

# Northwest News

Northwest Local Schools  
8614 Erie Ave. N  
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

October 2009 :: Issue 1 of 4



*Fiscally Responsible...Quality Academic Education*

## Northwest Forum:

You have questions,  
we have answers.

[www.northwest.sparcc.org](http://www.northwest.sparcc.org)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

How Do YOU, Our Citizens,  
Want to Move Forward?

We Want Your Input

State Budget Woes Threaten  
the District

Temporary Bus Transfer

Middle School Welcomes  
Speaker on Character

One Family Makes a Difference

Grandparent & VIP Day  
Celebrates Quality Academic  
Education

The Superintendent Seeks  
Your Input

Northwest Celebrates Another  
National Merit Scholar

At the Very Bottom

Northwest Clinches NBC  
Crown in Golf

## How Do YOU, Our Citizens, Want to Move Forward?



## We Want Your Thoughts

In order to have a school district, you **MUST**:

- have community support
- be fiscally sound
- have quality programs

**Considering these criteria,  
is Northwest still a school district?**

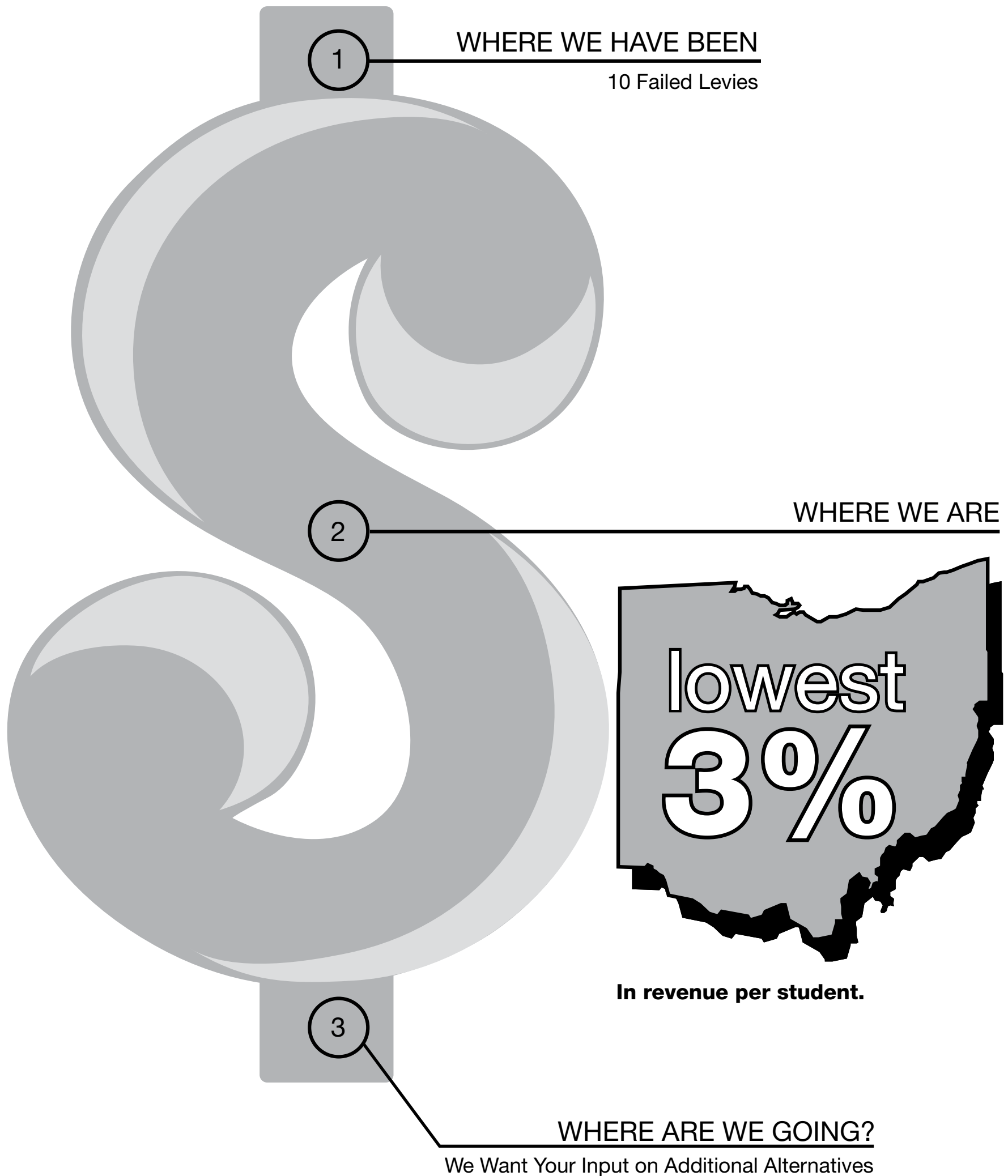
**We want your thoughts.** Leave your feedback online  
at [www.northwest.sparcc.org/contact.cfm](http://www.northwest.sparcc.org/contact.cfm), call us  
at 330-854-2291, e-mail Superintendent Stetler  
at [Stetler.w@northwest.sparcc.org](mailto:Stetler.w@northwest.sparcc.org) or send us a  
letter at 8614 Erie Ave. N., Canal Fulton, OH 44614.



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## WE WANT YOUR INPUT



**We can't continue as we are. Please provide your thoughts.**

# State Budget Woes Threaten the District

The state’s budget problems may have a devastating effect on the finances of the Northwest School District, based upon Governor Strickland’s recent statements. Strickland has been analyzing the effects that the Ohio Supreme Court’s ruling on video slot machines will have on funding for education. The ruling calls for a referendum in November 2010 on slot machines at race tracks. Monies generated from the video slot machines had been earmarked for education, and the governor says primary and secondary education funding could be cut by \$2.3 billion. That could translate into reductions of 10.3 percent the first year and 15.7 percent the second year.

Those percentages translate to a loss of about 2.3 million dollars over a two-year period in Northwest. Superintendent Bill Stetler says that cut makes a bad financial situation even worse, “One mill in Northwest generates \$260,000. It would take approximately 9 mills of local revenue to make up the loss from the state funding for that two-year period.” Stetler adds, “Northwest’s financial condition is very fragile at this point. We have the worst cash balance in the state, we are over one million dollars in debt and we cannot survive a loss of this nature.”

Governor Strickland has suggested the state roll back the final year of state income-tax cuts as one means of dealing with the budget’s current shortfall. If the state does not continue to meet current spending levels in

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education, the budget is threatened further with the loss of stimulus funds. As the governor is meeting with leaders of the House and Senate to try to work through the financial crisis, officials of the Northwest School District have been struggling to maintain the district while facing an increasingly uncertain future. Treasurer Dan Levensgood explains the challenge: “The district is doing what it can to control expenditures by making reductions where possible; however, the financial well-being of the district continues to be dependent on revenue streams outside our control.”

## Temporary Bus Transfer

Parents often request that another student (who may not normally be assigned to the bus route) ride home with someone else. Bus routes are operating at or near the maximum load capacity. Requests for additional riders on the bus routes can not be permitted at this time.

The primary focus of the department is to provide transportation to those students who are assigned to ride the bus.

***Bus routes are operating at or near the maximum load capacity.***

Occasionally situations may arise where a bus note/transfer can not be avoided. These requests will be handled according to the following criteria:

- The situation is an emergency.
- A handwritten note has been signed by the parent and forwarded to the school office.
- The note is signed by the school official and forwarded to the bus driver.

## Middle School Welcomes Speaker on Character

Scott Spencer of the Character Corp. recently spoke to students of Northwest Middle School, thanks to the generosity of the Hoover and Deuble Foundations. Using humor and relevant stories involving teenagers, he spoke to seventh-graders about relationships with standards and to eighth-graders about respect. Mr. Spencer has been sharing the importance of good character and good choices to Northwest students over the past ten years.



Scott Spencer





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## One Family Makes a Difference



Maci, Brandon, Jason, Brody, Keri, Snickers, Maria, and Morgan King

**T**wo Mustangs are raising five little Indians in our community. And they are raising them with an enthusiasm that would make Northwest alumni proud.

Jason and Keri King graduated from Tuslaw High School, and six years ago they decided to move to the Northwest District because they were seeking a school district with a strong academic program and solid extra-curricular activities.

***“We want our kids to have a good education.” Jason added, “After all, this is where we live, where we pay taxes.”***

At that time they didn’t realize the financial problems the district was facing. Now they worry about class sizes, pay-to-participate and the lack of busing and field trips. As a result, the Kings have put their energy into providing for the children of our district. They explain, “So much has been taken away from the kids. It’s nice to be able to do something for them.”

Last year Jason and his friend, Brian Schreffler, took the district’s Gator and repainted it with the school colors. This summer over a two-month period, the two men, along with the help of a handful of

other volunteers including Jason’s son Brandon, took the turf that was donated by Massillon and installed it along the sidelines in order to clean up the appearance of the stadium.



Indians Synergy Bleacher Jersey

Perhaps the donation of which they are proudest is the “bleacher jersey,” a vinyl and mesh covering valued at \$15,000. The Jersey covers the back of the home bleachers. In order to pay for the donation, Jason worked extra hours for his

## Grandparent and VIP Day Celebrates Quality Academic Education

Principal Jim LaRiccia welcomed 800 guests who attended the “Grandparent and VIP Day” on Friday, Sept. 25. The program included recitations by the children as well as music under the direction of Dr. Alex Christ. Musical numbers included “Hey Lidee,” “Small World,” and “Grandma’s Feather Bed.” The day was an overwhelming success with grandparents and VIP’s expressing their appreciation for the opportunities provided to the children.

***The day was an overwhelming success with grandparents and VIP’s expressing their appreciation for the opportunities provided to the children.***

Guests were welcomed to have photos taken with their grandchildren, enjoy some snacks and visit elementary classrooms.



Chris Stevens and Macie



Connie Shaver and Levi Tholl



Kiley and Jagger with Carol Beans and Peggy Dyrlund



Cindy and Bill Barcheck with Chloe



Annabel with Dave and Nedra Anderson and Bud and Susan Stafford



employer, Scott Miller of Miller Weldmaster, who also owns Gameday by Imagine This, the manufacturer of the jersey.

Despite their commitment to Northwest, Jason and Keri are worried about the future of the district. This summer, fearing for their oldest child’s high school experience, Keri took fourteen-year-old Brandon to Doylestown to enroll him in Chippewa High School. After a family conference, Keri said, “We decided to wait and see and hope for the best.”

“We want our kids to have a good education.” Jason added, “After all, this is where we live, where we pay taxes.”

In the meantime, Jason and Keri will continue to work to make a difference for their children and all of the students of Northwest Schools. Jason stresses this point, “The children of this community come first!”



Fear The Spear Bleacher Jersey



Indians Bleacher Jersey



Guests at Northwest Elementary





# Northwest News

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## Board of Education



Nikki Metzger, Steve Jones, Jim Gindlesberger, Rita Gearhart and Barb Whiting

## Committed to an Open & Transparent District

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## The Superintendent Seeks Your Input



**T**he Ohio Department of Education rated the Northwest School District as "Excellent" in its 2008-2009 report card. The report also showed that our students are achieving academically more than one year's worth of growth for every year they spend in our school. Finally, it indicates that our special needs students are on track for success by graduation.

To what do we attribute this rating of excellence? Research shows that the number one factor in student achievement is teacher quality. The survey of our community this summer reveals that our district residents have high regard for our teachers and value their work. I think it's also important, however, to recognize that our support staff makes it possible for teachers to perform their valuable duties. While our teachers and support staff make immeasurable contributions to the youth of our community, we are forced into reducing their service, due to our financial crisis.

During the 2008 school year we had 270 individuals, or full-time equivalents, employed by the school district. During this school year we have 220 employees. Eleven of the 220 are employed with one-time federal stimulus funds. Therefore, we have 63 fewer full-time employees, or full-time equivalents, from our general fund than we did in 2008. Based upon our understanding that teachers and support staff provide the backbone for excellence in this district, we must realize that these reductions affect our quality programs and services. For example, we have nine fewer buses in our fleet this year, creating challenges for our families who care about their child's access to education.

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What does a school district need in order to exist?

I would suggest that three important components are quality programs, financial stability and community support. Please consider that we have lost quality programs as well as 63 full-time employees, that we are \$1.1 million in debt and that we are in the lowest 3 percent in the entire state in revenue per pupil.

## What should we do in order to survive?

We welcome your input at:

[www.northwest.sparcc.org/contact.cfm](http://www.northwest.sparcc.org/contact.cfm)

## Northwest H.S. Celebrates Another National Merit Scholar

**N**orthwest High School Principal Eric Bornstine has announced that senior Sam Baiera has been recognized as a semifinalist in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship program. Mr. Bornstine further explained, "This recognition places Sam in the top 1% of U.S. high school seniors."

Sam is the youngest of six children of Joe and Lisa Baiera of Clinton. Lisa, a sixth grade teacher at Northwest Intermediate School, said, "Sam has really been blessed with the teachers he has had through the years." For the past two years Sam has participated in the post-secondary program through Kent State University's Stark campus. This year Sam is taking courses in drawing, sculpture and art history, all in preparation for a career in interior design. He attributes his academic success to his parents because they constantly push him to do his best. Sam says, "My parents are such hard workers in their own right."



Sam Baiera & Lisa Baiera

***Thanks to its excellent academic program, the Northwest District has had 21 National Merit Finalists since 1990.***

Thanks to its excellent academic program, the Northwest District has had 21 National Merit Finalists since 1990. A listing of all of these outstanding scholars appears under "Academics" on the district Web site, <http://www.northwest.sparcc.org>.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), a test which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year. The test, which includes critical reading, math and writing, is typically taken by students during the fall of their junior year. In early September, about 16,000 students are notified that they have qualified as semifinalists.

# KNOW THE FACTS

It is **NOT** reasonable or acceptable to operate at a deficit and expect outside financial support.

As a resident of the Northwest School District it is critical that you understand the true nature of the school district's finances.

Cash Balance Projections for the Next Five Years:

NEGATIVE CASH BALANCES JUNE 30					
FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
-1,124,954	-488,571	-559,625	-537,354	-916,308	-1,695,136
BALANCES WITH A 10% CORRECTION (Strong Possibility with State Budget Crisis)					
FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
-1,124,954	-988,571	-2,259,625	-3,437,354	-5,016,308	-6,995,136

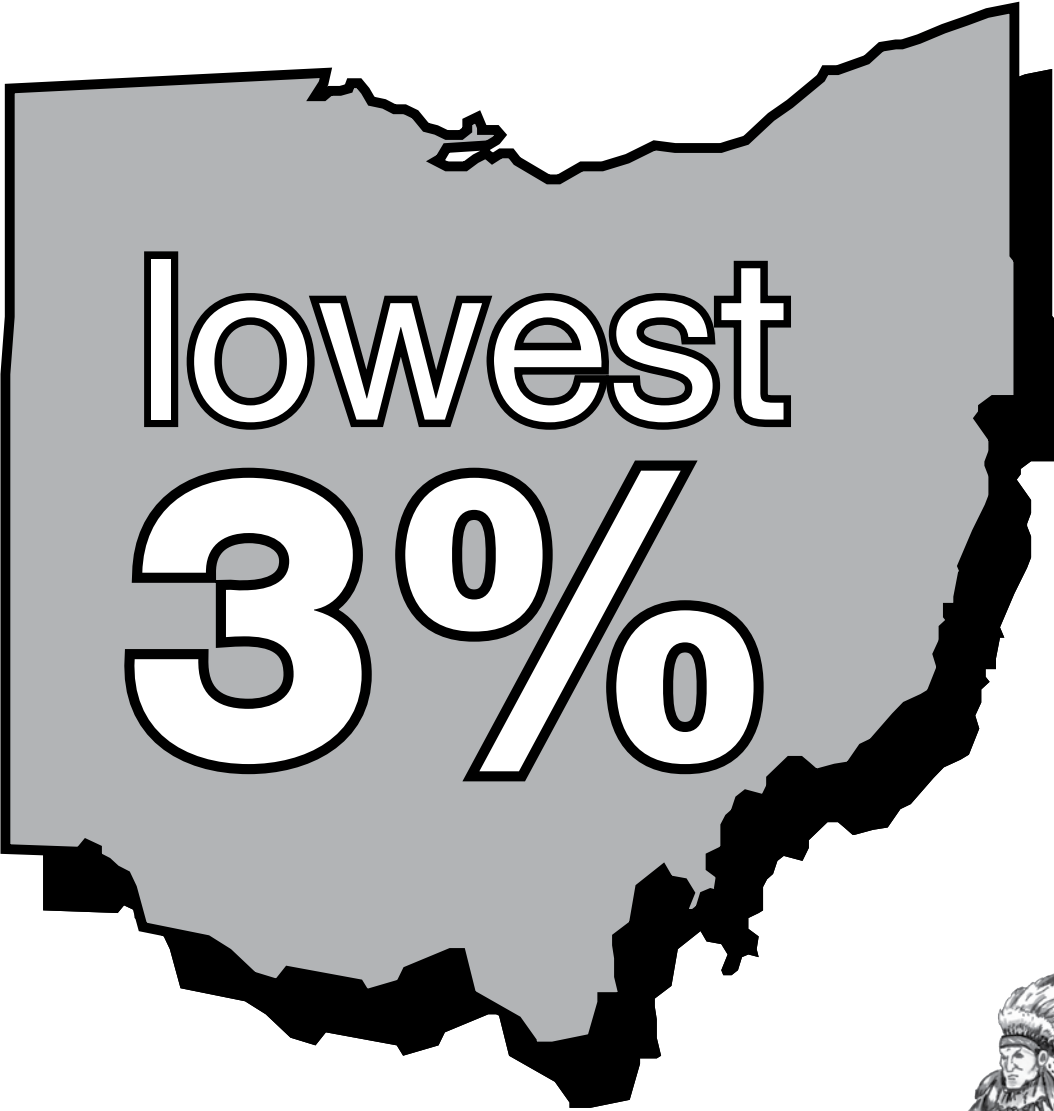
Northwest is  
**At the Very Bottom**  
of the State

Did you know?

**W**hen compared to other schools, the Northwest Local School District is in the lowest 3% in the state for revenue per student.

What are your specific IDEAS regarding HOW the school district can improve this situation? We genuinely want to know your thoughts! This is a problem that requires a community solution. Please share your thoughts.

For More Information visit:  
[www.northwest.sparcc.org](http://www.northwest.sparcc.org)





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## Northwest Clinches NBC Crown in Golf

The Northwest High School golf team, led by first year coach, Tom Weckesser, recently completed the 2009 season with a perfect 14-0 record. They won the Northeastern Buckeye Conference Tournament to become NBC Champions. Also, junior Alex King shot a 74 to qualify for the state golf tournament at North Star Golf Resort in Sunbury on October 16-17. This is quite an accomplishment for Alex. Members of the golf team include J.J. Polkabla, Adam Gabriel, Josh Gabriel, Ryan Fuller, Alex Earnsberger, Alex Johnson, Brandon Martin, Andrew Haney, Blake Foutty, Shane Hippli, Aaron Graves, and Alex King.



NBC Crown Winners

## Fall Athletic Teams

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Football         | 4. Cheerleaders |
| 2. Cross Country    | 5. Boys Soccer  |
| 3. Girls Volleyball | 6. Girls Soccer |



1



2



3



4



5



6

Photos by: Greg Santos Photography

## Contact Numbers for Northwest Schools

### Northwest Local Office

Mr. Bill Stetler, Superintendent  
Mr. John Hexamer, Assistant Superintendent  
Mr. Dan Levengood, Treasurer  
8614 Erie Ave. N.  
Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614  
Phone: (330) 854-2291  
FAX: (330) 854-3591  
District call-off number:  
(330) 854-5709

### Northwest High School

Mr. Eric Bornstine, Principal  
8580 Erie Ave. N.  
Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614  
Phone: (330) 854-2205  
FAX: (330) 854-2030

### Northwest Middle School

Mr. Jay Baughman, Principal  
8614 Erie Ave. N.  
Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614  
Phone: (330) 854-3303  
FAX: (330) 854-5883

### Northwest Intermediate School

Mrs. Lori Mariani, Principal  
8540 Erie Ave. N.  
Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614  
Phone: (330) 854-4537  
FAX: (330) 854-7170

### Stinson Elementary School

Mrs. Lori Mariani, Principal  
8454 Erie Ave. N.  
Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614  
Phone: (330) 854-4646  
FAX: (330) 854-7136

### Northwest Elementary

Mr. James LaRiccia, Principal  
8436 Erie Ave. N.  
Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614  
Phone: (330) 854-5405  
FAX: (330) 854-5809

