





# ♥ FEBRUARY 2026 ♥

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1	happy groundhog day 	3	NOON DISMISSAL 	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	Happy Valentine's Day 
15	 **NO SCHOOL** PRESIDENTS DAY	17	DECEMBER 20, 2024 All Schools 1-hour Early Dismissal	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Black History Month 						

February 4, 12:00 Dismissal

February 16 NO SCHOOL

February 18 245 Dismissal





**\*Important\***  
*Phone Numbers*



**First Student**

(217) 920-1347

(217) 920-1348



P 217-444-3400  
F. 21 74443488



**Report  
Absence or  
Lateness**

**Attendance**

Ms. Jimpson  
217-444-3404



**Receptionist**

Mrs. Davis  
217-444-3403



**Nurse**

Nurse Gabby  
217-444-3408



Mr. Hightower 2174443474  
Mr. Day 217444-3468  
Ms. Mason 2174443482



**Guidance Counselor**

C. Helferich  
HelferichC@danville118.org  
Secretary J. Curry-Varner  
217444-3419



**Guidance Counselor**

T.Ferber  
FerberT@danville118.org  
Secretary J. Auguston  
217444-3412

**Dean**

J. Smith  
Smithj@danville118.org

**Dean**

M.Parker  
ParkerM@danville118.org

# PARENT/GUARDIAN

## NOTICE

### PHOTO ID REQUIRED



ABSENT, TARDY  
OR  
EARLY DISMISSAL?



**NO**  
OUTSIDE FOOD  
OR DRINKS  
ALLOWED

A white stick figure holding a blue and white drink cup.

- Please bring in your photo ID when entering the building.
- Please call in the morning to inform us of an absence, dismissal, or if tardy.
- School hours 9:00am-3:45pm.
- :45:45 students may enter the building at 8:40 for breakfast.
- We need proof of new address.
- Bus changes take a minimum of 5 days to complete.
- Fast food will not be allowed to be delivered to students.

# Important Information

School Hours  
9:00am-3:45pm  
Students may enter  
for breakfast  
at 8:45am.

Oops!



You are Tardy

Students will go to the stations located throughout the building for a pass.

**Tardy Bell:**

No student will be admitted to class without a Detention/Tardy

Students who fail to adhere to the dress code policy of their school will be permitted to contact their home for a change of clothes or will be sent home.

The following items will be considered a dress code violation and will result in a parent contact and/or a referral.

## Dress Code Alert





**SCAN**



**TRACK AND FIELD  
REGISTER  
BY 3/12**

**MUST REGISTER AND  
HAVE CURRENT PHYSICAL**

**OPEN GYM DATES**

**2/25 4-5:15 @ NR**

**2/26 4-5:15 @ NR**

**3/4 5-6 @ KDBA**

**3/5 5-6 @ KDBA**



# Track & Field 2026



All athletes participating in track and field need a pair of running shoes (non-spikes). Running shoes provide cushioned support to help minimize injury. *Basketball shoes are not recommended.*

Track spikes are considered **optional**. Some athletes may choose to compete in spikes. However, athletes **MUST** have running shoes (non-spikes) for practice. We do not always practice on spike-friendly surfaces. In addition, continually running in spikes may lead to injury, as they do not provide the necessary support that running shoes do.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY:



### **Running Shoes (Required):**

A cushioned running shoe is made to feel comfy and soft when you run. It has special foam or gel inside to help protect your feet and legs from hard impacts.



### **Sprinter Spikes (Optional):**

Sprinter spikes typically have no cushion in the heel and have a distinct round look on the heel. Some brands will include sprint in the name of the shoe.

These are typically used for the 100m, 200m, 400m, and hurdles. They can also be used for jumps.



### **Distance Spikes (Optional):**

Distance spikes typically have noticeable cushioning in the heel and work well for all distances. The distance spike may also be called a cross country or XC spike.

These are typically used for the 400m, 800m, and 1600m. They can also be used for jumps and sprints.

# February: Appreciation & Kindness at NRMS

February is a month dedicated to gratitude, connection, and making a difference at North Ridge! Join us in celebrating the incredible people who make our school a community.

## National School Counseling Week (Feb 2–6)

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the heart of our student support system. A massive thank you to our outstanding counselors for their unwavering dedication to student success:

- **Mr. Ferber** | *7th Grade Counselor*



- **Ms. Helferich** | *8th Grade Counselor*



*We are grateful for the guidance, empathy, and care you provide every single day!*

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## Random Acts of Kindness Day (Feb 17)

Kindness is a superpower! On February 17, we encourage all students and staff to spread joy through "big and small" gestures. Whether it's a high-five in the hallway or an encouraging note, your actions make a meaningful difference.

**Keep an eye out for special building-wide activities hosted by North Ridge to celebrate!**

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## School Bus Driver Appreciation Day (Feb 22)

Our drivers are the first friendly faces our students see in the morning and the last ones they see before heading home. We recognize their commitment to safety, their early mornings, and the care they show our students on every route.

**Thank you for going the extra mile (literally!) for NRMS.**

# Valentine's Day Sale

Do you want to show some love this Valentine's Day? Send a Valentine to a friend, BF, GF, favorite person, favorite teacher.

Student council will be selling Valentine's the week of Feb 9-13th

Valentine's are \$1 and will include a treat

You can purchase them at lunch from a council member.

You will fill in your message and council members will deliver them on February 13th.

You need to know the recipients 7th hour teacher.

# Winter Sweetheart Sneaker Ball

Walk into a Winter Wonderland with your favorite people.

Dress in your fanciest clothes and wear your sneakers.

February 13th, 2026 6-8 pm

Tickets will be \$5 and will be sold Feb 2nd - Feb 6th at lunch.

**NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR**

Requirements you must have to attend:

- No suspensions/ or referrals in the Month of February
- No more than 1 tardy prior to the dance
- Be present the day of the dance



# Staff Member Spotlight



**Mrs. McDermott**



**How long have you been teaching here?**

**She has been teaching here for 10 years**

**What is your favorite food?**

**Her favorite food is Pizza**

**Why do you like ELA?**

**She likes reading because she says it's like watching a movie in your head**

**Do you like sports and if you do what is your favorite sport?**

**She likes football**

**Who is your favorite sport player?**

**Her favorite sport player is Peyton Manning**

**How do you feel about the new phone policy?**

**She loves the new phone policy because her class has zero distraction this year**

**What's your favorite animal and Why?**

**Her favorite animal is both of her cats fiona and frances**

# Staff member spotlight

Mrs. Davis



By: Aubriella Hill

What is your favorite part of your job?

Her favorite part of her day is seeing the kids.

Do you enjoy watching out of school activities?

Yes, she enjoys watching the sports but softball is her favorite.

How do you feel about the new phone policy?

She likes it because students can't be on them and they were always a distraction.

What is a hobby or interest you have outside of work?

She like spending time with her kids and grandkids.

What is your least favorite part of your day?

Her least favorite part of her day is altercations between students.

What is one thing most people don't know about you?

She has 2 grandkids and 1 on the way.

What part of your day is the hardest?

The hardest part of her day is making kids leave her office.

How long have you been working here, and how many schools have you worked at?

She has worked here for 3 years and has subbed at mark denman before.

What show/movie are you currently watching at home?

She is currently watching His and hers.

# Staff member Spotlight



Mrs. Smith

What makes you love teaching? : It makes her become a better person and there is something new every day

If you could teach any subject other than ELA what would it be?: Social studies for the history of it

If you could go back and go to any college you wanted, which college would you go to?: LSU

If you could make any animal your pet which animal would you want?: Axolotl or A Shark

If you could get on a rocketship and visit any planet where would you go?: Venus

If you could teach any age group of kids what age group would you teach?: High Schoolers

If you could have any car right now which car would you choose?: A jeep the one you can pull the doors off

# NRMS STAFF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**MR. BAER**



- 1. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT TEACHING?** 1. I LIKE BEING ABLE TO SHARE MY LOVE OF HISTORY WITH OTHERS
- 2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?** 2. I ENJOY GARDENING, WOODWORKING, READING, GAMES, AND PLAYING WITH OUR PETS
- 3. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?** 3. MY FAVORITE FOOD IS CHINESE FOOD. THE MIX OF THE SWEET AND SPICY
- 4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM TO WATCH AND WHY?** 4. MY FAVORITE TEAM IS THE ENGLISH SOCCER TEAM TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR BECAUSE I SAW THEM IN COLLEGE AND MY FRIENDS
- 5. IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU TO CUT OFF YOUR HAIR FOR 1 MILLION DOLLARS WOULD YOU DO IT?** 5. ASK ME AGAIN IN 10 YEARS.....
- 6. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE HISTORICAL EVENT AND WHY?** 6. THE 1893 CHICAGO WORLDS FAIR! THERE WERE TONS OF COOL INVENTIONS, TECHNOLOGIES, THE FIRST FERRIS WHEEL AND THERE WAS THE FIRST SERIAL MURDER
- 7. IF YOU COULD TALK TO ANY ANIMAL WHAT ANIMAL WOULD YOU TALK TO AND WHY?** 7. I WOULD TALK WITH BEARS BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE OUR VIBES WOULD BE SIMILAR AND THEY WOULD ACCEPT ME AS THEIR OWN



# FUTURE TEACHER LEADERS CLUB

*Developing the Mentors of Tomorrow*

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## WHAT IS FUTURE TEACHER LEADERS CLUB?

The **Future Teacher Leaders Club** is for students who want to explore careers in education. We go beyond the textbook to provide hands-on experiences that highlight the true impact teachers have on their communities.

**Our members develop:**

- **Leadership Skills** through real-world classroom support.
- **Responsibility & Collaboration** by working with professional educators.
- **A Passion for Learning** that inspires others.

## JANUARY SPOTLIGHT: Reading Buddies

This month, our club took leadership into the community! We served as **Reading Buddies** at **Liberty** and **Edison** schools.

Through shared stories and kindness, our members helped younger learners build:

- **Reading Confidence**
- **Communication Skills**
- **A Love for Literacy**

**A Huge Thank You To:**

- **Ms. Dye's 2nd Grade Class** (Liberty)
- **Mrs. Houpt's Kindergarten Class** (Edison) *Thank you for welcoming our students and helping these connections grow—one book at a time!*

*Mrs. M. Parker*

*7<sup>th</sup> Grade Dean  
North Ridge Middle School*







# NORTH RIDGE

## ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

← SPRING 2026 →

### Eligibility Criteria

1 or fewer excused absences  
1 or fewer tardies each cycle

# Attendance Incentive Cycles


**Cycle 1**  
January 12- January 30  
Prize: Beats Headphones



**Cycle 4**  
March 23- April 10  
Prize: Smart TV



**Cycle 2**  
February 2- February 20  
Prize: Chromebook




**Cycle 5**  
April 13- May 1  
Prize: Beats Headphones




**Cycle 3**  
February 23- March 13  
Prize: Nintendo Switch Lite



**Cycle 6**  
May 4- May 22  
Prize: Chromebook





**GRAND PRIZE DRAWING**

END OF THE YEAR DAY PARTY - HALF DAY  
Date May 27  
Eligibility Criteria:  
Must meet attendance requirements each cycle  
\*Only students eligible during each cycle will be entered into the final drawing.



DANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

# JR VIKINGS SOFTBALL SKILLS CAMP



FEBRUARY 7TH 1-4PM



JOIN US FOR A CAMP EXPERIENCE WHERE YOU CAN ENHANCE YOUR SKILLS & CREATE GOOD MEMORIES WITH NEW FRIENDS.



AVAILABLE FOR

**7-14** YEARS OLD

TICKET PRICE

**\$35** / PERSON

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/FHVOXCHY2IXQXSRN7](https://forms.gle/FHVOXCHY2IXQXSRN7)

REGISTER NOW

# Black History Month

## SPIRIT WEEK

★ D118 ★

*Honoring the Past. Celebrating Excellence. Inspiring the Future.*

### Monday - Heritage & History Day

**Wear:** Red, Black, Green, or African-inspired patterns

*Honoring African heritage & history*

Monday, February 9th



### Tuesday - College, Career, & Black Excellence Day

**Wear:** College gear or career attire

*Celebrating achievement & ambition*

Tuesday, February 10th



### Wednesday - Voices & Impact Day

**Wear:** Shirts with empowering messages

*Inspiring change & leadership*

Wednesday, February 11th



### Thursday - Unity Day

**Wear:** District or school colors

*Promoting district-wide unity*

Thursday, February 12th



### Friday - Spread the Love Day

**Wear:** Red & pink clothing

*Sharing kindness & appreciation*

Friday, February



★ Honoring the Past ★ Celebrating Excellence ★ Inspiring the Future ★



**DANVILLE COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 118**

**AMENDED 2025-2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR  
TRADITIONAL CALENDAR SCHOOLS**

**2025**

Tuesday-Wednesday	August 12-13
Thursday	August 14
Monday	September 1
Friday	October 10
One week	October 13-17
Monday	October 20
Tuesday	October 28
Thursday	October 30
Friday	October 31
Wednesday	November 12
Wednesday-Friday	November 26-28
Monday	December 1
Friday	December 19
Two weeks	Dec 22 – January 2

Staff institute – No school for students  
 1<sup>st</sup> Student Attendance Day – One Hour Early Dismissal  
 Labor Day – District closed  
 Staff institute – No school for students  
 Fall Break – No school for students & staff  
 Students & staff return from Fall Break  
 Early dismissal for parent conferences after school  
 Early dismissal for parent conferences after school  
 No school for students & staff (following parent conferences)  
 Half day student attendance; half day staff development  
 Thanksgiving Break – District closed  
 Students & staff return from Thanksgiving Break  
 Early dismissal for Winter Break  
 Winter Break – District closed

**2026**

Monday	January 5
Monday	January 19
Wednesday	February 4
Monday	February 16
One week	March 16-20
Monday	March 23
Tuesday	March 31
Thursday	April 2
Friday	April 3
Wednesday	April 15
Monday	May 25
Tuesday	May 26
Wednesday	May 27

Students & staff return to school  
 Martin Luther King Day – District closed  
 Half day student attendance; half day staff development  
 Presidents' Day – District closed  
 Spring Break – District closed  
 Students & staff return from Spring Break  
 Early dismissal for parent conferences after school  
 Early dismissal for parent conferences after school  
 No school for students & staff (following parent conferences)  
 Half day student attendance; half day staff development  
 Memorial Day – District closed  
 Semester Closing Day – No school for students  
 Last day of school – Half day student attendance; half day staff development

Grading Periods	Pupil Days
August 14 – October 9	40
October 20 – December 19	41
January 5 – March 13	48
March 23 – May 27	45
<b>Total Pupil Days</b>	<b>174</b>

Attendance Reports	Pupil Days
August 14 – September 30	33
October 1 – 31	16
November 1 – 30	17
December 1 – 31	15
January 1 – 31	19
February 1 – 28	19
March 1 – 31	17
April 1 – 30	21
May 1 – May 27	17
<b>Total Pupil Days</b>	<b>174</b>

Teachers are paid for 180 days:

- 174 pupil days
- 3 staff institute days
- 1 semester closing day
- 2 parent conference days

**BOE Adopted 11/15/2023  
BOE Amended 03/12/2025**



**Attention NRMS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Students**

**Registration for Danville High  
School 2026 starts in February!**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to DHS Elective**

**Fair**

**Thursday, February 11, 2026**

**During School Day**



# January 8th Grade Student of the Month

**Shahrazad Allan**

Shahrazad is always on time, completes all of her work on time, and is always polite and courteous. She is the epitome of an honor student and gives 100% in all that she does.



# January 2026 7th Grade Student of the Month

**Rayllena Mitchell**

Rayllena consistently goes above and beyond standard classroom expectations by completing all of her work either early or on time. RayLenna demonstrates exceptional integrity by consistently doing the right thing even when no one is watching and serving as a dependable leader at the North Ridge News.

# EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH RECOGNITION

We are proud to recognize

# JULIE CROSS

as our

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!



Thank you, Julie, for your hard work, dedication, and always stepping up wherever needed in the building.

Your colleagues have voted you for this honor!



Employee of the Month Parking Space  
Reserved for

## MRS. CROSS

Please do not park in this designated spot.

Reserved parking for each month's honoree.

# *Congratulations, Julie!*

# February 2026 Newsletter

The North Ridge Builders Club is preparing for a busy second semester of school and community service projects.

**In February, we will continue making Valentines for Veterans. This year we will be taking a trip to our local VA Illiana Health Care System to deliver our handmade valentines. We have also arranged to play BINGO with the veterans. Our trip is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11, 2026, from 9:30-11:30 AM. We will be traveling by school bus. Permission slips have been passed out and are due back to us by Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade club members also have a trip to Danville High School on that day. We will take them to DHS with the afternoon group. We are also holding a BINGO Prize Drive from February 1<sup>st</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>. We will be collecting BINGO prizes to donate to the VA. A list of BINGO prize suggestions is included in this newsletter. Please send in as many prizes as you can. We truly appreciate your help with this.**

We are still collecting General Mills Box Tops for Education through their app. Please add the app to your phone and start scanning your receipts. Contact Mrs. Delzell if you need information about how to use the app or if you need a list of eligible Box Top products. Money collected from the General Mills Box Tops for Education Program is used to help fund our school and community projects.

The Builders Club continues to oversee the NRMS paper recycling program.

Our next meetings are:

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

\*All meetings are at 8:15 A.M. in the North Ridge library

\*If you have questions, all club information and news is posted in our Builders Club Google Classroom. You may also contact Mrs. Delzell and/or Mrs. Leemon at North Ridge.

As always, thank you for your support!!

# North Ridge Builders Club Veterans Bingo Prize Drive

 **February 1–10, 2026**

 Drop-off Locations:

North Ridge Middle School

- School Office
- Room 707 or Room 708

## **BINGO PRIZE IDEAS**

Most needed sizes: XL, 2XL, and a handful of 3XL

## **Clothing (Top Favorites!)**

T-shirts, sweatshirts, or pullovers

- THEY LOVE TOPS!
- Funny graphic shirts (Walmart \$5 tees are a big hit!)
- Gloves & stocking caps
- Slippers

## **Sports Items**

Cubs or Cardinals hats

Cubs or Cardinals shirts

## **Personal Care (No bar soap allowed)**

Body wash

Body sprays (Axe or other “smell-good” brands)

## **Crafts & Activities**

Diamond art kits

- Wood craft projects
- Board games (we have plenty of word searches)

## **Practical & Comfort Items**

Diabetic socks

- Watches
- Wallets

## **Snacks & Treats**

Snack cakes

Pop / soda bottles

## **Gift Cards**

Walmart gift cards

## **Adaptive & Helpful Gadgets**


Adaptive tools for seniors

- Wheelchair cup holders
- Walker cup holders

## **PATRIOT BUCKS**

They also have “Patriot Bucks.”

Monetary donations can be turned into \$1 coupons the veterans can use at the store.

 **Honestly, you can't go wrong  
— every donation is appreciated!**

# **NORTH RIDGE NEWS**

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**BEING HERE EVERY DAY PAYS OFF**

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**NORTH RIDGE NEWS 2026!**

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**✘ NEW YEAR, NEW YOU! ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST! ✘**

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