



# Tassel Talk

## Partner Power!



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A *Call to College's* PEAK Program would not work without its amazing partnership with over 70 teachers and principals in all ten NCS elementary and middle school buildings. PEAK (Providing Early Awareness and Knowledge) runs age-based college access programming for every second, fourth, sixth and eighth grade student. Janet Schultz, the *A Call to College* staff member who directs PEAK observes: "This big undertaking is successful for one simple reason: the unwavering support provided by a wide range of individuals in the district, as well as the wonderful enthusiasm of our young scholars. Only with a tremendous group effort are we able to deliver over 800 hours of college access outreach to nearly 2000

Newark youngsters!" Twenty four teachers in particular help *A Call to College* successfully sustain this programming - The PEAK Captains. At the second and fourth grade levels, two teachers from each of the seven elementary buildings volunteer to serve as liaisons with The PEAK Program. At the sixth and eighth grade levels, ten teachers give up class time and assist PEAK. We thank each teacher who has taken on this extra responsibility. The following is an overview of PEAK:

**Second grade:** It is never too early to talk about goals and college! PEAK engages second graders in four main activities during the year: a field trip to the downtown library, two reading weeks with special guests and College Comes Into the Classroom in April.

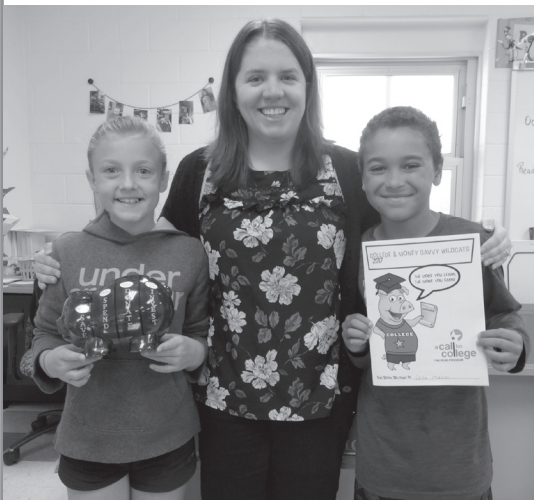
**Fourth grade:** Students learn that college and money go hand in hand during this nine week program that features a Piggy Bank Game, learning

fun facts about one Ohio college, being taught the four money management skills of spend, save, donate and invest and practicing the four College-Going Behaviors. In February all fourth graders experience a play performed at The Works that reinforces the fall curriculum.

**Sixth grade:** College Bingo, Career Jeopardy, Be a Transcript Detective and The King and Queen of College Knowledge are just a few of the fun ways that sixth graders become more



*Legend PEAK Captain, Melissa Broschak, pauses with four of her second graders during a tour of the Licking County Library. Exploring the Library is one part of a two hour field trip called Reading Rocks.*



*Fourth grade Cherry Valley Captain, Betsy Salyer, poses with two of her College & Money Savvy students during a PEAK class.*

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informed about college vocabulary, think about what they might want to do when they grow up and learn what they need to do in high school to be prepared for college. The capstone activity allows every sixth grader to visit one of seven college campuses.


**Eighth grade:** Shellie Herrmann, a partner teacher at Wilson feels Reality Store programming delivers “an authentic, close-to-real-life experience for my students. They are shocked that their money really doesn't go very far once they purchase the necessities like groceries, insurance, and child care. Several students have commented about how much it costs to raise a child. Many tell me they are going to thank their parents when they get home. The big takeaway: they realize they need to stay in school if they want a job that pays well.” 🐿️



Wilson Social Studies teacher, Aaron Head, stands with two of his students at the end of the first Kids2College session. Lesson one introduces Newark sixth graders to three possible options for continuing their education after high school: vocational or trade school, a 2-year college or a 4-year university.

**Attention Newark 4th, 5th and 6th graders!**  
Do you **LOVE** science? Want to explore a college campus?

Then register with your family to attend...



**Kids' Tech University**

**4 Saturdays: January 20, February 10, March 3 and April 14**

Interested in learning more?  
Contact Ms. Jen Anthony at [janthony@laca.org](mailto:janthony@laca.org)

Sponsored by The Works in partnership with Denison and Ohio State Newark



Liberty Language Arts teacher, Kristen Biehle, feels PEAK's Reality Store financial simulation game each spring teaches her students some valuable lessons: how much it costs to live as a grown up, that one's education is very connected to earning power, and most importantly, the serious consequences of dropping out of high school.

<b>2017 PEAK Captains</b>		
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>Ben Franklin</b>	Krysta Campbell	Cary Hock
<b>Carson</b>	Nichole Underhill	Heather Lange
<b>Cherry Valley</b>	Ashley Zaborniak	Betsy Salyer
<b>Hillview</b>	Cathi Peters	Alice Parini
<b>John Clem</b>	Kelly Nicholson	Amy Gillham
<b>Legend</b>	Melissa Broschak	Lori Fickes
<b>McGuffey</b>	Emily Drake	Jennifer Medved
	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
<b>Heritage</b>	Melissa Felumlee	T.J. Somers
<b>Liberty</b>	Fred Davis	Kristen Biehle Courtney Smith Cindy Pfister
<b>Wilson</b>	Aaron Head	Damien Brandon Shellie Herrmann Mackenzie Wilkins

# I Know I Can Go to College Week!

This October, 31 Denison athletes from the football team volunteered to read the book, I Know I Can, in each second grade classroom. The book follows four animal characters that aspire to go to college. Every second grader in the district was given this motivational reader and the curious students also interviewed their special guests about college. ↗



Denison senior, Charlie Mueller, answers the good questions about college prepared by this second grade classroom at Ben Franklin.



After each student was given a copy of their own book, the second graders recite a pledge entitled "A Commitment to My Future" located on the back page. Here CJ Davis and Ben Harder read the pledge out loud to the students, prior to the book signing.



Freshman wide receiver, Daniel Caine, poses with two happy McGuffey students after signing their books.



Students from Mrs. Huffman's class at Hillview pose with their brand new books and their special college guests, Chase Summers and Hunter Biddle.



## 'Cats in College – The Inside Scoop

This fall nearly 220 Newark High School graduates headed off to over 60 different colleges with a Last Dollar Grant from A Call to College helping them pay for their schooling. Let's meet one of these students:

**Drake Williams** is a 2014 NHS graduate in her senior year at Kent State University. A Fashion Merchandising major, she was an active participant in *A Call to College*.

**What were the 3 most important things you did in school to make going to college a reality?**

I worked very hard in school, doing my work on time and to the best of my ability. I also stayed very involved outside of school. Finally, it was important to think ahead. I kept a planner and wrote down assignments and obligations to stay organized.

**What tips would you give current Wildcats and their families to prepare financially for college?**

Since I come from a single parent home, I rely on financial aid to help me pay for college. One tip in terms of financing college: it's not as bad as you think, so don't be overwhelmed by the costs. Another thing I learned is to work if you can. I have had a job every summer since I first started college and that extra money has helped me a ton.



*Drake Williams in front of Kent State's main entrance*

**What are three tips you would give a current Wildcat about how to get the most out of college?**

Ask questions! There are so many people who are more than happy to help you and want to see you succeed. Get involved and stay involved. College can be a little overwhelming at first. You feel like you don't know what to do with your time or how to meet new people. What helped me through that struggle was getting involved and attending different campus events. Finally, do not get discouraged. There will be times that you feel like giving up, but just keep going, plan things out and always, always ask for help!

**What special experiences, like an internship or study abroad, have you had at Kent State?**

Last spring I studied in New York City for an entire semester! While there I was offered a full-time sales internship with the Josie Natori Company, while juggling a full load of classes. It was such an amazing, eye-opening experience. I am so grateful that I had this incredible opportunity.

**What does your dream career look like?**

I'd love to live in New York City with a career in the fashion industry, working as an assistant buyer or merchandiser for a company like Nordstrom or Macy's. ✨

**Our Favorite PEAK Phrase: "The More You Learn, The More You Earn!"**