

COUNTY KIDS

OCTOBER 2025



A LOOK AT AREA PRIVATE SCHOOLS

**Lake County
Catholic Schools:
A Network for the
Future
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Fun at the Library
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What If Parents Just Listened?

When Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,” she may have been writing about her husband, but the phrase resonates with me as a parent. Love is so much more than just a feeling; it’s a language we speak every day- and often without a single word.

Sure, sometimes we feel like we should express our love in the form of a gift, a surprise trip, or that fancy tech gadget. Because as many of us know, the wishlists of our children these days can be long. There are other ways we already show how much we care; a cooked meal, helping with homework, taking care of them when they are sick. While these are essential parts of our role as parents, they are often seen as expected duties rather than powerful acts of love.

So, what is not expensive or obligatory, and can possibly make the greatest impact? I believe it’s listening. Everyone appreciates a good listener and we are typically drawn to those people. Why is that? Because it makes us feel like someone cares. We feel special when somebody takes the time to stop what they’re doing to hear us. It makes us feel important and valuable.

Sure, we might feel like we are listening to our kids. Since their infancy- loud and clear- we’ve been hearing them; crying means they need something, a tantrum means they want something, a question is often because they need an answer or they are simply bored. But are we really listening? Maybe equally as important- do our kids know when we are or aren’t? And when we respond, are we giving them what they really want and need?

While we think we’re hearing them, we might not be; at least not to the best of our ability. A common challenge is that we have spent so much time, over so many years, talking to (or at) our kids that we might feel if we aren’t talking they probably aren’t paying attention. What if they miss something? I hear that

(loud and clear).

The truth? If we are always the ones doing the talking, we are actually the ones missing things. Are we hearing their worries, small victories- their true feelings- and are we following up on those later? Don’t fall into that trap that we need to have all the answers. We never will and we don’t have to. Sometimes the more we say, the less they hear anyway. Pausing and asking questions is what we should be doing; not only does it take some of the pressure off, but it also opens doors to get to know our children better.

Listening is one of the most powerful ways a parent can express love for a child. Most importantly, it builds trust. When a child knows they have a safe space to share their thoughts and feelings (and we also refrain from snap-judgement responses), they will confide in us more. If we want them to come to us with the big things, we have to prove we can be good with the small ones.

It might be hard to do with so much noise in our lives—including our own anxiety and technology. But simply being present for our children (at any age) is an act of love. The better listener you are, the more your children will talk to you, creating a cycle of solid trust and deeper connection. It’s a priceless gift- and one that you will receive in return- no matter how old they are or the miles that set you apart.

Read 15 of my nearly 30 years as a solo-mom of three at: Family Matters with Amber familymatterswithamber.com (If you’ve visited before you may have to clear your cache to view our new page or use a different browser).



Lake County Catholic Schools: A Network for the Future

The landscape of Catholic education in Lake County is evolving, and it's built on a new model of shared strength and community support. The Lake County Catholic School Network (LCCSN), a direct result of the Diocese of Cleveland's "Keeping the Faith" initiative, represents a partnership between six area parishes: Immaculate Conception (Willoughby), Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Wickliffe), St. John Vianney (Mentor), St. Justin Martyr (Eastlake), St. Mary Magdalene (Willowick), and St. Noel (Willoughby Hills). The network's core mission is to ensure that Catholic elementary schools in Western Lake County remain a vibrant and accessible choice for families.

The LCCSN provides shared leadership and resources with oversight by a President, Finance Director, Board of Directors (education experts and parish representatives) and Board of Members (pastors of each member parish). This collaborative approach allows individual schools to thrive while benefiting from the collective expertise and support of the network. It's a testament to the belief that by working together, the Catholic community can create an even stronger future for its children's education.

Two Catholic Schools in Wickliffe, Ohio: Mater Dei and All Saints

At the heart of the LCCSN are two well-established schools in Wickliffe: Mater Dei Academy and All Saints School. While both schools are now part of the same network, they maintain their unique identities

and traditions, offering families distinct, yet equally excellent, Catholic educational experiences.

Mater Dei Academy: A STEM-Designated School

Located on the grounds of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and operating since 1955, Mater Dei Academy is an Ohio Department of Education STEM-designated school. It's committed to providing a Christ-centered education that empowers students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade to grow spiritually, academically, and socially. Mater Dei's philosophy is rooted in teaching doctrine, building community, and serving others. The school is known for its challenging curriculum and emphasis on moral values, preparing students to be compassionate leaders and courageous innovators.

All Saints School:

A Community of Faith and Learning

Established in 1977 and founded by St. John Vianney Church in Mentor, All Saints School is a Catholic community located on the beautiful grounds of the Center for Pastoral Leadership. The school's mission is to provide students with both a strong educational and religious foundation, believing in the necessary partnership between the school and the family to promote spiritual growth, lifelong learning, responsibility, and leadership. All Saints, also an Ohio Purple Star Designated School, serves pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade students and prides itself on its close-

SEE PAGE 7



SAINT PASCHAL BAYLON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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FALL OPEN HOUSE

FOR K-8 PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

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Preschool through 8th Grade

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- ★ Governor's Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research-11 years
- ★ Innovations in Catholic Education Award Finalist-2020

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Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic School

Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic School educates just over 400 students in pre-K through grade 8 with a commitment to faith formation and academic excellence. The school's mission is to focus on Christ-centered values and to develop the unique potential of each student through a rigorous and engaging curriculum. Saint Paschal Baylon has earned the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education and Student Research for eleven years and was named a finalist for the Innovations in Catholic Education Award from Today's Catholic Teacher, a national magazine, in 2020.

Offering a program that prepares students for their secondary education and beyond, the faculty and staff recognize each student as an individual with unique gifts. The faculty and staff truly care about their students and are dedicated to helping each child succeed and attain his or her academic and spiritual potential.

The academic program is aligned with diocesan, state, and national standards. In addition, Saint Paschal Baylon offers daily religion instruction, Spanish (pre-K through 8), fine arts, service learning opportunities, cocurricular activities, gifted education classes, as well as psychological, speech/language, intervention, and learning disability services.

Please visit www.saintpaschal.com to learn more about enrollment and the admissions process.

Beck Center for the Arts



Beck Center for the Arts, located in Lakewood, is the place to fall in love with the arts! From classes for all ages, all skill levels, all abilities, we welcome you into our theater, dance, visual arts, and music programs. The longest-running Youth Theater program in the country, we train the talent of tomorrow, today. From free visual arts exhibitions, great for all ages, to our outdoor pocket park, you are invited to the Beck Center campus to express yourself. Find out more about professional theater productions, youth theater productions, dance performances, and arts education programs at BeckCenter.org.



Notre Dame Elementary and Middle School

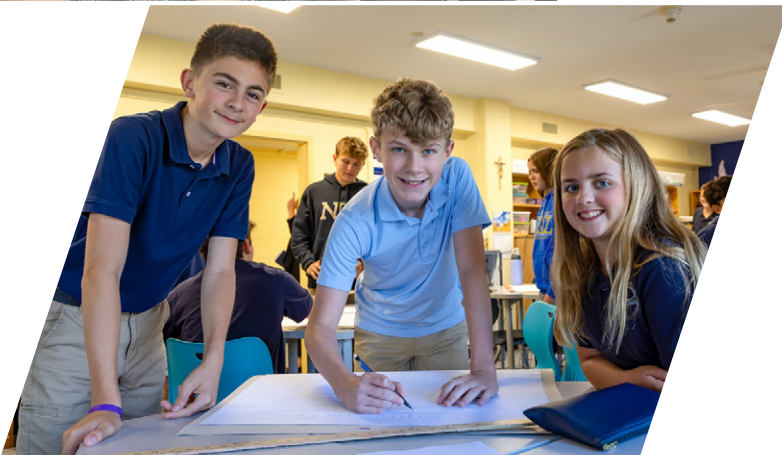
Preschool - Grade 8

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- Good Shepherd
- Academic Excellence
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- Outdoor Learning Experiences on Beautiful Campus

Stop In to See Our Renovated Middle School!



Barbara Williams, Director of Admissions
bwilliams@ndes.org | 440.279.1129
 Scan the QR Code to Visit Our Website





ALL SAINTS SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

11 AM TO 1 PM

Faith. Family. and Future Leaders

- Take a tour of our beautiful campus
- Meet our teachers and speak with students & families.
- Get information on our various scholarship opportunities including EdChoice
- Learn about our curriculum and the many clubs and extracurriculars we offer



28702 Euclid Ave, Wickliffe, OH 44092

www.AllSaintsWickliffe.org

440.943.1395



2026 OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

JANUARY 21 6 - 8PM

JANUARY 25 12 - 2PM

JANUARY 28 6 - 8PM

MARCH 11 6 - 8PM

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440-585-0800



Notre Dame Elementary and Middle School

On the expansive 450-acre campus of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Elementary and Middle School, alongside Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin, educate over 1,200 students from preschool through 12th grade.

We are thrilled to highlight that, as of last year, Notre Dame Middle School has its own dedicated, state-of-the-art space designed specifically for our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Our rigorous middle school curriculum prepares students for high school success, offering honors classes in English Language Arts and math across all three grades. Additionally, enriched learning opportunities extend

beyond core academics into special classes, providing a broad and engaging educational experience.

At Notre Dame Elementary and Middle School, we are guided by our mission: to educate leaders who transform the world, as Jesus did, by living the truth in love. We lay a strong foundation that encourages students not only to pursue their dreams and achieve academic excellence, but also to grow as compassionate, faith-filled individuals committed to making a meaningful difference in the world.

To learn more or to schedule a tour or shadow day, please contact Barbara Williams in Admissions at (440) 279-1129.

Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library Read for Your Rights

Join the Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library and libraries across the country to support the freedom to read! Banned Books Week 2025 runs October 5-11. This year's theme is Censorship is so 1984. Read for Your Rights. Banned Books Week is an annual event which celebrates reading and shines a light on attempts to censor books in libraries and schools. It brings together a community of readers including librarians, booksellers, publishers, teachers, and readers of all ages to support the ability to access books without censorship.

Banned Books Week reminds us that even if every book is not intended for every reader, everyone has the right to decide what to read, listen to or view. Celebrate your freedom to read and visit Willoughby-Eastlake Public

Library anytime at we247.org or stop by any of our four convenient locations:

Eastlake Public Library, 36706 Lakeshore Blvd., Eastlake, 440-942-7880

Willoughby Public Library, 30 Public Square, Willoughby, 440-942-3200

Willoughby Hills Public Library, 35400 Chardon Rd., Willoughby Hills, 440-942-3362

Willowick Public Library, 263 E. 305 St., Willowick, 440-943-4151



BANNED BOOKS WEEK OCT. 5-11, 2025



**CENSORSHIP
is so 1984**

**READ FOR
YOUR RIGHTS**

ALA.ORG/BBOOKS
ALA American Library Association

Banned Books Week is an annual event which spotlights attempts to censor books in libraries and schools.

It brings together readers from across the globe to celebrate and support the freedom to read!

VISIT US TODAY AT WE247.ORG.



Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library

We explore. We discover. We connect.



Snag a Spot at Jump Start Gymnastics Before They're Gone!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for Fall 2 2025

Tuesday Oct 7-Monday Nov 17

TWISTER PROGRAMMING:

Little Twisters (with adult) Age: 20 months-3.6 yrs
Length: 45 min. SAT 9:30-10:15 am NEW TIME ADDED:
SAT 10:15-11 am The Little Twisters class is designed for children aged 2-3 years old who participate with an adult caregiver. During the 45-minute class, the students are introduced to basic gymnastics skills and shapes in a fun and energized atmosphere. They develop their motor and social skills while utilizing appropriately sized equipment.

Swinging Twisters Age: 3-4 yrs Length: 1 hr MON & WED 4:30-5:30 pm SAT 9:15-10:15 am. The Swinging Twisters class for children starts with a fun, fast-paced stretching and warm-up session. During the hour-long class, students are introduced to basic gymnastic positions and skills utilizing appropriately sized gymnastics equipment. The students rotate through stations involving obstacle courses that are fun, easy to follow, and centered around skill progression.

Tumbling Twisters Age: 4-5 yrs Length: 1.25 hrs MON & WED 4:30-5:45 pm SAT 9:15-10:30 am or SAT 10:45-12 pm The Tumbling Twisters class for children begins with a fun, fast-paced warm-up. It is geared towards 4- to 5-year-olds who are ready for a slightly longer class. The class focuses on gymnastic elements, shapes, skills, and strength while utilizing appropriately sized equipment. The class rotations are obstacle courses



designed to promote fun, proper progression, skill acquisition, and school readiness preparation.

SuperSonic Twisters Age: 5-6 yrs Length: 1.25 hrs MON & WED 4:30-5:45 pm SAT 9:15-10:30 am or SAT 10:45-12 pm The Supersonic Twisters class for boys & girls. The class is focused on developing gymnastics elements, shapes, skills, and strength on appropriately sized equipment. Fundamental gymnastic skills learned are the foundation for physical fitness, coordination for all sports & readiness, which are developed in the Flips for Boys & Girls program.

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LAKE COUNTY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FROM PAGE 3

knit community and active parent involvement. The school's focus is on nurturing a supportive environment where every student can thrive.

The Future is Now

The formation of the Lake County Catholic School Network is more than just an administrative change; it's a strategic move to ensure the long-term vitality of Catholic education in the region. By combining resources and expertise, Mater Dei Academy and All Saints School can continue to provide high-quality, faith-based education for generations to come. This collaborative model demonstrates the enduring commitment of the Catholic community to its schools and its children. It's a proactive and innovative step that secures the future of these cherished institutions and their mission to form young people in the Catholic faith.

Jump Start Gymnastics!



2025-2026 SESSION CALENDAR

Fall 2 2025: Tue., Oct. 7 - Mon., Nov. 17, 2025 6 Week Session

Tumbling Turkey Camp: Pre-registration is required.

Wed., Nov. 26 2025 | 10 am-2 pm | Ages 5-14 yrs

\$60 first registration. Each additional sibling, relative, or friend registered & paid from the same account is **½ price!**

Open Gym 2-3:30 pm

All ages **\$10** per participant

Winter 1 2025-26: Tue., Nov. 18, 2025 - Mon., Jan. 19, 2026
6 Week Session

Closed on:

• Thanksgiving Break: Tue., Nov. 25 - Sat., Nov. 29, 2025

• Winter Break: Mon., Dec 22, 2024 - Sat., Jan. 4, 2026

No make-up classes needed

All off days are factored into the calendar session

Winter 2 2026: Tue., Jan. 20 - Mon., Mar. 2, 2026 6 Week Session

Spring 1 2026: Tue., Mar. 3 - Sat., Apr. 18, 2026 6 Week Session

Closed on:

• Spring Break: Wed., Apr. 1 - Sun., Apr. 5, 2026

No make-up classes needed

All off days are factored into the calendar session

Spring 2 2025: Mon., April 20 - Sat., May 23, 2025

5-Week PRORATED Session

Six-week Session Fees:

45 min class = \$ 130

1 hr class = \$145 per Session

1.25 hr class = \$165 per Session

1.25 hr class x 2 class per wk = \$247.50 per Session

1.5 hr x 2 class per wk = \$270 per Session

Adult Open Gym:

• Thur 7:45-9:00 pm **\$10** per participant

Follows same session calendar as group classes

Youth Open Gym:

• **Scheduled Sundays \$10** per participant

Please watch for notifications

Halloween Haunted Gym

Sun October 18, 2025 | 2:30-4:00 pm

Registration required

23700 Mercantile Rd. Beachwood, OH 44122 | Rear of: National Biological Building | 216-896-0295 | jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com

JUMP START GYMNASTICS FROM PAGE 7

NEW Flip & Twist Transitional Class

Age: 6-8 yrs

Length: 1.25 hrs MON & WED 5:45-7

pm The Flip & Twist Transitional class for girls focuses on developing gymnastics elements, shapes, skills, and strength, transitioning between the Twister & Flip Program. Fundamental gymnastic skills learned are the base for physical fitness, coordination for all sports & readiness for the Flips Girls program.

GymSkills for Boys

Age: 5-7 yrs Length:

1.25 hrs. TUE & THUR 4:30-5:45 pm

The GymSkills for Boys class focuses on developing strength, flexibility, and coordination by learning fundamental skills on the floor, vault, parallel bars, and Tumble Track, while building body awareness and agility. It progresses from basic movements, such as rolls and handstands, to more advanced skills, including front & back handsprings.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMING:

NEW GymSkills for Boys

Age: 8-14 yrs

Length: 1.25 hrs. TUE & THUR 6-7:15

pm. The GymSkills for Boys class focuses on developing strength, flexibility, and coordination by learning fundamental

skills on the floor, vault, parallel bars, and Tumble Track, while building body awareness and agility. It progresses from basic movements, such as rolls and handstands, to more advanced skills, including front & back handsprings.

Flips for Girls: Beginner & Intermediate

Age: 7-10 yrs Length: 1.25 hrs. MON

& WED 4:30-5:45 pm or MON & WED

6-7:15 pm SAT 9:15-10:30 am or SAT

10:45-12 pm. Whether you're looking for a new activity or have been active in gymnastics for years, Flips For Girls is perfect for girls ages 7 and over who love gymnastics! Our encouraging coaches work with the girls to help them establish a strong foundation of skills in all areas of gymnastics. The gymnasts will be instructed on all the Olympic events: floor, beam, vault, bars, and our 50 ft Tumble Track. From beginner to advanced gymnasts, this class is structured to meet the needs of all levels and to help them reach their goals. Groups are organized by age and skill level.

Flip & Salute: Beginner & Intermediate

Age: 10-17 yrs. Length: 1.25 hrs.

MON & WED 6-7:15 pm. The Flip &

Salute class is similar to our Flips for Girls

class, except that it is open to everyone 10 years or older. It is an excellent gymnastics class for both beginners and experienced gymnasts. The class includes instruction on all the Olympic events: floor, beam, vault, bars, and our 50ft Tumble Track. From beginner to advanced gymnasts, this class is structured to meet the needs of all levels and to help them reach their goals. Groups are organized by age and skill level.

Flip & Salute & Medal: Advanced Gymnastics Class

Age: 9-17 yrs Length: 1.5 hrs / 2x's per

week. MON & WED 6-7:30 pm. Our en-

couraging coaches work with the girls to help them establish a strong foundation of skills, progressing to advanced skill sets in all gymnastic events. Flip, Salute, & Medal! The Advanced Gymnastics class is for girls aged 9-17 years old and is geared toward athletes who want to commit to gymnastic practice two days a week & have mastered basic gymnastics skills. A skill evaluation is required before registering for this class.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

www.jsgymnastics.com

Email: jsgymnastics@jsgymnastics.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Families have their own reasons for choosing private school over public, and class size may factor into those decisions. According to U.S. News and World Report, the student-to-teacher ratio at private schools in 2021 was 12.5 students per teacher, lower than the average 15.4 at public schools. The National Center for Education Statistics says public schools have an average class size of 25 students, compared to 19 students per class in private schools. ThoughtCo. indicates public school classes can be as large as 25 to 30 students, particularly in urban neighborhoods, while most private schools keep their classes limited to 10 to 15 students. Freemont University reports that students learn faster and perform better in smaller classes. Those in classes with fewer than 20 students often get more individualized attention, participate with greater frequency, and have better communication with the teacher.

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MENTOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Main Library

8215 Mentor Ave. Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 255-8811

Mentor-on-the-Lake

5642 Andrews Rd.

Mentor-on-the-Lake 44060
(440) 257-2512

Headlands

4669 Corduroy Rd. Mentor, OH 44060
(440) 257-2000

www.mentor.lib.oh.us

Library Art-Ober All October Headlands Branch Visit Mentor Public Library's Headlands Branch any day this October to receive a list of art prompts. Then... start creating! Artists can be of any age or skill level. They can also create in any medium — sketch, paint, chalk, whatever they want. No registration required.

Family Pumpkin Painting — Pumpkin Pickup Days Sept. 30 — Oct. 3 Children's Department, Main Branch Families can register for the library's Pumpkin Painting contest, starting on Sept. 29. The theme is "Children's Book Character." Once registered, families can pick up their pumpkin from the Children's Area at the Main Library. Pumpkins are to be decorated and returned to the library by Oct. 12. Then library patrons can vote for their favorite pumpkin from Oct. 13 through 19.

Monster Madness Scavenger Hunt

All October Lake Branch Kids of all ages can win a prize when they find the monster lurking in the library. The monster loves to chew books and changes its hiding spot daily.

Adopt A Ghost All October Headlands Branch Students (kindergarten through 12th grade) can adopt a ghost at the Headlands Branch. Each ghost parent will receive a ghost in a box, an adoption certificate and a haunted house cutout to take home, while supplies last.

Family Story Time Mondays at 10 a.m. Main Branch Children will enjoy stories, songs and activities that promote early literacy and healthy development. Geared toward children aged two to six, but all ages are welcome.

Tiddlywinks Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Main Branch Kids (from birth to three years old) will love this interactive story time filled with stories, songs and rhymes.

Storytime Stars Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. Lake Branch Kids (six months to five years old) can enjoy stories, music, rhymes and a craft. All kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Preschool Story Time Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11 a.m. Children's Story Time Room, Main Branch Kids (ages three to six) will enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Children attend without an adult.

Pajama Story Time Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Main Branch Families are invited to the library's pajama story time. Kids can wear their snuggliest pajamas while enjoying stories, songs, rhymes, a craft and a snack.

Musical Munchkins Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Lake Branch Kids (ages five and younger) can enjoy an interactive musical story time with singing, stories, and

exploration of simple musical concepts. All kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Finger Paint Fridays Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Headlands Branch Kids can explore their creativity with finger-painting every Friday at the Headlands Branch. The library will provide paper, paint and aprons. This activity will largely be self-directed with limited assistance from staff. Registration is not required; but space is limited, so children may need to wait their turns.

Wiggle, Giggle & Shake Story Time Fridays at 10 a.m. James R. Garfield Room, Main Branch Kids and caregivers will have fun clapping, marching and moving to music together. For ages two to six.

Travel Club — USA Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 4 p.m. Children's Story Room, Main Branch Kids (ages six to 12) will enjoy crafts, activities and snack celebrating a different state each month. Kids can also collect a pin from that state. Registration required.

Let's Cook with Kids Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 6:30 p.m. Headlands Branch Local chef LaDonna Oltmanns will lead a cooking class for children (ages eight and older.) Registration required

Yoga Kids Thursday, Oct. 2, at 1 p.m. Village Room, Main Branch Kids (ages three to six) along with their grownup are invited to stretch their minds and bodies during this special yoga story time. Yoga Instructor Darlene Kelbach will lead everyone through breathing and movement exercises, all put together with a story and music. Please bring a yoga mat or a towel for both child and adult. Registration is required.

Back to Hogwarts Friday, Oct. 3, at 5:30 p.m. Village Room, Main Branch Kids (ages seven to 12) along with a parent can journey to Hogwarts and enjoy a magical afterhours program at the library. The library will offer crafts, activities and a feast — all inspired by Harry Potter. Young wizards are encouraged to dress as their favorite character. Registration is required.

LEGO at the Library Saturday, Oct. 4, at 11 a.m. Children's Story Room, Main Branch Kids (ages five to 12) can rock the blocks on the first Saturday of every month. No registration required.

Show and Tell Storytime Monday, Oct. 6, at 1 p.m. Children's Story Room, Main Branch Kids (ages four to six) can enjoy an interactive story time that helps them develop social, emotional and language skills as they share a special item

from home with others. No registration required. Children attend this story time without an adult.

VolunTEENS Monday, Oct. 6, at 3:30 p.m. James R. Garfield Room, Main Branch Teens (15 and older) can help the community and earn volunteer hours at the library. Contact the Adult Information Services Department for more info at 440-255-8811 ext. 1.

Book-to-Movie Book Club Monday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m. Children's Story Room, Main Branch Kids (ages eight to 12) read part of a classic children's book, watch a snippet of the movie it inspired, and enjoy related activities. This month: "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." Registration required.

The Fine Arts Club Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 4 p.m. Children's Story Room, Main Branch Using history and hands-on experience, children (ages seven to 12) will learn about dance, theatre, poetry, painting and other forms of art. In October, they'll explore dramatic storytelling. Registration required.

Tote Your Treat Tuesdays, Oct. 7 or 14, at 4 p.m. The HUB Kids (ages six to 11) can design their own trick-or-treat tote bag using The HUB's Cricut. Registration required.

Creepy Crafting with Paper Puppets Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m. Lake Branch Kids (ages seven to 11) can learn how to make their own creepy puppets using paper, scissors, glue, clothespins and markers — from tiny clothespin puppets to larger hand puppets. Registration required.

Firehouse Friends Story Time Thursday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m. Children's Story Room, Main Branch Fireman Dan from the Mentor Fire Department reads stories about firefighters and offers tips on staying safe. Open to all ages. No registration required. Receive a raffle ticket for each Firehouse Friends Story Time you attend for a chance to win a pizza lunch with the firefighters in December.

Creepy Critters Thursday, Oct. 9, at 6:30 p.m. Village Room, Main Branch Kids (ages three to seven) can meet some creepy cool critters through stories and crafts. Registration required.

Family Halloween Movie Matinee Friday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m. Lake Branch Enjoy a fun and free screening of Tim Burton's Nightmare Before Christmas. Registration required.

Kids Craft: Halloween Saturday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lake Branch Kids (ages five to 12) can make a Hal-

lowen craft, while supplies last. Walk-in program; no registration required.

Toddler Playdate Monday, Oct. 13, at 10 a.m. Lake Branch Connect with other families that have toddlers (ages 18 to 36 months) and test drive toys from the library's collection. No registration required.

Early Intervention Family Story Time Monday, Oct. 13, at 5:30 p.m. Children's Story Room, Main Branch Story time and short activity for families in the early intervention program. Registration required.

Pumpkin Decorating & Stories

Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 11 a.m. Headlands Branch Kids (ages three to six) can enjoy stories about pumpkins and decorate their own little gourd to take home. Please dress for a mess. Registration required.

Bingo Club Thursday, Oct. 16, at 4 p.m. Children's Story Time Room, Main Branch Kids (ages seven to 12) can win prizes by playing bingo. Each month, the game will have a different theme. Registration required.

Teen Advisory Board Thursday, Oct. 16, at 6:30 p.m. James R. Garfield Room, Main Branch Teens can help develop library programs for teens, make suggestions for the library's teen space, and much more. The Teen Advisory Board is open to all teens in seventh through 12th grades. A snack is also provided. Registration is required.

Lake Erie N-scale Society Model Train Display Friday, Oct 17, from noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lake Branch The Lake Erie N-scale Society (LENS) present a special model train exhibit. Members of LENS will demonstrate the model trains and answer questions. No registration required.

Electric Hornets LEGO Robots Saturday, Oct. 18, at noon Children's Story Room, Main Branch Kids in third through sixth grade can learn how to build and program a LEGO robot with the Kirtland Robotics Club. Registration required.

Thrills and Chills Teen Book Club

Monday, Oct. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Headlands Branch The library's book club for teens — with books selected by its club members! In October, they will read and discuss "The Girl in the Bog" by Keith Donohue. The club is open to 14-through 18-year-olds in ninth through 12th grade. Registration required.

A Boo-tiful Night Monday, Oct. 20, at 7

p.m. Main Lawn, Main Branch Families can enjoy a special Halloween movie outdoor on the Main Branch's lawn. Bring blankets and chairs. Costumes encouraged but not required. Popcorn and hot chocolate will be provided. No registration required.

Halloween Ghostie Wednesdays, Oct. 22 or 29, at 4 p.m. The HUB Kids (ages six to 11) can make a friendly little ghost with some help from The HUB's heat press. Registration required.

Pumpkin Painting Party Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 6:30 p.m. Headlands Branch Adults and kids (10 and older) are invited to the library's spooktacular pumpkin painting party. Registration required.

Fall Sunset Walk at the Mentor Marsh Thursday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m. Mentor Marsh (5185 Corduroy Road, Mentor) Families and friends can enjoy a sunset walk with Becky Donaldson from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Learn what's living in the marsh and watch a beautiful sunset across the water. For all ages! Registration required.

Spooky Halloween Pots for Teens Friday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m. Village Room, Main Branch Teens (in grades seven through 12) can paint a clay pot in the spirit of Halloween. Registration required.

It Came from Ohio Saturday, Oct. 25, at noon Village Room, Main Branch Kids (ages seven through 12) can investigate some mysterious creatures that may live in Ohio... or even in their backyard. Registration required.

Glow in the Dark Story Hour Monday, Oct. 27, at 6:30 p.m. James R. Garfield Room, Main Branch Kids of all ages can celebrate spooky season with a special story time. Enjoy stories in the dark with crafts and a snack to follow. Halloween costumes encouraged. Registration required.

Nature Journaling Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 6 p.m. Mentor Lagoons Nature Preserve Join the library at a different Mentor park each month to forge a deeper connection with yourself and the marvels of nature. Explore different journaling techniques across a variety of mediums. Open to all ages and skill levels. No experience necessary. Limited instruction will be given, as this is a way for each individual to create their own way of observing and connecting to nature. All supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own. Registration required.

Trick or Treating at the Library Friday, Oct. 31 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Main

Branch Children can don their costumes and trick-or-treat through the library while the candy lasts. No registration required.

Halloween Family Story Time Friday, Oct. 31, at 10:30 a.m. Main Branch Kids of all ages can enjoy a special family Halloween story time and then trick or treat around the library.

WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Eastlake Public Library

36706 Lake Shore Blvd. Eastlake 44095
(440) 942-7880 x. 105

Willoughby Public Library

30 Public Sq. Willoughby, OH 44094
(440) 942-3200 x. 104

Willowick Public Library

263 E. 305 St. Willowick, OH 44095
(440) 943-4151 x. 116
(440) 516-0843 TTY

Willoughby Hills Public Library

35400 Chardon Rd.
Willoughby Hills, OH 44094
(440) 942-3362
www.welibrary.info

Story, Craft & Play Hear stories, make a craft & play! Ages 2-5. Wednesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10 am
Eastlake Public Library

Homeschool Before Lunch Bunch

Have food allergies or just don't want to eat and play at the same time? Sign up each month or drop in for the opportunity to meet and play with other homeschool families before leaving to have lunch on your own. Please, no food or snacks.

Wednesday, October 1, 11 am

Willoughby Public Library

Homeschool Lunch Bunch Sign up each month or drop in for the opportunity to meet and play with other homeschool families while sharing the lunch you pack. Wednesday, October 1, 12:30 pm Willoughby Public Library,

Tween & Teen Anime Awesomeness

Join us for a new anime each session. Draw, chat, snack, and have anime-zing time Grades 5-12. Ages 10-18.
Wednesdays, October 1, 15, 3:30 pm
Willowick Public Library,

Bark Break Take a break with a therapy dog! Wednesdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 3:30 pm Eastlake Public Library

Rescue Readers In 20-minute sessions, emerging readers will gain confidence, improve skills, and provide soothing company to cats and small critters as they await adoption at Lake Humane Society in Mentor.

Thursday, October 2, 3-5 pm

Lake Humane Society, Mentor

Music and Movement Join us for a fun Music and Movement program followed by an optional opportunity to socialize and play. Ages 2-5.

Friday, October 3, 10 am

Willowick Public Library

Tuesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28, 6:30 pm Willoughby Hills Public Library

Willoughby Library at the Outdoor

Market Find the library at the Willoughby Outdoor Market this fall!

Saturday, October 4, 8 am

Willoughby City Hall Parking Lot

WEPLCON 2025 Join us for a day of celebrating anime, video games, and geeky fandom! Featuring raffles, panels, cosplay, vendors, and more.

Saturday October 4, 11 am
Eastlake Public Library,

Teen Onigiri @ WEPLcon Join LaDonna Oltmanns at Weplcon for this hands-on class about Japanese Rice Balls.

Saturday, October 4, 11:30 am

Eastlake Public Library

LEGO Club Bring the family to LEGO

and Duplo playtime! All ages.

Saturday, October 4, 1:30 pm

Willoughby Hills Public Library,

Saturday, October 25, 1:30 pm

Willowick Public Library

Messy Play Storytime Kids ages 2-6 will dive into stories, explore hands-on activities, and enjoy a little messy fun! Mondays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, 11 am
Eastlake Public Library

Financial Aid 101: Unlocking College Funding Explore the various types of financial aid available, including grants, loans, and work-study programs. Learn how to navigate the financial aid application process to maximize your funding opportunities from a College Now Advisor. Grades 9-12. Ages 14-18.

Monday, October 6, 6 pm

Willowick Public Library

Author Event: Samira Ahmed Kicking off Banned Books Week, YA Author Samira Ahmed will discuss her novel Internment, led by teen moderators. This is an online program that will take place on Zoom with live viewing available at the library.

Monday, October 6, 6:30 pm

Willoughby Hills Public Library

Alphabet Adventures Is your pre-schooler ready for Adventure? 4-6-year-olds are invited to come to our "classroom" all by themselves to practice being independent as we play our way through the alphabet.

Tuesday, October 7, 14, 21, 28, 4 pm
Willoughby Public Library
Adaptive Storytime Children of all ages & abilities are welcomed to this inclusive storytime specifically designed to support varying developmental needs.

Tuesday, October 7, 6 pm (Zoom)
Tuesday, October 14, 6 pm (In-Person)
Eastlake Public Library

Ghost Walk Cathi Weber, author of *Haunted Willoughby*, will present an evening of chilling tales and local legends. Learn about our city's supernatural past on a mini ghost hunt of downtown Willoughby. Ages 12-18.

Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 pm
Willoughby Public Library,
Afterschool Tween Gaming Join us on the second Wednesday of every month for a fun night of gaming and friendly competition. Challenge fellow gamers on the Nintendo Switch and Xbox, win awesome prizes, snack on tasty treats, and most importantly—have a blast!

Wednesday, October 8, 3:30 pm
Willowick Public Library
Movies at the Hills Watch movies recently released on DVD up on the big screen. Doors open at 3:45.

Wednesday, October 8, 4 pm
Willoughby Hills Public Library
Homeschool Teen BYOBook Discussion Club A book club without an assigned book! Join us for a snack and casual discussion with fellow readers about the latest book, graphic novel, manga or anything else you've been reading. Grades 6-12. Ages 12-18. October's Topic: Something Spooky.

Thursday, October 9, 2 pm
Willowick Public Library

Creepy Tales Enjoy a spooktacular Storytime with Creepy Carrots, Creepy Pair of Underwear, and Creepy Crayon, plus fun crafts and activities!

Thursday, October 9, 6 pm
Eastlake Public Library

Rainbow Roundtable: Adult Coloring Spend time coloring while getting to know each other! This program is hosted in partnership with LGBTQ+ Allies Lake County. Light refreshments provided. Thursday, October 9, 6:30 pm
Willoughby Hills Public Library

Spooky Music Bingo – Family Edition Join us for a fun, family-friendly game of music BINGO! Designed for ages 3 and up, this interactive game supports listening skills, social interaction, motor coordination, reading and pattern recognition, memory, and emotional

expression.
Friday, October 10, 2:30 pm
Willowick Public Library
Sit, Stay, READ! Practice your reading skills by reading to a therapy dog! Grades K to 5. Spaces are very limited.
Saturday, October 11, 10 am
Eastlake Public Library
Learn and Play Chess Club All ages and skill levels are welcome. Enjoy playing against people of various experience levels, in a friendly environment. An excellent opportunity to learn strategies and develop skills.

Saturday, October 11, 1 pm
Saturday, October 25, 12 pm
Willoughby Public Library
First Chapter Reading Club Join us for a reading and discussion group that introduces readers in grades 1-5 to different subjects and genres each month. Through read-alouds and group discussion and play, we'll help young readers find their next favorite book.

Monday, October 13, 6:30 pm
Willoughby Public Library
Popcorn and Pencils We'll watch animated shows, chat, snack, and enjoy freestyle drawing time. Grades 6-12. Ages 11-18. Tuesdays, October 14, 28, 3:30 pm
Eastlake Public Library

Preschool Playdough Party Each month will feature a different theme with various playdough activities for preschoolers ages 3-6 and caregivers. Please register for each month individually.

Wednesday, October 15, 2 pm
Willoughby Public Library
Mini Makers: Ghost Painting Kids ages 5 and up will use a simple painting technique to create their own spooky ghost art. Wednesday, October 15, 6 pm
Eastlake Public Library

Homeschool: Herb Gardening Judi Strauss, author of *The Charmed Garden: A Guide to Herb Gardening*, will discuss how to plant, grow, and preserve herbs. We will use cuttings and seeds to plant herbs in a garden to be maintained at the library. Grades 6-12. Ages 12-18.

Thursdays, October 16, 30, 2 pm
Willoughby Public Library

FAFSA Completion Support Get one on one support with completing the 2026-27 FAFSA. A College Now advisor will be available to meet with students and parents in order to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for college. Thursday, October 16, 6 pm
Willowick Public Library

Homeschool LEGO We provide the LEGOs, you provide the imagination.

CORN MAZE
Paul Revere's Run
Now - October 5, 2025
Farmpark admission applies
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
LAKE METROPARKS
FARMPARK
8800 Euclid Chardon Rd.
Kirtland, OH 44094

Friday, October 17, 11 am
Willowick Public Library
Mario Kart Tournament Show off your Mario Kart skills! Kids ages 10-18 are invited to join us for a Mario Kart tournament. Compete against your fellow racers to see who is the ultimate winner! Will you conquer Rainbow Road or will you be knocked out by a blue shell? Registration required. Space is limited. Pizza and snacks will be provided.

Friday October 17, 2 pm
Willoughby Hills Public Library
Pet Rock Adoption So, your parents won't let you have a pet? Create, name and adopt your very own Pet Rock! The easiest pet you could ever have! Ages 6-11. Saturday, October 18, 11 am
Willoughby Public Library

Halloween Bash Join us for fun Halloween games, crafts, and stories! Be sure to wear your costume!

Monday, October 20, 6 pm
Willoughby Hills Public Library
Learn to Knit on a Loom Learn the exciting art of loom knitting! It's easy to learn and offers a fun way to create handmade items. Ages 7-12, no prior experience necessary. All materials provided. Monday, October 20, 6:30 pm
Willoughby Public Library

Raptor Encounters with Apollo Lake Metroparks will introduce us to some of Ohio's raptors, including Apollo, their majestic bald eagle ambassador.

Tuesday, October 21, 6 pm
Eastlake Public Library
WillowICKED Halloween Costume Party Enjoy crafts, games and stories during our annual Halloween event! Don't forget your costume!

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 pm
Willowick Public Library
Teen Art Club We will focus on a differ-

ent artist or style each session. Grades 6-12. Ages 11-18.

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 pm
Eastlake Public Library

Family Playgroup Play, interact, and connect with other families at the library. Friday, October 24, 11:30 am
Willoughby Hills Public Library

Sensory-Friendly Hallopalooza Join us for a fun, inclusive Halloween celebration designed with sensory-sensitive kids in mind! Enjoy games, crafts and treats in a safe, welcoming space. Costumes welcome (but never required)! Saturday, October 25, 10 am
Eastlake Public Library

Haunted Hallopalooza Step right up to our spooktacular Halloween event with thrilling games, delightful treats, and more spooky fun than you can imagine. Costumes are encouraged! Family event for all ages. Saturday, October 25, 11 am
Eastlake Public Library

Common Threads Join us for Common Threads, a fiber arts group for all ages and skill levels! Bring your crochet, knitting, loom, cross-stitch, or other craft project and enjoy a cozy space to create, connect, and share inspiration. Bring your own supplies.

Monday, October 27, 6 pm
Willoughby Public Library
WilloBoo Stop by Willoughby Library for trick or treating and spooky fun!

Wednesday, October 29, 6 pm
Willoughby Public Library
This Is Halloween: Movie & Mischief Join us for an interactive screening of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*! Sing, shout, and celebrate along with Jack Skellington. Thursday, October 30, 6 pm
Eastlake Public Library

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