

OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

ABOUT THIS PAGE

This weekly page is focused on the 16 Montgomery County public school districts involved in Learn to Earn Dayton,

a collective impact initiative committed to ensuring that children in the Dayton region are ready for kindergarten, third-grade reading proficient, and college and career ready.

Today: Jefferson Twp., Kettering, Northmont and Northridge Next week: Huber Heights, Mad River, New Lebanon and Oakwood

KETTERING



Scott Inskip is superintendent of Kettering City Schools.

Support assures bright future

In public education today, we are constantly faced with decisions that impact our district's ability to operate and to provide quality, comprehensive educational programming for students.

The Kettering City Schools are like many school districts across Ohio in that over the years, we have made staffing changes and budget cuts as we have faced ever-decreasing funding contributions from the state. The reality of these funding decreases is that the responsibility to maintain high-quality instruction for every student who comes through our doors falls on the taxpayers of our community.

A year ago, we embarked on a two-pronged community engagement plan that had us listening to our families about their wants and needs for their children as they move through the Kettering City Schools and conducting a community-wide survey to gather input from our community about its priorities for public education.

A key message we heard from community members who were surveyed was to maintain the high level of educational programming that is a tradition in Kettering and to also determine whether we need to expand on some of our programming in order to give students the opportunities they need to be ready — and competitive — in the 21st-century workplace. We also heard — loud and clear — that Kettering is proud of its schools and understands the importance of maintaining its facilities and protecting these community assets.

On March 15, the residents of Kettering and Moraine approved a 3.4-mill permanent improvement levy that will allow the district to continue to provide quality programming by giving us a fiscally conservative approach to the management of our district's general fund.

Over the past several years, the district has had to use general fund dollars to maintain our district facilities and infrastructure. This has been more of a Band-Aid approach to facility maintenance, because there are a number of projects that had to be put on the back burner. And while many necessary projects have been put on hold, it has still been necessary to take money from the general fund to cover maintenance

NORTHRIDGE



Students from the Northridge Local Schools participated in the Annual Pass, Shoot, Drizzle Contest sponsored by the Northridge Optimist Club. Pictured are all of the participants. Winners are celebrating their success by holding up their trophies.

Northridge students honored



Students from John H. Morrison Elementary and Esther Dennis Middle School were recognized by the Northridge Board of Education for academic success and positive behavior.



Families at Timberlane Learning Center played literacy games at the Title I Family Involvement Dr. Seuss Adventure sponsored by the Timberlane PTO.

AT RIGHT: Kindergarten students from Timberlane Learning Center were recently recognized as a Kiwanis Terrific Kids by the Northridge Kiwanis Club. Pictured is Chase Britner with his teacher Mrs. Kreitzer.



Students in Northridge High School ninth grade honors class competed in the 2016 Optimist International Essay Contest sponsored by the Northridge Optimist Club. Pictured left to right are: Carlos Mila (2nd place), Tyler Barnes, Mason Hardin, Zoe Proffitt, Teacher Mrs. Dodds, Ashley Allison, Brooke Williams, Janie Stannard (1st place), and Kaitlyn Smith (3rd place).

NORTHMONT



Beth Kessler is guidance counselor at Northmont High School.

Profile Beth Kessler

Education: Bachelor of science, education, Bowling Green State University, M.S. Ed., University of Dayton

Family: Spouse: Jim, Children: Nate, 11, Cole, 9, Cate, 1

Where do you live? Arcanum

How long have you been with Northmont? Eight years

Describe College Credit Plus: College Credit Plus permits seventh- through 12th-graders to enroll in college courses and earn high school credit and college credit simultaneously. Students may opt to take college courses offered within the high school building, at a local college or university campus, or on-line.

How has the program evolved? College Credit Plus replaces the former programs of PSEO (Post-Secondary Enrollment Option) and Dual Enrollment. This is the first school year College Credit Plus has been in effect.

How does offering college courses benefit Northmont students? By offering college courses in the high school building, it usually is a win-win situation. Students can take courses taught by Northmont faculty, sometimes with the assistance of a college adjunct. They take courses in a familiar environment, thus not having to leave the high school campus.

How many CCP classes does Northmont offer? During the 2015-2016 school year, Northmont High School offered eight College Credit Plus courses within the building, partnering with Sinclair Community College and Wright State University in offering these courses. For the 2016-2017 school year, the high school plans to expand upon the existing program by offering additional courses.

Approximately how many Northmont students participate in CCP? During the 2015-2016 school year, approximately 117 students at Northmont participated. The majority take courses in the building, while a small group takes courses at the college campus or on-line.

What about those who may not be interested in the early college path? While College Credit Plus has expanded our course offerings, it only adds to the outstanding advanced placement, honors, and other academic courses that Northmont has always offered. Northmont has a reputable Naval ROTC program for students interested in pursuing the military. Additionally, we continue to offer several courses in the arts, business, and more recently technology, engineering, and manufacturing.