



# Northridge Local School District Newsletter

## Learning Happens Beyond the Classroom

### A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

This year high school students have the opportunity to take an elective course focused on service learning. Students learn valuable life skills, including identifying opportunities for positive community impact, project planning, applying for grants, and executing their plans. After visiting a local long-term care facility and interacting with senior citizens, students in the class commented, "We loved hearing their stories so much" and "It was fun to leave decorations for their windows that they made with us. It seemed like they were having as much fun as we were, which is the idea!"

If you stop by the new elementary next spring, you may notice new landscaping that includes transplanted items from the Alexandria school as well as new landscaping, thanks to a grant from Serve Ohio for National Make a Difference Day and help from Northridge Cub Scout Pack 4025. Students helped write the grant application. The teacher for the class, Mrs. Garee, believes that "Service-learning is a great way to tie together what these older students have learned through the years and to give them a chance to make new connections. They don't have to wait until they can make things happen someday in the world around them. That's now for these students, and they're really motivated." The students in the elective are also doing individual service projects over the course of the semester, including running and fundraising for the new Viking EXChange, making warm blankets for a homeless street mission in Newark, tutoring younger students in reading, and starting a group that meets regularly to support teen mental health. "They're using math and communication skills and public speaking and videography. They're emailing and making calls. They're problem-solving every day. It's really something, from an educational standpoint," Garee said. ☺



*"They don't have to wait until they can make things happen someday in the world around them. That's now for these students, and they're really motivated."*



## SUPERINTENDENT'S

### Message

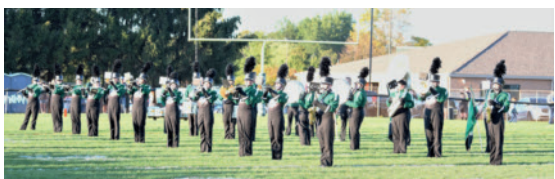


Superintendent  
Scott Schmidt

As the cool days of fall arrive and we head into the winter months, the learning and progress our students

are making are just heating up. With a significant focus on using real-time data to measure and understand and chart students' current academic levels, we are developing plans for progress and monitoring that growth. We balance this intentional use of data and growth plans with the skills we know future employers desire, such as solving problems, creating, collaborating, and communicating. As we reflect on the first quarter of the year, we celebrate not only all that our students have accomplished academically but also in extracurriculars. The high school volleyball team and the football team made it into tournaments, our youth football and volleyball leagues brought home championships, and the band saw expanded participation and great excitement under the direction of their new director, Northridge Alum Alex Healey. As always, our community has supported our student's efforts, cheering them on along the way. Communication is important to the Northridge School district; please check out this newsletter's frequently asked questions section for more updates and information. ☺

~Scott Schmidt, Superintendent





## Frequently Asked Questions



### Did you hire a significant number of additional staff?

No. In the summer newsletter, we were excited to announce our new staff members. Many of these staff members filled vacancies and replaced teachers who had retired or moved on to other jobs. It is not uncommon to have several new hires each year. This year we saw more vacancies than usual because there was little to no movement the year prior because of the pandemic. We did establish a few new positions using federal grant funds, as explained in the next question.

### I hear reference to PI; what does that mean again?

PI refers to the Permanent Improvement funds that voters passed in 2019. The PI fund has been used to update our security systems, establish secure visitor entrances for the building, provide new campus-wide water treatment facilities, and improve parking lots and drives. Future projects include interior upgrades to the middle school and high school facilities, including painting, furniture, flooring, and athletic facilities. PI funds can only be used on permanent improvements and items with a life expectancy of five years or more.

### How are the Federal Covid Recovery dollars being spent?

Northridge local school will receive approximately 1.4 million in federal dollars over a two-year period to support student instruction. We are using these dollars to add additional reading, writing, and math support at the elementary, additional math support at the middle school, and provide comprehensive school counseling and mental health support for all students K-12. These dollars were made available to all districts across the state and are not contingent on any assurance other than keeping schools open to help students advance their current academic performance levels.

### Is it true there is a private-public partnership to provide for a new stadium?

Yes! We are very excited to be partnering with the Athletic Booster and the Licking County Foundation to raise private funds to improve our outdoor venues. The district has budgeted, as part of the PI plan for safety and maintenance upgrades, the replacement of the track, and upgrades to the stadium and press box. By partnering with the community to raise private funds, we can work together to provide a quality new outdoor venue that meets the needs of our athletes and band members.

### Will you be asking the voters for new money?

No. The 5-year forecast, which is updated twice a year, shows a positive cash balance for the next three years. This is due to our use of zero-based budgeting and the efforts to budget expenditures less than our total revenues. We do have a renewal levy that expires in 2025. Voters can expect that we will be asking for that levy to be renewed prior to expiration so that we can maintain current operations. This would not be new money and would not raise taxes.

### Is the district getting money from the proposed solar project in the Hartford area?

No. At this time no project has been approved, therefore there is no agreement and the district is not expecting to receive any money. It is important to know that a full analysis will have to be completed if the project is approved to determine the true financial benefits for the district in the future. Any revenue from this potential project would be reflected on the five-year forecast if revenues were received.

### What will happen to the school in Alexandria?

As promised during the levy campaign, money has been set aside in the budget to demolish the building, and the Board remains open to hearing and considering viable options to save the building. There are significant costs in not only renovations but ongoing maintenance needed for a structure such as the Alexandria building. The district is currently working with legal counsel to ensure that all steps are followed correctly concerning the next steps with the building.

## Excellence in Education Award Recipient, Katy Black

Congratulations to Katy Black, the Excellence in Education award recipient. Ms. Black has transformed the way students receive intervention services at Northridge Elementary School. Ms. Black has only been on staff for two years, but willingly accepted the challenge of working primarily with students who have behavioral challenges. She is always 100% student centered and uses their interests to motivate students to achieve academically and emotionally. Even when Ms. Black is having a rough day, you would never know by her positive attitude and smile with all students and the rest of the staff. Ms. Black builds relationships with parents by having a very open line of communication, day or night, about their students' progress and needs. Northridge is very lucky to have Ms. Black on staff, and she is very deserving of this award. ☺



*Congrats, Ms. Black!*



# Viking Community Newsletter

## American Legion Donates Flags to New Elementary

### A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Johnstown American Legion Post 254 has a special tradition of providing American flags to any new school built in the Johnstown and Northridge school districts. Post 254 graciously donated 35 classroom flags to the new elementary school. They also provided the flag in the gymnasium and the flag hanging on the flag pole in front of the building. It is important to the American Legion to have a flag in every classroom strategically placed for all students to see. "We want students to be able to see the flag from anywhere in the room to remind them of what the American flag stands for and the sacrifices that have been made for them," said Vice Commander Jim (Gunny) Weant from the American Legion Post 254. Commander Mike Heffley explained, "The American Legion is about community. From raising the flag at the football games on Friday nights to sponsoring Boys/Girls State, we support veterans and community including our schools." Post 254 invites the Northridge community to attend Friday Night Bingo at 5:00pm and a sausage and pancake breakfast on Saturday mornings from 8:00am-10:00am in the Legion Hall in Johnstown. Veterans eat free! The Northridge school district greatly appreciates the donation and support from the American Legion, and we are proud to display the American flag in all buildings and classrooms. ☼



Cub Scouts raised the flag at the new school.



American Legion Post 254 Commander Mike Heffley & Vice Commander Jim Weant



As students say the Pledge of Allegiance, the flag reminds them of the men and women who bravely fought for our country.



Help us find names of Northridge Alumni Veterans for a history project.  
Email [Ajohnson@northridgevikings.org](mailto:Ajohnson@northridgevikings.org) or call 740-967-6631. Thank you!

## Viking Values Course Exceeds Expectations

### A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Northridge Middle School's new class offered this year, Viking Values, is founded on the seven Viking Values: leadership, respect, accountability, integrity, trust, communication, and collaboration. Throughout the year, the students are discovering what it means to live out their life with these character qualities at school, home, and in their relationships. Every week a Viking Value is examined and then skill is applied with hands-on activities, Project Based Learning (PBL), and deep discussions. Students have learned communication skills such as email writing, essentials to be an excellent conversationalist, listening skills and asking intentional questions.

"One area the 6th grade students exceeded my expectations was through accountable talk, a way to respectfully disagree and debate within group discussions. The conversations they carried on as a whole group were thought provoking and respectful as they shared their opinions alongside one another," said Viking Values teacher, Oliva Bitner.



Also, students have taken assessments to discover their learning style strengths, weaknesses, and how to take accountability for their own learning by understanding what they need as a student. Students have applied the keys to collaboration with small groups to create and present inventions. Students have also applied and created plans on how to actively be more respectful, trustworthy, accountable, display integrity, and show empathy to others around them.

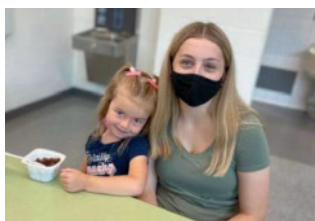
"Throughout my life I have had opportunities to learn more about leadership and 'be Bravo Zulu' (well done) and I am loving the unique opportunity to pass it on to the

students," Bitner said. "This class is a crucial part of the students' development into the Northridge Middle School community as they discover the importance of being students of high character by demonstrating integrity, leadership, respect, trust, communication, accountability, and collaboration." ☼

# One Big, Happy Campus



The Elementary and High School students are really enjoying time together thanks to one main campus and cross-age tutoring!



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Northridge Vikings  
School District



@NRVikings



nrvikings

**Nov. 11**

4th & 5th  
Grade Patriotic  
Concert

6:30pm



**Nov. 15**

School Board  
Meeting

District Office  
6:30pm

**Nov. 19-21**

Middle School  
Musical

Charlie & the  
Chocolate Factory



Dates and links are available at [www.northridge.k12.oh.us](http://www.northridge.k12.oh.us)

## Stadium Campaign Seeking Community Input

### A MESSAGE FROM THE NORTHRIDGE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

With the milestone of \$1 million in sight, the Athletic Boosters and district leadership will host an open session on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00pm in the High School Media Center to gather community input into the stadium renovation project. Launched in early 2021, the capital campaign raised nearly \$500,000 while in its silent phase from April through August and is closing in on another \$500,000 raised in the public phase, launched in September. The campaign will support the renovation of Viking Stadium with the goal of completion in 2022.

Campaign leadership will offer insight into the plans at the open session and will invite public comments and questions. Viking stadium is in desperate need of an upgrade to bring the facility into ADA compliance, to build restrooms, an 8-lane track, upgrade the bleachers, concession stands and press box. In the months of October and November, the campaign is encouraging Northridge alumni to donate to the project with a goal of raising \$250,000 for naming rights to the "Alumni Press Box."

Last month the campaign received a big boost in donations thanks to the generosity of Park National Bank and Ariel with a matching challenge of \$100,000. The challenges will help with the goal of reaching \$1.5 million by the end of the year. "Several companies and individuals have stepped up to support the campaign and we are excited about our momentum," commented Brian Elder, capital campaign chairman. "The athletes of Northridge deserve a facility to be proud of and that is what we are working toward. I encourage everyone who is interested to come to the open session and help us **MAKE DREAMS COME ALIVE** for the kids of Northridge." ⬇



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE TODAY!