

dividends

of Learning in Northridge Schools



A Message From the Superintendent



Dear Northridge Family,

As we begin a new calendar year, I want to take just a moment to say thank you to each and every one of you. Thank you for being flexible! Thank you for being cooperative! Thank you for being patient! Thank you for being encouraging and supportive! Thank you for joining with us in order to successfully overcome each and every challenge that our schools and community face! The transition back to full time, in-person learning (during a pandemic) has not been easy, but it has definitely been a blessing for each and every one of us! Let's continue to come together, as the Northridge Family, in order to Always Improve for the purpose of Student Success! Together we can! Together we will!

As we enter the winter season, we have seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases both in the community and within the school. Let's remain vigilant in following our COVID-19 procedures and protocols, and continue to do whatever it takes to Defend Our Den as we prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff. What we are doing is working incredibly well! Rest assured, we will continue to monitor the pandemic data in the days and weeks ahead, with the hope that even more "normalcy" will return to our schools very soon! Thanks in advance for your continued cooperation ... Your efforts matter, and are GREATLY APPRECIATED!

In closing, I want you to know that I continue to lift you in my thoughts and prayers on a daily basis. Please continue to take care of yourselves and your families, and to encourage your students to stay engaged and to give their best effort on a daily basis. I am looking forward to the day when the pandemic is behind us, when the masks come off us, and when the stress and anxiety that COVID-19 has caused us is a distant memory! Until then, STAY STRONG, keep your HEADS UP, and let us know how we can help. We are here to understand and meet the needs of EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY, WHATEVER IT TAKES! TOGETHER WE CAN! TOGETHER WE WILL! May God bless and keep us all!

With care and thanks,

Dave

Student Recognition

On December 9th, the Northridge Board of Education honored outstanding students in grades 4 and 5 who have demonstrated one or more of the Northridge Core Values. These district developed attributes represent characteristics that guide daily interactions, goals, and mission. The Core Values of Northridge Schools focus on **HEADS UP: H**onest, Consistent, and Appropriate Communication; **E**ducation as Our Calling; **A**lways Improving; **D**istrict is Family; **S**tudent Success; **U**nderstand and Meet Legitimate Needs; and **P**ersonal Responsibility and Behavioral Integrity.

Students are nominated each month by teachers or administrators. Northridge Middle School students who received recognition at the meeting were 6th grader, **Brooklyn Thomas** (pictured below with teacher **Rhonda Cupp**); and 8th graders, **Abbegail Chafin, Mercedes Hawkins, London Holt, and Jaylen Puryear.**





Northridge Community NEWS

Weather Delays/Closings

Inclement weather during the winter months can result in school cancellations because of unsafe travel conditions. The primary considerations in the decision to delay, dismiss, or cancel school are:

Delay/Closing Options

The delay/closing options for the Northridge Schools are:

- **TWO-HOUR DELAY** - ALL schedules are adjusted two hours. (Breakfast will NOT be served.)
- **CLOSED** - ALL buildings are closed.

The decision to close and/or delay school is usually broadcast by area TV, radio stations, and the district one-call system by 6:30 a.m.

- safety of students and staff.
- street conditions.
- current weather and forecasts.
- status of bus fleet.
- condition of buildings and grounds.
- consultation with police, township road department, and other schools.

In order to be sure you receive the district one-call, please contact your child's school to make sure they have your correct phone number on file.

Nature and Meditation Walks

Second grade students in **Trish Baxter**, **Chelsea Smith** and **Genea White**'s classrooms meet weekly with **Lindsey Thayer**, a certified science teacher, yoga instructor, and naturalist. Ms. Thayer guides the students on meditation walks through the woods while teaching them how to identify trees in their surroundings.

This autumn, several trees were marked so the students could later tap them to collect sap in order to make maple syrup. Ms. Thayer has been teaching the students breathing techniques as well as the benefits of nature. The second graders look forward to their weekly visits with Ms. Thayer and are learning a lot!



Staff Recognition

On December 9th, the Northridge Board of Education recognized two staff members for their focus on, and execution of, the District Core Values.

Cathy Brenner, Payroll Specialist, pictured with **Jeff Lisath** and **Kimberly Puckett**.



Heather Zacharias, Director of Technology and Media, pictured below with **Greg Vance**.



8th Graders Recognized at the December 9th BoE meeting: **Mercedes**

Hawkins, (above) **Jaylen Puryear**, **Abbegail Chafin**, and **London Holt** (below).



Why the Food Shortage, You Ask

The Polar Bear Cafe at Northridge welcomes 2022 with high hopes for smoother days. We are confident that many students have voiced concerns over some changes in the cafe throughout this first semester. Supplies simply are not available to school cafeterias as they have been in the past. We spend hours sourcing replacements for many products, like our five compartment tray, sometimes resulting in students being served lunch on paper plates or food containers we have cut in half. Many of our students' favorite menu items are often not available. Weekly grocery items needed to provide an adequate number of healthy and tasty school lunches are simply out of stock, and staff is spending hours working to find appropriate replacements.

Global supply chain issues impact every aspect of our Polar Bear Cafe service. Our food suppliers face all of the typical COVID-19 related manufacturing issues: low production, not enough employees, slow shipping, and food availability issues. In an attempt to better serve students during COVID-19, the USDA permitted all schools in the School Nutrition program to provide meals at no cost to ALL students. Northridge students have received free meals through the Community Eligibility Provision program for the last eight years. However, the USDA decision to provide free meals to all students has increased free meal consumption by approximately 8.6 million and at a time when supplies are at an all-time low.

The supply chain issues continue to become increasingly complex and costs for services and supplies continue to rise. Our industry partners tell us to expect delays and shortages of both food and supplies through the end of 2022. So smoother days in 2022 may mean we are better equipped to solve our problems and look forward to 2023 when supply chain issues are a thing of the past.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continually strive to provide quality meals to our amazing students no matter what challenges we may face. Rest assured, the Northridge Food Service Team stands ready to overcome any obstacle in order to meet the needs of our Northridge Family.



EVENTS Calendar

- 13 Board of Education Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Board of Education Meeting Work Session - 5:30 p.m.

Save the Date!

Northridge High School Graduation

Class of  **2022** **Friday,
June 3,
2022**
8:00 p.m.

January Sports

Varsity Boys Basketball

Game time 7:15 p.m. unless noted.

- 7 Milton-Union
- 8 Thurgood*
- 11 Lehman Catholic
- 14 Miami East
- 18 Stebbins - 7:30
- 21 Riverside*
- 22 Meadowdale*
- 25 Covington*
- 28 Bethel

Varsity Girls Basketball

Game time 6:00 p.m. unless noted.

- 5 Tri-County North - 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Miami East - 1:15 p.m.
- 13 Riverside*
- 15 Covington* - 1:30 p.m.
- 20 Bethel - 7:15 p.m.
- 22 Troy Christian - 1:30 p.m.
- 27 Milton-Union*
- 31 Brookville

Wrestling

Meet time 10:00 a.m. unless noted.

- 8 Bellbrook
- 15 Lehman Catholic
- 28 Lima Central - 5:30 p.m.
- 29 Lima Central

* Home

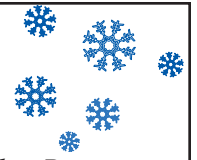
Hat Fundraiser for Tennis Team



The Northridge tennis teams are selling wide-brimmed bucket hats with an embroidered school logo. The cost is \$35.00. The money will be used to purchase much needed equipment, supplies, and court time with a local tennis pro.

For additional information, or to purchase a bucket hat, contact a tennis player or coach Julie Raiff-Crabtree at jraiff@northridge-eschools.org. Thank you for supporting student athletes.





Staff Members Awarded Funds to Enhance Learning Opportunities



The Northridge Optimist Club awarded \$2,500.00 through the *Polar Bear Fund* to support learning opportunities for K-12 students. Four applications were funded during the first round of giving for the 2021-2022 school year.

Elementary educator **Andrea Helrigle** and High School English teacher **Erika Reynolds** will receive \$500.00 to purchase engaging, relevant texts for their classrooms. High School students will select a text of their choice and complete independent reading projects that enhance their critical thinking skills. Ms. Helrigle will utilize the funds to purchase the second-grade Junior Great Books program, which uses high-quality literature to promote in-depth inquiry and discussion.

Anthony Hiser and **Ann Ewing**'s project, Student Volunteer Corps (SVC), provides opportunities for students to develop positive connections, volunteer in the building, and develop leadership skills. The SVC participants will be serving as role models for their peers through academic, behavioral, and social leadership opportunities.

The largest award, \$1000.00, funds **Julie Raiff Crabtree**'s life skills course, *What's Cooking*. Students participating will gain basic food preparation skills and knowledge of personal finance. The district is excited to continue expanding opportunities for students in the community and are thankful for the support of the Northridge Optimist Club.



**Students and Staff
Return From
Winter Holiday Break
Back to School
Monday, January 3, 2022**



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Northridge Board of Education
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