

# WICKLIFFE CITY SCHOOLS

## LEARN. LEAD. SERVE

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### Documentary Inspires Schools, Communities & Businesses to Re-imagine Education

**October 19, 2015 – Wickliffe, OH** – Educators, parents, and business leaders who attended the screening of the documentary “Most Likely to Succeed” and the discussion panel that followed on Monday night at The Lubrizol Corporation’s World Headquarters in Wickliffe came away inspired with a new perspective on how we can all work together to create new and better possibilities for our kids, our community, and our future.

Several area school districts and education organizations partnered with The Lubrizol Corporation to host the screening of the film, which inspires its audiences with a sense of purpose and possibility, and is bringing schools, communities, and businesses together in re-imagining what our students and teachers are capable of achieving. Sponsoring the event were Wickliffe City Schools, Perry Local Schools, Fairport Harbor Exempted Village Schools, Painesville City Schools, Riverside Local Schools, Willoughby-Eastlake Schools, Lake County Educational Service Center, and Madison Local Schools.

“In order for today’s students to succeed, we must provide them with a dynamic learning environment,” said Ms. Julie Ramos, Director of Strategic Innovation for Wickliffe City Schools. “We need to develop our schools based on what is best for our kids. Successful collaborative events, such as this movie screening and the panel discussion between educators, community and business help us in designing and discovering these learning opportunities.”

Following the film, Wickliffe Schools Superintendent, Mr. Joe Spiccia facilitated a panel discussion featuring Lubrizol Facilities Manager Mr. Dave Skursha, Perry Local Schools Superintendent Dr. Jack Thompson, and the Executive Director of the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Dr. Dan Keenan. Each panelist shared insight from his perspective on the impact of education and how it needs to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

The modern workplace values skills like collaboration and critical thinking. The current model for the educational system in America has been in place since 1892 and has changed little since, despite radical changes in our economy that has drastically shifted due to changes in technology. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2015 and chronicles one business’s ability to impact a school to re-think the way public education operates. As the documentary traces the story of a school in San Diego that is completely rethinking what the experience of going to school should look like, the audience is compelled to consider how the educational landscape needs to change in order for students to succeed in the 21st century.

In an effort to continue this partnership and to expand learning opportunities for kids, Wickliffe City School District and Perry Local School District have teamed up with Yellow Springs School and MC2 STEM as collaborators in the Authentic Personalized Learning for Higher Achievement (ALPHA) initiative. ALPHA allows for the building of capacity of educators and the creation of deeper learning opportunities for kids, with the end result being schools better matching student interests with the changing needs of an increasingly technological and 21st century skills-based job market.

This initiative will provide more personalized project-based experiences with authentic learning opportunities for kids and will support their career choices vs. the fast growing high demand fields. These authentic classroom project-based opportunities, along with the work-based learning experiences shared collaboratively by students and staff from participating schools, will result in more engaging instruction and a deeper learning experience for students. Wickliffe and Perry will receive the training from Yellow Springs and MC2 STEM, who have trained at High Tech High in San Diego, the same school the aforementioned film “Most Likely to Succeed” is about.

The Wickliffe City School District’s mission is to inspire students to learn, lead, and serve. Through its strategic plan we will work to support and achieve our mission.