

IMPORTANT DATES



HEIDT Happenings



May 2026

Dear Heidt Center Families,

As the end of the school year approaches, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we have shared. I am immensely proud of the growth our students and staff have achieved, and I am excited to see the next steps and new beginnings that await everyone.

April was a particularly meaningful month as we celebrated Autism Acceptance Month. From the Heidt Community Fundraiser and Autism Acceptance Week to the HEATS Fair, and Prom, the month was filled with many memories. I am also incredibly proud of the dedication our students showed during state testing; their perseverance was truly impressive and we had a great time celebrating with some Snowie Ice (even if it was a rainy day).

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the families who generously donated and volunteered. Your support is vital—we simply could not host these events without your involvement. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community where everyone feels valued.

In the coming weeks, we will finish the year strong with several special events:

- Mental Wellness Week (May 4–8)
- Teacher Appreciation Week (May 4-8)
- The Web End of Year Field Trip
- Field Day
- Graduation and Transition Commencement

Each of these provides a wonderful opportunity to show gratitude for our dedicated staff and our vibrant school community. Thank you once again for your ongoing partnership and commitment to making this a memorable year. I look forward to celebrating our final accomplishments together and preparing for the exciting adventures ahead.

Best Regards,
Dr. Courtney Reece, Principal

- May 1
National Principal and Assistant Principal Appreciation Day
- May 4-8
Mental Wellness Week
Teacher Appreciation
- May 8
New student Event
- May 14
PTO Family Meeting
- May 18
The Webb (all school trip)
- May 20
Senior Luncheon,
Seniors last day,
Graduation 6-8pm
- May 21
Transition Commencement Ceremony 10-11:30am
Early Release
- May 25
No School/ Memorial Day
- May 27
Field Day
- May 28
Last day for students

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May is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month

Permanent, noise-induced hearing loss is an increasing concern for children and young adults. During May—National Speech-Language-Hearing Month—experts are encouraging families to take simple steps to protect kids' hearing. Start by talking with your child about why hearing matters. Help them recognize that it's something they use and enjoy every day—and that it deserves care.

- Take a short listening break every hour when using earbuds or headphones— even a few minutes of quiet can go a long way in protecting your hearing. The same applies at loud events like concerts: step outside periodically to give your ears a chance to recover.
- If available, encourage them to use volume limiters on their devices. In any case, teach kids to keep the volume at no more than half.
- Consider purchasing noise-cancelling headphones. These products reduce outside noise that may be competing with what they're trying to hear through their headphones, so they don't need to crank up the volume.
- Use hearing protection at noisy events. Simple foam earplugs are inexpensive and available at most drugstores. These earplugs offer good protection for older kids and teens. Younger kids should use well-fitting earmuff-style hearing protection.

This information is from the American Speech and Hearing Association. Please see the below link for additional information:

<https://www.asha.org/national-speech-language-hearing-month/>

Transition and Employment

Are you/your student wondering what is next after Heidt Center programming? Have you heard about services through the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) or Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) but aren't sure how to connect? Reach out to Lynn Godwin, Transition and Employment Supervisor, at lgodwin@bestpoint.org for a Transition Planning Meeting!

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Mental Wellness Week - May 4-8

Join us for a week dedicated to prioritizing our mental health! We'll be hosting a themed Spirit Week along with daily activities to raise awareness about the importance of well-being. A huge thank you to 1N5 for donating to support our mission!

Teacher Appreciation Week - May 4-8

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our PTO for their generous donations for upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week Staff Luncheon and other treats. We appreciate everything you do for us!

Autism Acceptance and Prom

Autism Acceptance Week and the Prom were huge successes. Thank you to the parents and all of the contributors for donating snacks, soda, cakes and decorations for the event. Thank you also to those of you who volunteered to help make the events great!

Poetry Event

We held our annual Poetry event where students in the middle school, rise and rotating classes all submitted poems and read them aloud in front of peers and families. We challenged them to look beyond simple rhymes and instead use poems to capture stories, navigate emotions, and express exactly what they feel in the moment. A special thank you to the Transition program interns in the BOAT jobsite for voting, creating the awards, and setting up the space.

Prom

Our Masquerade-themed prom was a massive success! It was wonderful to see such a great turnout for a night of celebration. This event would not have been possible without the dedication of our parent volunteers and those who provided generous donations. We would like to extend a special thank you to our sponsors: Skyline Chili, Chick-fil-A, Dewey's Pizza, and the Cincinnati Bengals. Thank you for making it a magical night for our students!

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