



North Fork Local School District Superintendent's Weekly Community Update September 25, 2026

Superintendent's Message

Good morning, North Fork Team,

As we welcome the start of fall, I want to take a moment to thank our staff for the continued work you do each day for our students. The change of seasons is a good reminder that we are moving through the school year quickly, and the relationships we build with students continue to make a difference.

As we move into the heart of the first quarter, our focus remains on doing what is best for our students—providing strong instruction, building positive relationships, and creating an environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed.

The success of North Fork Local Schools is a direct reflection of the commitment and dedication of our staff.

Redskin Pride!

Scott Hartley
Superintendent

Reflection/Words to Live By

- “At the end of the day, the most important question isn’t how much we accomplished, but how many students were better because we were there.” - *Danny Steele*
- “Reputation is for time; character is for eternity.” - *J.B. Gough*



Keep everything in perspective.

District Highlights

Lt. Governor (Coach) Jim Tressel visited Newton Elementary to continue to spread the word about the Tressel Challenge. Super job from the students and staff.



Student Activities & Athletics

Outwork your yesterday. "Try to be better than you were last week or yesterday." - Tony Robbins

Staff Shout Outs

- I would like to send a shout-out to Heidi Williams for her amazing support and dedication to helping Newton with all the phone issues over the last week. She came and stayed until the job got done and we couldn't be more grateful! Thank you, Heidi, for everything you do on a daily basis!
- Kendy Newell. She shows up for everyone around her even though the start of the school year has been tough. Always has an encouraging word or a funny story to make students and fellow staff have a brighter day. She means so much to Utica Elementary, and North Fork is lucky to have her math expertise and wisdom.
- A shout-out to Kara Firman and Howard Hill for taking on their new roles with grace and open-mindedness.

(Please send nominations of individuals or events to Mr. Hartley.)



Important Information

Please review the following items carefully:

1. Staff – Take a minute to look at the Ohio Department of Education's website for resources to help your students succeed on state testing.
 2. We have 15 school days before the end of the first grading period. Ensure you are doing everything you can to help your student succeed.
 3. Positive communication starts with us. Please share all of the good things you know we are doing for our students.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, October 2	District-Wide Pep Rally		UHS
Wednesday, October 7	Village of Utica Homecoming Parade	6:00 p.m.	
October 7 – October 10	Village of Utica Homecoming		Main Street
Thursday, October 15	End of First Grading Period		
Friday, October 16	No School – PD/Records Day		
Monday, October 19	Board of Education Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Utica Middle School

Strategic Plan Spotlight

This week's focus: Academic

Pillar: Goal 3

How this supports our work:

- Continued work to focus our energy on providing strong academics and practical skills.
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Did You Know?

Little-known facts about the district, statistics, achievement, or interesting information:

The district has five board members. A board of education acts as the official governing body for a school district, focusing on long-term vision, policy-making, and accountability rather than day-to-day school management.

Safety Minute

Reminders about school safety:

- **Speak Up:** If you notice a maintenance hazard, a struggling student, or an unusual security concern, report it right away. No observation is too small when it comes to prevention.
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Closing Thought

Mind what we say because, regardless of reality, the perception is that it is true (good or bad).

*No matter what the question, the answer is **EDUCATION!!!***

Thank you for everything you do to support our students, families, and each other. Your dedication continues to make a positive difference every day.

Have a wonderful week!