

Brown County Educational Service Center Fall News 2021

Brown County Teachers Honored

Six Brown County teachers were honored at the Brown County In-Service virtually on November 2nd. Over 600 teachers, administrators, and staff members were in attendance in a covid safe environment to watch the nominees for the Teacher of the Year - Excellence in Education Award. The Brown County Educational Service Center recognizes the most outstanding teachers in the Brown County Schools. Throughout the last school year, nominations were made by colleagues, students, and community members of each school district. Based on the following criteria, a candidate was chosen by each district to be a representative: worked as a full-time classroom teacher, set high expectations for students and self, inspired students, colleagues, and the community, maintained a high level of professionalism and professional growth, demonstrated concern and respect for students, and employed in a Brown County school for the 2020-2021 school year. Each candidate received a plaque of recognition and \$250.00 to spend on classroom materials. The Teacher of the Year winner received a personal gift donated by First State Bank in the amount of \$1,000.00. This year's honored recipient of the Teacher of the Year is Katie Spiller, a High School Science teacher at Eastern. Congratulations to all of the Teacher of the Year nominees!



Left to Right- Jamie Hurley, Jina Bohl, Patricia Skaggs, Jamie Wilkins, Tim Carlier, Jennifer Spaeth-Mullins, Brad Winterod, Evelyn Arthur, Dr. Michele Filon, Katie Spiller, Kevin Kratzer, Sydney Helbling



Left to Right- Dianne Cohorn (FSB), Nick Brown (FSB), Ryan Unger (FSB), Dr. Michele Filon (ELSD), Katie Spiller (BC Teacher of the Year), Bill Garrett (BCESC), Mike Pell (FSB), Gerry Schumacher (FSB)



Brown County IN-SERVICE

The 48th Brown County In-service took on a new look again in 2021, VIRTUAL! Teachers and community agencies arose to the challenge to still provide a morning of high quality professional learning. With over 100 different learning opportunities through live sessions, pre recorded, and independent study teachers and administrators had a choice of learning which best supported their educational needs.



HIGH PERFORMING ESC

The Brown County Educational Service Center has received the High Performing ESC Designation. Across the state, ESCs reported significant savings to client school districts. This represents value that we provide to school districts, for fiscal year 2021 we saved our client districts \$310,061.00. This is only a part of the total savings we provide each year. This has become even more apparent over the past 20 months.

The designation of high-performing no longer provides a differentiation in state funding. ESCs use the designation to help their client schools meet federal procurement requirements, and The Brown County ESC is proud to use this for our students.



Department of Youth Services Supports Connections Program

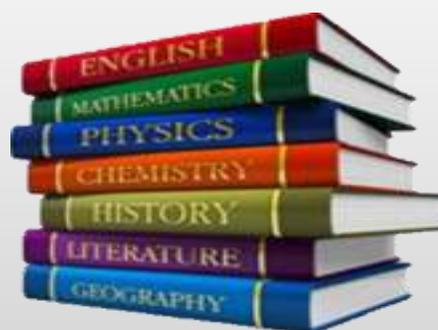
Connections is a mentoring program focusing on middle school students to look at career pathways and set goals to reach that career. Volunteers from the community meet with students to assist students in their search. In the summer, students have an opportunity to attend a summer academy at Southern Hills Career Technical Center to continue their search for a career pathway. This project recently received notification of grant funding from the Department of Youth Services for financial support. Inquiries about the program can be forwarded to Evelyn Yockey, Brown County Educational Service Center.



ADAMS/BROWN HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC TEAM SCHEDULE

The High School Academic Season begins Thursday, Nov. 4 at Eastern High School. This year teams participating are from Eastern High School, Fayetteville High School, White Oak High School, North Adams High School, Peebles High School, Fairfield High School and West Union High School. The season schedule is as follows:

Nov. 4 @ Eastern
Nov. 9 @ Peebles
Nov. 16 @ White Oak
Nov. 23 @ Fayetteville
Dec. 2 @ North Adams
Dec. 8 @ West Union
Dec. 9 @ Fairfield



Students participate in several matches an evening. We all look forward to the Academic Season and thank the coaches and students for their academic excellence. See you at the meets.

BROWN COUNTY PRE-KINDERGARTEN RECOGNIZED

The Brown County Educational Service Center Pre-Kindergarten Program has been recognized for their success with Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) for the 2021-2022 school year. PBIS involves teaching students expected behaviors in a consistent and positive way, modeling and acknowledging those behaviors, and helping all students meet expectations and be successful. PBIS has been shown to improve student achievement, student behavior, and school climate. In 2016, Ohio first recognized schools that are model examples of strong PBIS. The Brown County Educational Service Center Pre-Kindergarten Program maintained their Bronze level status for the 2021-2022 school year.



PAX GBG Welcomes Georgetown Elementary!

PAX GBG is an evidence-based universal intervention that supports PBIS and helps teach children to self-regulate. Teachers implement strategies as part of their daily routines in getting students' attention, transitioning from one task to another, working as part of a team, selecting students for tasks, limiting problematic behavior and reinforcing pro-social behavior. In building children's self-regulation skills, the results are an improvement in focus, attention and test scores. Georgetown Elementary staff were trained in August and have implemented the program with great enthusiasm. It is amazing to see how the staff and students have embraced the positive ways to teach and learn appropriate behaviors. Fayetteville Elementary has been a PAX school since 2018. If you are interested in becoming a PAX school, please contact Evelyn Yockey at the Brown County Educational Service Center.





Project LIFE is a comprehensive, multi-year transition-to-adulthood program in which individuals (ages 18+) with disabilities can develop, practice and strengthen skills that are high predictors for increased adult independence and successful, integrated community employment. Project LIFE is in partnership with Southern Hills Career Technical Center, Butler Tech, the Mitsubishi Foundation, Brown County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Western Brown Local Schools and the Brown County Educational Service Center.

Project LIFE offers a targeted course of study in combination with participation in experiential life skills education and authentic work-based learning experiences in the local community. Utilizing evidence-based transition education concepts, Project LIFE is a proven program model that supports our student intern's on their journey to adulthood and greater independence.

A typical day at Project LIFE includes classroom learning activities focused on the course of study topics and 2-3 hours of work based learning experiences under the supervision of a qualified instructor or Job Skill Trainer. Individual goals are also addressed based upon the needs of each student intern. It is recommended that individual goals be prioritized to focus on the specific transition-to-adulthood needs of the student intern in order to increase the likelihood of growth and mastery toward their future adult plans.

Project LIFE believes that all individuals, regardless of disability, will grow in independence when expectations for learning are raised. Job skills are assessed based on employer standards and expectations. Weekly job skill reports will provide data focused on individual progress. This data will help our student intern's consider jobs they want for the future while providing them with an understanding of accommodations they may need for future employments.

Project LIFE began in 2007 and is now impacting lives nation-wide. Visit btprojectlife.org for additional information.

COURSE OF STUDY TOPICS

1. Team Building
2. Work Place Safety
3. Social Skills and Communication
4. Personal Financial Literacy
5. Technology
6. Preparing for Employment
7. Maintaining Employment
8. Independent Living

Brown County Educational Service Center Who we are.....Literally.....



Becky (Rebecca) Cropper has served as the 40 Developmental Asset Coordinator for 9 years. In this role she has the privilege of working with each of the 40 Developmental Asset Coordinators who make up the county team through the local school districts. Tammy Whaley at Ripley, Kara Juillerat at Eastern, Amanda Calvert at Fayetteville, Chad McKibben and Rachel Bishop at Georgetown, Julie Dye, Mindy Pride, Michael Snider, and Paula Hitt at Western Brown comprise this team.

Collaboration and community networking are two areas that she concentrates on throughout the year in bringing resources and identifying potential support for the Asset process. This area of interest stems from her former career as the 4-H Youth and Community Development Educator for Ohio State University Extension for thirty three years. A favorite quote is we can't adjust the winds, but we can the sails and she strives to enhance teacher and student lives through identifying resources and educational programs to meet their ever growing needs.

Career education has always been a focus with such programs as College Reality, Careers Boards, College Access education and now helping coordinate activities with the GRIT project. Another area of emphasis is leadership and she has partnered with the schools offering the Leadership From the Cupboard program.

This avid Buckeye fan received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from The Ohio State University and on any day in the fall can be seen rooting on the Buckeyes.

She serves on a variety of teams such as the Grant Team, The Dolly Parton Imagination Library Board, Coalition for a Drug Free Brown County, ABCAP Board representing the ESC as a part of her community efforts. She can be reached at extension 532.

Michael Roades is the Special Education Supervisor for the Brown County Educational Service Center. This is Michael's 6th year serving in this position. Michael has a wife, Susan, three daughters, Alexandra, Abigail and Allison Renchen and a son-in-law, Malaki Renchen. Michael has been in education for 24 years serving as a teacher for 9 of those years and administration for the remaining 15 years. Michael has served within the Bright Local School District, Georgetown Exempted Village School District and the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District. Michael graduated from Circleville Bible College (Ohio Christian University) with his bachelor's in education. He then went to Ashland University where he obtained his teaching degree through the Ohio Department of Education. He received his Master's in Administration and principal's license through the University of Day and superintendent's license through Xavier University. Michael was also just recently ordained through the Churches of Christ in Christian Union. Michael enjoys traveling, watching football and spending time with his family.



Who we are.....Literally.....

The Support Services Section of the Brown County ESC is staffed by two full-time employees, Don Rabold who is a retired Hamilton County Sheriff's Patrol Captain who started with the ESC in August 2004 and Ken Stuckey, a retired Ohio State Highway Patrol Sergeant, who started with the ESC in 2014.

Don and Ken both have completed Title IX administrator and Civil Rights Investigator training as well as ALICE instructor training, in addition to their law enforcement experience.

Don holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Cincinnati and is a graduate of the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute and Ken has completed numerous supervision trainings through his career with the Highway Patrol

Support Services is also staffed part-time by Rob Beucler, the retired Eastern Brown Middle School principal, and Varsity Boys basketball coach, who is responsible for monitoring attendance at all Eastern Schools.

Support Services provides complete attendance services to four school districts in Brown County and coordinates safety drills and safety plans for districts in four different counties in the region in both public and private schools.

One of the fastest growing services provided by Support Services is administrative investigations in the area of Title IX and general bullying and discrimination complaints as well as complaints of potential employee misconduct.

Administrative investigations have been done upon request as far as Dayton Ohio to the west and Chillicothe to the north/east.

Don and Ken also provide training to staff in the area of professional ethics and to staff and students in school safety and anti-bullying and discrimination. Support Services has conducted these types of trainings upon request as far as Zanesville and Bridgeport Ohio.

The Brown County ESC is unique among ESC's in Ohio in providing all of these services, not only to our core Brown County Schools, but on a regional basis as well.



Don Rabold



Ken Stuckey



Rob Beucler

Brown County Gifted Students Explore Carter Caves

On November 4, 2021, the third through sixth grade gifted students who participate in the Brown County Challenge Program traveled to Olive Hill, Kentucky to explore two of the incredible caves in the Carter Caves State Park. This trip was part of their cave unit where they learned how caves are formed, the three zones of a cave, how to classify speleothems, and cave biota.

While at Carter Caves, the students toured the X-Cave, Cascade Cave and viewed the underground waterfall. The students were able to observe a bat in its natural habitat and practice classifying the different speleothems which are forming in the caves. This trip was a great learning experience for all who attended.

For more information about the Challenge Program, contact Cindy Call at the Brown County Educational Service Center.



Russellville Elementary Welcomes new Principal Ryan Wagner to the Team



Ryan Wagner is a graduate of Eastern Local Schools and attended school in the district for the entirety of his early education. Ryan received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Middle Grades Education from Northern Kentucky University and a Master's of Educational Leadership from Wright State University. For the past 14 years, Ryan has worked for the Hillsboro City School District in Highland County, Ohio. Ryan spent 10 of those years as a classroom teacher, teaching at both the middle and intermediate levels. For the past four years, he served as Assistant Principal at Hillsboro Middle School. Ryan is a Brown County resident, currently living in Georgetown, Ohio.

Introducing New Staff at the Brown County ESC....



Hello! My name is Brandy Hodges, I am the new Receptionist at the Brown County Educational Service Center. I grew up in Mt. Orab, Ohio and graduated from Western Brown High School. I also attended the Southern Hills Career and Technical Center my senior year in which I graduated with a Certificate in Marketing. I have an Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Southern State. I currently live in Sardinia with my husband Chris and three children Nathan, Brianna, and Allison. I came to the Educational Service Center from the Western Brown School District. I was the Attendance/Data clerk at Mt. Orab Elementary for five years.

My name is Erin Newman. I am one of the new PreK intervention specialists at Mt. Orab Elementary School! I recently graduated from Shawnee State University with a dual degree in Early Childhood Education, & Early Childhood Special Education. I am from Seaman Ohio, & graduated from North Adams. Most of my experience observing or teaching in an elementary school setting has been through Adams County OVSD, so I am excited to gain new experiences through Brown County! I have always wanted to be a teacher & have been loving teaching preschoolers with special needs so far this year, I can't wait to see what the rest of the school year will bring!



Hello! My name is Mackenzie Tussey. I'm a graduate of Fayetteville High School (2015) and Miami University (2019). I recently moved back to Brown County after spending the past two years earning my master's degree at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. In my free time I enjoy traveling and spending time with my family and friends, especially my sweet niece Annie who arrived in March. I feel very blessed to be back home to start my career as a speech-language pathologist.

W e l c o m e

Hi my name is Sarah Rought. I am a first year early childhood intervention specialist at Western Brown Local Schools. I have been in the education field for 13 years teaching private preschool prior to obtaining my license through Xavier University. I have been married for 12 years and my husband and I have two daughters who attend Felicity Franklin Local Schools. I am very excited to be given the opportunity to encourage children and help them learn and grow as an early intervention specialist.

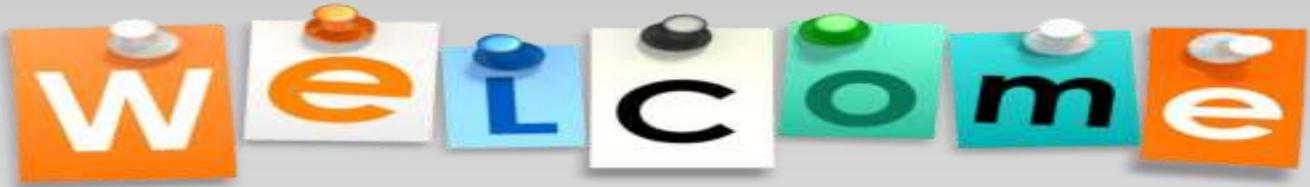


My name is Alexis Taylor, I am 23 years old and I recently graduated from the University of Cincinnati with my B.S. in Special Education. I am currently working on my Masters in Foundations of Behavior Analytics, with an expected graduation date of December 2022. My goal is to sit for my boards and become a BCBA upon completing my coursework. Prior to college, I graduated from Little Miami High school in 2017. When I'm not teaching you can find me working at a dance studio in Loveland! I have been dancing and/or working there since I was 4. I have 2 puppies at home, Max and Mila, and I enjoy spending time with friends and family on the weekends!

Hi my name is Kim Olivieri and I am a first year intervention specialist at Western Brown Local Schools. Prior to obtaining my licensure I have been a substitute teacher for many schools in Clermont and Brown County. I have been married for 21 years to Steve Olivieri who is a retired teacher at Grant Career Center. I am happy to begin my teaching career in the Western Brown Local School district.



My name is Andrew Gill and I am in my first year as an Intervention Specialist in the Cross Categorical room at Western Brown High School. I come to Western Brown after being the college career coach at Georgetown High School for the past three years. I graduated from Shawnee State University with a bachelors in Social Science in 2007. I am currently pursuing my masters in special education through Western Governors University. I reside in Mt. Orab with my wife Brandi, my two daughters Lexi and Drew, and son Wylie.



My name is Taylor West. I am a Pre-K teacher at Sardinia Elementary School. This is my first year teaching and I am loving every minute of it! I grew up in Sardinia and I am an Eastern Brown alumni. I received my Bachelor degree in Elementary Education from Western Governors University. I am a wife and a mother of a beautiful 2 year old daughter. I am grateful for the opportunity the Brown County ESC has given me to begin my career in education and looking forward to growing and learning from my fellow educators.

Vanessa is new to the Brown County Educational Service Center, providing services to Hamersville Elementary in the Western Brown School District two days per week. She has been a licensed School Psychologist since 1999 and also works for Clermont Northeastern Preschool and the Cincinnati Waldorf School in Mariemont. Vanessa earned her Bachelors in Psychology and Business Administration from Heidelberg College (now Heidelberg University) in 1990. After working in the corporate world for 7 years, she realized her love for children and interest in improving educational opportunities and was accepted to graduate school at the University of Dayton. Vanessa earned her Masters of Education (plus 72 hours) from U.D. in 1999, completing programs for both School Psychology and School Counseling.

Career interests include conducting thorough evaluations to determine the needs of children and providing consultation to teachers, staff and families to help each student become the best they can be.

Vanessa's's main responsibilities as a School Psychologist include:

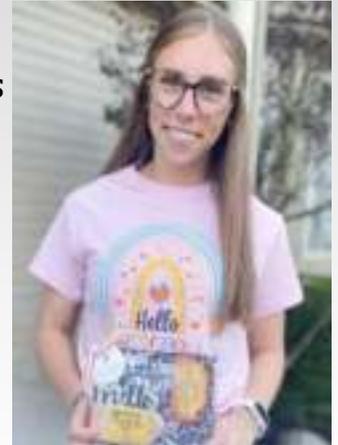
- Conducting Initial Evaluations to determine if a student qualifies for Special Education Services
- Conducting ReEvaluations (every three years) to determine if a student continues to require Special Education Services
- Collaborating and consulting with administrators, teachers, and parents to develop academic or behavior intervention plans for students

Personally, Vanessa enjoys playing golf, traveling, gardening, crafting and being a "grammy". She and her husband have three children, three stepchildren, and three grandchildren. Vanessa's love of her career inspired her daughter to follow along, attend UD, and became the second School Psychologist in the family.



W e l c o m e

My name is Kerstin Thornburgh and I am 23 years old. My students call me Miss T. and I am a Preschool Intervention Specialist at Mt. Orab Elementary. I graduated from Hillsboro High School and then completed my Bachelor's Degree at Shawnee State University. A fun fact about me is that I earned the All-State softball player award in high school and I currently coach a 10u travel softball team!



Community Service



Congratulations to Debi Shultz who received the Community Service Award from the Ohio Educational Service Center Association!



The Educational Service Center and the County Fair

The Brown County Fair is the largest event held during the year and the Educational Service Center coordinated four events in collaboration with the Senior and Junior Fairboards. The first event was the semi-annual Administrators Breakfast with speakers from the Junior Fair, the GRIT project and the ESC. For the second event the School Psychologists led the 4-H Cloverbud and other k-2nd graders in activities relating to the 40 Assets. The third event was the Human Library, where fairgoers had the opportunity to visit with 40 volunteers about their careers. Youth and Adults were engaged in learning about careers in Brown County and the region. The presenters created videos which will be on line through the GRIT and Future Plans project as a part of the efforts to promote career education. The fourth event was the Food Science Contest modeled after the Ohio FFA event. This event promotes careers in agriculture while participants gain knowledge and skills relating to the food industry.

Partners for the four events were:

Brown County Sr. Fairboard, Junior Fairboard, Ohio Means Jobs, Health Source of Ohio, Brown County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Grain Craft, LaSaffre Yeast Company, Brown County Library System., GRIT, Future Plans, Intelliance, 40 Developmental Asset Process, Harbeck Farms, Sherrill Cropper, Southern Hills CTC, Brown County Public Library, ABCAP, Ripley Union Lewis Huntington Video Production team, twenty community members and the 40 volunteer presenters.



BCESC Grants

PAX-\$10,000

-Evelyn Yockey

Department of Youth Services \$49,996.00

-Evelyn Yockey

Trauma-Informed Care-\$24,664.00

-Evelyn Yockey

Brown County Mental Health Board & Addiction
Services- \$3500

-Maureen Kiley

Early Childhood Education Grant—\$528,000

-Carrie Fuller

Family & Community Engagement Liaison Grant-\$50,000

-Maureen Kiley

Connections-\$15,000

-Evelyn Yockey

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

NEW K-12 Student Quarantine Guidelines Include

"Mask to Stay/Test to Play"

Quarantining students at home who have been exposed to COVID-19 in a school environment has the unintended consequence of reducing in-school learning and can be an added strain on parents, schools, and local health departments (LHDs). While vaccination and mask usage are critical components to ensuring a safe school environment, we offer an in-school alternative to quarantining students and school staff at home who have been exposed to COVID-19 in a school environment to support in-school learning and reduce the strain. This recommendation is informed by a growing body of national experience, a pilot in Warren County, and experience shared by other LHDs that points toward a low number of individuals with direct contact to a COVID-19 positive individual within a school setting who convert to positive cases. Based on this information and the success of the Warren County pilot, we recommend the following for K-12 students and staff exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting.

Please note: Eligibility to participate in mask to stay/test to play is contingent on the exposure being in the school setting or school-related activities. This does not apply to household exposures or exposures outside of the school setting or school-related activities. Mask to Stay Direct contacts, regardless of vaccination or masking status, may remain in the classroom environment if they do the following: • Wear a mask for 14 days after their last date of exposure. • Self-monitor, or parent-monitor, for symptoms of COVID-19. • Isolate and get tested if they start to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19 (regardless of level of severity). • Consistent with guidance for others quarantining in lower-risk environments, students and staff may discontinue these quarantine procedures after seven days — if they don't develop symptoms and test negative between days 5-7. Direct contacts for COVID-19 are those individuals who are identified as being directly exposed to COVID-19 by the positive case. Remember, COVID-19 is a respiratory virus and does not require physical contact to spread. It is spread through sneezing, coughing, talking, and breathing. These factors should be considered when determining level of exposure and direct contacts. Best practice for distancing is 3 ft with everyone masked, 6 ft if the individual is not masked. Parents and students are responsible for symptom monitoring; however, if nurses/school staff see a child exhibiting symptoms they should act accordingly.

Test to Play Asymptomatic contacts may continue to participate in extracurricular activities if they do the

Following:

- Wear a mask when able. (This includes: transportation; locker rooms; sitting/standing on the sidelines; and anytime the mask will not interfere with breathing, the activity, or create a safety hazard.) • Test on initial notification of exposure to COVID-19. • Test again on days 5-7. If they are negative at this time, they will test out of quarantine. Please Note: The tests referenced above are SARS-CoV-2 viral (PCR or antigen) tests. They should be proctored/observed by someone and cannot be an over the counter, at home test that was self-administered without a proctor. Districts should consider same day testing for athletic competitions where there is the potential of school-to-school exposure. If students involved in competitions become positive for COVID-19, contact tracing with other team does not need to occur; instead, send a general letter to notify the other team of the potential exposure. These proposed changes incorporate mask wearing and testing to reduce the chance of spread of COVID-19 within structured school settings and provides a safe alternative to quarantine .

DID YOU KNOW?

Across the country, more than 8 million students are missing so many days of school that they are academically at risk. Chronic absence — missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions, can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing subjects, and ninth-graders dropping out of high school.

The Brown County Educational Service Center has been instrumental in implementing Ohio House Bill 410 (Ohio’s Attendance Law passed in December 2016) in four school districts in Brown County. The law requires parental notification of student absence to the parent or guardian as well as interventions to decriminalize truancy.



The Brown County Educational Service Center Superintendent William Garrett accepts as true when students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

<https://www.facebook.com/BrownCountyEducationalServiceCenter/>

Bill Garrett, Superintendent	Ext. 537
Blinda Boothby, Treasurer	Ext. 536
Rob Beucler, Support Services	Ext. 524
Rosemary Burwinkel, Treasurer’s Assistant	Ext. 522
Cindy Call, Gifted & Speech Supervisor	Ext. 525
Becky Cropper, 40 Assets, Drug Free Schools	Ext. 532
Carrie Fuller, Pre-K Supervisor	Ext. 529
Brandy Hodges, Receptionist	Ext. 510
Maureen Kiley, Family First Liaison	Ext. 534
Dayne Michael, School Improvement/ Psychologists	Ext. 516
Jackie Miller, School Improvement	Ext. 533
Don Rabold, Support Services	Ext. 514
Mike Rodes, Special Education Supervisor	Ext. 520
Gale Roush, Assistant Treasurer	Ext. 534
Elise Starkey, Executive Secretary/Aesop	Ext. 535
Ken Stuckey, Support Services	Ext 519
Stephanie Wagoner, School Improvement	Ext 531
Evelyn Yockey, Community Connections	Ext 521



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