



October 22, 2013

Lisa Shannon
Pupil Service Director
Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
77 E. Washington St.
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cleveland Clinic Center for Autism has met with the leadership team within the Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools to discuss and begin planning for the partnership of both agencies in the work described within the "S.T.R.E.A.M. for Progress" project. Our organization is supportive of our collaboration and is excited about the possibilities which will seek to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The innovative project promises to not only provide ASD services to students within a typical school environment, but will also afford these students the opportunity to access S.T.R.E.A.M. programming opportunities. As recently evidenced in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders Research (February 2013), "A study has found that students with autism chose majors in science, technology, engineering, and math, the so-called STEM majors, at higher rates than students without the condition." Similarly, this study found, "...that students with autism were more likely to choose STEM majors than the general population, the rate of students with the developmental disorder who actually enter college is far lower than average." This research suggests that opportunities for students with ASD to access S.T.R.E.A.M. (which includes STEM) programming may further enhance their post-secondary options.

We are excited not only about the partnership described within this project, but also look forward to increased collaboration and enhanced opportunities for school-based services. This promising innovative model has the potential to grow and be replicated across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TFrazier".

Thomas Frazier, PhD