

Programming the Future

While our school list gives you great information on the raw numbers of local schools, sometimes greatness can't be measured. That's why we looked at three programs offered by schools to find out what they're doing to help students be prepared for future learning and careers. Read on to learn about what local schools are doing that may not be reflected in test scores, but will certainly help students later in life.

CHAMBERLAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL Carlisle Local

Chamberlain Middle School is out of this world—seriously.

Each year, Chamberlain chooses one student to attend Air Camp, made possible by the Robert E. Callahan Scholarship provided through Phil and Sherry Callahan, a local Carlisle family.

Air Camp, launched in 2010, is an educational camp for elementary students, middle school students and teachers. Its purpose is for campers to “learn more about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) using aviation and aerospace as [the] medium while promoting the values of scholarship, leadership and citizenship,” according to the Air Camp website.

This year marks the third time a CMS student will be able to go to Air Camp at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton thanks to the scholarship. This year's recipient is eighth-grader Hailey Saylor.

Saylor was selected from a pool of applicants. In order to determine the lucky recipient, applications are based on a point system, with points earned by applicants' grades, state scores in math and English language arts tests and a teacher recommendation.

At Air Camp this summer, Saylor will spend a week furthering her passion and knowledge of aviation, and the STEM behind aeronautics.

“All of [the scholarship recipients] say that Air Camp is one of the highlights of their educational experiences,” says Phil Callahan. “It's great to be able to see that.”

The Callahans have always been involved with the Carlisle community. Phil and his father, Robert, whom the scholarship is named after, both graduated from Carlisle, as did most of the family, according to Phil. The scholarship has existed since 1983, but this is only the third year it's been going towards a young student to go to Air Camp.



Hailey Saylor is this year's recipient of the Robert E. Callahan Scholarship to Air Camp.

“We decided that we would probably have a bigger impact on a student by sending them to Air Camp more so than just handing a graduating senior a thousand bucks, which we used to do,” Phil says. “That money probably wouldn't even cover the cost of books for a college kid. We knew if we really wanted to have an impact on a kid, then we needed to take a young 12- or 13-year-old to Air Camp.”

Phil says that the decision for the scholarship to send someone to Air Camp, rather than another program, was easy to make.

“Dad was in the Air Force, my brother works at General Electric, so it seemed like a natural fit,” Phil says. “Plus, just the whole idea of promoting STEM subjects was good—getting kids interested at an early age. Plenty of job opportunities are available in the STEM field, but not many schools have this program. So we are doing our little part to inspire kids.”

Principal Daniel Turner says he's very thankful for the scholarship to help promote STEM topics to students.

“This opportunity brings a hands-on approach to all students,” Turner says. “All the students that've gone to Air Camp have really shown interest in the STEM concepts they learned. They've seemed career-driven in this area.”

And the out-of-this-world inspiration won't stop soon—Phil says they intend to keep the scholarship going as long as possible.

- HALEY JENA

FAIRFIELD CITY SCHOOLS



Fairfield City Schools's Equity Team looks at student data to ensure the schools are meeting the needs of their diverse students.

Fairfield City Schools is on the forefront of equal representation in the region. According to the Fairfield City School Diversity Plan for 2016 through 2018, the mission is, “teaching our children, and ourselves, to live, learn and work together in a vibrant and diverse world.”

Keena Westmoreland, a third-grade math, science and social studies teacher at Fairfield West Elementary and member of the Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee, says, “They have been striving