



“May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide, and may your pockets always have a coin or two inside!” ~ Irish Blessing

Below, we at the Lawrence County ESC, have events and trainings to share with you as we head down the home stretch of another school year. First and foremost, we are wishing all students, teachers, and administration the best on this year’s state tests! Use your cognitive, social and emotional lessons to focus and to make good decisions on assessments and throughout life. Using Competency E, Good Decision-Making Skills and Standard 2 under this competency, students in grades K-12 have learned/are learning skills to identify potential outcomes to help make constructive decisions. It has been a year of challenges and yet you have persevered and have learned to survive and thrive!

Recently, our ESC has been involved in a wonderful project through our ACCESS Grant and collaboration with several other ESCs throughout the state. The “Building Better Bonds” initiative came to fruition in a big way as we built a website from the bottom up for teachers to access online trainings and resources/tools, as well as a portion of the website devoted to videos, reading materials and other resources to help families and caregivers to learn skills and strategies in helping the young people in their home engage in great learning practices. Take a look at what this website has to offer at: www.buildingaccess.org. Our team at the Lawrence County ESC is going out to schools and will share and also help people find the resources they need. There is a wealth of information on this site and more to be added in the near future.

Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) training is taking place in every school in our county this Spring, Summer and early Fall ‘21. Becky Bowling, Julie Mayo, and Tomi Blankenship will be working with administration and school PBIS teams to champion them in kicking off a school-wide program. All schools are required, yet we know our schools are doing more than required, and we hope to have a “showcase school” in the state/our region this Fall.

Teacher mentors are again working diligently thanks to the guidance of Johnna Lunsford. RESA candidates will receive their scores by April 9 and we expect to see another high passage rate from the educators in our county.

This school year High Quality Student Data (HQSD) is being understood by our county admin and teachers under Becky Bowling’s tutelage as well as a 15-hour gifted training for regular education teachers through GT Ignite, for those who would like to better serve the advanced learners in their classrooms.

Family and Community Partnership Liaison, Molly Snowden, entered Phase II Gap Analysis to gather info for resources for our most vulnerable youth in Lawrence County.

RemotEDx is training individuals on how to find access to information for more concise information on learning virtually, and we have a team member here, Tomi Blankenship, who is studying to be a support team member for it and will complete her training by June 4, 2021. Tomi has also completed the workshop to train evaluators of school counselors for the 2021/2022 school year and is available to train administrators locally and throughout the state.

Robin Waller and Crissy Riggle are getting ready for the State Software Redesign for Budgetary and Payroll, implemented by META. This is wave 7 out of 10, so let's hope everything goes smoothly in this transition. We thank them for all the work they do and have done to get accurate information out to ESC employees and to the public.

The month of April begins with a Business Advisory Council meeting April 1 at noon, with a busy month ahead with events, trainings and assessments. Ohio Department of Education representatives plan to Zoom in with our county's administrators and ESC supervisors, along with Superintendent Jeff Saunders to explain reporting of data and also to help us gain knowledge of new state programs and strategies. This event is facilitated by Becky Bowling.

The month ends with a High School Quiz Bowl Tournament Tuesday, April 27; and the Lawrence County Spelling Bee taking place that Thursday, April 29. With graduation ceremonies being held in-person this year, we all are so looking forward to celebrations of our young people and their many accomplishments!

Other news:

- Impact Prevention agency is teaming up with the ESC for "Handle with Care" and Prevention 101 through Botvin Life Skills trainings
- The Regional Spelling Bee is taking place virtually March 27
- April 19 is the day District Science Day awards will be announced. It is virtual this year only with students submitting projects via YouTube with State award announced June 18
- OPES 2.0 will begin trainings this summer with supervisors at the ESC taking the lead
- Summer Academy is on through Shawnee State University again this year
- The Lawrence County Internship program has twenty interns this semester and is off to a great start thanks for our local county officials and educators!
- Lawrence County Lantern Lighters is one way to display projects/lessons our county educators are creating and implementing. We champion you for "igniting the light" in our young people--THANK YOU!