



Press Release For Immediate Release

Contact Information:

Katie Neubert
Executive Director
937.422.3445

Kneubert@PiquaEducationFoundation.org

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Piqua Education Foundation Grant Helps Address the Rise in Childhood Trauma

Piqua, Ohio – The Piqua Education Foundation, whose mission is focused on enhancing the educational opportunities available to Piqua City School students and graduates, annually awards over \$300,000 in scholarships and up to \$25,000 in Education Grants. It is these Education Grant funds that support the implementation of new ideas and opportunities for students like the **Zones of Regulation Behavior Framework Grant awarded this summer by the Piqua Education Foundation.**

Piqua City School District's Springcreek Primary is utilizing the Piqua Education Foundation Education Grant award to help them meet the needs of their students. Through this grant, Springcreek Primary will be able to provide the students with opportunities to learn how to monitor and positively cope with their emotions and potentially negative impulses. **Julianne Bauer** and **Megan Williams**, who work respectively as a School Counselor and Behavior Specialist shared with the Piqua Education Foundation that there is a national rise in childhood trauma and that during the 2020-2021 school year alone that **"most of the [negative student] reports [within their school] could be seen as a student who had lost control and was unable to self-regulate."** In other words, these disciplinary actions were the result of a child being unable to cope with the emotions and stimulus that they were experiencing in a healthy manner and instead were acting out.

As children prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, they are doing so in an environment that may not only include domestic stresses related to bullying, food and housing insecurities and abuse but also larger issues related to devastating tornados, shootings, and a continuing global pandemic. The US Department of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) states on their website that **"More than two thirds of children reported at least 1 traumatic event by age 16."** They go on to share that "the impact of child traumatic stress can last well beyond childhood. . . and is a risk factor for nearly all behavioral health and substance use disorders."

The Zones of Regulation Behavior Framework Grant from the Piqua Education Foundation will help Springcreek teachers and administrators focus on prevention instead of punishment which often is too late and ineffective in dealing with the true issues behind an outburst. These Piqua Education Foundation Grant funds will be used to teach these elementary school students how to recognize and manage their emotions using proven techniques like:



Julie Bauer(L) & Megan Williams receiving check from Piqua Education Foundation Education Grant Committee Chair Jenni Huelskamp.

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- normalizing emotions,
- utilizing calming strategies and,
- learning how to help other students to regulate.

“The goal is” shared Ms. Bauer and Ms. Williams in their application, “to waste less time on behavior outbursts which will leave more time to focus on academic outcomes in the classroom. An added benefit is that the students will learn the skills needed for independent regulation and well-being that can be used throughout their lives.”



“Children are one of our greatest gifts and no matter how much we may want to protect them all, unfortunately that is not always possible” stated Dr. Doug Hulme, the president of the Piqua Education Foundation. **Dr. Hulme went on to say that “Childhood trauma impacts every child differently. It can lead to both short and long-term learning, physical, and mental health issues. Trauma is seen to increase the chances for the need for child welfare and juvenile justice systems.”** He went on to share about how proud the entire Piqua Education Foundation board of directors is to be able to support these teachers and the Springcreek students with this proactive

Zones of Regulation grant focused on implementing a behavioral regulation framework to address the effects of childhood trauma in Piqua. **“Together, we are enhancing the educational experience and the future of our students, and we could not do this without the dedication of teachers like Ms. Bauer and Ms. Williams”** Dr. Hulme finished.

To learn more about the Piqua Education Foundation visit: www.PiquaEducationFoundation.org.

To learn more about understanding the issues related to the causes and potential effects of childhood trauma, you can visit www.samhasa.gov or in Ohio you can reach out by calling the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services’ Ohio Care Line at 1-800-720-9616.

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Grant Award Picture available here:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/dpo/Image_Repository/Prod/PiquaEducationFnd16902.jpg

ABOUT THE PIQUA EDUCATION FOUNDATION: *In 1985, a small group of Piqua residents saw a need within our community to help Piqua City School graduates reach their post high school educational goals. Their actions lead to the creation of the Piqua Education Foundation. In 1986, the volunteer Board of Directors awarded \$7,000 in scholarships. By 2018, the Piqua Education Foundation Scholarship Awards had grown to over \$300,000 annually. In 2021, the Piqua Education Foundation celebrated having awarded over \$5 million dollars in total scholarships to more than 3,000 Piqua High School graduates since 1985. Annually, the Board’s Education Grants committee also provides up to \$25,000 worth of Grants to the dedicated staff and educators in the Piqua City School District focused on expanding the educational opportunities available to our students.*

Mission Statement:

The Piqua Education Foundation will enhance the educational opportunities of Piqua City School students, graduates and staff through securing and distributing contributions from the community including individuals, corporations, and foundations.

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