



North Fork Local School District Superintendent's Weekly Community Update October 30, 2026

Superintendent's Message

Good morning, North Fork Team,

As school staff, we may not always see the impact of our daily efforts. A lesson taught, a kind word, an extra explanation, or a few minutes of listening can make a lasting difference in a student's life.

We cannot solve every challenge a student faces, but we can make a difference for the students who walk through our doors each day. Sometimes, the smallest actions have the greatest impact. This brings me to a little story.

"A young girl was walking along a beach where thousands of starfish had been washed up during a storm. Every so often, she'd pick one up and throw it back into the ocean.

Eventually, a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can't save all these starfish. It doesn't matter!"

The girl bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, ***"Well, it mattered for that one!"***

In education, every interaction, every lesson, every word of encouragement, and every extra effort matters. We may not always see the immediate impact of our work, but we never know when a small act of support can change a student's day—or even their future.

As we continue our work at North Fork, let's remember that our goal is not simply to reach every student, but to make a difference for each one. **Each student matters, and what we do matters to that one.**

Remember: We do what is best for our students.

Redskin Pride!

Scott Hartley
Superintendent

Reflection/Words to Live By

- *"Everything in your life is a reflection of a choice you have made. If you want a different result, make a different choice." Anonymous.*
- *"Life isn't about getting and having; it's about giving and being." – Kevin Kruse*



District Highlights



Student Activities & Athletics

Good things come to those who work for it.

Staff Shout-Outs

- Shout-out to Zack McElroy, who joined the Newton staff this year. He fills in where he sees a need and often eats his lunch with students. They love it! He's been a great addition to Newton!
- I would like to shout out our district Title team, who are continuing to strengthen our district reading intervention program through their structured literacy practicum and coursework!
- Jen Wygle, thank you for keeping us healthy and organizing the flu shots.
- Shout-out to the cafeteria staff on a wonderful job decorating the pumpkins for the decorating contest! Also, thank you to everyone who voted!



REMINDER: If you have a shout-out, please send it to Mr. Hartley.

Important Information

Please review the following items carefully:

1. Staff – How are your students progressing with their academics? Parents, what can you do to help your student be successful?
 2. Election Day is coming up; this provides a wonderful activity for teaching our students.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, November 3

Monday, November 9

Monday, November 16

November 25 – 27

Thursday, December 17

Friday, December 18

Monday, January 4

No School – Conference Day Offset

Communications Committee Meeting

Board of Education Meeting

No School – Thanksgiving Break

Last School Day before Winter Break

No School – Staff PD/Records Day

Return from Break

2:45 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

Utica High School

Utica Elementary

Strategic Plan Spotlight

This week's focus: Communications

Pillar: Goal 2

How this supports our work:

- We recently tested the Urgent Alert in ParentSquare. We have repaired some items and feel confident that the test was successful.
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Did You Know?

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

Did you know that Utica, at the turn of the 20th century, was the largest hand-blown window glass factory city in the United States?

Safety Minute

Reminders about school safety:

- Being vigilant will become harder as the year moves toward the winter months. Work to keep focused.
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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!