

Dateline

June 2022

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"Helping people to live, learn and work in our community"

FCBDD helping provide risk-free ways to try remote support

Families and people with developmental disabilities who want to learn more about the benefits of remote support have plenty of options for trial runs in Franklin County.

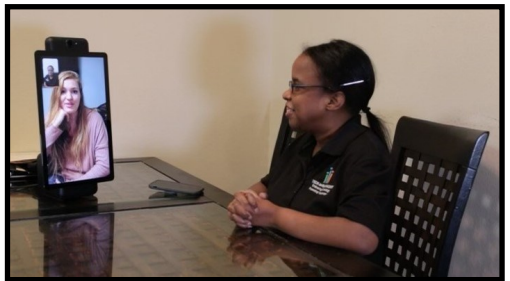
The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities and other disability-services organizations are providing both information about remote support and opportunities to try it out – including an offer of free internet service for a year -- so that people can decide whether the technology is a good fit for them.

"And in the beginning, there is overlap allowed," said Critty Buenconsejo, president and CEO of Creative Housing/Creative Renovations. "You can still have your staff person there if you're uncomfortable. You don't have any risk in trying it."

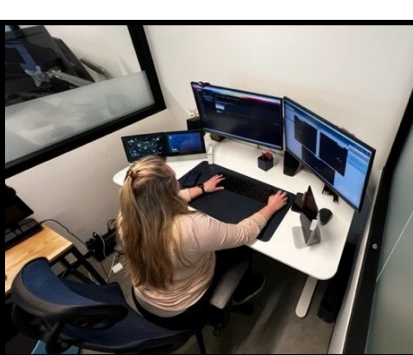
Following the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, FCBDD recently adopted a "Technology First" policy for the agency. That means technology solutions are to be explored and documented during the service planning process, considered as the first option, and used to the greatest extent possible to meet the needs of those receiving services. No one, however, is required to choose remote services.

"There's so much that this can do – the possibilities are growing every day," said Tim Voigt, an FCBDD supervisor in the Service Coordination Department. "And it doesn't cost anything to find out."

Remote support, which is always combined with assistive technology, allows an off-site service provider to monitor and respond to health, safety and other needs using live, two-way communication – just like Skype or FaceTime – so that people can communicate with providers as needed. Advocates say it can increase privacy, reduce demand for on-site staff and, in some cases, improve overnight monitoring of medical conditions such as seizure activity.



FCBDD board member Marci Straughter says remote-support services allow her to safely increase her independence.



Ohio At Home's remote-support monitors can quickly respond to health, safety and other needs.

People served by FCBDD and who have Level 1, IO or SELF Medicaid waivers are eligible to receive reimbursement for home internet services for up to one year if they try remote support for 60 days, at a minimum of eight hours per week.

"If you decide on day 61 that you no longer want it, we'll still pay for the internet for the year," Voigt said.

FCBDD board member Marci Straughter uses remote support as part of her service plan and says it helps her to feel safer and more confident about living on her own.

"You don't have to go big all at once," said Ali Rahimi of Ohio At Home, a local provider agency that offers remote support services. "Identify the need, and see where you could use the most help. Starting small is the key to success."

Questions? Talk to your service coordinator or send a message to remotesupport@fcbdd.org

Transition spotlight: West Central grad thrives in new program

Not long after he hung up his cap and gown last year, Ryan Alimo headed off to a new day program. He had loved being at West Central School and was disappointed when the coronavirus pandemic stole some of his time there. Moving on – without his beloved teacher Miss Donna – was a big, slightly scary step.

But Ryan didn't miss a beat. "He absolutely loves it," his mom, Sheila Alimo, said of his activities at All R Friends in Gahanna. "The staff is wonderful. Honestly, I don't think he's ever been happier."



Ryan Alimo

See ALIMO, Page 3

Students display their creative side at annual art show

More than 150 different works of art, from paintings to clay figures to video recordings, lined the walls and filled the halls at the FCBDD Early Childhood Learning Community. And kids had a blast showing family members their special creations.

Always an end-of-the-year hit, the annual Art Show was once again held inside the school. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, last year's event was a drive-through experience.

"The art show is a tradition that goes back many years," said Theri Brady, ECE creative arts specialist. "It's an important event for the school."

Each child contributes two pieces of artwork for display during the show. Some have been in progress throughout the year and relate to an ongoing theme or project in the classroom, such as ocean life, a bakery or bones. Teachers emphasize the process over the product, and children lead the way.

"It's always based on their intent. That's really important to us," said teacher and ECLC activity coordinator Gretchen Uhl.

The creativity of some students, for example, was displayed by way of video recording. Brady said staff members make sure children have the opportunity to express themselves in ways that work best for them, and that might mean playing a drum instead of drawing or sculpting.

"It's our job to make sure we can hear that voice," she said. "For Charlie, it's rhythm. Rhythm and music-making. He responds to that and he creates that. We need to make sure the world hears it."



Medicaid waiver changes set to go into effect this summer

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities has adopted several changes to the Medicaid waivers it administers, including expanded options for self-directed transportation.

"People have been asking for changes for a long time," said Christine Brown, a member of the Self-Advocate Advisory Council for the Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities. "This makes it so the individual doesn't have to rely on staff to go somewhere, which is especially important since we have such a shortage of DSPs."

DODD has a web page and video to help explain the various changes to the Level One, SELF and Individual Options waivers that take effect July 1. According to the state, people with Medicaid waivers can use self-directed transportation in two ways:

- Through the purchase of prepaid vouchers, cards, passes or tokens for ground public transportation such as Uber, Lyft, buses and cabs.
- By enlisting a family member, neighbor or friend to transport them. The person providing the transportation can be approved through the Financial Management Services.

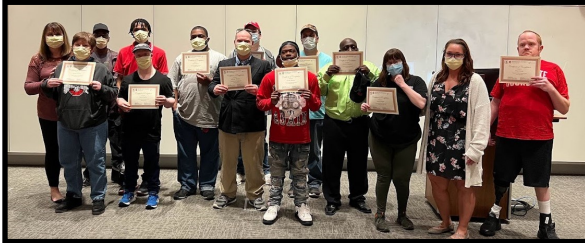
Self-directed transportation is available for employment, community activities including social events and volunteering, community-resource appointments, and for opportunities available in the broader community, such as going out to dinner or to a sports event.

Individuals and families should talk to their service coordinator about transportation needs so that information can be added to the individual service plan. For additional details, go to dodd.ohio.gov/waivers-and-services/welcome

Good For You

Notable achievements in the FCBDD community

Congratulations to this year's graduates of the PIECE program (Pre-vocational Integrated and Educational Campus Experience), a partnership of the Ohio State University Nisonger Center, ARC Industries and FCBDD. This group worked hard and did a great job: Andrew Dratch, David McFadden, Kyle McLean, Justin Holtz, Tina Steele, Adam Bailey, Martice Holland, Zach Moore, Katie Slusher, Dustin Whaley, Charles Radford, Tara Snyder and Jaron Rhodes.



Thanks to Kim Hauck, director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, for her recent visit to West Central to learn more about the school's unique transition program for older students.

Congrats to ECE teacher Stacey Coriell for being nominated for the 2022 A Kid Again Educator of the Year Award. It's great to see others recognize the difference our teachers make in the lives of children.



The entire staff of West Central School and Transition Services was featured on 10TV recently in the "Classroom Heroes" segment. Assistant Principal Joe Becker nominated staff for their dedication to students during throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Way to go!



Career Milestones

June Milestones

25 Years

Amy Kulow

15 Years

Jeff Pattison

May Milestones*

10 Years

Tracy Wilson

5 Years

Megan Bender

Jonathan Stoltz

Scott Vawter

****Last month's Dateline included incorrect anniversaries for May. We apologize for the error.***

We appreciate the visit from Columbus City Schools Superintendent Dr. Talisa Dixon and board member Christina Vera to our Early Childhood Education and Family Center. Special thanks to ECE teacher Jessica Bennett, who is Vera's sister, for helping to make it happen.



Transition Spotlight: Ryan Alimo (Continued from page 1)

She said her son's days are "nice and full," with plenty of activities, new friends and opportunities to work on various skills. Though Ryan is ready for down time when he gets home, he's always eager to go the next day. "Sometimes he's not real happy on holidays or days they're closed," Alimo said.

Jill Hicks, transition resources specialist at West Central, said teachers and therapists work to prepare students and families for the shift to adult services, whether that means employment, a day program or job development.

"We help with the process, completing what we call a discovery profile that includes a student's preferences, interests, needs and strengths," Hicks said. "We can pass on their routine, what kind of schedule they're on, activities they like. We have trial programs so they can see if the next program is a good fit. And then families decide what is best."

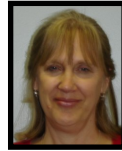
Ryan, 23, said he likes working on computer skills at All R Friends and enjoys the community outings, especially shopping and karaoke. And he hasn't lost his devotion to his favorite movie. "Mamma Mia!," he said. "I know all the words."

He also thinks often of Donna Tracy, a West Central teaching assistant who retired last year after 40 years with FCBDD. "I had a dream and Miss Donna was in it," Ryan said, smiling. "I love her."

As the school year ends, FCBDD salutes retirees

We thank these staff members for their many years of wonderful service to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Combined, their dedication spans more than 200 years! And, of course, we wish everyone a long and happy retirement.

West Central: Jeannie Brown, instructor assistant; Deb Finley, instructor assistant; Sue Hedges, instructor assistant; Jeanne Murphy, instructor assistant; Carol Weaver, food service; and Holley Wiseman, speech and language. (pictured from left to right)

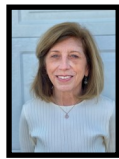


Transportation:

Roger Ward, bus assistant.



Early Childhood Education: Gretchen Brooks & Susan Davis, home-based services instructors; Pam Lett, occupational therapist; Marva Mosier, occupational therapist; and Laurie Tudor, instructor assistant. (pictured from left to right)



Dateline

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Calendar

Editor's Note: The following calendar is tentative due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Call 614-342-5950 before attending any meeting to see if it is still scheduled.

June, 2022

- 9 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Self-Advocate Advisory Council meeting via Zoom 10 a.m.
- 16 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting at 5 p.m. via Zoom. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details. Click on the following link to connect:

[FCBDD Board Meeting Link \(Zoom\)](#)

- 20 Juneteenth celebrated – all county facilities closed

July, 2022

- 4 Independence Day - all county facilities closed.
- 20 Family Support meeting, 10 a.m. via Zoom. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details or click the following link to connect:

[Family Support Meeting Link \(Zoom\)](#)

- 28 Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities Board meeting. Please contact Amy Magginis at 614-342-5950 for details.

August, 2022

- 22,23 ECE and School staff returns - Staff Preparation/ Development Days.
- 24 First day of classes at West Central School.
- 24,25,26 ECE Program Service Days – Parent Visitation (No Transportation).
- 29 First day of classes, ECE - please consult program schedule.

The next issue of Dateline will be the July/ August issue printed in late July.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2022 Graduating Class

West Central School



Members of the West Central Class of 2022 have learned, grown, laughed and persevered as they prepared for the transition to adult life. For some, that shift will mean starting a new job. Others will discover new opportunities and activities in community day programs.

All will leave with a piece of our hearts and a place in our school's wonderful history.

"We want to honor them," said Jill Hicks, transition resources specialist at West Central. "They've accomplished so much."

Because the past three school years have played out alongside the coronavirus pandemic, students sometimes faced different routines, safety protocols and community experiences. We're so proud of how they remained on task and did their best to keep smiling, sometimes from behind masks.

The Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities congratulates the West Central Class of 2022 and also salutes their families for all the support and love they provide.

"Whatever tomorrow brings," FCBDD Superintendent/CEO Jed Morison said, "we know that this year's graduates will make an invaluable contribution to the community."



We hope that our transition services and support continue to positively impact your child's life long after this graduation.

**Dr. Maryalice Turner,
West Central principal**



HAPPY GRADUATION DAY!

That special day is here.
A day that you have worked for,
Through many, long hard years.

You are really amazing,
Think of the experiences you have possessed,
You've worked so very hard,
You've given it your best.

You have stayed dedicated,
And inspiring to us all,
You've conquered so very much,
And today you're standing tall.

Your adult life is just beginning,
There is so much more,
Be proud in your accomplishments thus far,
This future is all yours.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Written by:

Deb Viney, Curriculum Supervisor



The commencement that we have at West Central is a way of congratulating everyone for the wonderful job they've done, and also wishing them the very best as they begin their adult years.

The excitement of moving on to that next step is very meaningful and very special.

**Jed Morison, FCBDD
Superintendent/CEO**

Congratulations to our 2022 graduates!!

William Bolden - Columbus City Schools

William volunteered at many worksites and excelled at a local food pantry, counting and bagging products for people in need. We can always depend on William to be kind and considerate. He enjoyed cardio drumming in adaptive physical education class and amazed staff with his drumming skills. Always willing to help others in classroom activities, William happily served as the "reader" for his classmates during reading group. Good luck, William, and congratulations.



Asha Dimery - Columbus City Schools



Asha has always been a shining star at West Central. She welcomed everyone into the room with a bright smile; her genuine happiness and joy at seeing others was evident. Asha also would win class clown for her silly antics that made everyone laugh. Asha was always up for going any place at any time, so you could count on her for excellent community trips. A highlight of each year was to see what wonderful dress and hairstyle she would have for prom. Good luck, Asha, as you start the next chapter.

Brooklyn Greene - South-Western City Schools

During Brooklyn's time at West Central, she has exercised her impressive skills with classroom cooking projects. She's expert at getting all ingredients in the bowl for a good stir. Brooklyn is proud to keep the space tidy, wiping tables after a project or lunch. She has improved her balance and fine motor skills, as well as her use of words, picture symbols and Voice output device. Brooklyn also has enjoyed community trips to the libraries to pick out books, and shopping. Pool time and karaoke at school parties rounded out her West Central experience. We wish Brooklyn much success in all her new adventures!



Chloe Hipsher - Westerville City Schools



Chloe is the student with the big personality in the class. An affectionate young woman who's always prepared to join the fun, Chloe enjoys building relationships. She loves going out in the community to meet new friends and she strives to make everyone smile. Chloe has come a long way in advocating for herself and asking for help when needed. She enjoys helping with jobs, including deliveries and pushing the cart to get the classroom lunches. We will miss Chloe's expert sorting skills and we wish her all the luck in her future endeavors. As Chloe would say, "Byeeee!"

Madison Howard - Worthington City Schools

Maddie is an extremely social, high-energy and warm young woman who makes friends everywhere she goes. She loves hanging out with others and going to social events. Maddie loves participating in Special Olympics with her peers and will cheer them on! She is always game for exploring her community, and she likes to swim and volunteer at job sites. Maddie's favorite volunteer job site is the Meals-on-Wheels location, because it provides a great opportunity to socialize. Good luck, Maddie. You will be missed!



Patrick Johnson - Columbus City Schools

Patrick has grown into a strong young man who is stylish and enthusiastic. He enjoys going to school destinations independently, and is happy to assist with many tasks. Patrick made deliveries, picked up meals for fellow students and folded laundry. A tenacious person, he will attempt new tasks, such as using the microwave, and complete activities that he has never tried before. Asked to describe Patrick, staff members say he's a remarkable student who has made much progress. He is appreciative, friendly and loving. Patrick will continue to grow as he moves on to a day program and new adventures. We hope for his continued success.



Julianna Kelley - Middletown City Schools

Julianna came to West Central after spending a few years at our South-Western school collaborative. She has always enjoyed cheering people up, clapping and socializing with them just when they need a boost. That knack for reaching out made her the official classroom greeter. Julianna also loves to explore the community with her friends and to spend time with her family, going to concerts, sing-a-longs and Disney on Ice. She is truly a joy to be around, and we wish Julianna the very best of luck.



Elizabeth Lahrmann - *Upper Arlington City Schools*



Reminisces about past years at West Central will always include memories of Elizabeth. Attending the program since primary school, she has touched the hearts of every staff member. With her calm and loving demeanor, Elizabeth makes friends wherever she goes. She enjoyed community trips, especially shopping, but even more she loved swimming in the school pool with her brother, Henry, and their mom. Elizabeth has been a focused and determined student, able to stay on task despite the classroom bustle. She took to any job that allowed her to be social, visiting staff and classmates while passing out flyers or making deliveries. Everyone wishes you the best and will miss you, Elizabeth.

Henry Lahrmann - *Upper Arlington City Schools*

Henry will be remembered for making his mark at West Central, impacting both staff and classmates. He attended the program since primary school and became very popular. Henry wanted to be involved in every conversation and every activity, and he enjoyed displaying his sense of humor, chasing down staff in the hallways and laughing as he caught up. He loved swimming and playing music with a switch-activated radio. Henry worked hard at his sorting jobs, towel folding and making school deliveries. Henry, everyone at West Central wishes you the very best in the future.



Anthony Lawrence - *South-Western City Schools*



Though we are sad to see Anthony leave, we are very proud of him. Anthony is able to communicate socially using a voice output device, and he definitely has gained the love and admiration of many of his fellow students this year. Anthony adores social interactions, especially when staff greet him by name and launch an engaging conversation. We know there will be many great, meaningful moments as he enters this next phase in his life. Congratulations, Anthony. You will be dearly missed by many of your West Central friends.

Gage McDade - *South-Western City Schools*

Gage is a young man who knows what he wants, and he uses his communication device to tell you. He excels in his self-advocacy skills and amazes with his ability to wiz through the pages on his communication device. Gage has a wonderful sense of humor. We have often acknowledged his "laughing eyebrows" as he interacts with others. Gage spread joy throughout the building with his deliveries of flyers and compliment cards,



and made great progress in his packaging and sorting simulations. Gage has made many positive relationships and we will miss him as he starts this new chapter of his life. We wish you the best, Gage. Maybe we'll run into you at Target!

Mousa Moreb - *South-Western City Schools*



From his daily teasing and jokes with staff to his stellar work ethic, Mousa has been a core – and very important – piece of our classroom puzzle. Mousa loves interacting with his community and showing a helping hand in any way he can. Mousa enjoyed cooking class, gym class, swimming and choir. He participated in many choir concerts at Central Crossing High School. He truly goes above and beyond in all aspects of his life. Mousa, everyone at Central Crossing and West Central School wishes you the best. We will miss your contagious smile.

R'Lonte Price - *Columbus City Schools*

R'Lonte is a very sweet and kind young man with a great sense of humor. He learns new tasks easily, is very precise with his work and completes anything that is assigned. Those are great skills that will serve him well in life. R'Lonte loves his family and likes to engage with friends and peers online. He loves listening to music, using computers, watching movies and going to the zoo and parks with his family. Good luck in your future adventures, R'Lonte. We will miss you here at West Central!



Josh Rogers - *Columbus City Schools*

Josh has been at West Central for four years, and he has grown and matured so much during that time. He is more willing to complete tasks and he can be very helpful. Josh is also focused and inquisitive. A real trouble shooter, he's able to look at a problematic situation and try to figure out how to solve it. He's very resourceful, too. Finding ways to get what he wants or needs is important, and fortunately, that is a skill set that Josh possesses. It will serve him well as he gets older. We wish Josh all the best in his future endeavors.



Marvelous Rutland - Columbus City Schools

Marvelous is a take charge kind of person. He is very observant and lets the staff know when something appears to be out of place. Marvelous enjoys socializing and is happy to play ball with his fellow students. He enjoys riding the adapted bicycle and scooter, as well as swimming in the West Central pool. Crushing cans, shredding paper, sweeping, and running errands are all tasks that Marvelous can engage in successfully. He likes visiting parks and going shopping so that he can interact with others. He is great at being Marvelous!



Emmanuel Senya - Columbus City Schools

Mathematics is a favorite subject for Emmanuel, who likes to use his calculator to find solutions to the problems presented to him. He is dedicated to completing the work he starts, taking pride in seeing a task through from start to finish. Emmanuel also likes to laugh and watch music videos. He can make his needs known through speaking, gestures and use of his iPad communication system. Organization and putting things where they belong is an inherent skill for Emmanuel, and his persistence will work to his advantage as he moves through life. We wish him much success in his future.



Isaac Talbert - Columbus City Schools

We have always counted on Isaac for his hard work and dedication to the school and to our community volunteer sites. Isaac has been our cafeteria's number one dishwasher and cleaning crew member. He is very popular around West Central, bringing his smooth dance moves to every social event. Isaac truly is one of those people who can light up a room with his infectious laughter and charismatic personality. We are rooting for you, Isaac, and we know you have a bright future. Good luck!



Aryana Thompson - South-Western City Schools

Aryana has one of the brightest smiles in our school and is always moving forward with enthusiasm. She can communicate her wants and needs through gestures, body language, vocalizations and her communication device. Listening to music and doing puzzles are among her favorite leisure activities. Aryana also enjoys swimming and swinging, and she can work independently for long stretches. Although new tasks may be challenging at first, Aryana will keep trying when guided with gentle support. She has a sweet personality and an eagerness to get the job done. We will miss her loving spirit.



Juan Pablo Vilchez - Hilliard City Schools

Juan is known in the classroom for his old soul when it comes to music choices for leisure time, as he always picked Elvis or Patsy Cline. He loves the classic western country station and hums and sings along with the music. Juan succeeded at using switches to activate musical items and, occasionally, a fan when it became too hot in the classroom. He enjoys swimming, riding the bike and sitting in a rocking chair during group activities. Juan, everyone at West Central School wishes you the best of luck in all you do in the future.



Nia Walker - Columbus City Schools

Nia was always the West Central School fashionista, a role she enjoyed. Classroom staff looked forward to seeing what hair style she would be rocking next. Nia is a hands-on learner who especially loves art. No matter where she goes or what adventures await, she will bring plenty of personality and sass. We missed Nia when she wasn't here and are wishing her the best of luck! Congratulations, Nia.



Alivia Williams - Hilliard City Schools



Alivia began attending West Central as a young girl. From the moment you met her, you could tell she had style, and she wore some of the cutest outfits in the school. Alivia loves to be social, and she especially enjoyed school parties and dances. She has great taste in music, enjoying both hits of the past and up-and-coming pop stars. Alivia bounced to the best of the beats. One of her favorite therapy activities was using switches to turn on her own music, and she likes to make her own choices. She was happy to get her hands into some art, and also loved to relax in the pool. We wish you all the best, Alivia.

Congrats to our 2022 graduates!



Patrice Johnson snapped a keepsake photo with son Patrick Johnson, who loved his time at West Central.

I'm kinda sad that he's leaving here – it's a wonderful school. I like the closeness and the teachers are so nice and caring. Patrick's vocabulary is very limited, and he thrived here. He really thrived. We'll miss this.

Patrice Johnson, mom of graduate Patrick Johnson

Congratulations to the graduates and their families. We appreciate your support, and we hope that in the future, we can support you.



Joe Becker, West Central assistant principal



William stops for a fist bump with fine arts specialist JR Ridgeway



Friends and fellow grads Emmanuel and Isaac



Asha waits with assistant teacher Scott Sundry before taking the stage



Teacher Jennifer Schneid helps Brooklyn prepare for the big moment

I've been with Mousa for 10 years of his school life. He has a great personality. He likes to tell jokes, he loves to elbow fight and he's a straight-up black coffee drinker. It's important for the typical kids to get to know our kids, and it's good for our kids to have that interaction.

Tiffany Anderson, FCBDD teacher to Mousa Moreb at Central Crossing High School



Graduate Mousa Moreb was all smiles with teacher Tiffany Anderson as he prepared to receive his graduation certificate.