



JANUARY 2026

ASPIRING EDUCATORS

NEWSLETTER



Matt's Maker Space



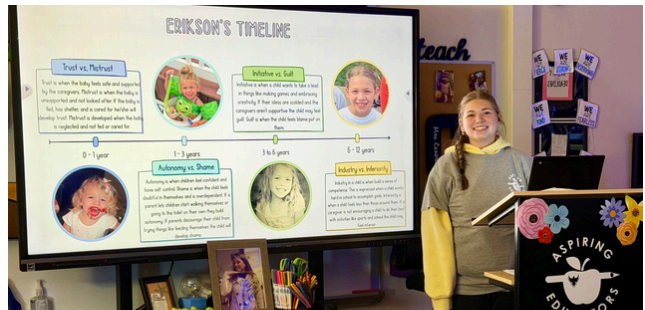
On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, many of our students gave up their day off to attend an in-service session with the Hempfield Area School District. During the session, students learned about Matt's Maker Space and Novel Engineering, exploring creative, hands-on instructional strategies that promote problem-solving, collaboration, and student engagement in the classroom.

Year 1 – Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

Students from three different grade levels visited the Aspiring Educators classrooms to participate in hands-on activities designed and led by our students, with one standout favorite being building a snowman using Bee-Bot robots. Photos of snowman pieces, including hats, scarves, eyes, and carrots, were placed on a grid, and students used introductory coding skills to program the Bee-Bots to navigate to each item. As the robots reached their destinations, students added each piece to their snowman, building it one part at a time. This interactive activity encouraged problem-solving, critical thinking, and teamwork while introducing younger students to foundational coding concepts in a fun, engaging, winter-themed way.

Year 1 – Growth & Development

Year One students continued their Typical and Atypical Growth and Development course by exploring additional educational theorists. Studying the work of Vygotsky, Bruner, and Bandura helped students connect child development concepts from birth through middle childhood. Students also learned about Erikson's Theory of Psychosocial Development and enjoyed sharing photos and personal stories that reflected their own growth through each of the eight developmental stages.



The Aspiring Educator students also attend one of our ten sending School Districts. Instructors: Mrs. Cesario & Mrs. Crist.

Year 2 – Cultural Perspectives

Year Two students have been actively connecting child development concepts to real-life situations they may encounter in classroom settings. Using case studies, classroom observations, and research-based learning, students examined how developmental theories apply to children’s behaviors, learning styles, and needs.



One research project focused on Cultural Perspectives on Childrearing, where students explored how children are raised in different countries and cultures. Students presented their findings and engaged in thoughtful discussions highlighting the similarities and differences in childrearing practices, helping them build cultural awareness and a deeper understanding of child development.



In the Spotlight

Exciting News!...

This month, we welcomed over 20 potential students into our classroom to learn more about the Aspiring Educators program and what it has to offer. Student applications are due by the end of February, and we look forward to reviewing them.

Educators Rising Club News

Our Educators Rising members had a busy month :

- **HOSTING** future students at an Aspiring Educators Experience Day at their Stanwood Elementary campus
- **SUPPORTING OTHERS/GIVING BACK** by beginning our tutoring sessions at Stanwood.
- **FUNDRAISING** by taking orders for Spectrum Fudge that will be delivered just in time for Valentine's Day gift giving!

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS:

- We will be selling Bracelet-grams during Valentine's Week. We are actively seeking volunteer opportunities for our club.



LOOKING AHEAD:

- 7 students will be competing at the Educators Rising State Competition on March 13, 2026 at Penn State University.

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