

dividends of Learning in Northridge Schools

Drew Ogletree Honored at Friday Night Lights



On April 30, 2022, class of 2016 graduate, **Andrew Ogletree** was drafted by the Indianapolis Colts in the 6th round as a tight end in the National Football League. The Northridge Schools and Community celebrated Drew Ogletree Night on Friday, October 21st at their final home varsity football game of the season vs. Lehman Catholic.

Friday Night Lights kicked off with a Community Tailgate party at 5:00 p.m. with food provided by New City Church, Northridge Bear Boosters, and the Northridge Board of Education. The celebration continued with music and games while Drew signed autographs and had photos taken with proud community members and friends.

During halftime, Ogletree was honored on the 50 yard line by High School Varsity Coach **Bob Smith**, Athletic Director **Aaron Drakeford**, Director of Operations **Jeff Lisath**, and Superintendent **Dave Jackson** where his high school football number - #1 - was retired!

Drew Ogletree, the Northridge Community is so proud of you for all of your hard work and determination! Congratulations!

Generous Donation to NHS English Language Arts

Recently, Northridge High School Language Arts teacher **Adina Dodds** was surprised by an exciting donation to her class. She had shared on Facebook that she was planning to purchase a young adult fiction novel, *Five Feet Apart*, for her class to read and discuss. The post was shared, and a Northridge Alumni purchased the books for the class.

Mrs. Dodds shared that the district had just purchased a set of novels and she didn't want to ask for another set so soon. *"So, I went on Facebook to ask for a teacher discount code to purchase a set of books for my class,"* said Mrs. Dodds. She continued, *"I had planned to just collect a few here and there and eventually build my set for next school year."* She was pleasantly surprised when she woke up the next morning to a message from a former student informing her that the books had been purchased for the class.

"This is an extremely generous donation, and we want to say a big thank you to our donor," said **Andrea Townsend**, Director of Human Resources, Pupil Services, and Communications. Mrs. Dodds added, *"This was so kind of him and such an awesome gift for my class!"*

The generous alumni, Mr. **Chaz Dunlavy**, provided these novels for the district. *"Maybe it will show others you don't have to have kids or live in the district anymore, but can still always help the community that helped you learn as a kid. Fantastic stuff!"* he stated.

Mrs. Dodds plans to use this novel to bring more awareness to Cystic Fibrosis, because it is not widely known. The novel will also be used to teach the Ohio English Language Arts standards. *"It is a great literary story but has a lot of great CF information within. I can see myself finding informative text on CF and being able to cover both genres,"* said Mrs. Dodds. The topic of Cystic Fibrosis means so much to Mrs. Dodds because a member of her family has been diagnosed with it, and she hopes to use this novel to increase awareness about the disease.



Northridge Community

Student & Staff Recognition

The Northridge Local School Board once again honored students in the district who have demonstrated one or more of the Northridge Core Values. These district developed attributes represent characteristics that guide our daily interactions, goals, and mission. The HEADS UP Core Values of Northridge Schools focus on: **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 in their buildings. Northridge Elementary School Students in grades PreK-2 who received recognition at the October 13th BoE meeting were **Zi'aire Herron, Mariah Reeves, Jazelle Rogers, Ariel Allaman, Hayden Fitch, Angel McComb, and Alayna McDougal.**

The Board also recognized bus driver **Scott Winegarner** for understanding and meeting legitimate needs. Congratulations to all!



Northridge Homecoming Week - A Great Success

Northridge bus driver **Cathy Larson** joins in the school spirit for Homecoming Spirit Week on Decades Day!



Northridge Student **Ricky Proffitt** and **Bruno the Polar Bear** celebrate Homecoming Spirit Week with the Polar Bear fight song on Red and Gray Friday! The students are welcomed to school on Fridays with high fives and the Northridge fight song! Go Bears!



Congratulations to the Northridge Homecoming Court! Freshman Representatives: **Niara Green** and **Teon Hill**; Sophomore Representatives: **Destiny Turner** and **Ja'dynn Martin**; Seniors: **Kelsey Minor, Queen** and **Jeremy Henry, King**; Junior Representatives: **Amy Martin** and **Mark Maloon**; Senior Representatives: **Trinitee Frazier** and **Alex Payne**. Congratulations to this year's Homecoming King and Queen!



Northridge Powder Puff teams celebrate after the big game.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

HEROs In The Making

Northridge Football players are mentoring Northridge Elementary students through the *High School to Elementary Reading Outreach* (HERO) Program. Second grade teacher, **Chelsea Hewitt**, recently collaborated with Head Football Coach **Bob Smith** to allow members of the football team to visit her classroom. *"Second graders loved their time making bookmarks and reading with the student athletes,"* shared Mrs. Hewitt, *"They're looking forward to the next time they get to work with each other!"*

The HERO program was started in 2013 by Coach Smith, his wife and daughter. The program involved football players visiting elementary students for 45 minutes every Friday to build positive relationships, practice reading, and reinforce positive behaviors. The program was put on hold during COVID, but is now back up and running and benefitting from the new building. Coach Smith says, *"We want to get more players involved with the program now since we are all in the same building and can just walk down to the other end. It has been a very positive experience for all parties involved."*



Top picture left to right: Athena Brand, Ta'ron Hill, Chandler Price, Rylynn Cline, Jaylen Hol-loway, D'Juan Hall, Javiah Blake-Harris, Halen Hall, Erica Mollett, Payton Brown, David Turner, Mark Maloon, Brynlee Mays, Emier Battle, Violet Hall, Kierra Jones, Mrs. Hewitt

EVENTS Calendar

- 3 Board of Education Work Session
- 5:30 p.m.
- 8 Staff Development-**No School**
- 17 Board of Education Meeting
- 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Interim Progress Reports
- 21 Compensation Day-**No School**
- 22-25 Thanksgiving Break**
- No School

Thanksgiving Break
November
22 - 25



November Sports

Varsity Boys Basketball

- 8 Waynesville - Scrimmage
- 4:00 p.m.
- 11 Open - Scrimmage - 6:00 p.m.
at Thomas Worthington H.S.
- 19 Trotwood - Scrimmage
- 10:00 a.m.

Varsity Girls Basketball

(Game time 7:15 unless noted.)

- 18 Tri-County North - 6:00 p.m.
- at Carlisle High School
- 19 Twin Valley South - 6:00 p.m.
- at Carlisle High School
- 26 Miami East - 1:15 p.m.
- 28 Oakwood

* Home

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:

- 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.

The delay/closing options for the Northridge Schools are:

- **two-hour delay** - ALL schedules are adjusted two hours. Champions Preschool A.M. Session will be closed. (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. **In order to receive the district one-call, please contact your child's school to make sure they have your correct phone number on file.**

Northridge Announces New Athletic Director

After an extensive search process, Northridge Local Schools has selected a new Athletic Director. **Mr. Aaron Drakeford** officially began as Athletic Director on October 1, 2022. Mr. Drakeford has been serving as an Interventionist for grades 6-12. Mr. Drakeford has participated in sports at the middle school, high school, college and professional levels. He has also coached at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. In addition, Mr. Drakeford has a Master's Degree in Education and holds an Ohio Administrative License.



"We are looking forward to the incredibly positive journey ahead!", said Mr. **Dave Jackson**, Superintendent of Northridge Local Schools. *"I am excited to watch Mr. Drakeford pour into the lives of, and be the difference for, our student athletes, coaches, staff, families and community,"* he continued.

Mr. Drakeford is very excited to have this opportunity. *"I would like to thank the Board of Education members, administration, staff, and community of Northridge for welcoming me into this new role with open arms. I am honored that I was selected to lead this program and support our coaches and student-athletes,"* said Aaron. He expressed his vision for the future when he said, *"There is a deep history in Northridge, and I look forward to working closely with alumni, community members, and our middle school and youth sports to get back to prominence. We will build a championship culture both athletically and academically, as we prepare our student-athletes for life beyond Northridge."*

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