



Nightingale Notes

April 2023

NM Wing Students made the Springfield News and Sun as a Front Page Feature!

May

- 9 Falcon Field Trip to Young's Jersey Dairy
- 13 **Sustainability Conference at NM**
- 20 Graduation
- 22-25 Wing Class Trip to Hocking Hills
- 26 **Last Day of Classes**
- 30 Eagle, Owl & Falcon Extended Learning Summer Program Begins

June

Office Hours: M—F 9 am—2 pm

- 5 First Day of Chickadee & Eagle Summer Program
- 15 Last Day of Eagle, Owl, Falcon Extended Summer Program

July

Office Hours: By appointment only.
administration@nightingaleschool.org

August

Office Hours: M—F 9 am—2 pm

- 11 Last Day Chickadee & Eagle Summer Program
- 23 **First Day K-12**

Students at Nightingale Montessori plant native trees and remove invasive honeysuckle from an area along the Lakeview Trail at Buck Creek State Park on April 18, 2023. Students partnered with Bob Wooten, the park naturalist, to come once a week to assist with a variety of projects.



Certificate of Occupancy—Our story of “Little Engine that Could”

A look back at the history of NM

It was a hot summer day in mid July 2017 when **Nightingale Montessori Inc.** purchased the location for its dream school at 2525 N. Limestone St. from **Dr. Gary Lau**. NM board fiscal advisor, **Philip Potamitis**, Senior Managing, Director of Commercial Loans at Bank of Nevada opposed recommendation of the purchase. He was seconded by similar skeptics. They reasoned it was an impossible dream given the reality of the financial stretch for a non endowed non profit “mom and pop” family run business. Yet, the bankers acknowledged that the enterprising school had remarkably kept its bottom line in the black over four decades of gradual expansion. It had originally opened in 1978 as a half day Montessori preschool founded by its present board members **Sheila Brown** and **Nancy Schwab**. It humbly occupied the basement of **Lagonda United Methodist Church** from where it relocated to the convent building owned by **Catholic Central High School**.

In 1984, **Dr. Louis Schwab** purchased the 11,600 square foot convent building in order to rent the space to NM and several other businesses. As our need for space increased over time, we eventually required both a larger building and an attractive acreage outside.

Comes the moment to decide

It was at that point, when faced with the need to either follow our mission to upscale our reinvention of education or abbreviate it that the **Nightingale Montessori** board decided to go all in. This meant we needed a spacious aesthetically appealing school which owned its own building.

The NM Wings (high school) class immediately moved to N. Limestone in 2018. **Ron Leach** was our architect and **Al Ashbaugh** was the Contractor. Monies were provided from a Capital Campaign run by **Jim Hilborn** and **Jeanne Nightingale**. It would be two years later before the Chickadees (preschool-K) could join with a small construction loan from **Richwood Bank** to engage **Kapp Construction**. As COVID was shutting down schools, our outdoor environment and plenty of room to set up a closed circuit TV allowed us to open in-person education for our Chickadees.

The NM Hummingbirds (toddlers), Owls and Falcons (upper elementary and junior high) were still stranded in a building requiring maintenance and a new roof. There were no paths yet available to finance a large bank loan to refurbish and code the rest of the new

building. The staff sacrificed the secure predictable standard of living to which they had become accustomed in a successful school of forty years. There had always been a maintenance fund and predictable salary raises. Instead, we were faced with having to finance a building which we could not fully inhabit for five years while teaching in one that noticeably was deteriorating!

The financial strain of running two buildings became intolerable for the patience of several disenchanting staff members. New bylaws had to be constructed to ensure the founding values would be advocated despite the arduous financial ditch out of which the board was determined to dig a way! New encouraging community leaders, **Kristy McCready** and **Jagdish Singh** helpfully joined and encouraged the board. The guiding light sustaining us was the vision of how impactful it would be for kids to spend their youth in a beautiful space surrounded by the promise of nature’s healing. A large **USDA Farm to Table grant** was awarded in 2020 to help finance start up work on the land and kitchen. The teachers who wanted something very special for the children of tomorrow powered through harder than ever. They became the exhausted but noble “Little Engine that Could.” They were intensely motivated to deliver for the children on the other side of our financially formidable mountain.

At long last, a large construction loan was approved. The combination of efforts by **Tim Sanders**, General Contractor and **Jennifer George**, Director of Operations for **Lairds Tax Service**, led to budget numbers acceptable to **Richwood Bank** which awarded us a favorable construction loan. Permits from **Clark County Building Department** were issued in 2021. **Triec Electric** under the able direction of **Chris Sanders** upgraded the electric service throughout. **Ted Delong of Delong Air** provided his design for the unusual layout of the building interior. **Andy Cason of Cason Roofing** enabled us to expose the commanding soaring rafters from under the suspended ceiling by creatively insulating the roof itself. New gas plumbing and a customized kitchen was installed by **David Lowe, of Waibel Energy Systems** and **Bob Jetschki of Dayton Hood and Fan**. Flooring throughout was installed by **Fazio’s**. By Thanksgiving break 2021 the lower elementary class moved in after major work was completed by **Plato Pavlatos and C&N Contractors**.

The Big Move in May 2022

A Box Truck was lent from parent **Michael Blair of Perkins Services**. The Hummingbirds, Owls and Falcons with their teachers packed and carried endless boxes of books and materials into the box truck parked at the old school site on High Street. HS Students with their teachers carried continuously the same boxes from the truck parked at N. Limestone Street into their new classrooms. For three weeks in May the multitudinous mounds of boxes were packed, toted and lugged by the students and their teachers. Throughout May the Big Move was punctuated by exciting end of year festivities, field trips, and an inspirational graduation.

The Chief Building Official for Clark co., **Mike Asebrook**, and Community Development Inspector, **Brian Hicks**, were of immense and immediate help every step of the way. They advised President of Building, **Nancy Schwab**, of detailed requirements for every inspection to gain each stage of temporary building occupancy as we endeavored to access as much building use as permitted. They continually advised us during the long time route through delays in supply chain, appraisal services, and funding sources. On a cold winter day late in February of 2023 Nightingale Montessori was finally granted its **Certificate of Occupancy from the Community and Economic Development of Clark County, Ohio**. With inordinate support, devotional and obstinate leadership, the impossible dream had come true. Nightingale Montessori, could reinvent education again - stage two.

Eco-Poetry Added to the Outdoor Education Program at NM!



Our Outdoor Education, and NM staff addition, Olivia Westfall, has added Eco-poetry groups in the Owls and Falcons with planned expansion into other programs. This experience roots students in the environment both physical and in the way we tell stories to one another. It provides a connection to our surroundings that is so necessary in finding a relationship with the natural world: that feeling that you actually belong there.





CLARK COUNTY OHIO
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

210 East Main St., Springfield, OH 45503, Suite 1A | Phone: 937.321.2100 | Email: communitydevelopment@clarkcountyohio.gov

Certificate of Occupancy

PROJECT INFORMATION	CERTIFICATE OF23-0028
DATE 02/23/2023	BUILDING PERMIT NUMBER PB21-0160
PERMIT ISSUE DATE 05/27/2021	OCCUPANCY DESCRIPTION INTERIOR ALTERATIONS090121: JMA ADVISED
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Com Alteration	OBC CODE EDITION 2017 OBC
LOCATION 2525 N LIMESTONE ST	
OWNER NIGHTINGALE MONTESSORI INC 1106 E HIGH ST SPRINGFIELD OH 45505	CONTRACTOR R.J.L ARCHITECTS 611 HORNWOOD DR SPRINGFIELD OH 45504
USE AND OCCUPANCY	TOTAL FLOOR AREA
PRIMARY USE GROUP E	Habitable:
TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION VB	Non-Habitable: 21539
HAZARD CLASSIFICATION	OCCUPANCY LOAD 549
SPRINKLER REQUIRED	SYSTEM DEMAND PSI 00
	GALLONS PER MINUTE 00
SPECIAL NOTES	

This certificate is issued in accordance to the Ohio Administrative Code 110 and represents an approval that is valid only when the building and its facilities are used as stated. This approval is conditional on all building systems being maintained and tested in accordance with the Ohio Building Code and applicable equipment or system schedules.

This certifies conformance with the applicable provisions of the Ohio Building Code and Chapters 3781, 3791 of the Ohio Revised Code.


 Jerome Michael Asebrook, Chief Building Official



Enrollment for the 2023-2024 Academic Year has opened.

If you have not yet responded to your Intent to Return Form you were contacted by the NM Office for confirmation of enrollment status.

You will be contacted for the next steps for paperwork and forms needed for 2023-2024 in May.

Gourmet Grub is so excited spring is in the air. We are as busy as can be. Many students throughout curricular opportunities have been busily reworking and preparing the grounds for our Culinary gardens. Students work hard to plan, plant and maintain our garden areas. Part of our planning and growing decisions are preparations for our meal patterns, menus, and our overall integration of our school grown foods and herbs into our recipes. We have thoroughly enjoyed working in our beautiful new kitchen and are cultivating future opportunities for continued education and outreach to our families and community!

We have been working hard on the many tasks needed in our community kitchen. To name just a few of our tasks we work on station set-ups and maintenance, knife skills, and oven and stove top cooking for beginners! The true ingredients of our joyous work are teamwork, camaraderie and community! We are so excited to continue to grow and learn together.

The Wing Erdkinder class is preparing many activities and educational outreach opportunities for our upcoming Sustainability Festival. We have special guests coming from the Ohio Department of Education with the intent to showcase our amazing programs and share them across Ohio. All are invited so please come view our facilities and share in our children's accomplishments!

We would like to offer a special thank you to Lynn Orahoad for the donation of many wonderful gardening and wood shop educational materials applicable to all ages and in memory of Rob Taylor, the gifted donation of his many wonderful mason jars to use in our summer program.



Jared and Skye are planting potatoes in the new kitchen.



Sasha makes Naan for International Thursday Lunch.



Finley and Tate maintain the vermi-posting bin in the Chickadee yard.



Skye and Zavy get ready for planting.



Ali and Dashayla peel carrots for the salad bar.



Morrison and Tripp help Wyatt make a surprise pineapple upside down cake for Guyia's birthday.



Amyah makes cornbread for her project.

Gourmet Grub

Experiencing the Outdoors

“There must be a provision for the child to have contact with nature; to understand and appreciate the order, the harmony and the beauty in nature”. -Maria Montessori



Enjoying the Sandbox

Experiencing the outdoors is very important for the **Hummingbirds**. A connection with the natural world of the outdoors is one of the central ideas of Montessori philosophy. **Maria Montessori** believed that outdoor education should be an extension of the classroom. Outdoor experiences provide the children with the ability to discover the world through all of their senses, foster scientific inquiry, and inspire creativity. They can

hear the beautiful melody of a bird, smell the fresh air, watch an insect crawling on a log, and feel the sand between their fingers. All of these activities help the children to develop an awareness of their surroundings. Playing outside also contributes to the physical development and health of the children as they practice and refine important gross motor skills including: running, climbing, and jumping.

As the weather continues to transition into the beautiful weather that accompanies summer break, support your child’s development by encouraging and guiding outdoor activities. There are easy ways to build on the 6 main skills we have been working on all school year. To promote language and literacy skills: have outdoor story-time, name colors and objects in your environment, play “I-Spy”, have a conversation while taking a walk, or collect items on a nature walk and use them to create a story. To promote cognitive development: sort objects, discuss whether objects are the same or different, group objects that are the same, count the items you collected on a walk, draw shapes in the sand/dirt, or look for geometric shapes around you. Fine motor skills can be strengthened by: any activity

that encourages use/development of the small muscles in the hand, and water play that includes squeezing, pouring, or wiping up messes. Social skills can be supported by: talking about how you feel when you have an experience, practicing simple manners, rolling a ball back and forth, making music together using objects in nature, pushing/pulling objects together, or any other activity that promotes working as a team to achieve a common goal. Practical life skills are promoted through activities such as: wiping off surfaces, pouring liquids from one container to another, sweeping the sidewalk, pulling weeds, watering plants, washing windows, and setting up an outdoor picnic. Sensory skills are encouraged by: water activities, pairing objects by color or design, going on a nature themed scavenger hunt, scooping and pouring, or experiencing different smells, textures, and sounds. These are only a few suggestions. Get creative and enjoy the outdoors!



Visiting the NM Quail Habitat



Cutting strawberries for snack time!

If only the world could work in sync as joyfully, peacefully, and productively as the Chickadee class.

Contently on their own...



Tate



Mason

cheerfully in pairs...



Bella reads to Charlie Z

excitedly in small groups...



Children working with Guyia

and enthusiastically in large groups.



We breakfast together at sunrise.



Tranquil study through the afternoon...



Ema



Kylin

and end the day with interesting science and entertaining songs.



Talking about teeth.

We become confident, competent, and responsible for ourselves, to each other, and for our community.

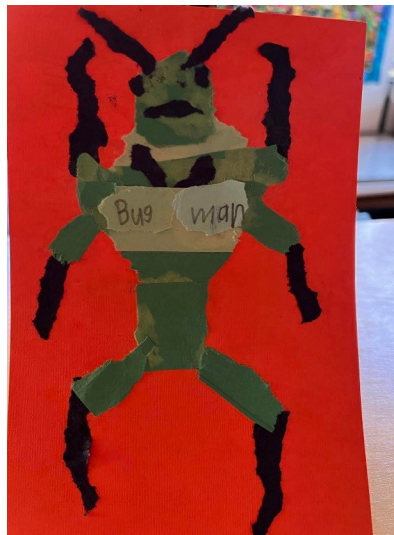
Reading is given absolute priority immediately after lunch recess. This half hour provides a wonderful way to rest physically, be transported to places afar and learn the treasures hidden in the written word.

Eagle Book Clubs are meant to be groups that inspire life skills of reading a common book and sharing ideas and insights. Some Eagles have been reading Charlotte's Web, the story of an untimely friendship between a spider and a pig. Others have been exploring The Littles Take a Trip. Students in this group are designing their own "tiny family" homes and those of the other "tiny families" who are visited. On days when Book club does not meet, students practice S.S.S.R. (Sustained, Solo, Silent Reading) with a book of their own choosing.



August, Astra and Raedyn prepare garden beds.

Some Eagles began a new challenge this quarter. Inspired by the American artist Sylvia Gonzales' Scarab, students were shown how to use torn paper to recreate a masterpiece in a different medium



Finn created an amazing, eye catching image using this technique.



Lisa reads aloud to a group of students literature beyond the reading level of those listening, giving emphasis to authors, illustrators and setting.

The children have been working since school resumed after Spring break to plant the gardens on the Eagle grounds. They planted strawberries, goldenrod, raspberries, asparagus, onions and blackberries. Students also planted ferns and a few other plants in the zen garden to add some green to the environment. During science the children prepared some seed starters (tomatoes, watermelon, peas, sunflowers and pumpkins) that will soon be introduced to their outdoor garden beds. The children are most excited to taste the strawberries that they grow. The children discussed meals and ideas for foods they will use from the garden to provide healthy options for classroom snacks.



Phoebe, Jackson and Jovie haul water to the gardens.





Welcome Maggie!

Our Owl Interventionist, Mia Joy, is out on maternity leave. We can't wait to meet Maggie Lynn Borders. She was born on April 23, 2023 at 8lbs 2 oz, 21 inches long and lots of hair! She needed a little oxygen and a few tests so she stayed a little longer but she is healthy and was soon happy to be home with her family.

Josh Trapp, an Interventionist, has joined the NM team to fill in for Mia's absence.

We look forward to Maggie joining NM next year as a Hummingbird upon Mia's return!



Layla and River serve Guacamole for Team South America.



Team South America shares Guacamole and Chips.



Team Australia shares Vegemite on crackers.



Team Asia makes sushi.



Team Europe makes perogies.

Owl News



Team Africa makes Koeksisters, African donuts.



Team North America shares cornbread.



International treats shared with parents.



Australian Presentation.



South American Presentation.



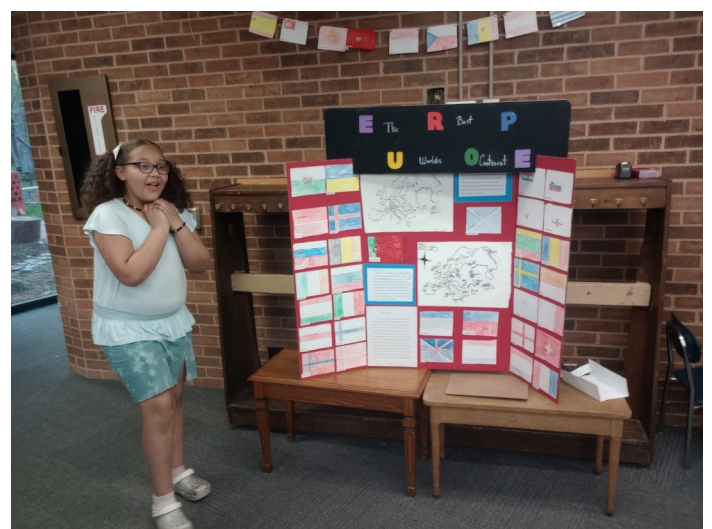
Chicks watching Presentation on Africa.



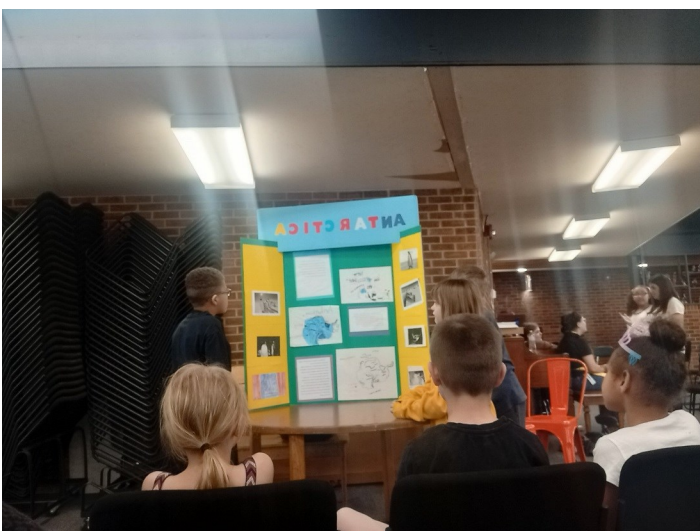
Europe Presentation.



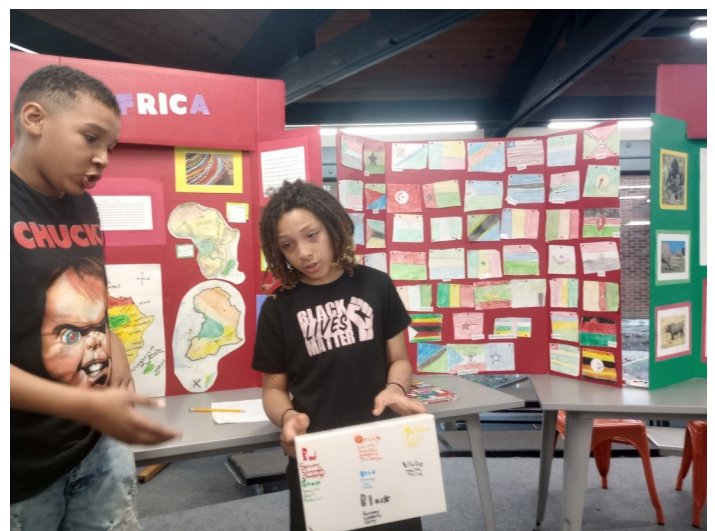
Anna presents for team Asia.



MaKenzie presents for Team Europe.



Team Antarctica presents to the Eagles.



Jace and Amontay present for team Africa.

Falcons Practice Personal Expression

The early adolescent years students spend in the Falcons are a critical time in a young person's life. Students are looking for the boundaries, not always to push them but to establish healthy ones. The child is transitioning from childhood through adolescence and they are becoming young adults. The two or three years that students spend in the Falcons their horizons broaden, and questions of purpose, of meaning, of the goals make for deep conversation. This time is paired with personal challenges. Students' emotions run high, their bodies are changing because of hormones and maturing. Adolescents place their peer in great esteem and reject authority creating a challenge in guiding young people toward good judgment. In all aspects of the Falcon curriculum, we focus on personal expression. When students learn to express themselves clearly they are more equipped to navigate social, emotional, and academic challenges that they will face during their adolescence. We are grateful to welcome Olivia Westfall to our team. She is teaching emotional awareness through accessing the scenes and reading poetry. The students are engaged with thoughtful questions and they are encouraged to be open and honest with their small group discussions.



Falcons Share the Love, Sincere, Dakota and Ladainian.

Community Building

Our recent trip to C.J. Brown Reservoir we all about self expiration and strengthening our community. Falcons enjoyed independent activities of choice like going for a hike, going fishing, playing games or chilling in the grass. Then we all came back together of a picnic lunch and one huge game of capture the flag. This is always a student lead endeavor. They must

establish the boundaries, agree to the rules and divide into teams somehow. The idea that competitive sport will always divide the students does hold true when teams are shifting frequently and teamwork and sportsmanship are valued. It was a great day, great exercise, fresh air, and a free way to enjoy our city!



Falcons Year-long Culminating Activity

Falcons have started their Sustainability Conference Projects. This event happening May 13, 2023 from 9 am to 2 pm is where students will showcase their Culminating Projects. Noah C. is working on a board game concept that will be used to teach others about the consequences of littering. He represents one of the great need of all students, all humans really, a need for silent concentration. In the book *The Soul of Education* by Rachel Kessler notes adolescents need this silence as much as anyone. "The longing for silence and solitude, often an ambivalent domain, is fraught with both fear and urgent need. As a respite from the tyranny of 'busyness' and noise, silence may be a realm of reflection, of calm or fertile chaos, and avenue of stillness and rest for some, prayer and contemplation for others." Noah is in the 'Zone', creating a game that only he could have imagined. We are grateful for his contributions and that his classmates could respect him enough to sustain this quiet space for him to express his creative drive.



Noah is in the zone.

Testimonials for the NM Microbusiness Program

Teddy McClain

I was in Microbusiness for about two of my years in the Wings. It was never my strong suit if I'm being honest. But, I did love it! I liked making things and learning about woodworking and all the things that go into it. I never did too much in the way of finishing things, but I loved to try. Todd was an amazing teacher, even though I wasn't very good at finishing the projects we started, he really helped me to push myself to try new things. I'll definitely never forget my time in the program and the things I learned. (I did learn a lot!) And the experiences and fun memories will stick with me as one of the best things that I ever did during my time at Nightingale.

I started Ecology when I first joined the wings, before then I had some experience with plants and nature, but I was limited by my lack of knowledge. I had a real passion for nature and how it interacted and all worked together to create our world, but I could never really do anything productive with it. I joined ecology originally because I was shy and didn't like being in class much. Overtime I've gotten better with that, but that's not the story here! Jared, the ecology teacher, taught me all about the plants around the school, how to ID them, and what they worked together to do, all while we worked to landscape the school into what it is today. Thanks to our work and those that came later the school is finally opening its plant nursery completely. It's beautiful to see, all of the work over these years coming to fruition in a dramatic way.

Of course Ecology was hard, Jared pulled no punches that's for sure! I've always had health problems, and it certainly wasn't easy to do the hard work we needed to. But even though it was hard and, hehe, I complained quite often as Jared can attest to, he believed in me! Believed that I could do the work, even with my limitations. And I think that that's one of the most important things I came out of this program with, as I'm graduating this year. I learned that anyone can do anything they set their mind to, and even though those limitations are real, you can push past them, and make something beautiful.

Jeremy Begel

The Ecology Erdkinder program is mostly good, especially now that it's Springtime and the air is more fresh. However, I don't like how much time it takes up, because I could be spending that time doing schoolwork that I have to do. I'm often annoyed when I have to bring home schoolwork that I could've done during my /ecology time. I do like the fresh air, though.

Mayeli

This is a great program. I enjoy being able to do things that I find fun and interesting. I like that this school offers good opportunities like the microbusiness program.

Chloe Raines

I've really enjoyed the Micro business class, despite all the hurdles we've had to jump through. We've made some amazing things, such as step stools, candles, jewelry, and we're currently working to build birdhouses once things are set up! I've made two step stools, with one that will eventually be used as a point of reference to make slabs of wood for making more step stools, and one that's sitting here to sell. Speaking of selling, we also learn things regarding money, like pricing and selling things for money that contributes to the school directly so we can gather funds to do amazing things, such as lowering the cost of big trips. Generally though, it's all about making and selling, and above all; learning how to do business!

Alex Schindler

Micro business is a fun class, and it helped me get my silver award. I was taught how to find instructions, follow them, and finish a build. I installed a little library for the students, and it is on display as you walk into the South side of the building. Many love it, as I have to continuously refill it and put in more books.

Aidan S

Over my years in the micro business program I've gone through many iterations of it. Some were good, others were bad, if I had to say the best year was the year where we worked in the basement workshop together and built many benches and prototyped many of our current projects. The worst year had to have been the year we were stuck out in a tent where the weather was chaotic and no one had any motivation because we had nowhere to show off our work. But nevertheless I stuck with it and now future generations will not have the struggles I had.

Damirah

This is my first time this year in the workshop and I am liking a lot of the projects that we've done. I have learned a lot of things about how to build things and more. We have learned about tools and what to do with them. We have also learned about wood and what we can make with it. Some of these things will be useful to me in the future.

Sophia

I love the workshop because I have learned a lot about tools. And, I have made things like a bird house and I have made a step stool and some other really cool things.

Graduates Update

In preparation for the 2023 high school graduation, the seniors have been meeting weekly to discuss graduation needs. The seniors have also been working with other members of the NM community to better not only the school, but Springfield's community too. Some seniors are working on art projects to beautify the school that they're leaving behind for others to enjoy.



The Teen Summit is a Bi-Annual event bringing over 200 youth from across the region together to discuss current topics relating to Diversity, equity, and inclusion. This day-long event covers themes such as "Leveling the Playing Field: How Diversity Intersects with Mental Health" to give students an interactive look into diversity, and how it may affect them. The teen summit helped all the students that came, including me, have a better Understanding of what it means to support someone and different kinds of people ranging from oppressors to upstanders. Even though I was the only person from my school attending it was still very fun to interact with a bunch of other people in a fun way.

~ By Cole Conner

What Being Interviewed by the Springfield News and Sun was Like

Bo McClain 4/21/23

I was a little nervous. I tried to be more professional since I was representing the school. I didn't plan to say anything so everything I said was off the top of my head. I don't think it was a big deal that I made the paper, but I'm very glad the school made the paper. I am glad I might have been able to help the school.

Class of 2023

Proudly announcing the graduation of

Emily Combs
Arianna Jackson
Shelby McClain
Aidan Schindler
Jaden Taylor
Jayla Thompson

Join us for the Ceremony and Celebration

Saturday, May 20, 2023

2:00-4:00

2525 N. Limestone Street

Springfield , Ohio 45503



Photo: Bill Lackey

Bo at work before interview

Wing News