



Northridge Local School District

www.northridge.k12.oh.us

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Enhancing the Educational Experience

By Superintendent Scott Schmidt

It's hard to believe that the 2018-19 school year is already underway. We are so excited to have students back in classes and ready to learn new and amazing things! Northridge Local Schools offers a good value to the community. We are enhancing our educational experience while maintaining the lowest tax rate in the area.

Last school year we were able to implement some new reading initiatives for our younger students. That work will continue this year and progress into third grade. We know how important being able to not just read, but reading different types of texts, understanding their meaning, then being able to take the information and turn that into actionable thoughts is for the education of our students. This goes beyond just a reading class and crosses all subject areas.

We are also excited to be exploring Calm Classroom this school year. School districts across the county have noticed how student anxiety is on the rise and impacts a student's behavior and learning experience. Licking County schools are exploring proactive steps that teachers can take to help students deal with anxiety, chronic stress and traumatic

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events, including day to day stress. The Licking County Education Committee identified Calm Classroom as a proactive strategy to help students.

Calm Classroom is an evidenced based mindfulness program to increase self-awareness and resilience and to reduce stress in both students and teachers. All schools in the county have signed up to receive training and are making plans for how they can introduce these quick exercises into the student day. You can learn more about this initiative at <https://calmclassroom.com/>

While this is exciting news, we must also address the critical need for new and updated facilities across our district.

The elementary school is overcrowded and not meeting the needs of today's students. We also need to address ongoing maintenance concerns at the middle school and high school to protect the long-term investment residents have made in those schools. In addition, our emergency operating levy is up for renewal. These are funds that cover day-to-day operating expenses such as teachers, technology and utilities.

Both of these ballot initiatives are important in our efforts to provide our community with good schools at a good value. My hope is that you will learn more about these requests so that you can make an informed decision on November 6.

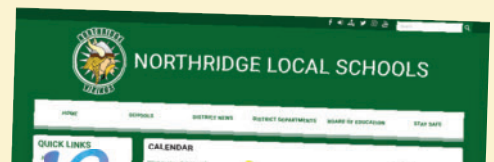
In the meantime, please join us at any of our fall sporting contests, concerts or other community events. I always enjoy meeting our residents and hearing about the exciting things happening across our community. ✨

Sincerely,

Scott Schmidt
Superintendent



Scott Schmidt
Superintendent



Be sure to visit our **Events Calendar** and **Athletic Page** on our website for complete information about everything happening at Northridge.



Northridge Local School District

Learning Through Extracurricular Activities

Activities such as sports, arts and music offer students the chance to develop skills and learn about different passions. They also teach important skills and help students build memories that last a lifetime.

"From the marching band, art clubs, choirs, musicals, Quiz Bowl Teams, Power of the Pen and United Model Nations to the 13 different varsity sports we offer, there is truly something for everyone at Northridge Local Schools," says Superintendent Scott Schmidt. "We care about our students and support them in reaching their fullest potential. We want them to not only achieve in the classroom, but to grow and gain knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in the future."

Senior Megan King shared how her experience with Cross Country has made a huge impact on her life. "It really flipped my life around honestly," explains King who is entering her third year on the team. "I have no clue where I'd be right now without running and that entire environment. It helped me to realize that some things that seem big now, might not be big later. I have a tendency to stress out. But I've learned to use my friends as my rock so I can get through and deal with a lot."

King went on to talk about the importance of competition but also supporting your team and others around you. "You are going out to compete against yourself, trying to beat your time or a specific time for that course, but the environment is

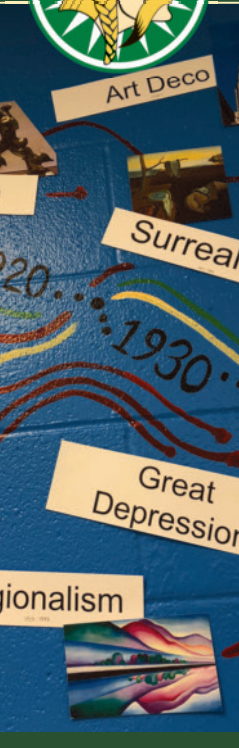
so amazing. When a random person un-ties your shoes for you and gets you a drink after running three miles as fast as they can, that's amazing!"

Kevin Stingley is a sophomore who plays percussion instruments in the marching band. "I love the environment," explained Stingley. "We do lots of new things.

The music is fun and the marching is interesting. The people make it great, the friends and people you meet."

He explained how the process of putting together a marching band show with lots of other people will teach him important lessons for later on in life. "It gives you a sense of responsibility," says Stingley. "You learn about being patient and taking your time. Don't get frustrated when you're trying to learn new things. Also being more of a people person. You have to really get along with everybody." ✨

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Zero Based Budgeting Ensures Efficient Operation

Northridge Local Schools operates in a lean and efficient manner. The district has the lowest tax rate in the area and the financial operations are reviewed by the State Auditor's Office on an annual basis. Northridge Local Schools has even earned a clean audit for five consecutive years. The way that the district achieves these kinds of results is with a conservative financial mindset that is based upon looking at needs versus wants. This begins with a zero based budget process.

Zero based budgeting is where all schools and departments start each fiscal year with \$0 and the budget is built upon factors such as student enrollment, current programs and educational needs of

students. If a school wishes to try something new or wants additional funding for a program, they must show why the funds are being requested and how they will impact student learning.

"We believe in funding what students need in the classroom," said Superintendent Scott Schmidt. "However, we must also be accountable to the taxpayers for how we use their funds. Zero Based Budgeting allows us to meet the needs of our students, and try new ideas that benefit students

while also maintaining our attitude of strong financial responsibility"

"Zero based budgeting allows us to meet the needs of our students, and try new ideas that benefit students while also maintaining our attitude of strong fiscal responsibility." — Superintendent Scott Schmidt

The Northridge Board of Education approves the district's annual budget each fiscal year. Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 began July 1 and directs a significant portion of the budget into instructional programs and areas such as salaries for teachers, instructional materials and instructional support services. "We want our resources being used where they can do the most good," noted Schmidt. "That's in the classroom working to support student needs." ★

Teacher Spends Summer Learning Science to Help Students

Teachers may not be leading students during the summer months, but that doesn't mean they aren't working hard to get ready for students in the fall. "We have caring teachers who go the extra mile," explained Superintendent Scott Schmidt. "Many of them use the summer time as a way to learn more about their subject area or how to engage with students in a different way to extend learning opportunities. They are using their time away from the classroom for the betterment of the students."

One example is Peggy Campbell. Campbell has been with Northridge Local Schools for 25 years and is currently a fourth grade science teacher. She spent part of her summer at the Ohio Energy Workshop that teaches participants all about different types of energy sources and how they are produced and used in Ohio. This includes electricity, solar power, wind, fossil fuels and even nuclear power. Energy, matter and fossils are all part of the standards that are taught in Campbell's class.

"I spend a lot of time with the kids trying to get them to understand the importance of science and how it is always related to something," said Campbell. "What I teach they can actually use in real life. We talk about how an experiment might work and what happens when things don't work out like you thought. How will you do it differently and what adjustments will you make"

Part of Campbell's experience included visiting with a linesman who works on electrical lines. They learned all about how the power lines worked, the types of training involved and careers in energy production. Because of Campbell's experience, students in her class will also get to meet a linesperson.

"We will get to visit with them and they will show the students all their equipment. The kids will even learn how to cover up an electric line to stay safe," says Campbell. "This will help to make science more fun for the kids and they see I'm here for them. When they see I enjoy it then they are excited about it too." ★

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Important Dates

Voter Registration Deadline

Tuesday, October 9

Check your voter registration at: myohiovote.com

Early Voting Begins

Wednesday, October 10

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, November 6

Save the Date

for **STATE OF THE SCHOOLS** at the **High School Media Center, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7 PM**

Board Places Two Issues on November Ballot

The Northridge Local School District Board of Education has taken action to place two issues before voters this fall. The November 6 ballot will include a combined 0.5 percent Earned Income Tax and 3.4-mill 30-year bond issue. This ballot issue is for construction of a new elementary school as well as important updates to the

security and mechanical needs at the middle school and high school. It will also address ongoing maintenance and upkeep needs at all schools across the district.

The second issue is the renewal of an emergency operating levy.

These funds pay for day-to-day operating expenses such as teachers, technology and utilities. The emergency operating levy was first approved by residents in 2009 and voters renewed it in 2014. This issue will not raise taxes.

"Our students need better learning spaces and good teachers in the classrooms," explained Board of Education President Doug Hart. "Both issues are needed in order for Northridge Local Schools to support student learning."

The combined Earned Income and Bond issue will bring the district's facilities up to modern day standards and better meet the educational, structural and safety issues that currently exist in the schools. It will allow the district to upgrade the aging facilities and maintain the long-term investment residents have made in the schools.

"Patching and repairing outdated facilities is no longer enough and it is not an efficient use of taxpayer dollars," said Hart. "We need to secure funding for our classrooms and programs so that we can focus more on the education that is happening inside the classrooms rather than figuring out how to fund maintenance problems with the buildings." ✨

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