



Epworth 
United Methodist Church

4855 West Central Avenue, Toledo OH, 43615-2237

Epworth-Hawkins STEMM Academy Partnership



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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Kindergarten students listen to a story on Kindergarten Book Day, May 2023



6th grade students explain their “Silk Road” project to Epworth volunteers



Tutor Kay Heinrichs working with students.

Our Mission

The mission of the Epworth-Hawkins STEMM Academy Partnership is, in collaboration with other community STEMM partners, to promote the success of students through educational services and other activities that build relationships with Hawkins students, staff, and families.

Celebrate!

In May 2023 the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) announced that Hawkins STEMM Academy had received STEM School Designation. During the past three years Hawkins staff have participated in trainings focused on project-based learning and the development of a school culture rooted in the values of Community, Curiosity, Inclusion, Perseverance, and Stewardship. Hawkins was one of only 4 schools in Ohio to achieve this honor in 2023. The Ohio STEM Learning Network and ODE consider Hawkins to be a model school and have scheduled staff from two Ohio schools for residencies at Hawkins to view its best practices. Epworth Hawkins Partnership volunteers congratulate Hawkins Principal Veda Winfield, Instructional Coach Cindi Madanski, and Hawkins staff and students for earning this honor. We look forward to working together to build on this year's success.

Who We Serve

In the 2022-23 school year Hawkins STEMM Academy had a total enrollment of approximately 370 students. The boundaries of the Hawkins district are: North: Elmer (Botanical Garden), South: Dorr Street, East: western boundary of Ottawa Hills, West: I-475.

History of Our Partnership

During the winter of 2015, the Community Outreach committee and the Administrative Council of Epworth United Methodist Church approved the formation of a partnership between the church and Hawkins Elementary School, a TPS school located on West Bancroft Street. A team under the leadership of Pat Holmberg was recruited and a formal contract was signed with the Toledo Board of Education. By September 2016, the leadership team decided the primary volunteer service would comprise enhancing reading skills with a focus on kindergarten through 3rd grade.

Over the next five years, added services have included providing volunteers for the school library (which would not have remained open without our support), Book Initiatives, assistance with special events at the school, and joining a partnership with Toledo GROWs, OSU Lucas County Extension Office, and the Toledo Public Schools Natural Science Technology Center to support a Garden Club. The Epworth-Hawkins partnership has provided volunteers and financial support for an emergency clothing closet operated by the school nurse, and the school supply pantry hosted by Grace Church that serves teachers at five elementary schools, including Hawkins, and Rogers High School. In addition, we produce an E-Newsletter that is distributed to our volunteers.

From 2016 through the 2018-19 school year, the partnership supported 5th and 6th grade girls and boys basketball teams with equipment and volunteer coaches funded by the Toledo Community Foundation. We also secured a grant from the Toledo Downtown Rotary Foundation to purchase a new electronic basketball scoreboard.

Each year additional services have been included, with a volunteer force numbering from 40 to 50.

In fall 2019, Hawkins Elementary became Hawkins STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) Academy, which will lead to many partnerships in the area of career development. Our involvement grew to include monthly staff recognition and support of Parent Power Hours (parent engagement activities). The Epworth-Hawkins Partnership is a founding member of the Community STEMM Connection, organized in November 2020. Members of this collaboration represent SSOE, Metroparks Toledo, Hawkins STEMM Academy, Epworth, Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo, Reynolds Corners Rotary Club, Toledo Zoo, Toledo Safe Routes YMCA, Hawkins STEMM Grandparent Program, and Hawkins parents. The Community STEMM Connection is a collaborative effort to foster learning that will promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and inquiry-based learning for the students of Hawkins STEMM Academy.

Epworth-Hawkins Partnership Activities, 2022-23 School Year

In the 2022-23 school year, Epworth-Hawkins Partnership volunteers supported and assisted Hawkins students, staff, and families in a number of ways.

- **Tutoring** –Epworth tutors worked with students in grades K-8 weekly, in response to teacher requests.
- **Book Initiatives:** These programs have the goal of putting books in the hands and homes of Hawkins students with a focus on grades K-5. At Kindergarten Family Night in September, kindergarten families are invited to a family dinner and learn from kindergarten teachers about the importance of reading with your child. Epworth gives each family an age-appropriate book. 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Book Clubs were held for 6 weeks in the spring. Reader Bags, in which 1st and 2nd grade students can borrow a bag with 2 age-appropriate books every week, began in October and continued through mid-May. On Kindergarten Book Day in May, Epworth gave each kindergarten student a new hardcover copy of *Click Clack Moo*, and a story teller from the Reynolds Corners branch library read the book to each kindergarten class.
- **Library** –Epworth volunteers assisted in staffing the library two days a week, every other week, assisting the librarian who is at Hawkins one day every other week.
- **Garden Club** – The Garden Club is supported by a partnership among Toledo GROWS, the Toledo Public Schools Natural Science Technology Center, Metroparks Toledo and Epworth. Epworth volunteers met with students monthly throughout the school year, and help maintain the garden during the summer.
- **Staff Recognition** - The goal of staff recognition is to make all the staff feel appreciated and put a smile on their faces. Once a month, we deliver purchased, individually wrapped snacks and notes of appreciation to the Hawkins office.
- **School Supply Pantry** - Epworth contributes annually to the school supply pantry located at Grace Church that serves teachers from Hawkins, four other elementary schools, and Rogers High School. Epworth volunteers helped staff the pantry one day a month from September through April.

- **STEMM Collaboration** – The Epworth-Hawkins Partnership is an active participant in the Community STEMM Connection, a collaboration among Metroparks Toledo, Hawkins STEMM Academy, Epworth, SSOE, the Toledo Zoo, Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo, Reynolds Corners Rotary Club, Toledo Safe Routes YMCA, Hawkins STEMM Grandparent Program, and a Hawkins parent representative to foster learning that will promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and inquiry-based learning for the students of Hawkins STEMM Academy.
- **8th Grade Recognition** - Our volunteers assisted Hawkins STEMM Academy staff at the 8th Grade Recognition, by providing and serving cake at a reception following the ceremony.
- **Science Fair** - Epworth volunteers helped to staff the Imagination Station Earth and Science Fair in March.
- **Field Day** - Our volunteers helped with monitoring games and serving lunch to Hawkins students and staff on Field Day in May.

2022-23 School Year Overview (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

Tutoring

30 students and 11 teachers served weekly, 16 volunteers, 339.9 hours

Library

190 students and 11 teachers served weekly, 3 volunteers, 185 hours

Book Initiatives

- Kindergarten Family Night: 3 teachers, 6 volunteers, 12 hours
- Kindergarten Book Day: 42 students and 2 teachers served, 3 volunteers, 3.75 hours
- Book Clubs: 24 students served, 3 volunteers, 14.25 hours
- Reader Bags: 60 students and 4 teachers served, 6 volunteers, 122.5 hours

Garden Club

20 students served, 4 volunteers, 20 hours.

Staff Recognition (monthly)

Delivered treats for 60 staff members, 1 volunteer, 20 hours.

Grace School Supply Pantry

20 teachers served each month, 5 volunteers, 36 hours.

Science Fair

250 students, 10 volunteers, 61.25 hours

Field Day

400 students, 6 volunteers, 12.25 hours

8th Grade Recognition

40 students, 3 teachers, 2 administrators, and 200 family members participated; 4 volunteers, 6.25 hours.

Nature Night

3 volunteers, 3 hours

Total Volunteers (unduplicated): 29

Total Volunteer Hours: 839.9

Leadership Team

5 volunteers

Administrative and program hours **652.15**

TOTAL PARTNERSHIP VOLUNTEER HOURS 1,492.05

Teams, Church and Community Partners

Hawkins STEM Academy Staff: (Total staff: 55)

Hawkins students and their families benefit from the efforts of a staff that provides a wide range of expertise:

- Administrative: Principal, Assistant Principal, School Counselor (part-time)
- Special Services: Occupational Therapist (Part Time), Speech & Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Psychologist
- Instructional staff: 7 Intervention Specialists, ESL Teacher (Part-time), 18 Regular Education Teachers, 3 Full-time and 3 Part-time Specialists (PE, Music, Art), Virtual Academy Teacher, 4 Paraprofessionals, Educational Technology Instructor, Instructional Coach, Media Specialist
- Support services: 3 TACKLE Case Managers, School Nurse, Administrative Assistant, part-time secretary, 2 Site Coordinators, Evening Custodian, 3 Cafeteria Workers

Epworth-Hawkins Partnership Volunteers 2022-23

The Epworth-Hawkins Partnership could not function without the help of our many dedicated volunteers. Some have been with us for seven years, and some just joined this year.

Luann Alleman
Sally Atkinson
Jamie Aubry
Lynn Bachelor
Kay Bennett
Madora Bennett
Teresa Betts-Cobau
Cindi Bishop
Joyce Blanton
Ellen Bradley
Lindsey Burmeister
Joanne Champion
Jan Devany
Sue DiSalle
Kay Heinrichs
Pat Holmberg
Paul Jednak

John Juvinall
Carolyn Kaminski
Susan Kanwal
Martha Kupsky
Nancy Lincoln
Barb Machin
Sue Murphy
Sandra O'Phelan
Mary Passino
Linda Pokrajac
Polly Richardson
Michael Riethmiller
Bob Rochowiak
Sue Rochowiak
Cathy Schuster
Elaine Wright

Celebrating former leadership team members

Luann Alleman
Laura Bensman
Sherry Clark
Becky Fike

Kyle Grefe
Carol Haddix
Marsha Palmer
Polly Richardson
Cathy Schuster

Leadership Team 2022-23

Pat Holmberg, Team Leader
Lynn Bachelor, Communications/Data Management
Kay Bennett, Book Initiatives
Cindi Bishop, Staff and Volunteer Recognition/Recruitment
Barb Machin, Tutor Assignments

Our Partners in the Church and Community

- **Community STEMM Connection partners:** in addition to Epworth and Hawkins, the following organizations participate in this collaboration: Metroparks Toledo, Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo, SSOE, Safe Routes YMCA, Toledo Zoo, and Reynolds Corners Rotary Club. Additional participants are a Hawkins parent, and a representative of the Hawkins STEMM Grandparent Program.
- **Epworth Missions/Community Outreach Action Team:** provided financial support, coordinated collection of school supplies from congregation, collection of Advent donations
- **Individual members of Epworth congregation:** monetary donations to Hawkins Partnership, contribution of school supplies, and small toys to Hawkins Hut
- **Epworth Education department:** donations of hats and mittens from children's classes
- **Epworth Friends in Faith book club:** donated funds to purchase books for book club
- **Epworth Communications director:** continued assistance with logo and other designs
- **Epworth Church:** provided a Community Outreach office and staff accounting management
- **Grace Church:** teacher school supply pantry serving Rogers High School, Hawkins and four other elementary schools.
- **Garden Club partners:** The Garden Club is supported by a partnership among Toledo GROWs, Toledo Public Schools Natural Science Technology Center, Metroparks Toledo and Epworth.
- **Vito's Pizza:** supports special events at Hawkins.

More information: For more information, please visit the Epworth-Hawkins Partnership website: <https://www.epworth.com/serve/in-our-community/pages/hawkins-stemm-academy-partnership>.