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Clay Avenue Community School Wins National Awards

TOLEDO, Ohio – As students, parents, and school officials across Ohio prepare and begin another year in the classroom, Clay Avenue Community School here has announced it has won two national awards for academic achievement and character education at its operating company's annual meetings this summer in St. Louis.

"I am so proud of our students, their parents, and our staff. For just one year of operation, we have accomplished so much at Clay Avenue Community School, and it is gratifying to see that we stack up with the best across the nation," said Marlene Mills, director of the school. **"This is a great start, and we look forward to building on our success so our students are ready to make a difference in their families, our communities, and our state."**

Clay is one of 51 Imagine schools in 11 states. Imagine is a community and charter school operating company based in Arlington, Virginia. Imagine conferred the awards on Clay Avenue Community School at its annual, national forum attended by over 700 employees. The school won two of the seven national awards that were bestowed.

Clay is sponsored by the Ohio Council of Community Schools, based in Toledo. Allison Perz, executive director of OCCS, said she was extremely proud of the leaders, students, and parents at Clay Avenue Community School.

Mills, a former principal at Clay and formerly the superintendent of Mason Consolidated Schools, has been an educator for 28 years, serving as a principal in both elementary and middle schools. She has also worked as a curriculum director, director of state and federal programs, director of gifted and talented programs, and a special education teacher.

Clay Avenue experienced extraordinary progress, particularly in math, where its students averaged 1.4 years of growth in mathematics. That is, on average, Clay students completed 1.4 years of progress in math in just one year of school. Clay students also experienced unusually strong progress in their reading studies, school statistics show.

Such progress is the result of an aggressive student assessment regimen in which student progress is measured at very consistent intervals to make sure they stay on track and are making



progress. The school puts a heavy emphasis on math and reading, as school leaders believe those subjects are at the core of success for every student.

Imagine School on Clay Avenue is truly a Community School. Last year the students were involved in collecting food for kindness baskets and the staff organized outside groups and contributed themselves to families in need of clothing, furniture and food.

Clay Avenue Community School served grades K- 4, with an enrollment last school year that started at 133 and grew to 184 during the school year. The upcoming school year Clay Avenue enrollment is 249 students for k – 5 and growing daily.

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