## **Military Family Support**

## Month of the Military Child

In 1986, the Secretary of Defense designated each April as "The Month of the Military Child" and all branches of services provide special days and events to honor their children. This commemoration recognizes the contributions that military children make as their parents, guardians and families serve our nation. Because of their resilience and ability to deal with life-changing events, military children are an inspiration and a source of pride for our nation.

## **Military Families Resources**

<u>Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission</u>: Ohio is one of 50 states involved in the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunities for Military Children, which is working to ensure that military children are properly enrolled in schools, have eligibility for school activities and have assistance in meeting graduation requirements. Learn about the compact on this website

<u>Ohio National Guard's Family Readiness Program</u>: This program provides information and tools for Ohio families, including educational resources, youth camps and recreational opportunities.

<u>Ohio Inter-service Family Assistance Coalition (ISFAC)</u>: The ISFAC serves as a statewide "safety net" in support of Ohio military families. The ISFAC connects military families with national, state, regional and community resources as well as volunteer support services.

<u>Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC)</u>: The Military Child Education Coalition's work is focused on ensuring quality educational opportunities for all military children affected by mobility, family separation and transition. | <u>Voice for the Military Child: a newsletter for friends of the MCEC</u>

Ohio Military Kids: Ohio Military Kids (OMK) is a collaboration between the Ohio National Guard and The Ohio State University's 4-H Youth Development Program. The goal is to create community support networks for Military Connected Youth when they experience a deployment. Programs are intended to let Military-Connected Youth know they are not alone and provide them with the tools to cope with the stresses involved with being part of a military family. Programs include Hero Camps, Troop, and Family Camps, Youth and Teen Camps, Teen Leadership Camp, and Parent Workshops. Contact information – Kayla Oberstadt, OMK, <u>oberstadt.1@osu.edu</u> Andrew Seward, Ohio National Guard Youth Program, <u>andrew.j.seward.ctr@mail.mil</u> <u>Military Kids Connect</u>: Military Kids Connect is an online community where kids can de-stress and connect with other military kids their own age. There are three age-based sections, kids (ages 6-8) tweens (ages 9-12), and teens (ages 13-17).

<u>Our Military Kids</u>: Our Military Kids gives grants up to \$300.00 per child per deployment, deployment must be out of the country. The money can be used for a variety of things, sports camps, tutoring services, dance classes, and so on.

<u>United Through Reading</u>: United Through Reading connects military families who are separated – for deployment or military assignment – by providing the bonding experience of shared storytime.

<u>National Military Family Association</u>: Provides information and resources related to services and programs for military families.

<u>Child Care Aware</u>: Child Care Aware of America (CCAoA) works with a national network of child care resource and referral agencies and other partners to ensure that all families have access to quality, affordable child care. CCAoA also provides child care assistance for military families through Fee Assistance and Respite Child Care Programs that have served more than 150,000 families and worked with more than 60,000 child care providers over nearly two decades.

<u>Department of Air Force CYP</u>: The Department of the Air Force Child and Youth Programs assists military and civilian personnel in balancing the competing demands of the mission and family life by catering programs and services for eligible children and youth from birth through 18 years of age.

<u>Military OneSource</u>: Military OneSource is a Department of Defense program that provides free services to all members of the military, regardless of branch or component. Some of the services include NonMedical Counseling, Health & Wellness Coaching, Education Consultations, and Special Needs Consultations. Contact – (800)-342-9647

## CHS Military Family Liaison: Mr. Andrew Zimmerman azimmerman@claymontschools.org