



# Northridge Local School District Newsletter

## Northridge Preschool COMING SOON!

Northridge Local School District is proud to offer a district-operated preschool beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. We have openings in both morning and afternoon classes. Registration packets will be available starting April 1, 2020 in the District Office and the Primary School office. Join us for a parent informational meeting on April 9, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Primary School cafeteria. For more information, contact Michelle McJessey at 740-967-6631.

## Community Involved in Committees

### A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

You have heard me say before that **strong schools** and **strong communities** go hand in hand, and I firmly believe that. Engagement from community members helps us achieve strong schools and strong communities. There are many great things happening at Northridge Schools both in and out of the classroom. This edition of the newsletter highlights a variety of things taking place in our schools. As a district, we are moving forward on many fronts. The High School recently received a Momentum Award from the State. The High School staff earned this award by gaining more than expected growth in all applicable areas of the report card, which is a great achievement considering they were already performing at the second-highest level in the county as measured by the State Report Card. This is just one example of our strong schools; be sure to read the rest of the newsletter to find out more about what our students are accomplishing.

At Northridge Schools, we believe it is important to not only connect with the community but provide opportunities for the community to get involved and connect with us. We currently have three community committees that meet monthly. The Community Finance, Modern Facilities, and Academic Excellence Committees are all made up of community members and welcome guests to attend their meetings. Whether you are just interested in how the committees operate, or you have some skills or ideas to offer that can make us stronger, we welcome you to attend. Future dates are included on the back of this newsletter. Also, be sure to check our website for the latest updates. A fourth group, Key Communicators, will meet quarterly. This group will be made up of township and village officials, leaders from various organizations, including churches, civic groups, athletic associations, and scouts as well as other interested community members. The purpose of the Key Communicators will be to create ongoing dialogue between community stake-holders and district administrators, school personnel, and the communities we all serve together. Our first Key Communicator meeting will take place in April; an exact date is still to be determined. If you would like to learn more about any of these committees, please give me a call at **740-967-6631**.

*Scott Schmidt, Superintendent*



The Northridge School Board and administration presented Students of the Quarter for the second quarter of the 2019-2020 school year with an award at the January school board meeting. One student from each grade was nominated by a teacher for qualities based on the district's Viking Values.



Superintendent  
Scott Schmidt



## Primary School Partners with Licking County Food Pantry

### A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**W**e know that everyone could use a little help sometimes. One way that the Northridge School District is able to help some of our Primary and Intermediate families is through the Healthy Backpack Program. The students who participate in this program, who we call our “Backpack Friends,” receive non-perishable food items to take home each week. We are able to offer this service through the help of the Licking County Food Pantry, which provides the food items each week. Primary Principal Jill Beaver, School Counselor Kristy Draher, and School Nurse Nikki Higgins enjoy visiting with students while filling backpacks. If you have a primary or intermediate student and are in need of extra assistance, please reach out to School Counselor Kristy Draher at **740-924-2691** or email her at **kdraher@northridgevikings.org**. ☼



## Kindergarten Kick Off!

The Northridge Primary School is excited to welcome families of incoming kindergarten students to the Kindergarten Kick Off on March 31, 2020 from 6-7p.m. at Northridge Primary School, 124 College Street in Alexandria. Information will be provided about the registration process and the typical school day schedule. Families will get to meet the staff, check out a bus, tour the building and more! If you have questions, please contact Principal Jill Beaver at **740-924-2691** or email her at **jbeaver@northridgevikings.org**.



## Intermediate School Cultivates Viking Values Through Meetings

### A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

**T**he Intermediate School decided to put the Viking Values into action every day this year with special meetings in the morning and afternoon called the Viking Roundtable. The meetings are an engaging way to start and end each school day with positivity, help to build a strong sense of community and set each student up for success socially and academically.

The morning Viking Roundtable is led by Science teacher Ryan El-Khoury (Mr. E) who begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and announcements. He fills the room with energy as he explains the daily activities, lunch menu, national holiday, etc. The students and Mr. E created a special hand motion for the meetings called the Viking Wave, which signals everyone to be respectful and quiet. The meeting provides students with a routine that allows them to be prepared to walk into their classroom and start their day with a positive attitude.

The afternoon Viking Roundtable is led by Intermediate Principal Mr. Blum, who begins with the Viking Wave then reflects on the day. Students, teachers and staff give feedback, communicate what is to be expected the remainder of the week, and thank guest teachers with a round of applause. The meeting ends with a “Shout-Out” session where teachers and students point out something positive they have witnessed. Everyone ends the school day surrounded with kindness, gratitude and positivity.



The Viking Roundtable models many of the district’s Viking Values, such as communication, collaboration, accountability and respect. As Mr. Blum explains, “The meetings

give students a chance to put the Viking Values into action, be responsible and prepared each morning and afternoon, and provide a safe environment for students to communicate, learn and grow together.” ☼



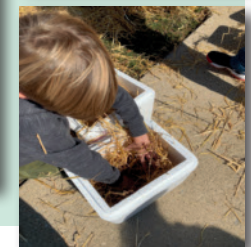
# Viking Community Newsletter

## Middle School Discovery Class Helps Humane Society

A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Northridge Middle School 6th grade students in Mrs. Julie Liggett's Discovery Class created cat houses to benefit the Licking County Humane Society. The students' goal was to have an impact on a community organization by completing a service project. Discovery Class is a special class period at Northridge Middle School where students in 6th grade focus their time on leadership skills, local issues, service projects and writing in our school newspaper. Students took the initiative to brainstorm the idea for the project, plan the activity and construct the houses made from foam coolers and straw. Students put a personal touch on the houses with decorations and drawings. Over 20 houses were donated to the Licking County Humane Society just in time for the colder winter months! We are proud of the work from our 6th grade students to give back to our community and of the leadership from Mrs. Liggett.

Northridge Middle School also received recognition from the Fairfield County Cares Group and the "I Care Award." The Fairfield County Cares Group is a non-profit organization that serves surrounding areas to bring awareness to communities on animal issues. The group nominates a monthly individual or group with the "I Care Award" to celebrate service and care for animals. Mrs. Liggett and our 6th grade students have worked very hard and are thrilled for the recognition. ☺



## High School Data Walls Drive Instruction

A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Tracking student progress in safe ways students and teachers can all see is a visible trend at Northridge High School this year. Data Walls are being used throughout the building to track goals, with some of those based on positive behavior, but many geared toward tracking instructional objectives.

"They look so different, from room to room," said English teacher Jill Hotchkiss, whose data wall is purposefully color coded for an easy snapshot of progress. She said she tracks individual student goals and updates the wall every few weeks.

English teacher Kim Garee said she changed up some instructional routines and set new learning objectives for students based specifically on the English portion of the ACT. That progress is on a data wall in the back of her room. "It's

not a mystery where we are on this. It's right up there for everyone to see," Garee pointed out. "That's how my students and I know, together, that something is working or needs adjusted. You can see a record of our growth since August at a glance."

Teachers say they have been careful to make sure students are comfortable and anonymous, which varies from using parts of secret ID numbers to tracking data for whole classrooms. Government teacher Matt Miracle has a wall divided by class and unit, pre- and post-assessment benchmarks. "We set a goal together for where we want to be," Miracle explained. "We look at the data together and have discussions about how I can adjust things on my end and how they can improve their own study process to equal the success we were all expecting."

Even tracking "behavioral" goals is impacting instruction in ways some teachers weren't expecting. "Mine is about assignment completion goals," said tenth grade teacher Kelsie Rinard. "Last quarter, we struggled with missing work, so it caused me to focus on fewer but more impactful assignments. It's sparked really productive conversations about what they need from me to better focus on assigned tasks." ☺



# IMPORTANT DATES

## March 9: Art Show & Literacy Night

Primary School  
3:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.



## March 9: Academic Booster Meeting

High School Media Center  
6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.



## March 9: Athletic Booster Meeting

High School Media Center  
7:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.



## March 11: Finance Committee Meeting

District Office  
6:00p.m.



## March 16: Board of Education Meeting

High School Media Center  
6:30p.m.



## March 31: Kindergarten Kick Off

Primary School  
6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.



## April 1: Facilities Committee Meeting

High School Media Center  
6:30p.m. - 7:30p.m.



## April 9: Preschool Open House

Primary School Cafeteria  
6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.



More dates are available at [www.northridge.k12.oh.us](http://www.northridge.k12.oh.us)



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NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

**THE MUSIC MAN**

March 13, 14, 15

*You don't want to miss this show!*



## Modern Learning Facility Project

### Construction

- ✓ Updates
- ✓ Progress
- ✓ Information

Visit [www.northridge.k12.oh.us](http://www.northridge.k12.oh.us) and click to view the latest details about Northridge District's Modern Learning Facility Project

## Construction Through the Winter

Architectural plans for the new elementary building continue to be finalized and are going through the various approval processes. In addition to these plans, we have been working on new direct entrances to the middle school and high school offices which will increase security for our students. The winter weather has been warm and wet, which has slowed initial ground preparation for the new building; however, with the recent break in the wet weather much has been accomplished including underground drainage lines installed and preparation of the building pad. In the coming days, high school student parking will shift to a new location, and construction fences will be erected.



Architectural examples for new elementary building

## Northridge School District Income Tax Information 4509, Northridge LSD, 0.50%

Northridge LSD enacted an income tax beginning in tax year 2020. Actions must be taken starting January 2020 if you are a resident in this district. For information, go to [tax.ohio.gov](http://tax.ohio.gov) for steps and FAQs under the "Income - School District" category, or contact the Ohio Department of Taxation at 1-800-750-1780.

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Northridge Vikings School District



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