New Heights Educational Group, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization located in Defiance, Ohio. We provide educational support services beginning 2006 for families in Ohio to bridge the gap from inadequacies in home school, charter school, and public school systems.

Our Mission Statement

The New Heights Educational Group Inc. supports literacy for children and adults by offering a range of educational support services. Such services include assisting families in their selection of schools, organization of educational activities, and acquisition of materials. We promote a healthy learning environment and offer Enrichment programs for families of preschool and school age children, including children with special needs.
March 2015

To make yourself better, takes action. To learn something new, takes action. Failure to try, won't change anything.

ON MY MIND

Pamela Clark
9th annual awards will be presented on February 27 in Las Vegas

Defiance, Ohio – January 22, 2015

Pamela Clark of the NHEG was named a Finalist in the Customer Service Leader of the Year category in the ninth annual Stevie® Awards for Sales & Customer Service, and will ultimately be a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Stevie Award winner in the program.

The awards are presented by the Stevie Awards, which organizes several of the world’s leading business awards shows including the prestigious International Business Awards and the new German Stevie Awards. The final results will be announced during a gala banquet on Friday, February 27.

More than 1,900 nominations from organizations of all sizes and in virtually every industry were evaluated in this year’s competition, an increase of 27% over 2014. Finalists were determined by the average scores of 139 professionals worldwide, acting as preliminary judges. Entries were considered in 54 categories for customer service and contact center achievements, including Contact Center of the Year, Award for Innovation in Customer Service, and Customer Service Department of the Year; 50 categories for sales and business development achievements, ranging from Senior Sales Executive of the Year to Business Development Achievement of the Year; and categories to recognize new products and services and solution providers. The Business Development categories are new for 2015.

In response to this achievement, Pamela Clark said, “I am truly honored to be recognized as a finalist. Customer service is very important to us at NHEG. I’m thankful to all the judges and our amazing volunteers, students and their families for all their support.”
WHAT IS COMMON CORE?

The Common Core lobbying push began in 2006, when NGA chair and then-Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano (D) launched her Innovation America campaign. Napolitano’s goal was to “give governors the tools they need to improve math and science education, better align postsecondary education systems with state economies, and develop regional innovation strategies.”

An ensuing task force composed of the NGA, the Council of Chief State School Officers, and the progressive educational group Achieve Inc. produced a 2008 report titled “Benchmarking Success: Ensuring U.S. Students Receive a World Class Education.” The writers urged state leaders to “upgrade state standards by adopting a common core of internationally benchmarked standards in math and language arts for grades K-12 to ensure that students are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to be globally competitive.” This same advisory group proceeded to jointly develop the standards known today as Common Core State Standards.

The testing rubric sets K-12 grade-specific goals for English, language arts, and math. In theory, these standards would ensure that students in every state are reaching the same academic level. At the same time, teachers still have the freedom to craft lessons at will, as long as they include the material needed for students to pass the national benchmark. Regardless of where a family relocates, or what school system they transfer into, a student should be able to enter the academic setting with confidence that they can keep up.

Microsoft guru Bill Gates eventually became one of Common Core’s biggest champions after activists sold him on the idea in 2008. Gates then heavily funded the organizations that pushed the Common Core standards and those same organizations are now set to use Microsoft products for their digital learning programs. “I want to explain why Common Core is among the most important education ideas in years,” Gates wrote in a February 12, 2014 USA Today op-ed. “The standards are just that: standards, similar to those that have guided teachers in all states for years, except these standards are inspired by a simple and powerful idea: Every American student should leave high school with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and in the job market.”

Initially, 45 states agreed to join the initiative in 2009. And in many respects, the program started off on the correct foot. It did not take long, however, for states to recognize the product’s false packaging and the potentially detrimental effects it would bring to their state.

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST COMMON CORE

EVERY CHILD IS UNIQUE.
COMMON CORE EDUCATION STANDARDS 
PUT EACH CHILD INTO ONE MOLD.
Volunteers of the Month

Kevin Adusei
Faranak Aghdasi
Arshad Alikhan
Alexandra Amaya
Rebekah Baird
Khrista Cendana
Linda Clark
Zach Clark
Briana Diner
Weiyu Huang
Robert Kirchgassner
Kevin Lee
Geetha Lingasamy
Tejaswi Materla
Desiree McMillan
Lisa Schroeder
Savneet Singh
Cuyler Spangler
Rivan Stinson
Julie Suffel
Annie Thomas
Shannon Williamson
Kathy Woodring
Yiren Qu (Ramon)
Marina Klimi
Vasudha Bist
Defiance County Farm Bureau is once again offering a $500 college scholarship to a 2015 graduating high school senior. Applicant must be a son or daughter of a CURRENT Defiance County Farm Bureau member (call 419-445-0723 if parents are not currently members and would like to become a member). First preference will be given to those applicants who are majoring in Agriculture, Home Economics and Science areas. Applications are due Wednesday, April 1st, 2015 to the Defiance County Farm Bureau, PO Box 53099, Pettisville, OH 43553 or e-mailed to fhwd@ofbf.org.

Saying goodbye is bitter sweet. Rebekah Baird thank you for all the work you did in creating our Student Advisory Group Crest and for being such a positive team player. We will miss you.
New Partnership Brings Low Cost Internet, Inexpensive Computers, and Free Computer Courses

The New Heights Educational Group has recently partnered with everyoneon to bring low-cost internet service and computers to families in need, along with discovering free courses to help you learn how to use the computer. You can visit www.everyoneon.org/newheightseducation to learn more about everyoneon or contact NHEG at NewHeightsEducation@yahoo.com or call (419) 786-0247. Whether it’s finding a job, learning new skills, or helping students with their homework, everyone should benefit from internet connectivity.

Zach Leverenz Chief Executive Officer

Zach serves as the founding CEO of EveryoneOn, and has led the growth of EveryoneOn into a national force for social impact and inclusion. After six months of prototypes, Zach launched EveryoneOn nationally in March 2013 with a new ZIP-based eligibility algorithm that expanded EveryoneOn’s reach to 36 million Americans who are in-coverage and pre-qualified for $10/mo unlimited home Internet.
Interactive Classes

Soon you will see an entire new list of pre-recorded interactive classes on our site. Please visit our site often for updates. These courses are computer based and delivered to the user thru the internet. Due to their convenient delivery, interactive courses will become a major tool for those seeking to obtain education, training or certification in a given area of study. With growing access to computers and the internet, many organizations now offer interactive courses to educate and supplement the education of students and staff.
NHEG is publishing its first book: *One Nonprofit’s Journey to Success* is an inspiring story of the New Heights Educational Group and its rise as a nonprofit organization. The book throws light on the organization's mission, goals and the mammoth efforts of NHEG's Founder Ms. Clark and its volunteers to keep the organization completely afloat during difficult times. The book weaves together various services offered by NHEG, its relationship with the local people and, the awards and recognition it has earned over the years. The author, Savneet Singh, is one of the many volunteers at the New Heights Educational Group who generously donate amazing amount of their personal time to help NHEG in providing better services to children and families. She has worked closely with New Heights’ director Pamela Clark to complete this book. Although, Singh has written few other books but this is her first book in this genre. The book is scheduled to be published in February, 2015. We are sorry for the delays with this book we have had some unforeseen delays. Please visit our site for updates on this book release.
Our students have been invited to attend a Children's Concert on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the Veterans' Memorial Civic and Convention Center. The concert begins at 9:30 a.m. and will last approximately 50 minutes. These concerts are free educational service provided by the Lima Symphony Orchestra, The Lima Noon Optimists and the Ohio Arts Council. You need only to provide transportation to the Civic Center located at Town Square in downtown Lima. The orchestra includes students from NW Ohio comprised of almost 100 musicians. This year's concert is titled "Movies, Musicals, and Operas" Your students will experience an exciting collection of music from famous classical works, popular movies, and more! Our desire is to inspire all audience members to appreciate and enjoy orchestral music! Seating is limited in the concert hall, so please contact us to make your reservation as soon as possible.

March 24th, 2015
"Musicals, Movies, and Operas"
Children's Concerts@ 9:30am/11:00am in the Lima Civic Center
PUZZLE FUN

Scrambled St. Patrick’s Day

How many of these St. Patrick’s Day words and phrases can you unscramble?

1. chMr 11. rogaen
2. dogu kucl 12. iwh
3. oabriw 13. eaon
4. energe 14. aumolpeeh
5. onhrakos 15. gresni
6. pto fo diglo 16. tainsi
7. evlorc 17. igj
8. rpha 18. cranh
9. leoronl 19. oopedr
10. camgi 20. rehndo omSe

How many words did you unscramble?

1 – 5 words = You’re a leprechaun autotomated you!
6–10 words = You’re a step off the old Barney Panel
11–15 words = You’re smarter than a leprechaun!
16–19 words = You’ve won a four leaf clover!
20 words = You are all the gold at the end of the rainbow.

St. Patrick’s Day Crossword

Across
5. St. Patrick’s Day is believed to have driven these creatures out of Ireland.
6. This colour is associated with St. Patrick’s Day.
7. A three leaved plant associated with Paddy’s Day.
9. St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born here.
10. The largest St. Patrick’s Day parade in Britain is held here.

Down
1. The St. Patrick’s Day parade was first held here in 1761.
2. Saint Patrick’s Day is the national holiday of this country.
3. St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated every year on the 17th day of this month.
4. An Irish man is said to lead to a pot of gold if chased.
8. A musical instrument used for St. Patrick’s Day decorations.
New Volunteers:

Charlotte McGuire
2/11/15
Internet Radio Host (Common Core)

Asha Kumar 2/13/15
Data Entry and Research

Maria Ortiz 2/13/15
Internet Radio Host

Jeffrey T. Kidd
1/7/15
Student Advisory Group
  Student Leadership Council Assistant to Director

Alexandra Amaya
2/4/15
Scholarship Organizer

Vanh Vue 2/16/15
Researcher
  Tutor

Renee Miles
2/20/15
Research Coordinator

An Irish Prayer
May God give you...
  For every storm, a rainbow;
  For every tear, a smile.
  For every care, a promise.
  And a blessing in each trial.
  For every problem life sends,
  A faithful friend to share,
  For every sigh, a sweet song.
  And an answer for each prayer.
Fun 90s trivia questions and answers - general trivia.

Who unsuccessfully sued The Simpsons for royalties, noting: "I breast-fed those little devils"?  
A: Tracey Ullman.

What religious leader did Apple yank from its "Think Different" ad campaign in Hong Kong, so as not to offend China?  
A: The Dalai Lama.

What cartoon's rapid flashing sent 618 Japanese children to hospitals with nausea and seizures?  
A: Pokemon's.

What best-selling author was forced by his wife's divorce lawyers to abandon an attempt to buy the Minnesota Vikings?  
A: Tom Clancy.

What onetime dancer at the Purple Onion read a poem at Bill Clinton's inaugural ceremony?  
A: Maya Angelou.

What Melrose Place principal divorced a Motley Crue drummer and married a "Bon Jovi guitarist?  
A: Heather Locklear.
**FUNNIES 2015**

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*St. Pat driving the snakes out of Ireland*

*Crabby Road*

If you find a four leaf clover it means you have entirely too much time on your hands.

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*FAST FOOD? I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE WERE GOING TO HAVE IRISH FOOD IN HONOR OF ST. PAT'S DAY! WE ARE! HERE'S YOUR FISH & CHIPS!*
Tutors and/or Teachers are needed. We are in desperate need of volunteer and paid tutors and/or teachers in Defiance County. Anyone that would like to volunteer should contact us directly. We currently need reading tutors and a volunteer speech therapist; however you can apply to teach or tutor in any Subject, or grade level.
Missed a show? Check out past shows here:
http://www.newheightseduction.org/briana-dincher.html
http://www.newheightseduction.org/kathy-woodring.html

As they explore a new topic on education every week. . .

Sheakley is a family owned, outsourced human resources specialty firm dedicated to recognizing and meeting the growing needs of employers. We offer tailored solutions that help our clients attract, care for, protect, manage, and reward their most valuable asset/their employees.

Serving employers since 1963, we've evolved beyond our industry leading workers' comp and unemployment claims management, to now consistently and expertly offer and service comprehensive HR solutions. We proudly represent more than 50,000 clients. As a nationally recognized leader in the human resources and employee benefits industry, we provide our clients the freedom to focus on their core business. Having engaged Sheakley, they more than simply consider it done. They know, trust and value that it's done right.

Get to know Sheakley, and experience why our clients say, with Sheakley -- it's done.

Special Thank you to Car Donor Christopher Scotti from Dublin Ohio for donating his Jeep Liberty we received $383.43 from this donation.
IRISH Corned Beef Cabbage

Ingredients
- 3-4 lbs corned beef brisket
- 1 onion, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1-2 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 medium head of cabbage, cut into wedges
- 1 apple, sliced
- 1/4-1/2 teaspoon caraway seed (optional)
- 12 ounces dark beer

Directions
1. Place corned beef brisket and any seasonings included in your slow cooker. Top with onion.
2. Whisk together the vinegar, brown sugar, mustard, pepper and cloves and pour over top.
3. Add the cabbage wedges and apple slices and caraway seeds if using them.
4. Pour beer over top.
5. Cover and cook on low for about 7 hours or high for about 4-5 hours.

“Easy and delicious recipe for your slow cooker!”
Fort Wayne Crusader Baseball

The Fort Wayne Crusaders is a home-school baseball team that is recruiting athletes who are interested in playing competitively at the high school level. We have excellent coaches who know the game and who emphasize Christian character development. We keep costs very competitive by using service projects and other revenue sources. If you know of any home-school athletes who are interested in playing on a baseball team, please have them contact Kevin Bond at (260) 402-6089 or Klbondfw@gmail.com.

Special Thank you to Global Giving donors we received $185 in donations. This money is a blessing to NHEG.
The New Heights Show on Education

LIVE Internet radio program

Join Host Briana Dincher

Friday 4:30 pm - 5:00pm

New Heights

As she explores a new topic on education every week

SPREAD THE WORD

On the GOOD NHEG does!
How much homework should your child bring home?
According to veteran teachers Peggy Gisler and Marge Eberts, a popular guideline for assigning homework is about 10 minutes each night for first grade, plus an additional 10 minutes for each successive grade. That’s 10 minutes for a first-grader, 30 minutes for a third-grader, and 70 minutes for a seventh-grader. While guidelines are a good idea, remember that teachers do assign work at different rates, depending on what they’re doing in the classroom.

Giving students an excessive amount of homework in the early grades can turn them away from learning. It also robs young kids of the chance to do other activities after spending six or more hours on academic work in the classroom. It’s only when kids reach sixth grade that the amount of homework they do is directly related to how well they achieve in school. Before then, the effect of homework on achievement is almost nonexistent. If you’re concerned about homework, the best approach is to work through the parent-teacher organization to have the school establish a homework policy.

As far as taming the homework monster goes, it’s said that the best defense is a good offense. In this case, that means organization and good study habits! The following tips will help your child stay on top of his or her assignments.

#1. Have him use an assignment notebook, so he knows what homework is required each day.

#2. Introduce a planning calendar and show her how to use it when she begins to have long-term assignments.

#3. Your child should preview his assignments each day, and decide the order in which he will do them. It’s best to get the tougher tasks out of the way first!

#4. Teach her to review her work frequently.

#5. Get him an organizer, and show him how to organize all his school papers.

#6. Have her use a book bag to transport books and papers.

#7. Encourage him to establish a regular time for doing homework.

#8. She should keep old quizzes and tests to prepare for future tests.

#9. Eliminate distractions like phone calls and television during homework time.

#10. Establish a regular place for doing homework.
Give Your Children the Values They Deserve
Parents can combat societal pressures with the right approach.
By Dr. Charles Fay

Peers, TV shows, movies, magazines... With so many external pressures facing kids at younger and younger ages, parents often wonder:
How can I get my children to listen to me... instead of the 'cool' kids at school?

How do I teach my child the importance of hard work, honesty, and humility?

How can I reach them when they get so many messages that seem to say, "Who you are is not as important as how good you look, and how many toys you have?"

There is hope. Using the following tips, parents can have a much stronger influence than any friend or TV commercial:

Tip #1: Instead of telling your kids how to live, show them.
Wise parents commit lots of honest, respectful, kind, and responsible acts in front of their kids. Simply stated, actions speak louder than words. The next time another driver cuts you off or someone in your neighborhood needs help, treat the situation as an important opportunity to show your children how responsible, caring adults act.

Tip #2: Talk about your values when they're eavesdropping.
What we say in front of our kids is more important than what we say to them. When you do something great, talk about it within earshot of your kids. For example, when your child is sitting nearby, you might say to your spouse, "Honey, the clerk at the store gave me ten dollars too much in change. I could have kept it, but I gave it back. I always feel better when I do the right thing!"

Tip #3: Teach character and responsibility with empathy and consequences.
At the Love and Logic® Institute, we've found the most effective parents allow children to make mistakes in safe situations. Kids develop character and positive values when they learn that poor decisions result in uncomfortable consequences.

Parents who deliver consequences with anger raise kids who spend their lives feeling angry and who reject their parents' values. If those same parents replace anger with empathy, their children begin to see them as caring and recognize their values are important.

For more than three decades, Love and Logic has helped parents with these life-changing tips
One very grateful parent wrote, "As a teenager, our daughter got caught shoplifting. We were mortified! When this happened, we turned to Love and Logic. With lots of empathy instead of anger, we held her responsible for hiring her own lawyer and paying the court costs. That was fifteen years ago, and she's grown to be a wonderful, responsible young woman. On her thirtieth birthday, she even thanked us for being so strict!"

Give Love and Logic a try and join thousands of parents who have discovered easy and effective ways to improve their relationships with their kids and teach positive family values.

Photos by
Ramon Qu
The Absolute Cold
It may sound like science fiction but there is a scientific measurement for the coldest it can ever be. 0 degrees on the kelvin scale (-273.15 C) is the coldest matter can ever get. At that point it’s so cold even your atoms fall apart!

The Coldest On Earth
Last year, on December 10th the coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth took place. On a high ridge in Antarctica the temperature reached -92 C!

Warming Up the Car
It’s a common practice to let your car run for several minutes before actually driving it. While this might help you feel warmer when you get inside, it doesn’t benefit your car. Almost all engines are just fine being driven right from ignition, no matter what the temperature.

Getting Sick
Another common misconception is that being out in the cold will make you sick. This is a popular wives tale but is untrue. Getting a “cold” is a virus or bacteria that makes you sick, not the weather.

Winter Storm Watch
When severe winter weather threatens your area, a Winter Storm Watch is generally given. If you plan to be outdoors for a long time period or plan to travel, be sure to keep an eye out for changing weather conditions.

Winter Storm Warning
A Winter Storm Warning means that severe winter weather conditions have been spotted and are on the way to your area. Travel plans should be minimized if possible.

Blizzard Warning
A blizzard warning means large amounts of falling or blowing snow with winds of at least 35 miles per hour are expected for several hours. Travel is not recommended during a Blizzard Warning, you should remain indoors.

Wind Chill
Wind can pose a hazard to you and your skin during winter season. Wind Chill Equivalent Index is a calculation of how cold it feels outside when temperature and wind speed are combined. When winds combine with freezing temperatures the result is an air temperature that can feel about 35 degrees colder.
Great News!

Our Radio programs are now available on iTunes. You can find us at:

Our Student Advisory Group Logo was created by Rebecca Baird Graphic Designer from Meza, Arizona and Kevin Adusei Graphic Designer/Artist from Worcester, Massachusetts. They worked closely with Pamela Clark, the Director and had a lot of input from the SAG and SLC student members 2015.

**What is the Student Advisory Group**
New Heights helps students plan and save for their future by writing grants on their behalf. In return, students participate in advisory group meetings and raise funds for themselves/New Heights. The Student Advisory Group promotes youth leadership; service-learning; and critical thinking among students of all ages. Student advisors offer programming suggestions, delegate responsibilities to other students, and bring a valuable perspective to New Heights' work. All opinions are important, and all points of view will be respected.

**Current members of our student groups**
Briana Dincher – SLC President and News Reporter
Sadia Eijaz – SLC Vice President
Kaylee King – SAG Historian
Cuyler Spangler – SAG Recreation Leader
Kathryne Spangler – SAG Refreshment Leader
Desiree McMillan – SLC Member

Facebook Page: StudentAdvisory@groups.facebook.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/StudentAdvisory/

**Member Responsibilities**
1) Assist with public relations and fundraising
2) Attend online/in-person meetings (cannot miss more than two per year)
3) Work as a team to accomplish goals
4) Make recommendations and/or provide key information to board members
5) Plan and successfully execute group programs/activities
6) Actively listen and offer the director constructive, positive feedback

Did you know that we offer student leadership opportunities. Student Advisory Group is for students 7–13 years of age and with a minimum GPA of 3.0. The Student Leadership Council is for students in grades 9–12 and college students 14–23 years of age and with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
February 12, 2015

Congrats to The New Heights Educational Group

Which was selected as a FINALIST for the TechSoup.org Remote Work Success Story Campaign! If we are chosen as a winner, in addition to receiving your telework prizes, your organization’s story will accessible to TechSoup.org and TechSoup Global’s 4 million annual visitors! They will also share the finished product with us for your own promotion.

TechSoup for Libraries is an initiative of TechSoup Global, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Initial funding for TechSoupforLibraries.org came from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

“We are an all-volunteer organization with limited professional skills. Adobe’s donated technology is helping us present our story to the public and to lenders in the format of a much larger organization. With Adobe, we are able to knock off a few of the "rough edges" so that our story is front and center instead of our technological limitations.”

Richard de Koster
Constitution Island Association

“We upgraded from Office 2003 to 2010 and are implementing, in particular, the improved features of calendaring. Our main program building was lost to an arson fire two years ago, and until we finish rebuilding, we are using an off-site location, so tracking all facilities and peoples’ calendars has become critical. We LOVE Outlook 2010’s calendaring!”

Melinda Storch
The Dougy Center

“We received a donation of smartphones from Dell. As the six people who work with me are in different parts of New Jersey and constantly on the route helping our clients, we find this an excellent way to stay in touch with everyone.”

Gustavo Lopez
National MS Society