

# dividends of Learning in Northridge Schools

## Northridge Board of Education Members 2024



Each month, the Dividends will feature one of the Northridge Board of Education members. We begin this month with **Christina Fiore**.

Tina is a dedicated and passionate returning school board member for Northridge Local Schools. Her roots run deep in the Northridge community, as she was born and raised here, and she has remained a steadfast resident. A proud graduate of the Class of 1988, Tina's family continues to be a large part of the Northridge Community! Her daughter is Miss Fiore who teaches at Northridge Elementary!

A pivotal moment in Tina's life inspired her to run for the Board of Education. Confronted with her son's experience of bullying in 6th grade, she resolved not to run from the problem but to run into it to make a positive difference for all children and parents in the district. Her goal as a board member is to be a catalyst for positive change, providing support and guidance to families navigating the educational system.

Tina believes Northridge's uniqueness lies in its close-knit community, known for coming together in times of need. To enhance these qualities, she organizes com- (Continued on page 4.)

## A Message From Superintendent Jackson

Dear Northridge Family,

In a recent announcement, Northridge Elementary School within our Northridge Local School Family has reason to celebrate as it receives the 2024 Federal School Improvement Identification Notification. The school has demonstrated significant improvement, surpassing federal accountability measures and marking its exit from Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) status.

The notification commends Northridge Elementary School for showcasing two consecutive years of improvement above the cut score set for the school, based on data from 2018. Additionally, the school achieved a graduation rate exceeding the 67% threshold, leading to its identification and subsequent exit from CSI status. State Support Team Consultant **Susan Seelig** said, "*Consecutive years of improvement is the direct result of the focused, collective work of the entire elementary staff led by a cohesive, supportive administrative team.*"

For decades, the Northridge Family worked diligently to implement best practices with few sustainable results. Embracing the mantra, "*when you know better you do better,*" we began a journey by first pursuing and obtaining a Striving Readers Grant. Through five years of learning, growing, collaborating and committing to continuous improvement, we are now successfully implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework with a primary focus on literacy aligned to The Science of Reading. While there's still much to learn and do, we are extremely optimistic about the increased (Continued on page 2.)

## 2024 Welcome to the Northridge Board of Education

The Board of Education is a five-member governing body elected by the voters of the school district. The Board of Education, representing the community, has the legal (Continued on page 3.)



2024 Northridge Board of Education Members from left to right: Nathan Ullmer II-Student Representative; Tina Fiore; Margie Glock, President; Jacinda Fugate; James M. Dillon, Vice-President; Mark Brumley; Lori Green, Treasurer; and David Jackson, Superintendent; not pictured Jeff Lisath, Director of Operations

# NEWS Northridge Community

## A Message From Superintendent Jackson

(Continued from page 1.)

student growth shown by our data, and we are incredibly excited for the journey ahead!

The data seems to speak for itself. In the 2018-2019 school year, the district continued implementing the Whole Language Approach and many of our students struggled to get to grade level by the end of the year. That year, 29% of Kindergarten students were on track at the start of the school year, 26% of Kindergarten students were on track at the middle of the school year, and 46% of Kindergarten students were on track at the end of the school year. By the 2021-2022 school year, after professional development in The Science of Reading research, 22% of Kindergarten students were on track at the start of the school year, 45% of Kindergarten students were on track at the middle of the school year, and 60% of Kindergarten students were on track at the end of the school year. Then in the 2022-2023 school year, which was the first year of full Science of Reading implementation, 28% of Kindergarten students were on track at the start of the school year, 65% of Kindergarten students were on track at the middle of the school year, and 82% of Kindergarten students were on track at the end of the school year. This type of growth can be life changing for students as they build reading skills which lead to other successes in school and life.

These changes in student outcomes at our Elementary School in the area of literacy are a result of essential partnerships combined with innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Partnership with educational leaders in

State Support Team 10, Montgomery County ESC, and many others, helped Northridge provide essential professional development, content support, and systems coaching. Northridge continues to be proud of the approaches such as implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Support for students district wide with a focus on The Science of Reading for instruction and intervention at all levels of student skill and ability.

As a school that has successfully exited CSI status, Northridge Elementary School will experience certain changes in requirements. Notably, the school is no longer obligated to update

or revise its school improvement plan (One Plan) due to its improved status. While the completion of the Support Schools Tool is no longer mandatory, it is recommended as a best practice to support plan implementation and monitoring. *"It is a validation of all the hard work we are doing to ensure our students have a successful future,"* said Building Administrator **Tony Hiser**.

The entire Northridge Elementary School, as well as the entire Northridge Family, takes pride in this achievement, showcasing their commitment to academic excellence and continuous improvement. This recognition reflects the hard work and dedication of students, educators, and administrators alike, and marks a significant milestone in the school's pursuit of educational excellence. Thank you to our entire Northridge Family for their exceptional efforts!

God bless and Godspeed on the journey ahead!



Northridge Choir Presents:

# Spring Concert

Thursday March 21, 2024 7:00 PM  
David Herring Auditorium

The poster features a white background with black musical staves and notes. Two large red circles flank the title "Spring Concert". A large red letter "N" is in the bottom right corner.



High School Drama Club presents:

# Bye Bye Birdie

Friday 3/8 @ 7:00  
David Herring Auditorium

Saturday 3/9 @ 7:00  
David Herring Auditorium

Sunday 3/10 @ 3:00  
David Herring Auditorium

Ticket prices: \$10 general admission,  
\$5 Northridge students and Senior Citizens

The poster has a dark blue background with a large white treble clef. It is decorated with colorful musical notes and a splash of purple paint.

## 2024 Welcome to the Northridge Board of Education *(Continued from page 1.)*

responsibility for the education of the children of the district. The Board derives its authority and responsibility from state and federal law.

It is the duty of the Board of Education to establish the policies under which the schools are governed. The Board places the responsibility to implement those policies with the Superintendent and the administrative staff.

The five Board of Education members are community residents who are vitally concerned with the education of Northridge youngsters. Their authority as board members is in effect only when the Board is in session. No individual member has the authority to act in the name of the Board outside a meeting.

The Board of Education members are elected to serve four-year overlapping terms. They are elected at large on a nonpartisan ballot to represent the entire district.

The Superintendent, with the advice of the Board president, shall be responsible for preparing the agenda for each meeting. Board members receive digital agendas and explanatory materials through BoardDocs prior to the regular meeting to allow time for preparation. Agendas for the public are available through BoardDocs which can be found on the Northridge Local Schools Website at [www.northridgeschools.org/Board.aspx](http://www.northridgeschools.org/Board.aspx).

Anyone who wishes to suggest an item for inclusion on the agenda must submit a written request to the office of the Superintendent prior to the day of the meeting, except in cases of suspended or expelled students. If a group wishes to present a particular item to the Board, it is suggested that one person be selected by the group to speak. The request shall indicate the subject of the presentation and the name of the presenter.

All Board of Education meetings are open to the public. The law allows for closed executive sessions for discussion of personnel matters, litigation, negotiations, security and real estate transactions, but any official action must be taken in a public meeting.


All Board of Education regular meetings have a designated portion on the agenda for comments and participation by the public. Anyone desiring to speak is requested to fill out a provided card and submit it to the Treasurer. Persons attending the meeting do not participate in discussions on other agenda items unless asked to do so by the Board. Parents' questions about individual students usually should be discussed with the teacher involved first, and if necessary, the principal or administrator closest to the situation. If further discussion is necessary, the matter can be referred to the Superintendent. This procedure has been effective for most people because it gets a direct response and allows the Board to consider matters that affect the entire district.

A routine question may be answered at the time it is posed. However, more complex matters may require sufficient time for study and consideration. Specific situations will be referred to the administration for investigation and review. If policy action is required, the matter must be scheduled by the Board on a future agenda.

## EVENTS Calendar

February 2nd  
Groundhog Day  
Will the  
groundhog see  
his shadow?



- 8 Board of Education Meeting  
- 6:00 p.m.
- 14 ♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥
- 16 Staff Development  
**- No School for Students**
- 19 President's Day  
**- No School** 
- 22 Board of Education Work  
Session - 6:00 p.m.

**Athletic  
Schedules can be  
found at  
[polarbearsathletics.com](http://polarbearsathletics.com)**

### February Sports

#### Varsity Boys Basketball

Game time 7:30 p.m. unless noted.

- 2 Troy Christian
- 3 Thurgood Marshall\*
- 6 Bellefontaine - 7:45 p.m.
- 9 Milton Union\*
- 13 Lehman Catholic\*
- 16 Stivers - 8:00 p.m.



#### Varsity Girls Basketball

- 1 Troy Christian - 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Milton Union\* - 1:30 p.m.
- 8 Lehman Catholic\* - 7:30 p.m.

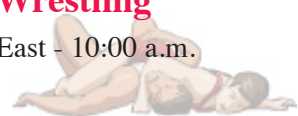
#### Varsity Bowling

- 3 Hilliard - 11:00 a.m. at HP Lanes
- 18 TRC Championship  
at Miami East - 10:00 a.m.

#### Wrestling

- 17 Miami East - 10:00 a.m.

\* 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 are:

### Delay/Closing Options

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.



- 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.

Ensure you  
receive the district one-  
calls by updating your phone  
number in FINAL FORMS  
on our website.

[www.northridgeschools.org](http://www.northridgeschools.org)

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## Northridge Board of Education Members 2024 (Continued from page 1.)

community events fostering pride, unity, and a sense of community. These include initiatives like Love Thy Neighbor Northridge Clean Up day, the Homecoming Parade, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Basket Project, and the Community Egg Hunt.

Tina loves the Northridge School District and community; she also loves Chewy Sweetarts, the Denver Broncos, and her hobbies; cross-stitch and stained glass. She was also instrumental in discovering our Polar Bear who sits beside the iceberg out front! Her husband found the Polar Bear at the Home Goods store in Kenwood Square. Tina helped purchase the bear for 75% off on an after Christmas sale. The bear only cost \$500 and was purchased with all donations! Tina's service to the Northridge School District and community is beyond measure, and we are so thankful to have her returning to the school board!

A Message from Superintendent Jackson

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Board Member Introductory

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Calendar of Events / February Sports Schedules

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dividends  
of Learning in Northridge Schools

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