Linda Coblitz, a young mother of three, saw a need for after-school programming in Ashtabula, the community in which she and her husband Rick lived and owned a business. She partnered with another parent, Pat Seymour, and at the Coblitz dining room table they developed what would become After School Discovery.

In the two decades that followed, ASD touched the lives of more than 30,000 students. Although primarily in Ashtabula Area City Schools, ASD has worked in virtually every school district in Ashtabula County and aims to expand its programs to all ages and districts as it promotes a culture of lifelong learning.

ASD takes a holistic approach to education, offering students opportunities to develop soft skills as well as to delve into subjects and learning opportunities that go beyond the core curriculum of the classroom. The world is ASD’s laboratory, and the program relies heavily upon community partnerships for talent, funding and educational experiences. The goal is to create a sustainable community by helping students identify their passion and equip them with the education and skills to pursue it where they are planted.

The programming is delivered in dedicated after-school classrooms at the Lakeside Elementary Campus, as well as during summer and at off-site venues. For example, the River of Many Fish summer program for students in grades 4-8 emphasized academics, personal development/organization, life enrichment, career building and service learning. Older students even had the opportunity to participate in a paid-job experience; some students were given the opportunity to participate in an independent learning track.

ASD’s funding is as diverse as its programming, but at the core of it are gifts from private, local foundations that believe in ASD’s work to create a sustainable community.

Photo: Matthew Smith of Ohio’s Scenic Rivers Program works with After School Discovery students on a water quality lesson.
Inset: A student in an After School Discovery summer program keeps her math and language skills sharp.
ASHTABULA AREA CITY SCHOOLS

Address: 2630 West 13th Street, Ashtabula OH 44004
Website: ascas.net
Email contact: patrick.colucci@neomin.org
Phone number: 440-993-2500
Area covered: 62 sq. miles
Enrollment: 3,895
Graduation rate: 75.1% 2012
Percentage entering higher ed: 64%
Preschool: Yes
Percentage of staff with master’s or higher: 74.9%
District requirements for graduation beyond state requirements: 23 high school credits to graduate...State minimum is 20 high school credits.
Athletic facilities: Lakeside Stadium, Eight lane all-weather track. Two baseball fields, Two softball Fields, Lakeside Gymnasium, Auxiliary Gym, LJHS soccer fields
Data network type: None at this time.
Use of personal digital devices: Wired and Wireless

Photo: Lakeside Junior and Senior high schools share a common campus off Sanborn Road in Saybrook Township.

Mission Statement: TOGETHER - Educating Students For Life.
BUCKEYE LOCAL SCHOOLS

Address: 3436 Edgewood Drive, Ashtabula Ohio 44004
Website: buckeyeschools.info
Email contact: www.buckeyeschools.info/contact.cfm
Phone number: 440-998-4411
Area covered: Ashtabula Twp., Kingsville, North Kingsville, part of Denmark, and part of Sheffield
Enrollment: 1,850
Graduation rate: 95%
Percentage entering higher ed: 80%
Preschool: No
Percentage of staff with master’s or higher: 73%
District requirements for graduation beyond state requirements: Economics, Workforce I and II
Athletic Facilities: Football stadium, soccer stadium, gym, baseball fields, softball fields, tennis courts
Data network type: All buildings are wireless
Use of personal digital devices: Tablets, laptops, PC, cell phones.

Mission Statement: The Buckeye Local School District unifies individuals, communities and resources to create a WORLD CLASS LEARNING COMMUNITY that gives ALL students the opportunity to be successful in THEIR future.

Photo: Students head to school at Kingsville Elementary, one of two neighborhood elementary schools in the Buckeye Local District.
Edgewood High School has a three-academy structure that is designed to meet the educational needs of students and demands of a global society. The academies are Workforce, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)/Early College and Humanities. The academies are made possible through a partnership with four Ashtabula Township industries.

Workforce prepares students to enter the world of manufacturing. To graduate, students must complete academic content as well as participate in job shadowing, working with a mentor and in group projects. Upon graduation, they are offered entry-level jobs in manufacturing.

The STEM Academy prepares students for higher education in one of the STEM disciplines. Students master the required content with emphasis on higher level math, computer science and other STEM courses. They also dual-enroll in post-secondary educational options and/or advance placement courses. The goal is to earn an associate’s degree simultaneously with the high school diploma. Mentors from one of the partner corporations provide guidance and support.

STEM and Workforce academies partners are Praxair, ASHTA Chemicals, Cristal and Gabriel Performance Products.

The Humanities Academy is focused on English, social sciences and arts. Again, students dual-enroll with the goal of earning at least 12 hours of college credit by graduation. All Edgewood students are required to take and pass on-line courses during their high school experience. Students earn credit through a variety of modalities and are given a degree of flexibility in the pace at which they learn.

Photo: A STEM teacher at Edgewood High School displays a three-dimensional printer students use in their academy work.
CONNEAUT SCHOOLS

Address: 400 Mill St, Conneaut OH 44030
Website: cacs.k12.org
Email: khouston@cacs.k12.org
Phone number: 440-593-7200
Area covered: City of Conneaut (26 square miles)
Enrollment: 1,750
Graduation rate: 83%
Percentage entering high ed: 63%
Preschool: Yes
Percent of staff with master's or higher: 85%
District requirements for graduation: State plus three plus 25 hours of community service
Athletic facilities: New SPARC football stadium and track complex; tennis courts in process
Technology: All buildings have 10G internal connections; building-wide wireless at all buildings except Lakeshore Primary
Busing: Provided only to K-8 students outside a 1-mile limit
CACS partners with the Conneaut Human Resources Center to provide Right Track, a grades two through five after-school intervention program serviced by district teachers. Two county-wide multi-handicapped units are offered at Lakeshore Primary and Gateway Elementary

Mission Statement: To inspire, educate and prepare our students and staff to achieve excellence in every endeavor they pursue
GENEVA AREA CITY SCHOOLS

Address: 135 S. Eagle St., Geneva, OH 44041
Website: genevaschools.org
Email contact: mary.zappitelli@neomin.org
Phone number: 440-466-4831
Area covered: 90 square miles
Enrollment: 2,700
Graduation rate: 90.6% 2013
Percentage entering higher ed: 75%
Preschool: Yes
Percentage of staff with master’s or higher: 70%
District graduation requirements: 21 credits
Athletic facilities: SPIRE Institute, world-class sports and education facility located within district provides practice and competition venue (football, track and soccer). Secondary complex includes two gyms, two baseballs fields, two softball fields, two soccer fields and additional practice fields. Six hard-surface tennis courts, two gyms and practice fields are at Geneva Middle School.
Technology: Computers available in media centers and computer labs in all buildings. Classrooms have Internet access for teacher-created and publisher-based curriculum materials.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Geneva Area City Schools is to strengthen and coordinate the efforts of our educators, our students, our parents and our community to ensure that our school district becomes a high performance district where all students attain high levels of academic achievement, a primary key to their success as individuals, workers and citizens.
GRAND VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Address: 111 Grand Valley Avenue, West, Suite A, Orwell, OH 44076
Website: grand-valley.k12.us
Email contact: william.nye@neomin.org
Phone number: 440-437-6260
Area covered: 128 square miles covering townships of Hartsgrove, Windsor, Rome, Orwell, Colebrook and a portion of New Lyme
Enrollment: 1,380
Graduation rate: 90.6 (Class of 2012)
Percentage entering higher ed:
College (4 year) 45% • College (2 year)/technical school 25%
Preschool: Yes, operated by the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center
Percentage of staff with master’s or higher: 70%
District requirements for graduation beyond state requirements:
U.S. History  Ohio = 0.5 unit  GVHS = 1.0 unit
Total Credits  Ohio = 20.0 units  GVHS = 21.0 units
Athletic facilities: 3 gymnasiums; field house & gym; weight facility; all-weather track and football complex; 2 baseball/softball fields
Data network type: Wired and wireless
Use of personal digital devices: Middle and high school students are allowed to bring in laptops or tablets, with teacher approval.

Mission Statement: The success of EVERY student counts.
Address: 121 S. Poplar St., Jefferson, Oh 44047
Website: jalsd.org
Email contact: See website
Phone number: (440) 576-9180
Area covered: See maps on website
Enrollment: 1,815
Graduation rate: 2012-13 89.7%
Percentage entering higher ed:
College 32% Technical School 21%
Preschool: No
Percentage of staff with master's or higher: 68.9%
District requirements for graduation beyond state requirements:
One additional elective (six total).
Athletic Facilities: New track/tennis courts/football stadium on high school campus.
Use of personal digital devices:
Laptops, all grade levels.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Jefferson Area Local School District is to provide an appropriate educational program and learning environment which will meet the educational needs of its students and help its students accomplish educational goals.
PYMATUNING VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOLS

Address: 5571 State Route 6 West, PO Box 1180, Andover, OH 44003
Website: pvsschools.k12.oh.us
Email contact: PVSchools@neomin.org
Phone number: 440-833-6488
Area covered: 177 square miles, including all of Andover Village plus all of Andover Pierpont, Richmond, Williamsfield, Cherry Valley and Wayne townships; part of New Lyme township.
Graduation rate: 93% (2012-13)
Percentage entering higher ed: Not reported.
Preschool: Yes, including special needs.
Percentage of staff with master’s or higher: Not reported.
District requirements for graduation beyond state requirements:
Business, fine arts or foreign language
Athletic facilities: Lake Stadium holds approximately 2,500 people for football and soccer games and also has an all-weather track. Campus has three practice fields for football and one for soccer. On campus is also a softball field, baseball field, and cross-country course.
Data network type: Fiber backbone connection (100 mbps) throughout the school district.
Use of personal digital devices: none

One historian notes that at least 100 oxen were required to pull the Grand River Institute's frame building from Mechanicsville to Austintown a few years after the school was founded in 1831. Another historian says it took 300 of the beasts.

Whatever the count was, the structure stood on the Austintown Township campus for more than 150 years before being razed. Today, the classic styling of the campus buildings remind visitors and students alike of the school's Western Reserve roots and heritage of academic excellence.

Founded as a school to prepare young men for the ministry by developing their minds, spirits and bodies, Grand River Institute required each student work four hours a day in the mills of Mechanicsville. While the manual labor requirement was soon abandoned, to this day GRA remains a place that helps “boys get back on the college-prep track.” The academy requires every student to be accepted to a college or university as a requisite for graduation. Small classes and high expectations are hallmarks of the boarding school.

While most of GRA’s students come from outside the county, about 13 percent of Ashtabula County’s students attend private schools. The largest of these schools is St. John, a pre-K-12 parochial school in Saybrook Township.

The single-campus school is supported by parishes of Ashtabula County, which is part of the Youngstown Diocese of the Catholic Church. St. John serves the entire county and transportation is provided to the building by public school buses.

St. John in the last five years underwent a parent- and community-led transformation that merged several Catholic schools into a former Ashtabula Area City Schools elementary building. Since that merger, St. John has become the fastest-growing parochial school in the Youngstown Ohio Diocese.

In Geneva, Assumption of the Blessed Mary School offers a pre-kindergarten through grade three program.

Ashtabula County also offers Christian academies, virtual (computer-based) learning options, and home-school support groups and resources.

Photos: St. John School in Saybrook Township offers a pre-K-12 Catholic education. The school has the fastest growing enrollment of any parochial school in the Youngstown Diocese. The campus of Grand River Academy in Austintown Township provides a setting for learning and personal growth. It is the oldest school in the county.
Where Great Things Happen • Ashtabula County Ohio

HIGHER EDUCATION

Kent State University
Ashtabula Campus - 3300 Lake Road W.
Ashtabula OH 44004
440-964-3322
ashtabula.kent.edu

Associate of Applied Business in:
Accounting Technology, Business Management Technology, Computer Technology, Information Technology for Administrative Professionals

Associate of Applied Science in:
Enology
Human Services Technology
Viticulture

Associate of Arts
Associate of Arts in Justice Studies
Associate of Science
Associate of Science in Hospitality Management
Associate of Technical Study

Associate Degrees, allied health, offered:
Nursing
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Technology/Physical Therapist Assistant
Technology Radiologic
Technology/Respiratory Therapy Technology

Bachelor Degrees offered entirely at KSU-Ashtabula:
BA in:
Communications (applied communications concentration)
Criminology and Justice Studies
English
Psychology
Sociology

Business Administration in
Business Management
Integrative Studies

B.S. in:
Integrated Health Studies (Health Care Administration and Systems Concentration)
Hospitality Management
Nursing (RN to BSN completion)
Technical and Applied Studies

KSU-Ashtabula also offers online courses and Professional Completion and Certificate programs.

Nearby: Lake Erie College, Lakeland Community College (Lake County);
Gannon University, Penn State (Erie, Pa.); Youngstown State University
Edinboro State University
A-TECH
Ashtabula County Technical and Career Center

Address: 1565 State Route 187, Jefferson, OH 44047
Website: atech.edu
Email: paul.brockett@tech.edu (high school)
christina.ray@tech.edu (adult workforce development)

Area covered: Ashtabula County
Enrollment: 980 11th and 12th grade students; 420 adults
Graduation rate: 99.2% secondary; 80% of adults complete programs; state test passage rate, 96.1%

Percent going to college or tech school: 73.4% are employed, in apprenticeships or post-secondary education

Preschool: Part of early childhood education career technical program
Percent of teaching staff with master’s: 33%
Network: WiFi
Programs: 21 career technical for high school students

Mission Statement: The Ashtabula County Technical and Career Campus in partnership with the wider educational, economic, and civic community, provides innovative, personalized education/training opportunities within a safe, supportive environment to enhance the quality of student and community life.

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Auto Collision Repair
- Automotive Technology
- Building Maintenance Technology
- Business Technology
- Business and Marketing Technology
- Career Discovery
- Carpentry
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Networking and Electronic Technologies
- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts
- Design Drafting
- Early Childhood
- Electricity
- Graphic Communications
- Health Care Academy
- Horticulture and Landscaping
- Masonry
- Power Equipment Tech
- Precision Machining
- Public Safety Academy
- Welding
- Multimedia (off campus)
- Computers and IT (off campus)
- Manufacturing Foundations (off campus)