



Northridge Local School District Newsletter

A Season of Challenge, Change, and Opportunities

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

First and foremost I must start off by saying **THANK YOU**. Thank you to the parents who have given us grace during these unusual times. Thank you to the teachers, staff, and administrators who have worked so hard these past three months to make the start of the 2020-21 school year the best that it can be. Thank you to the students who are putting forth their best effort with all the new safety expectations as well as modified class instruction and assignments. It is noticed and it is appreciated. We have certainly had a number of challenges to overcome, and, while change is never easy, I am so impressed with the way these challenging times have given way to new opportunities. Smaller hybrid groups of students have led to students talking with or playing on the playground with kids they might not normally. Hybrid groups have allowed teachers to have one on one interaction with students more often. When we were working to gain community support for the new elementary building, we often shared about the challenges presented with our current buildings. As much as we would like to will our situation away and return students to 100% it just is not possible given the current regulations. Some are happy with the current schedule and able to take full advantage of the flexible time; others are challenged by the schedule and want nothing more than a regular schedule. Whatever your stance, we know this is a temporary situation, and we can't thank you enough for supporting the teachers and your children during this unusual season. ☺



Superintendent
Scott Schmidt

Scott Schmidt, Superintendent

Welcome Back, VIKINGS!





Academic Committee Making Community Connections

The Academic Excellence Committee is integrating education with experience by making community connections for students. The committee searches for resources in the area to connect students to local people with experience.

Northridge High School English teacher Kim Garee, a district resident, parent, and member of the committee, said, "I think there are a lot of different and important objectives for this committee, but from my own perspective as a teacher, it's been nice to connect with professionals from the community who care so much about our students' education that they're getting involved."



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Garee's College Credit Plus Technical Writing class is benefitting from that involvement. In the next month, students will have virtual guest speakers addressing professional hiring processes, industry soft skills, and workplace communication.

One of them is Stacy Duzan, Sr. Director of Sales and Engineering for a commercial vehicle group located in New Albany and another original member of the Academic Excellence Committee.

Duzan enthusiastically engaged as he cites recent experiences with onboarding new hires that lacked many of the soft skills required to be successful in today's workforce. Duzan stated, "One of the main objectives of the Academic Excellence Committee is to enhance the

already solid education our students receive by providing them with insight and coaching specific to the soft skills required to be successful in today's ultracompetitive job market. The recent epidemic has emphasized the importance of remote and virtual work environments, and even though the current generation is accustomed to communicating through the use of smart devices and computers, they still must possess soft skillsets in order



to be successful. When we look back at our professional careers, each of us can cite specific outcomes that were either advanced or

hindered by our soft skillsets. These skills are not easily taught in high school or college, but are developed over time by learning through our mistakes and successes. Through the use of examples and humorous anecdotes, we will provide



insights specific to the importance of clear, fact-based communication, presentation tools and skills, reading and projecting body language, and sales and marketing."

Contact the district office at 740-967-6631 if you are interested in serving on the Academic Excellence Committee or have thoughts and ideas regarding the enlightenment of students about to enter the workforce. ☼

Beaming with Excitement for the New Elementary

Students, community members, and teachers had the opportunity to sign steel beams which will be erected overhead of the entrance doors to the various hallways of our new elementary building. As the walls, beams, and roofs are all going into place, there is a return of excitement much like our students, teachers, and community felt when the community supported the new construction bond levy in May of 2019. We are happy to report that the 80,000 square foot building for grades preschool through fifth is on schedule and on budget. The students can't wait to be in the new building next school year, and August of 2021 will be here before we know it. Stay up to date on all the construction progress including full reports and pictures by visiting our website and clicking on the "Construction Update" quick link. ☼



Viking Community Newsletter

Students Named to Attorney General's Teen Ambassador Board

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost announced Northridge students, India Allar, Hannah Vance, Ambry Petrushka, Henry Pausch, and Sarah Smith to his office's Teen Ambassador Board for the 2020-2021 school year. The Teen Ambassador Board is made up of over 400 students representing the 88 Ohio counties and over 180 school districts.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to talk with Ohio officials about what effects my family and me most directly," Senior India Allar said. "I want the chance to provide feedback and suggestions and to have conversations about current issues."

The mission of the Teen Ambassador Board is to provide Ohio's future leaders with an inside look at Ohio law and government. The board members will advise the Attorney General Office on issues relating to teens, then work together to develop solutions.

Allar looks forward to strategizing about current issues. "I think the state needs the most help with dealing with the Coronavirus, especially in a school setting. As a student attending public schools, I have firsthand knowledge of how policies affect kids," Allar stated.

Senior Sarah Smith said, "I am looking to pursue a career related to this, I am actually at C-tec for Criminal Justice looking to go into the social work aspect of it."

So far this year's Teen Ambassador Board meetings have been held virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"I enjoy being in an online environment where I can voice my opinions," Allar said. "I'm too young to vote this coming season, but communication with Ohio's board gives me a chance to express how I feel and I appreciate them for giving me this opportunity." ☺

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to talk with Ohio officials about what effects my family and me most directly."

Athletic Boosters Continue to Build Programs

A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

A global pandemic has not stopped the Northridge Athletic Boosters from continuing to work hard to support the student-athletes and coaches of Northridge! Over the past six months, the Boosters have continued ongoing talks with the administration on ways to improve facilities and plan for the future. In support of the mission of the organization, the Boosters purchased uniforms for cross country, volleyball, football, basketball, wrestling, softball, soccer, cheer and paid for half of the cost of swim jackets. The Boosters, with the help of Velvet Ice Cream, provided treats for the fall teams as a small way to acknowledge the hard work happening behind the scenes. As the fall seasons began, the Boosters launched the Athlete of the Week program and have so far recognized five outstanding student athletes including Matthew Workman (soccer), Gabby Smith (volleyball), Adam Ulery (football), Aidan Isler (football) and Sydney Koker (volleyball). The Boosters entered into a partnership with Sign Gypsies-740 (Justin Kibler) to celebrate each Athlete of the Week with a sign in his or her yard.

The Boosters also purchased three rolls of used artificial turf that has been used by the cheerleaders and will be used by our softball and baseball athletes in the gyms and dugouts. Through a collaborative effort between the Boosters and the district administration, HUDL, the world-wide video and analytical sports site, will be available for coaches and athletes of Northridge.

In these challenging times that have required cancellation of Booster fundraisers, the officers are working hard to develop new ideas to bring in funds over the next year. More now than ever before, the Boosters need engaged and excited people to help brainstorm creative ways to support Northridge sports. We are particularly focused on recruiting parents of elementary and middle school student-athletes to help build the organization for the future. Our goal is 200 families by this time next fall.

Please consider joining the Athletic Boosters and be a part of this dedicated group of people working hard for the athletes and coaches! Email nrvikingsathleticboosters@gmail.com for a membership form. ☺



A FALL FULL OF FUN!



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Partnership with Alexandria Library

Northridge Primary and Intermediate have partnered with the Alexandria Library this year to provide books for students during our current COVID restrictions. In the past, Primary students walked to the library each week and checked out books, which could not be done at this point. Due to safety concerns, the library is allowing students to reserve books using their online system. The books are then delivered to and picked up from both buildings each week. The Intermediate has a very limited selection of books for



students, so this process allows them to also check out current books on a regular basis. We appreciate all the hard work and the partnership with the Alexandria Library this year. ☺

Excellence in Education Award Winner

Transcendia, a leader in custom engineered materials, sponsors a yearly award for teachers who demonstrate excellence in education specifically advancing and supporting the use of technology. Social Studies teacher Mr. Elliott Wentz is a leader among his peers and loved by his students for advancing the use of technology innovations into his teaching of History. We are proud to announce that Mr. Wentz is our 2020 Excellence in Education award winner. ☺



Social Studies teacher
Elliot Wentz