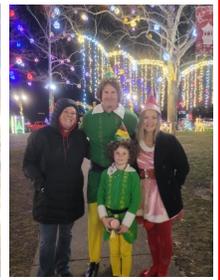


Stroll Under the Lights in the Park

December 17th and 19th, 2024, the afterschool programs held a family engagement in the Gallipolis City Park. Families enjoyed the vast amount of Christmas Lights as they strolled through the park using their scavenger hunt to search for answers. The families really enjoy participating in this family engagement each year. We had a family that dressed up as BUDDY to add to the fun. Santa was also present for all the little ones to whisper their Christmas wish list into his ear. As families finished their scavenger hunt, they received prizes, learning packet, and hot chocolate packets.



The Pottery Place

On November 18th, the Pottery Place from Huntington, WV. visited the CHOICES & STEPS program bringing Christmas pottery pieces for the students to decorate. The students had a variety to choose from such as a Christmas Tree, to Gingerbread Man, Santa, and a Snowman. Pottery Place provides brushes and the paints for the students to create their master piece. After the students completed decorating their pottery piece and adding their personal touches to make their unique piece the Pottery Place took them to their shop to fire them in the kiln and returned them to the children in time for Christmas.



The **STEPS** program offers Drivers Education book work during their program for students that are 15 years and 6 months of age. The students can complete this book work in during the program and will receive a certificate required to take their drivers test. During a parent meeting for all parents that have a student ready to start their driving course, it is explained that after the student attends 30 days of the afterschool program then their driving portion will be paid for also. Parents will save several hundreds of dollars through STEPS. Students learn a valuable skill that is important in the future by being able to get to a job site on their own, one more step to becoming a responsible and independent adult.

History Research Day

November 3, 2024, Bossard Library partnered with the STEPS & CHOICES programs to host a History Research Day. This event was an opportunity for students to prepare for their Ohio History Day competition on March 1, 2025. Mr. Tribe, History professor at the University of Rio Grande, Randall Fulks, Bossard Library's reference services manager, and Grace Cremeens, a former Ohio History Day participant that placed nationally in the competition. Students were able to narrow broad topics down, locate reference material to check out and have deep discussions on the topics being investigated.





On December 14, 2024, the CHOICES and STEPS programs had a long day traveling to Columbus, Ohio for some first time experiences. First students arrived at **The Spaghetti Warehouse** an American-Italian restraint for



some delicious food. The students were able to see the unique feature the trolley car that is in every Spaghetti Warehouse's dining room. After lunch the students walked to the **Ohio Theater**, which opened it's doors in 1928 and is a National Historic Landmark to see the Nutcracker a 1892 two-act ballet set on Christmas Eve at the foot of a Christmas tree in a child's imagination featuring the Nutcracker doll. The children enjoyed the experiences of the day.



The Ghost Walk

On October 29, 2024, CHOICES and STEPS held a family engagement called The Ghost Walk. This event provided the families with a guided tour to hear past spooky stories that originated in Gallia County. Registering at The Ariel, the tour started in The Ariel, then 5 stations in the park, to The Our House and finished up at the French Art Colony. Actors dressed for the time period and told their story from Gallia County at their station. At the French Art Colony families met **Jannette Quackenbush**, an author of **Ohio Ghost Hunter Guide II Ghost Stories, Haunted Hikes** and received a signed copy of the book which featured many stories from Gallia County and Hocking Hills. Health Recovery Services and Gallia Literacy Initiative handed out prizes and books to the families. Families received games and other items when they finished a survey.



The Cemetery Walk

On October 5, 2024, the Afterschool program partnered with Bossard Memorial Library to host a Cemetery Walk in the Pine Street Cemetery. Many reenactors took on the personalities of prominent Gallipolis citizens that came to rest in the cemetery. The reenactors were at their place of rest and told their story about living in Gallipolis as people visited their grave. Families received Fall cookies, pens, notebook, and a book on how to research Family History using grave yards.



Octoball

On pretty, warm days students love to be outside. One of their favorites is playing Octoball, an action-packed game where players in a low enclosure called a GaGA Ball Pit try to eliminate opponents by hitting them in the legs with a rubber ball. This is a fast paced game that gets the students moving and physically active.



