

dividends of Learning in Northridge Schools

Northridge Achieves Outstanding Special Education Annual Rating



2023 Ohio Special Education Annual Rating

Based on 2021-2022 data

Northridge Local School District

In a commendable achievement, Northridge Local School District has received an outstanding rating in the Annual Special Education Rating, showcasing its commitment to providing exceptional inclusive educational services for students with diverse learning needs. Annually, the Ohio Department of Education issues a rating on the performance of the special education program for each district and community school in the state. This is known as the Special Education Rating and meets federal requirements for local education agencies that receive IDEA funding. Those ratings were released on October 24th. Northridge Local Schools received the highest rating possible.

The Annual Special Education Rating developed by The Ohio Department of Education, compares districts in areas of compliance with IDEA and has recently included performance measures comparing the Graduation and Drop Out Rate for students with disabilities in the district. In both areas, compliance and performance, Northridge earned the maximum amount of points.

The district's unwavering dedication to inclusive education and personalized learning has earned them high marks in various categories, including discipline discrepancies, disproportionality in identification into special education and specific disability categories, and initial evaluation timelines. *"We are incredibly proud of the collaborative efforts of our educators, support staff, and administrators who work tirelessly to create an inclusive and nurturing learning environment for all students,"* said Director of Special Education **Dr. Andrea Townsend**.

The district now looks forward to building upon this success and continuing to explore innovative ways to enhance the special education programs, ensuring that each student receives the tailored support necessary for their academic and personal growth. Northridge Local School District's exemplary performance in the Special Education Annual Rating serves as an inspiration for continued emphasis on the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students.

Northridge Announces New Athletic Director



After an extensive search process, Northridge Local Schools has selected a new Athletic Director, **Mr. Jerry Gates**. Mr. Gates has been serving as an Interventionist for grades 6-12 at Northridge. He has participated in sports at the middle school, high school, college, and professional levels. His tenacity and hard work allowed him to be inducted into the Butler County Hall of Fame in 2021. Mr. Gates has also coached at the middle school and high school levels, where he found great joy in building the foundation for all student-athletes. (Continued on Page 2.)

Northridge Community

JAGS Partner With Period Kits Ohio

The Northridge Jobs for America's Graduates class partnered up with *Period Kits Ohio*, a nonprofit that distributes period kits consisting of 1 or 3 months worth of period products to those who struggle to afford them through a network of supportive community agencies. Students had a chance to sit down with the founder of the organization to talk about how to end period poverty and then assembled kits of pads, tampons, and liners. *Period Kits Ohio* graciously donated a large supply of period products to the nurse's office in September, and the period kits assembled will be made available to students at the Northridge main building and the SIS building.



Pictured from left to right: Dakota Hairston, Taryn Austin, Madison Harris, Mariyah Williams, Niara Green, Amelia Cadena, Kierstin Koger, Madison Baumgardner, Audrea Cammon, Chris Evans, Zalah Scarberry, Kyra Callison, Kyah Blake, Peyton Lewis, Lucie Harner, Jera Miller, and Savannah Ferrell-Mclemore

Northridge Announces New Athletic Director

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Mr. Gates is beyond ecstatic to have the opportunity to give back to the community of Northridge. *"I first want to start by giving thanks to everyone involved in making this possible. Without you believing in me, I would not be where I am today. It is truly an honor to not only serve as a liaison between the coaches and players, but also provide support to the teachers and staff as well."* He continued by adding, *"In just the short amount of time that I have been a part of this community, one thing that stands out the most to me is the One Family United slogan. The community is so close-knit that it truly feels like we are all one big FAMILY. I have so many plans for the athletic program, and I can't wait to continue to build on a winning culture both in the classroom and within each designated sport as well, to prepare the student-athletes for their journey beyond Northridge."*

SAVE THE CAPS!!!

Congratulations to the NES 4th graders! They collected the most bottle caps during the "Save The Caps - Buddy Bench" contest! Our goal was 100 POUNDS of caps to get our recycled bench...AND THE 4TH GRADE COLLECTED OVER 100 POUNDS ALL BY THEMSELVES.

AWESOME JOB!!!!

All of the grades did amazing

KG - 48 pounds

1st grade - 24 pounds

2nd grade - 30 pounds

3rd grade - 25 pounds

5th grade - 28 pounds



KEEP SENDING IN YOUR PLASTIC CAPS!

The NHS Community STEM's "Save The Caps" program is ALWAYS RECYCLING CAPS!!!

We have receptacles all over the school district, including the elementary cafeteria.

Please keep sending your caps!

It helps teach our kids valuable lessons AND helps us make cool new stuff.

Music Department Performs Under the Lights



On Friday, October 6th, the Northridge Music Department, consisting of the band, choir, and Polarettes drillteam, performed at the last home football game against the Troy Christian Eagles.

The choir sang the Northridge Alma Mater and The Star Spangled Banner, the band and Polarettes performed in the stands, and the entire music department performed the halftime show. They did an amazing job!

EVENTS



- 7 Staff Development-**No School**
- 15 Board of Education Meeting and Work Session - 5:30 p.m.
- 20 Compensation Day-**No School**



November Sports

Varsity Girls Basketball



- 22 Tri-County North - 6:00 p.m.
- 24 Tri-County North - 7:30 p.m.
- * Home



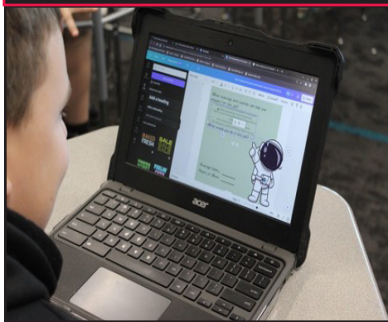
Mark your calendar for this year's HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Guitar/Piano Class Student Recital
Wednesday, December 13 @ 6:00 PM
Cub Cafe

Middle School and High School Theater Classes
Semester Performance
Thursday, December 14 @ 6:00 PM
Cub Cafe

Holiday Choir Concert
Thursday, December 21 @ 7:00 PM
David Herring Auditorium

Straight From The Students



Do you know what *Bear Facts* is? *Bear Facts* is a school newsletter. It helps students at Northridge develop the ability to format, organize and edit writing. At Northridge it is important for students to learn this. Students learn to ask questions, gather information effectively, and to look for important details. This elective will affect the students because they're learning to do things on their own.

It has helped students have a creative mind in coming up with their own topics in *Bear Facts*. Some things that have happened during this year are little news articles. Students have come up with the topics like volleyball, football, advice for your health, things that are going on in Northridge, and things that are happening in our community. Some students also shared things that are going on in their lives or an experience they'd like to share. We also wrote an article about the new skate park that was recently built.

All students have an opportunity to share something and other students can give them advice or feedback. There is also artwork students have created that can be included in the newsletter. In the newsletter we have many different sections that students have contributed. Many students have applied to interview staff at Northridge that are included in their articles. We have a Kindness Corner in one section created by a student. Teen opinion questions are included. This gives the student with the question two perspectives: yes and no.

In *Bear Facts* class, students were introduced to a new site called Canva. In Canva students use the article they wrote and place it in there. They pick and come up with ways to document their piece. Canva has many different fonts, designs and creative aspects students can use. Some students created their own designs using Canva. With Canva students can be creative and learn new things while creating their own Canva project. Pictured above is **Preston Green**, *Bear Facts* contributor, working in Canva to create a project about a topic introduced in class.

Bear Facts helps students academically by getting them prepared. They will be able to write their own articles, journals, stories, essays and much more.
~ Article written by Sirinity Williams, 8th grader at Northridge Middle School.

HAVE YOU
HEARD?

HAVE YOU
HEARD?

HAVE YOU
HEARD?

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.**

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