

CCBDD News

Giving *DSP week!*
Support and
Making a
Difference

Each and Every Day

Thank you!

**Direct Support
Professionals**



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Special Points of Interest

Special Olympics

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People First



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September 13 through 19 was Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. The Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities is required to recruit providers for Home and Community Based Waiver services. Our strategic plan vision is to help people live, work, and play together. Our mission is to empower, engage, and support through personalized opportunities. One of our goals is to exceed customer expectations.

Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of county board services. Carroll County is fortunate to have so many dedicated providers. For a small county of around twenty six thousand five hundred people, we serve a larger population of individuals who qualify for board services. I have heard many times that people receive better services in Carroll County than in other counties.

Agency providers include Mayle Homes, Starlight Enterprises, Amore Services Ltd., Karing Hands, St. John's Villa, Carroll Hills Industries, Camp Echoing Hills in Warsaw Ohio, Echoing Hills Village Community Respite, ALCO Inc., The ARC of Ohio for Ohio Shared Living, Ember Complete Care, R House Home Health Care, Pegasus Farm in Stark County, Moonlight Home Health Care Inc., Employment Development Inc. in Columbiana County, ADS Inc. in Tuscarawas County, Lomeda, and First Christian Day Services in Stark County.

Independent providers include Amanda Preas for Ohio Shared Living, Avery Toothman, Melissa Thompson, Kelley Broadwater, Brandon Hixenbaugh, Shelly Haught, Tonya Bryan, Mariss Elifritz, Kim Lallathi for Shared Living, Heather Mayle, Sheila Mayle, Dana Hummel, Rodney Haught, Laura Haas, Sara Sherrard, Ashley Hyde, Chase Richards, Curt Rodgers, and Latoia Barrino.

The Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities extends sincere gratitude to all direct support professionals. I hope you know your reason for doing this work, because we know you ensure the health and safety of a vulnerable population. The Board proudly supports direct support professionals so the people we serve can live the best lives possible. It takes a community, and we greatly appreciate your service. Thank you, and God bless you.

Thank you
for making a
DIFFERENCE



Matt Campbell, Superintendent

I would like to update you on waiver funding of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and redesign proposals for county boards. The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) has been working since December 2025 on fiscal sustainability. The most recent solution presented by OACB was a model with a suggested cap of thirty-five percent of property tax revenue each county board could use toward matching waivers. The model also suggested a cap on high-cost waivers not to exceed the statewide institutional cost for intermediate care facilities (ICF), which is \$205,000 for 2026.

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) has been requesting a solution from county boards to address those requesting hardship funding. DODD has proposed the need to address state wideeness along with providing additional funding for county boards. Director Lyndsay Nash defined state wideeness as a statewide waiting list and consistent Service and Support Administration functions across all 88 counties. The Southeast pilot with Adams, Brown, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike, and Scioto will address both.

Our superintendent region #5 and the Council of Government Mid East Ohio Regional Council (MEORC) agreed to join the DODD proposal as a pilot on July 31, 2026. The following counties are part of region #5 and MEORC: Athens, Belmont, Harrison, Noble, Carroll, Coshocton, Knox, Fairfield, Guernsey, Muskingum, Hocking, Vinton, Holmes, Jefferson, Licking, Monroe, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Tuscarawas, and Washington. The ask was for DODD to pick up match on waivers, and county boards would agree to use our COG, MEORC, to perform SSA administrative functions such as interRAI assessments, waiting list assessments, regional statewide waiting list, Level of Care assessments, ICF pre-admission counseling, Preadmission Screening and Resident Reviews (PASRR) for nursing homes, waiver authorization, service planning, targeted case management billing, provider compliance, county-to-county transfers, and accreditation. This will not affect your SSA services. The Board will still employ SSA staff who will authorize and monitor services through the Ohio Individual Service Plan.

The superintendent executive committee voted on August 6, 2026, to move forward with the DODD proposal when they agreed to advocate for the elevation of all waiver (HCBS) match to the state. This means DODD will work on getting legislative approval for DODD to pay for all match since waivers are statewide. State allocation history: 2000 and before, home and community-based service match was entirely state funded. From 2001 to present, HCBS match has been funded by state and local dollars.

So, what does this mean for Carroll County? The Board currently pays \$685,000 in HCBS waiver match to DODD. This is to pull down federal and state dollars to serve one hundred forty people in the community. These services will remain the same since Carroll County will keep Service and Support Administration staff, authorize plans, and monitor services. The Board currently purchases the SSA administrative functions from MEORC. If DODD is successful in getting the legislature to pay our match, then the Board will return the \$685,000 to property owners for the next biennium budget (July 2027 to July 2029).

I intend to have public meetings and put more information out as this unfolds. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!



In the Spotlight



Starlight Book Club

"But some day," C. S. Lewis began a famous quote, finishing with: "You will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again." Whether he knew those words would someday echo in a small Ohio town is a mystery, though one might like to believe it. In 1955, Lewis published *The Magician's Nephew*, the very story that would inspire Carrollton Starlight's first book club decades later.

Starlight's book club was founded on that quote. Some members shared that they love to read;

others said they used to read often; a few admitted they had never finished a full novel before. Yet they all had one thing in common: none had ever been part of a book club.

Regardless of reading level or experience, the club was created to welcome everyone, a place to belong, to escape the real world for a while, and to remember that no matter our age, we can still lose ourselves in magical lands and enchanting characters. Lewis's novel was the perfect choice for their first journey. It reignited a spark among the group, so much so that they finished *The Magician's Nephew* within 15 weeks.

And they did not stop there. Starlight's book club has now ventured into *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, another adventure and another reminder that someday we will all be old enough to read fairy tales again.

John's Success Story

John Evans has shown that with determination and patience, anything is possible. Motivated by his goal of becoming an active member of his community through meaningful employment, John achieved that dream by securing a position with Pond Wiser in Canton, where he works three days a week for eight hours each day.

Since beginning employment, John has navigated several unexpected challenges, including changes in transportation and employment support services. Rather than allowing these obstacles to discourage him, he approached each transition with patience, resilience, and a consistently positive attitude.

Alongside changes at work, John recently made a significant life transition by moving from Minerva to Carrollton, where he now has a roommate. Even while adjusting to a new home and shifts in employment supports, he remained committed to his responsibilities and continued to maintain an excellent work schedule.

John's journey reflects perseverance, adaptability, and dedication. His success serves as an inspiration to others, showing that challenges can be overcome with a willingness to embrace change.

Congratulations, John, on all you have accomplished. Your determination, positive attitude, and commitment to reaching your goals are truly inspiring. We are proud of everything you have achieved and look forward to seeing all the great things your future holds.



The love of reading brought enjoyment to others.



Another reading activity started this month, Starlight Readers. Their first visit was to the Golden Age Retreat. Sarah and two other individuals read short story outlines to senior citizens. They did an excellent job, and the experience was enjoyable for everyone involved.

Clear Vision, Bright Futures: Annual School Vision Screenings at Carroll Hills School



Did you know that one in four children in the United States lives with an undiagnosed vision issue? Good vision is directly linked to learning, motor skills, and emotional well-being, making early detection of vision problems essential for every child's success.

Common Childhood Vision Issues

Children don't always know if they aren't seeing clearly, often assuming everyone sees the world the way they do. Common vision conditions in school-aged children include:

- Refractive Errors: Nearsightedness (myopia) or farsightedness (hyperopia), making objects far or near appear blurry.
- Strabismus: Misaligned or crossed eyes.

Amblyopia ("Lazy Eye"): A condition where vision in one eye does not develop properly because the brain favors the other eye.

If left untreated, uncorrected refractive errors or strabismus can progress to permanent amblyopia, leading to irreversible visual impairment. Beyond eyesight, untreated vision problems significantly impact a child's quality of life—contributing to learning difficulties, physical accidents, self-esteem and mental health challenges, and social issues such as bullying.

Annual Screenings at Carroll Hills School

To protect student health and support classroom success, Nurse Kim conducts annual vision screenings every September for the entire school.

- Kid-Friendly Technology: The screening process uses a modern, non-invasive vision scanner that makes the test quick, comfortable, and easy for kids of all ages.
- Screening Results: Every student receives a result of either Pass or Refer.

Follow-Up Care: If your child receives a "Refer" result, parents/guardians are required to schedule a comprehensive eye examination with an eye doctor (optometrist or ophthalmologist).

State Requirements for IEP Students

By state law, all students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) are required to have a comprehensive eye examination yearly. This rule ensures children receiving specialized support have optimal vision to access their tailored learning programs effectively.

Catching vision issues early makes all the difference.

Nurse Kim works hard to help every Carroll Hills student see their brightest future!



Nurse Kim testing Makenna's eyes



Welcome

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

A new year of learning and growing

What a wonderful start to the 2026-2027 school year at Carroll Hills School! We are excited to welcome many new students and staff members to our school community. Our preschoolers are busy learning school routines, building new skills, and growing in confidence each day. Meanwhile, our older students are developing important self-help and job skills that support their independence and future success.

As fall arrives, we are looking forward to cooler weather, exciting field trips, and many fun learning experiences. Students are especially enjoying the new playground equipment, which has quickly become a favorite part of the school day.

Be sure to follow the CCBDD Facebook page for updates, photos, and highlights throughout the school year. Go Cougars!

Ryan

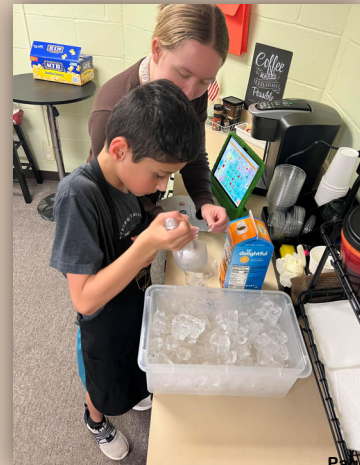
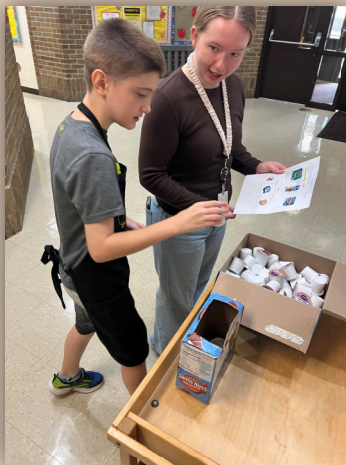
A new opportunity to shape the future



The Cougar Coffee Cart is Back



We are excited to welcome some new faces to the Cougar Coffee Cart this year. Our middle and high school students are doing a fantastic job making and delivering drinks. Thank you to our PT, OT, and Speech staff for their support and guidance as students learn and practice these important workplace and communication skills.



High School News

In our high school classroom, students actively participate in the Weekend Food Backpack Program, shopping for and bagging groceries.

This year, I look forward to working with two high school students in community-based job training opportunities that will help them develop skills for their future careers.

Mrs. Martin

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."



The Intermediate Class Ready for Fall Fun

The Intermediate class had great summers and are ready for fun falls. We've been busy learning with hands-on work and play. We introduced baking this year, testing out a new recipe every Monday. We've made everything from chocolate cake to Rice Krispie treats. On Tuesdays, we have library – different books and projects every week. Wednesday is everyone's favorite – STEM. The students love being scientists. Our favorite week so far was learning about how water pumps and fire hoses work, then using water blasters and cups to test what we learned. Thursday is art, with a different artist discussed each week, then an art project based on an artwork. We hang up our art in the hallway each week to show off what we made and we're already saving samples for our spring art show.

We started the year with a unit on oceans/beaches and learned about erosion by making a beach and waves. We even layered liquids with different densities to recreate the layers of the ocean. We're in a unit on rules and laws now, with a focus on community helpers. Our dramatic play area included a fire station, a hospital, and a police station so we could learn about the people that keep us safe. In October, we will focus on motion and begin work on our motion-related science fair projects.

There is always time for fun, too. Our playground has a new play area with xylophones and drums so we can be loud and musical. Swings are always a popular choice, but digging up worms has become the latest choice!

Mrs. Jeffries



**2026-2027
SCHOOL YEAR**

**Introducing
the newest
members
of our team!**



Hello! My name is Miyah, I am a classroom aide in the preschool and elementary classes here at Carroll Hills School. I studied early childhood care at R.G. Drage for two years, and participated in an internship at Minerva preschool this past school year. Outside of school, I share my heart with my creative art projects and my beloved dog, Winston. In the classroom, my ultimate goal is to help each child feel safe, validated, included, loved, and appreciated. Every child has a beautiful voice, and I strive to help them find it. I look forward to a great year!

My name is Gayle Martin. I have been a Special Education teacher for 30 years. My first position was at Carroll Hills School many years ago, where I served as the vocational instructor. Although I retired for four years, my love for teaching never faded. Today, I am proud to serve as the High School teacher. I enjoy working with students every day and appreciate the outstanding staff who make our school such a positive place to learn and grow.

My name is Destiny Weisenburger and before joining Carroll Hills School, I served as a paraprofessional with Alliance City Schools, where I enjoyed working with students and helping them learn, grow, and succeed. Supporting children is something I have always been passionate about, and I am excited to continue making a positive difference!

A little about me outside of school: I am engaged to my fiancé, Morgan, and we love spending time outdoors together. Some of our favorite activities include hunting, fishing, four wheeling, and golfing. We also enjoy spending time with our families, attending church, and creating lasting memories together.

Hi everyone. My name is Courtney Huffman, and I am so excited to join the Carroll Hills School family as a classroom aide. Supporting individuals with disabilities has been an important part of my life and helping people feel valued and proud of their accomplishments is something I truly love. Becoming a classroom aide is a dream I have worked toward for a long time, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be here.

Outside of school, I am a wife and mom of three, so life at home is busy and full of fun. Our family also includes two dogs and a few cats. I enjoy singing, dancing, riding four wheelers, and making memories with the people I love. I cannot wait to get to know the students and celebrate every accomplishment, big or small, right alongside them.

Hello! My name is Cathy Moyers, and I am very happy to be joining the Carroll County Board of DD as a classroom aide in high school.

My husband, Jim, and I have been married for over 20 years and have three daughters: Kirsten (22), Phoebe (20), and Jamie (16). Carroll Hills has been a part of our family's journey for many years. Kirsten, who has Down syndrome, was enrolled in Early Intervention here, and both Kirsten and Phoebe attended preschool at Carroll Hills. Joining the team feels like a true full-circle moment. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing group of people and to give back to a program that has played such an important role in our lives. I look forward to supporting students as they reach their goals and celebrating their successes along the way.

Middle School Having Fun While Learning and Exploring

In our middle school classroom, we work together to help students grow, learn, and become more independent. Along with building important academic skills, we spend time learning life skills that students can use every day. We are learning through hands-on activities, fun experiments, exploring our community, and practicing real-life situations. Students continue to be encouraged to speak up, share their thoughts and feelings, ask for what they need, make choices, and try new things.

Keep an eye out for us shopping, learning, and having fun!

Mrs. Miller

Today is a great day to learn something new



Elementary Class Hitting the Ground Running



We have hit the ground running in elementary! Running towards fun learning academically and socially. Our students have such a zeal for life and have enjoyed our active learning approach coupled with ways for students to show what they have learned through writing or demonstrating. We are amazed with their growth, and we cannot wait to see how far our students will go this year. Mrs. Service



PRESCHOOL 1

August and September have flown by, and we have learned so much already! We've been busy practicing school routines, classroom rules, sharing, friendships, name writing, and tracing, all while learning through play, music, and movement.

We've also explored our bodies, feelings, families, friends, and pets while practicing ways to recognize and regulate our emotions.

I am so proud of how much our preschoolers are growing. We are looking forward to all the fun fall learning ahead and especially our upcoming field trip to Arrowhead Orchard!

Love,

Mrs. Schockling



PRESCHOOL 2



In Mrs. Manfull's preschool class we have had such a wonderful start to our preschool year. We have been learning classroom routines, making new friends, exploring, playing, and growing together each day. It has been so much fun watching their little personalities shine! We are looking forward to all the fun and learning still to come this year, including our upcoming fall field trip to the orchard.

Mrs. Manfull



Kaiden Drda is celebrating an important milestone in his journey toward greater independence and community involvement. After identifying employment as an important personal goal, Kaiden began working with the Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities Community Employment Coordinator to explore career opportunities that matched his interests, strengths, and aspirations.

As part of his career exploration, Kaiden expressed an interest in a stocking position. He enjoyed the idea of working with products, keeping shelves organized, and ensuring merchandise was properly stocked and presented. With support throughout the employment process, Kaiden applied for a position at Dollar General in Dellroy.

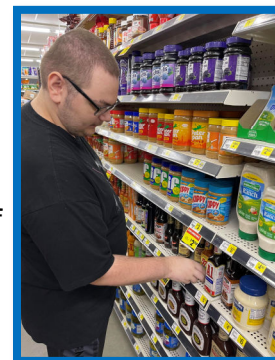
Kaiden was thrilled when he was offered the position. He began working on August 17, 2026, and has embraced the opportunity to become an active member of his local workforce.

Kaiden shared that one of the things he is most excited about is earning his own paycheck. He has already established another personal goal: saving his earnings toward the purchase of a new PC.

Kaiden's success demonstrates the importance of individualized career exploration and supporting people with developmental disabilities in pursuing meaningful employment within their communities. By identifying his interests, setting personal goals, and taking steps to achieve them, Kaiden has reached an important milestone on his path toward greater independence.

Congratulations to Kaiden on this accomplishment! His determination, hard work, and commitment to reaching his goals are worthy of recognition. We look forward to seeing all that he accomplishes in the future.

Reva Castelucci, Community Employment Coordinator



Carroll County Special Olympics

Carroll County Special Olympics is proud to kick off the 2026/2027 sports season with basketball and cheerleading, followed shortly by bowling.



Behind the scenes, we have been working hard over the summer to secure new opportunities for our program. We are thrilled to share two major updates for the upcoming year:

- **Bocce Court Construction:** The Carroll County Board of DD recently approved the installation of two official Bocce courts at Carroll Community Park on Salineville Road NE in Carrollton. Groundbreaking is scheduled for October. Once completed, we will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony with media outlets to celebrate the grand opening not only Carroll County Special Olympics, but for the entire community to enjoy.
- **New Basketball Facilities:** Thanks to the generosity of local partners, our basketball athletes have two new venues this year. We are partnering with Camp Excel in Sherrodsville to host our home games, and the Great Trail Church of God in Minerva is providing a full size gymnasium for our regular practices. We are looking forward to a winning season.

The first half of our season schedule is officially set, and we cannot wait for another fantastic year. We are also excited to be partnering with other local organizations this season. One of these groups will be hosting a fundraising event that we are combining with our annual Duck Pull. While we typically hold the Duck Pull in late October, we are trying a fresh approach this year to boost community involvement.

We have plenty of big news brewing behind the scenes, but we are keeping it under wraps until the next newsletter.

Penny Hodgson, Special Olympics Coordinator

Go Cougars Go!



Carroll County People First Advocacy Group



The group has been busy attending monthly meetings, participating in community events, welcoming special speakers, and achieving something no other People First Ohio chapter has done before. They chose to give back to their community and are committed to volunteering at local events as a way of showing appreciation. They are also focused on being more visible in the community and representing people with disabilities.



Several members attended the second annual Expanding the Ring Livestock Show at the Carroll County Fair, where they had the opportunity to show a variety of farm animals including a calf, pig, sheep, rabbit, goat, and other barnyard animals. Special thank you to Logan Pridemore and his family for organizing this wonderful opportunity again this year. After the show, participants were able to stay and enjoy the fair festivities.

A few members volunteered at the annual Quarter Auction hosted by Carroll County Caring Hands. Their help was greatly appreciated, and they were already invited back for next year. Another member volunteered at the Carroll County Board of DD booth during the Hope Grows Here Overdose Awareness Event held at Flowers at Grover Farms.



The group also welcomed special guest speakers Kraig Walker, Director of Advocacy for People First Ohio, and Micheal Richards, People First Chapter Coordinator. They shared the history of People First Ohio, including how and why the organization was created.

Lastly, group members have been attending Carrollton Rotary Club meetings and have decided to become members. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to demonstrate their advocacy skills while becoming more involved in their community. When Kraig learned of this at their last meeting, he informed them that Carroll County People First is the only chapter in Ohio to ever become members of their local Rotary. He praised them for their dedication and for actively engaging in their community.

Penny Hodgson



During the month of October, the Carroll County Board of Developmental Disability join with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment in celebrating and recognizing the positive impact of people with disabilities in the American workforce.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) takes place annually in October. This year's theme will once again be "Celebrating Value and Talent," carrying the spirit of last year's celebration forward through 2026 in honor of America's 250th birthday.



CARROLL COUNTY
BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
P.O. Box 429, Carrollton, OH 44615.

CCBDD News

Promoting positive awareness of people
with developmental disabilities

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Matt Chiurco

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The Carroll County Board of Developmental Disabilities—CCBDD Equal Opportunity in Employment, Access, and Services.
CCBDD News—Editors, JoAnn Hilliard & Amy Swaim. Send information or inquires to jhilliard@carrollcbdd.org or call 330-627-6555



10/12/26 - Columbus Day Observed—Entire Program Closed
10/23/26 - All Staff Inservice—Entire Program Closed
10/26/26 - School Staff Inservice—No Students
11/11/26 - Veteran's Day Observed—Entire Program Closed
11/25/26 - School Closed
11/26-27/26 - Thanksgiving Holiday—Entire Program Closed
11/30/26 - Entire Program Closed
12/21-22/26 - School Closed
12/23/26 - 1/01/27—Entire Program Closed
1/4/27 - Entire Program Resumes after Break
1/4/27 - School Staff Inservice - No Students
1/18/27 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Entire Program Closed
2/15/27 - President's Day—Entire Program Closed

EMPOWER. INCLUDE. SUPPORT.

**ATTENTION
PLEASE!**

Update About Our Newsletter

By the end of this year, we will be phasing out paper newsletters and will no longer send them through USPS mail. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please submit your name and email address to jhilliard@carrollcbdd.org or call 330-627-6555. The Newsletter is also posted on the Website and Facebook.

CCBDD