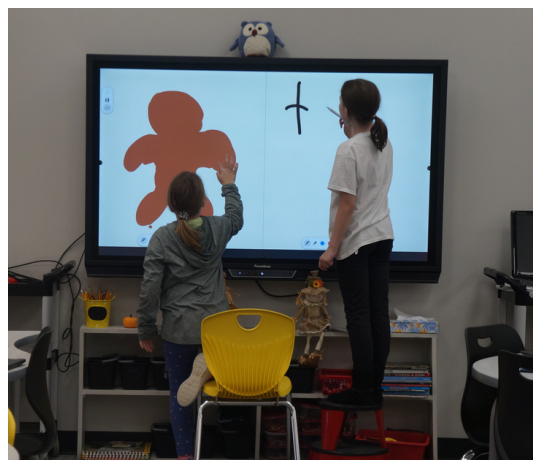




School Spotlight: Bentworth School District



A visit to Bentworth School District reveals a hub of innovation and community collaboration, where a commitment to STEM education is evident. With support from grants and local businesses, the district boasts cutting-edge makerspaces equipped with state-of-the-art tools. The elementary school exudes energy, showcasing student artwork and fostering creativity in the library. The middle school stands out with an aviation course, featuring flight simulators and preparation for the FAA Airman Test at a young age.

Bentworth's inclusivity shines through its partial hospitalization program, offering support to students with social-emotional struggles from various districts. This collaborative effort of teachers, counselors, and mental health professionals creates an environment that values the well-being of every student. The core principles of "Purpose Passion Pride" drive the district's mission, evident in its intentional initiatives and the pride felt in accomplishments.

Bentworth School District is a beacon of inspiration and progress, transforming education with purpose, passion, and pride, ensuring students excel academically and leave with a passion for lifelong learning, poised to make meaningful contributions to a dynamic and ever-evolving world.

January 3rd In-Service Recap

The start of the new year brought together the dedicated employees of Intermediate Unit 1, along with educators from the Bentworth and Charleroi School districts, for a rejuvenating In-Service at Charleroi High School on January 3rd. The event served as an opportunity for everyone to reconvene and refresh after winter break.

The highlight of the day was the vendor fair held in the gymnasium, featuring 31 vendors eager to educate attendees on various aspects of health and wellness. The array of options was impressive, ranging from different types of health insurance to gyms, clinics, wellness centers, state parks, spas, chiropractors, and more. It was a comprehensive showcase of resources aimed at promoting well-being.

Attendees had the chance to engage in various activities, adding a dynamic and interactive element to the day. Yoga, pickleball, and weightlifting sessions provided opportunities for physical activity, while a relaxation art project offered a creative and calming outlet.

The day was divided into two halves to ensure everyone could make the most of the offerings. One group delved into the vendor fair, exploring the diverse array of booths and gathering valuable information. Simultaneously, the other group gathered in the auditorium to listen to health and wellness-related speakers, gaining insights and inspiration.

A familiar face returned as the keynote speaker via Zoom—Allison Clarke, who had previously graced the August In-Service with her expertise. Her engaging presentation added a touch of familiarity and continuity to the event, connecting attendees with valuable knowledge and perspectives.

After a well-deserved lunch break, the groups swapped places, allowing everyone to partake in both the vendor fair and speaker sessions. The day concluded on an exciting note with a raffle featuring 27 different prizes generously donated by the vendors. Winners walked away with a variety of wellness-related items, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event.

The January 3rd In-Service at Charleroi High School successfully brought together education professionals and support staff for a day of learning, exploration, and rejuvenation. As we embark on the rest of the academic year, the insights gained and connections made during this event will undoubtedly contribute to the well-being and success of all involved.



Powerful Partnerships: American Fidelity



American Fidelity transcends the conventional role of an insurance company. They are your partners in navigating the complex landscape of benefits, offering strategies that empower employers to make decisions benefiting both their organizations and valued employees. Their dedicated services extend to employers in the education, public sector, automotive, and healthcare markets, enabling them to provide specialized benefits recommendations tailored to your unique needs.

In a market where one-size-fits-all approaches are common, they take pride in offering a distinct perspective. They firmly believe that you deserve a customized approach to benefits. Their comprehensive range of products and services includes:

Supplemental Insurance: Providing additional coverage to safeguard against unexpected costs.

Reimbursement Accounts and Administration: Streamlining processes for efficient reimbursement management.

Stop Loss Insurance for Self-Funded Plans: Mitigating risks and ensuring financial stability for self-funded plans.

Section 125 Plan Administration: Expert management of Section 125 Plans for optimal results.

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Unlike competitors offering generic packages, they understand that each organization is unique. Their commitment lies in providing tailored solutions that align with your specific requirements. American Fidelity is dedicated to supporting you in making informed decisions that enhance the well-being of your workforce and the success of your organization.

We Are Hiring, and Want YOU to Join Our Team!

Regularly monitor job listings and submit applications for roles aligning with your qualifications. Positions with high turnover rates, such as substitute teachers, special education teachers, social workers, outpatient therapists, school psychologists, paraprofessionals, and more, are consistently posted throughout the year to attract potential candidates.



**Access the current available positions
via the QR code, or at
[https://www.applitrack.com/iu1/
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Fusion Cyber Solutions

The Fusion Cyber Solutions program enables local school districts to integrate online learning seamlessly. Unlike a cyber school, Fusion is an initiative fostering a significant shift in our approach to public education.

With the increasing number of students in cyber schools and the changing world, there's a clear need for all schools to embrace online learning. Our objective is for each district to offer the majority of their curriculum both online and in-person, creating a flexible education system. Through Fusion, district teachers will acquire the necessary skills to develop high-quality online courses aligned with their curriculum. The consortium of schools involved allows for the sharing of courses and resources, facilitating the gradual development of online learning initiatives.



For more information, contact the

Principal/Supervisor of Online Learning Programs

Lisa Steratore at

724-938-3241 x225 or via email at lisa.steratore@iul.org

Scan this QR code to access the January "Digital Dispatch," Fusion Cyber Solutions newsletter

Bricolage Buzz: Unleashing Creativity at IU1 McMurray Campus

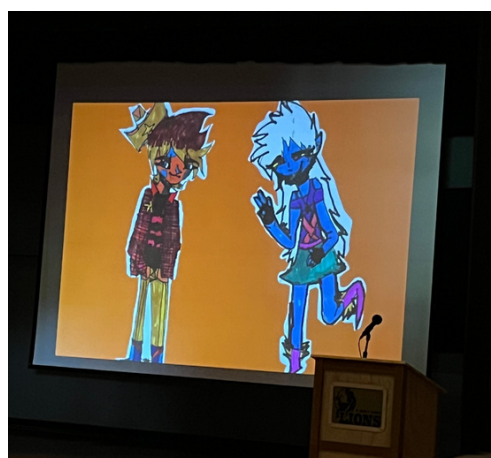


Bricolage's triumphant return for its second year at IU 1 McMurray is made even more remarkable by the leadership of Pittsburgh's esteemed actor, director, producer, and educator, Sam Turich. With over 12 years of dedicated service to Bricolage, Sam brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the residency program, guiding both teaching artists and students alike on their creative journey.

Under Sam's direction, the weekly sessions buzz with energy and innovation as students and teaching artists collaborate to craft captivating radio plays, commercials, and podcasts. His passion for the arts and commitment to education infuse every aspect of the program, fostering an environment where exploration and expression thrive.

Adding to the excitement is the establishment of the "Noise Factory," made possible through funding from the Benedum Foundation. This innovative space serves as the hub of creative expression, where teaching artists and students come together to write and perform their very own radio plays, recorded live in the factory.

As the 2024 Residency unfolds, Sam Turich's visionary leadership continues to shape and elevate the creative experiences of all involved. With his guidance, IU 1 McMurray students are not only honing their artistic skills but also discovering the boundless potential within themselves. Stay tuned for the exciting artistic endeavors set to emerge from this dynamic collaboration later this spring.





IUI School Leader Administrator Retreat
Thursday June 20 – Friday June 21, 2024
Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe

Invitation to follow

Continuing Professional Education

Continuing Professional Education courses for educators serve the crucial purpose of enhancing and updating skills, knowledge, and teaching methodologies. The projected outcome is a more proficient and effective educator. Here are some key benefits:

Skill Enhancement: Professional education courses provide educators with the latest tools, techniques, and insights in their field, helping them stay current with advancements in education.

Improved Teaching Practices: Educators gain new teaching strategies and methodologies, enabling them to create more engaging and effective learning experiences for their students.

Adaptation to Change: The education landscape is dynamic, with evolving technologies and methodologies. Professional courses help educators adapt to these changes, ensuring they remain relevant and effective.

Enhanced Student Outcomes: Teachers equipped with updated knowledge and skills are better positioned to positively impact student learning outcomes. Improved teaching practices contribute to student success.

Career Advancement: Continuous professional development may open doors to career advancement opportunities for educators. It can lead to promotions, leadership roles, or specialized positions within the education sector.

Meeting Regulatory Requirements: In some cases, ongoing professional development is a requirement for maintaining teaching certifications or licenses, ensuring educators meet regulatory standards.

Collaboration and Networking: Professional courses often provide opportunities for educators to collaborate with peers, share experiences, and build a network of professionals. This can foster a supportive community and exchange of best practices.

Increased Job Satisfaction: Engaging in professional development demonstrates a commitment to growth and excellence, leading to increased job satisfaction and motivation among educators.

In summary, continuing professional education courses are beneficial as they contribute to the ongoing improvement of educators, ultimately positively impacting student learning outcomes and the overall quality of education.

Winter 2024 Sessions



IUI is offering online CPE courses for the Winter 2024 session

Technology Tools for the 21st Century Classroom
1/12/2024 to 3/9/2024

How to View Students Through a Trauma-Informed Lens
1/19/2024 to 3/16/2024

Innovative Teaching with AI:
Transforming Education for the 21st Century.
1/26/2024 – 3/23/2024

Social Emotional Learning
2/2/2024 to 3/30/2024

Project-Based & Challenge-Based Learning
2/9/2024 to 4/6/2024

Culturally Responsive Teaching
2/16/2024 to 4/13/2024

There's An App for That Integrating the iPad into the Classroom
2/23/2024 to 4/20/2024

Digital Literacy
3/1/2024 to 4/27/2024

The Leopold Education Project
3/9/2024 and 3/23/2024

Courses begin in
January 2024
and meet Act 48 and
Level II requirements



SCAN QR
CODE
TO REGISTER:

***You Must Register
in Frontline Education**

If your district uses Frontline Education for Absence Management, those credentials are not valid with the IUI Web Reg catalog. If you haven't registered in the IUI Web Reg catalog before, please create a new account to register for the IUI courses and workshops in Frontline.

IU1 Partners with CMU to Revolutionize Social and Emotional Learning for Local Children

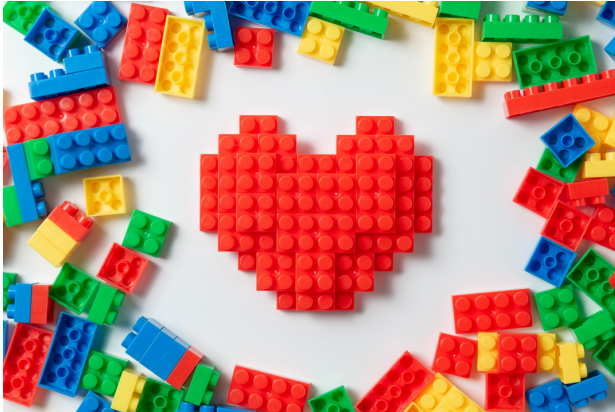


Intermediate Unit 1 (IU1) is excited to announce its collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) to transform social and emotional learning (SEL) for children in Fayette, Greene, and Washington counties through Project Baseplate. This pioneering initiative, led by CMU's Center for Transformational Play (CTP) and Play Included®, introduces innovative LEGO® brick-based activities to empower local children.

Heading the initiative for IU1 is Sarah D'Urzo, dedicated to ensuring equitable access to transformative SEL experiences for all children.

Project Baseplate, in collaboration with IU1, seeks to foster connectedness by facilitating cross-class friendships through Brick Clubs. The Brick-by-Brick® program, developed with support from the LEGO Foundation, offers evidence-based SEL grounded in neurodiversity principles.

For more information, visit the Play Included® and Project Baseplate websites.



IU1 Social Worker Receives TangerKids Grant

January 24th marked an exciting milestone as Rachael Schiefelbein, a Social Worker in Trinity Area School District, received the prestigious Tanger Outlets, Pittsburgh Kids Grant. This grant aims to enhance the learning environment by introducing Calm Down Cozy Corners into each classroom, providing students with designated spaces for de-escalation regardless of their location within the school. Representatives from Tanger Outlets Pittsburgh traveled to the district to present the grant, where they were warmly welcomed by Rachael, her colleagues, as well as IU1 administrators Assistant Executive Director Dr. Kristin Szewczyk and IU1 Supervisor of Mental Health Services, Ms. Charisse Bowman, LSW. During their visit, Dr. Szewczyk and Ms. Bowman were given a tour of Rachael's therapy room, gaining insight into how the grant funds would be utilized to procure essential items aimed at creating a secure and calming environment to effectively assist children in managing their emotions.

The tour showcased Rachael's meticulous planning and vision for the implementation of the grant, emphasizing the importance of investing in resources that foster emotional regulation and well-being among students. Through the purchase of various items tailored to create a safe haven for students, such as sensory tools and relaxation aids, Rachael demonstrated her commitment to nurturing a supportive learning environment. The introduction of Calm Down Cozy Corners reflects a proactive approach towards addressing students' emotional needs, underlining the district's dedication to promoting holistic development and academic success.



Student Forum Annual Kickball Tournament Held at Southpointe Fieldhouse



The annual IU1 Student Forum kickball tournament took center stage at the Southpointe Fieldhouse on Tuesday, February 13th, running from 9 in the morning until noon.

This eagerly anticipated event brought together students from across the region, representing Avella, Burgettstown, Connellsville, Frazier, Jefferson-Morgan, Laurel Highlands, Mapletown, Ringgold, Uniontown, Washington, and West Greene. Amidst cheers and friendly competition, these students formed combined teams, showcasing not only their athletic abilities, but also the spirit of collaboration and camaraderie that defines our IU1 community. Beyond the thrill of the game, the tournament served a higher purpose, raising funds for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Through their participation and support, these students demonstrated a commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others.

This year's fundraising efforts culminated in a remarkable total of \$1,111.00, a testament to the generosity and compassion of all involved. The success of the kickball tournament underscores the strength of our community and its dedication to uplifting those in need.

From the Desk of Dr. Don Martin

Happy Spring, everyone! Although it appears that we have had spring-like weather for much of our winter! I am looking forward to those warmer temperatures! Spring always is the "turning-point" to our school year as it reminds us that summer is just around the corner. It also is one of the busiest times as we administer state assessments, have placement updates, and enroll students into our programs for the next school year. At IU1, our work remains constant as we continuously plan and make decisions relative to current and future programming.

The success of our programs is a result of the hard work, dedication, and empathy you all have for our children. These are challenging times as we move through an era of staff shortages, elevated mental health issues, and budgetary constraints. Yet somehow, our programs always improve on a yearly basis. We have waiting lists for nearly all of our programs. That is proof that our districts believe and place trust in our wonderful organization.

As spring approaches, know that the administration is working diligently on planning for next year. We will be out to visit many of our programs before the end of the school year and hope to speak with many of you during these visits. However, if you have any questions/concerns, or would just like to say hello, please don't hesitate to call or email. It is always great to hear from our IU1 family. Until next time...Happy Spring!



Don