p.m.

Elsmere’s New Park
Located right across from the City Building, on Garvey Avenue
Join in the fun and catch the holiday spirit with cookies, hot cocoa, and music as Elsmere lights up the city’s new park for the holiday season!
our vision
Erlanger-Elsmere Schools will provide essential opportunities for all students to reach their greatest potential.

our mission
It is the mission of the Erlanger-Elsmere Schools to embrace and attend to the individual needs of our students, regardless of the obstacles.

stay in touch
Visit us on the web: www.erlanger.kyschools.us
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ErlangerElsmere
Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/erlangerelsmere

sign up for our e-newsletter
Send your name and email address to:
engage@erlanger.kyschools.us

write to us at...
Engage, Erlanger-Elsmere Schools
500 Graves Avenue, Erlanger, KY 41018
or email: engage@erlanger.kyschools.us

Please let us know if you receive duplicate mailings of engage.

our vision
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It is the mission of the Erlanger-Elsmere Schools to embrace and attend to the individual needs of our students, regardless of the obstacles.

we like to hear from you!
Central Office .................. 859.727.2009
Lloyd Memorial High School .... 859.727.1555
Tichenor Middle School ........ 859.727.2255
Arnett Elementary ............... 859.727.1488
Howell Elementary ............... 859.727.1108
Lindeman Elementary .......... 859.727.1188
Miles Elementary ............... 859.727.2231
Bartlett Educational Center ... 859.342.2460
Erlanger-Elsmere Preschool ... 859.342.2427
or 859.727.2009

board of education
Jeffrey Miller, Board Chair
John Christiansen ● Robin Cooper ● Tom Luken ● Sarah Shackelford

The Erlanger-Elsmere Board of Education meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Central Office, 500 Graves Avenue, Erlanger.

central office administrators
Dr. Kathy Burkhardt, Superintendent ● Chad Molley, Asst, Superintendent
Laura Heilman, Dir. of Special Education ● Shawn Neace, Dir. of Pupil Personnel
Laura Deters, Chief Information Officer ● Lisa Goetz, Finance Director
Matt Engel, Supervisor of Instruction ● Darlene Hope, Preschool Director

Erlanger-Elsmere Schools
LLOYD MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ● TICHENOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
ARNETT ELEMENTARY ● HOWELL ELEMENTARY ● LINDEMAN ELEMENTARY
MILES ELEMENTARY ● BARTLETT EDUCATIONAL CENTER