ESC CONNECTION

Issue 16 Volume 4 | June 2026

Building Together

As summer is now underway, I've been reflecting on the incredible work our team accomplished this year.

Our LEGO theme reminded us that great things are built one brick at a time. Every program, service, event, and success story was possible because each of you contributed your talents and dedication. Some days we were building something new, other days we were repairing, adapting, or finding creative ways to make things fit; but through it all, we continued building opportunities for students, families, districts, and one another.

What makes our organization special is that, like LEGO bricks, each piece serves an important purpose. No two roles are exactly the same, yet together we create something far greater than any one person could build alone.

Thank you for your hard work, flexibility, and commitment throughout the year. The impact of your efforts extends beyond what we see each day, and I am grateful for all you do.

I hope your summer will provide opportunities to rest, recharge, and spend time doing the things that bring you joy. Thank you for helping build another successful year—one brick at a time.

—Mary Mitchell

Summer Hours for the Central Office

The ESC's Central Office will be in operation throughout the summer months. We will have abbreviated hours (8 AM - 3 PM) beginning June 8th through July 24th. The office will be closed on June 19th and July 3rd.

If you need to speak with someone in the Central Office, it is a good practice to phone ahead to ensure that the person is in the office. Many of our year-round employees use their vacation days in June and July.



Tech Reminder

Please do not forget to turn in your laptop for summer cleaning and maintenance. This year you will need to fill out the provided form and put it in the provided clear bag. Should you have any questions please reach out to Don Burley or Shane Nash.

Amazing Things Happening Across the ESC

As another school year comes to a close, there is so much to celebrate across the Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center. From student success stories to program growth and staff dedication, incredible things are happening every day throughout our organization. Here are just a few highlights showcasing the impact our teams are making:

Growing Opportunities for Gifted Students

The ESC's Gifted Program has doubled in size this year, allowing even more students access to enrichment opportunities, advanced learning experiences, and meaningful academic support.

Physical Therapy Making a Difference

The Physical Therapy team at Yoder Learning Center has thrived this year, engaging students on an entirely new level and helping students build confidence and independence. PT services will also be returning to all current Madison County assignments next year, continuing important support for students across the region.

MAC Central Student Success

MAC Central has continued building strong community connections by getting students involved at the YMCA and supporting career exploration opportunities. One student's hard work has even led to enrollment at Hi-Point Career Center next school year in the Culinary Arts program.

Positive Change at Yoder

Occupational Therapist, Patricia Johnson, has made a tremendous impact at Yoder Learning Center and has found a true passion in her work there. In addition, Karen Kleis has created meaningful and positive changes within the lab environment, helping students and staff alike thrive.

Transition Program Thriving in Champaign County

The Transition Class at Mercy in Champaign County has had an outstanding year. Three students are graduating, while others have already received job offers from organizations including Mercy Health, Kroger, and Costco — an incredible reflection of the program's success and the students' hard work.

Credit Recovery Changing Futures

The Credit Recovery program has successfully returned all participating students back to their home schools this year. Even more impressive, four students who were once at risk of not graduating are now on track to earn their diplomas — including one student who will now graduate early.

Amazing Things Happening Across the ESC continued

Growing Future School Psychologists

One of our teacher assistants supporting School Psychologists has taken the next step in her career journey by beginning a School Psychology program — a wonderful example of professional growth within the ESC.

Building a Better Playground at Yoder

Yoder Learning Center has raised over $17,000 toward an adaptive playground project, helping create a safer and more inclusive space for students. The school is also hoping to install a fence this summer so students can safely enjoy outdoor play experiences.

Preschool Programs Coming Together

The Preschool team shared that classrooms at Urbana are increasingly feeling united as one ESC community rather than separate programs sharing a building. Preschool students are also surpassing district averages in early literacy, highlighting the incredible work happening in those classrooms every day.

MAC North Celebrating Student Growth

MAC North has successfully transitioned 10 students back to their home districts this year. Additionally, four students will attend Hi-Point Career Center next year, and overall student behaviors have significantly improved throughout the program.

Operations Preparing for the Future

The Operations Department shared exciting progress this year, including major strides in stabilizing technology systems and the acquisition of a new building for MAC South, helping position the ESC for continued growth and service expansion.

Thank you!

Every program, department, and staff member plays an important role in helping students succeed. These stories are just a snapshot of the amazing work happening across the ESC each day. Thank you to our incredible teams for the passion, dedication, and care you bring to students and families throughout our communities.

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Yoder Learning Center: Building Bright Futures

As we reflect on another incredible school year at Yoder Learning Center, we are proud of the many accomplishments, events, and memories that brought our students, families, staff, and community together.

One of our biggest highlights this year was raising nearly $17,000 toward our adaptive playground project. Through the support of our community donations and the success of fundraisers such as our bowling fundraiser, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, and Little Caesars fundraiser, we continue moving closer to creating an inclusive outdoor space for all students to enjoy.

Throughout the school year, we also hosted many events that brought students, families, staff, and community members together. One of the most memorable was our Halloween Extravaganza, where our gym was filled with community members who volunteered their time to pass out candy and create a fun, inclusive experience for our students. We also hosted a Community Resources Fair and Touch-a-Truck event, as well as a Parent Guardianship Informational Night to support our families and strengthen community connections.

Inside our building, we focused on creating meaningful experiences and strengthening relationships between students and staff. Throughout the year, students enjoyed activities such as Candy Cane Grams, a Christmas dance featuring a special visit from Santa, a small prom celebration for one of our classes, an art gallery showcase highlighting student creativity, Field Day, and a staff/student cookout.

This year was filled with growth, connection, and celebration, and we are incredibly thankful for the continued support from our families, staff, and community partners who help make these experiences possible for our students each and every day.



Growing, Learning, Thriving: Credit Recovery/Alternative School

During the 2025/2026 school year, the Credit Recovery and Alternative School at Harmony Hall proudly served 30 students. Our program achieved excellent results, notably helping 5 students graduate this year with 2 more students on track to graduate early this summer. Additionally, 2 students successfully recovered credits and were able to return to their home districts after winter break. The Alternative program saw remarkable success as well: every student who remained in the program for most of the year transformed their failing grades into passing marks, putting them on track to earn credits toward their next grade level.

Summary Highlights:

● Total Served: 30 students

● Graduates: 5 completed requirements this year, with 2 more expected to finish early this summer.

● District Returns: 2 students recovered their credits and returned to their home districts after winter break.

Exciting Things Happening at Mac South

There's a lot to celebrate at Mac South as our students continue to take big steps toward bright futures.

This year, three Mac South students have been accepted into Tolles Technical Center, where they will have the opportunity to develop valuable career skills and explore exciting career pathways. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, and we are proud to see them moving forward toward their goals.

We're also excited to recognize one of our students who has been hired by Phat Daddy's and will be working there over the summer. This is a great opportunity to gain real-world job experience, build workplace skills, and earn some spending money along the way.

In addition to our students' successes, Mac South is preparing for an exciting new chapter. We will soon be moving into a new building, providing a fresh environment with new opportunities for learning, growth, and community. Staff and students alike are looking forward to making the new space feel like home.

Congratulations to our students on their achievements, and here's to an exciting future for Mac South!

Mac-A-Cheek Success: Building Bright Futures One Brick at a Time

At Mac-A-Cheek, this school year has been filled with incredible growth, achievement, and success. Much like building an impressive LEGO creation, our students and staff have worked together one brick at a time to create a strong foundation for the future.

One of our greatest accomplishments this year has been the successful transition of students back to their home districts. During the school year, we proudly transitioned two students back to their home districts full-time. In addition, we are preparing to transition four more students over summer break and have laid the groundwork for another student to begin the transition process when we return in the fall, with an anticipated full transition by Christmas. These transitions represent the confidence, skills, and independence our students have developed through their hard work and perseverance.

We are also excited to celebrate the achievements of three of our 10th-grade students who were accepted into Ohio Hi-Point. Their dedication and commitment to their educational goals have opened new doors and opportunities for their future success.

Perhaps one of the most impressive accomplishments this year was ending the school year with seven students earning Graduate Level status—the highest level within our point-level system. Each of these students began their journey at Apprentice Level 1, carefully building positive choices, responsibility, and self-management skills one step at a time.

Through consistent effort and determination, they progressed through all seven Apprentice levels before advancing through the seven Scholar levels. After successfully maintaining Scholar Level 7, students applied and interviewed for Pre-Graduate status, where they were expected to independently monitor and track their own point sheets. Following continued growth, self-reflection, and responsibility, they completed a second interview process and earned Graduate Level status.

Graduate students are recognized with additional privileges and the significant accomplishment of no longer requiring daily point sheets. Their achievement reflects the hard work, resilience, and personal growth they have demonstrated throughout their time at Mac-A-Cheek.

As we look back on this school year, we are proud of every student and staff member who contributed to our success. Together, we have continued to build something special—one positive choice, one accomplishment, and one LEGO brick at a time. We look forward to seeing what we can build together in the year ahead.

Bringing Learning to Life: A Look Back at a Remarkable First Year with EMOZI

As we wrap up another academic year, it's the perfect time to reflect on the exciting strides we've made across our K-5 ESC classrooms. This year, the roll-out and integration of the EMOZI® Character Development curriculum has been a true highlight - transforming classrooms into vibrant, emotionally intelligent spaces where both students and educators have thrived.

From our littlest preschool learners to our 5th grade students preparing for the future, the impact of taking just 20 to 30 minutes a week to focus on social-emotional coping skills and character growth has been nothing short of inspiring.

This Year's Standout Highlights

- **Seamless Academic Blending:** One of the greatest successes this year was how beautifully EMOZI integrated into our core classes. Instead of feeling like "one more thing"on a busy schedule, teachers had the option of seamlessly weaving the curriculum into English Language Arts (ELA), art, and science.
- **The Power of Storytelling:** In our elementary classrooms, students completely fell in love with Ollie the Owl and his friends. These high-interest chapter books gave our younger students relatable, real-world scenarios to explore deep concepts like trust, honesty, and teamwork, simultaneously boosting reading comprehension and empathy.
- **Strengthening Teacher-Student Bonds:** Because EMOZI is fundamentally teacher-led rather than driven by passive videos, it put our educators right at the heart of the experience. We've seen incredible mentoring relationships blossom, giving students a safe space to discuss stress management and conflict resolution.
- **A Healthier School Climate:** Thanks to the hard work of our teachers utilizing the curriculum have reported a decrease in typical non-instructional challenges like emotional dysregulation and classroom aggression, leaving more room for actual learning.

A Quick Thank You: A massive shout out goes to our incredible educators and staff who completed the online training and embraced these scripted, neuroscience-informed lessons with open arms. Your dedication is the reason our ESC classrooms feel more supportive and positive than ever.

As we head into the summer, we carry forward the lasting skills our students built this year—resilience, emotional vocabulary, and a deeper understanding of one another. Here's to building on this fantastic momentum next year!

Champaign County Battle of the Books

On May 13 and 14, Gifted Intervention Specialist, Holly Kramer, hosted the Battle of the Books. Battle of the Books is voluntary reading incentive program for students in grades 3-12. The purpose is simply to encourage students to read good books and have fun while competing with peers. This year, the Battle included elementary students from Graham and Mechanicsburg, and then middle school students from Mechanicsburg and West Liberty-Salem.

On Wednesday, May 13, the middle school students from Mechanicsburg and West Liberty-Salem competed at the Champaign County Library with Mechanicsburg taking home the win.

On Thursday, May 14, elementary students from Graham and Mechanicsburg competed at the ESC with Graham taking home the win.

Battle of the Books has teams of students working to read as many books from a mutually compiled list of twenty as possible and then answering questions regarding those books. The time and effort put forth by these students is to be commended. We also would like to thank the teachers and administrators of each building for allowing your students to participate. Thank you, too, to the families for encouraging a love of reading into your students and supporting them in the Battle!





Graduation at the Central Office







On May 22, students from the LIFE Transition Program and LI Program held a convocation for four graduates and their families. The graduates and guests enjoyed hearing about the graduates' favorite memories and enjoyed a reception afterward. Congratulations, class of 2026, we wish you the best!



Mac-A-Cheek Learning Center Graduation

Congratulations to all of the graduates! We wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.



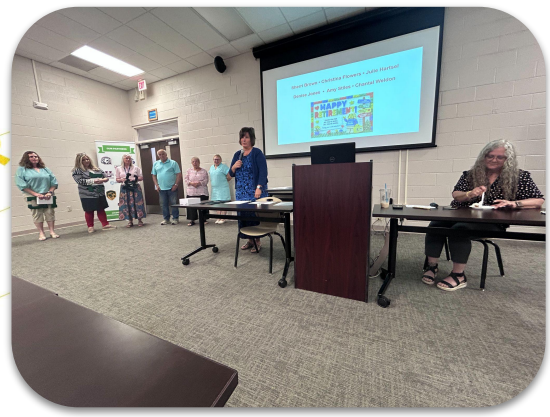




Staff Recognition Breakfast and Staff Meeting







Thank you to The Farmer's Daughter for
our wonderful breakfast!







Years of Service



1 Year



5 Years



15 Years



20 Years



25 Years

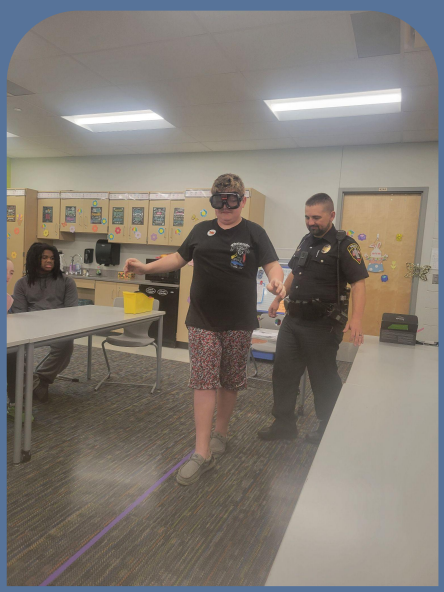


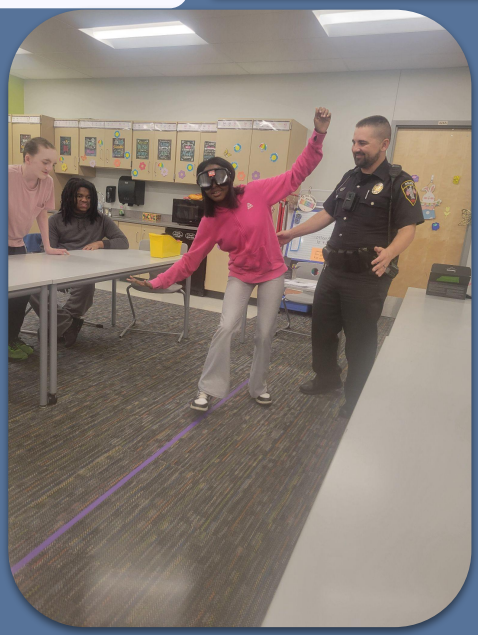
Retirees

Happenings at the ESC

Students in Mrs. Ferryman's class were visited by Officer AJ Ervin who brought vision impairment goggles for students to experience the difficulties that may be faced while impaired. Students tried two pairs at varying degrees of impairment and attempted to walk a tape line. While there were successes, students expressed that the goggles made them feel dizzy and unbalanced.

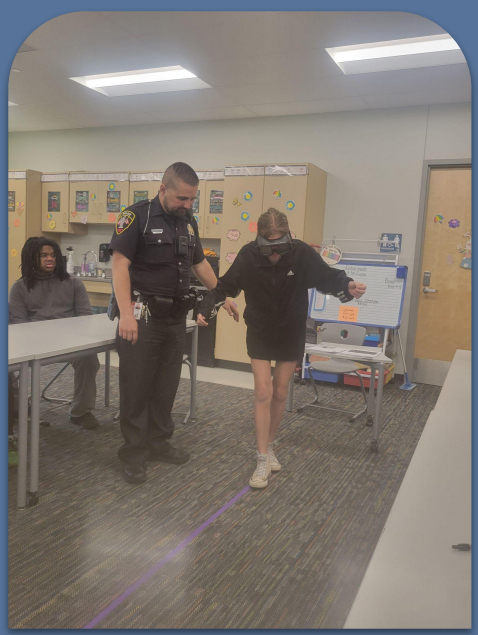


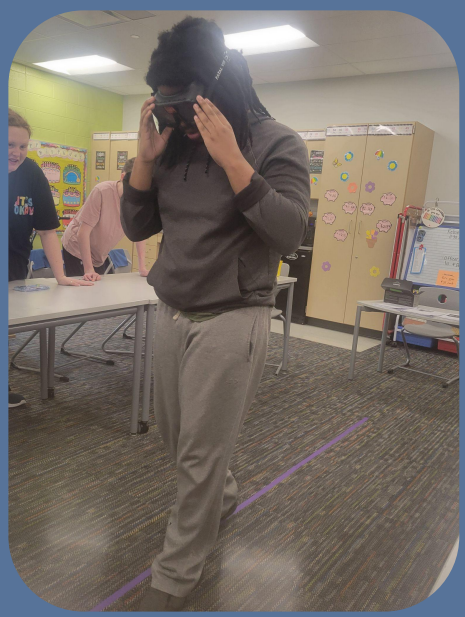










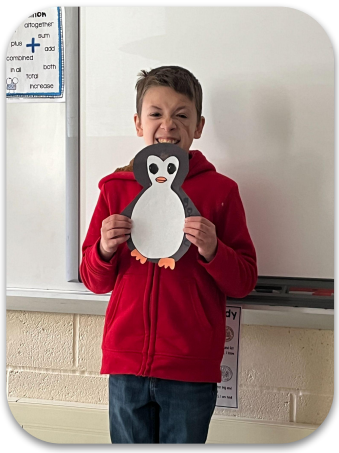


Happenings at the ESC



Students in Mrs. Ferryman's class participated in multiple impairment simulations including blindness, deafness and mobility issues. They had access to a wheelchair, walker, canes, air boot, arm sling, blindfolds, sound canceling headphones and eye patches. They had to take off and put on their shoes, complete obstacle courses and give directions to others while overcoming a challenging impairment.

Mrs. Walton's students at Triad Elementary researched an animal of their choice, wrote a short report, and then created a craft to go along with it.
They did a fantastic job!







Happenings at the ESC

Mac-A-Cheek had several students reach graduate level, which is the highest level within their point system!











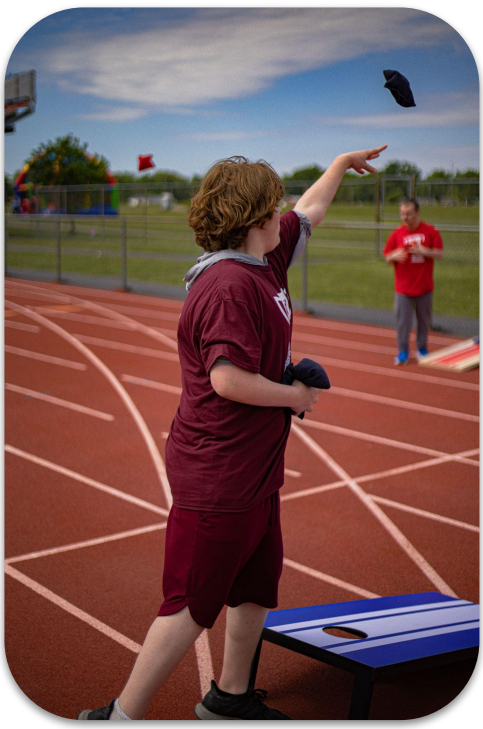




Happenings at the ESC



Mrs. Mounce's class attended the annual CBC Cup, hosted by Northwestern Schools this year. The students had an amazing time! One of Mrs. Mounce's students was honored by being awarded the Sportsmanship Award! Thank you to Urbana City Schools for their transportation to this event.







Happenings at the ESC





The LIFE Transition interns attended a fiesta-themed lunch at Mercy to celebrate their hard work this school year as part of hospital week.



LIFE Transition and LIFE Skills Lab are moving from the ESC to their home at Harmony Hall across from Yoder Learning Center.

Lots of friends pitched in to help!







Happenings at the ESC



Mrs. Knight's students from Urbana Elementary had the chance to visit the Columbus Zoo recently. Their trip was sponsored by Massey Mechanical and Eagles Auxiliary 3974.







Happenings at the ESC

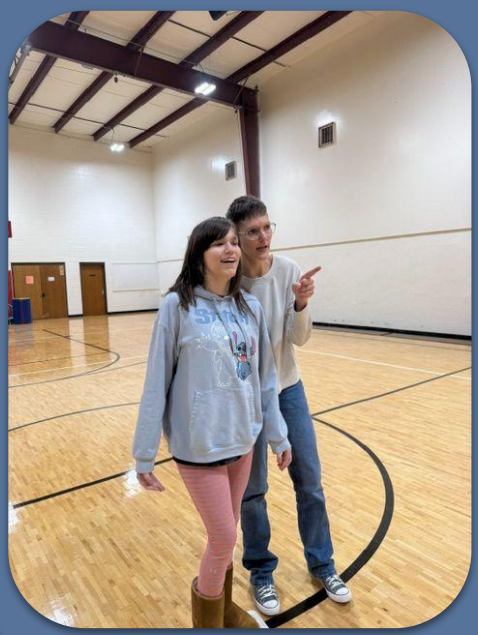




Seventh grade students in Mrs. Ferryman's class participated in a field trip to the Xenia council.



Some kickball fun at Yoder!





Mrs. Ferryman's class got to read to Urbana Kindergarten students

Happenings at the ESC



Fun at the Skills Lab! Mrs. Ferryman's class enjoyed a full day of field day activities and built sundae's during Skills Lab at the ESC.





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WHO'S WHO AT THE ESC

Main Office: 937-484-1557 Fax: 937-652-2221

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent	Ashley Carey	ext.111
Change of Address	Kristie Suchland	ext.119
City Taxes	Kristie Suchland	ext.119
Contract Questions	Matthew Ketcham	ext.103
Employment Verification	Kristie Suchland	ext.119
Front Desk Administrative Assistant	Sonia Hackathorne	ext.100
Home School	Sonia Hackathorne	ext.100
Human Resources	Sheila Roberts	ext.105
Insurance	Kristie Suchland	ext.119
Licensure	Teresa Barr	ext.110
LPDC	Mary Mitchell	ext.101
Payroll	Kristie Suchland	ext.119
Personal, Sick & Vacation Days	Kristie Suchland	ext.119
Job Openings	Ashley Carey	ext.111
Personnel Questions	Ashley Carey	ext.111
Professional Development	Melissa Scoville	ext.106
Purchase Orders	Teresa Barr	ext.110
Purchasing	Matthew Ketcham	ext.103
Safety Administrator	Matthew Ketcham	ext.103
Substitute Information	Sonia Hackathorne	ext.100
Technology	Rich Valerio, ProStratus	937-717-2177
Web Check (BCI & FBI)	Sonia Hackathorne	ext.100

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