Volume LXI No. 3
November 2026

# dividends of Learning in Northridge Schools

## Northridge Hall of Fame ~ Class of 2027

The Northridge Hall of Fame was established to honor Northridge alumni, educators, and community members for their outstanding accomplishments and for serving as positive role models for our students. Following the devastating Memorial Day tornadoes of 2019, which deeply affected the Northridge community, and the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic, Hall of Fame inductions were temporarily postponed.

We are proud to announce the return of the Northridge Hall of Fame inductions this year with the Class of 2027! Beginning this month, *Dividends of Learning in Northridge Schools* will feature one of our newest Hall of Fame inductees each month, celebrating their achievements, contributions, and lasting impact on our community. We begin this month with **Alice J. Berry**.

Known to generations of Northridge students as "Ms. Berry," Alice Berry was a beloved teacher, mentor, and steady source of kindness who saw promise in every student and encouraged each to build a future worth working toward. During an extraordinary fifty-one years at Northridge High School, from 1970 to 2021, she taught English and life lessons that reached far beyond her classroom.

A native of St. Louis and a graduate of Mount Mercy College, Alice brought a love of language, literature, and learning to her work. She served as English department chair, taught honors classes, and helped students pursue opportunities at the United States Air Force Academy and West Point. She also created *The Berry Patch*, Northridge's first student literary magazine, giving young writers a place to share their voices for more than twenty years.

One of Alice's most meaningful contributions was creating the Stay in School program. She understood that some students faced responsibilities and hardships that made a traditional school schedule difficult. Through patience, flexibility, and countless hours beyond the school day, she helped students who might otherwise have left school earn their diplomas. For more than forty years as senior class sponsor, she also helped prepare generations of graduates for their walk across the stage.

Alice's care for families extended throughout the community. Northridge Kiwanis welcomed her as its first female member, and she later became its first female president. She started the club's Christmas Auction to support baskets for families in need, building a tradition of generosity that continued beyond her own service. (Continued on Page 2.)

## Fifth Annual Northridge Community Thanksgiving

Northridge Local Schools (NLS) warmly invites you to the Fifth Annual Northridge Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Monday, November 23rd, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Northridge Schools Cub Cafe. Organized by NLS in partnership with community churches and organizations, this community meal is open to all Northridge Schools families and residents of the 45414 zip code. Free tickets are available via will-call at 937-278-5885 or at the Northridge Board of Education, 2008 Timber Lane, Dayton, Ohio 45414.

The aroma of traditional Thanksgiving favorites - from roasted turkey and baked ham to mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie - will fill the Cub Cafe. Our dedicated volunteers will ensure everyone feels valued, appreciated and full of holiday cheer.

As the holiday season unfolds, Northridge Local Schools remains committed to its vision of One Family United; empowering our students, supporting our community and preparing tomorrow's leaders.

Join us for this special gathering as we celebrate togetherness and give thanks as a community. We can't wait to share this Thanksgiving with you!

# Northridge Community NEWS

## Northridge Hall of Fame ~ Class of 2027

(Continued from Page 1.)

Her Catholic faith guided her life, and her greatest personal joy was her family: her children, **Andrew**, **Molly**, and **Robert**, and her seven grandchildren, who knew her as "Grammy." Friends and family remember her love of Coca-Cola, the St. Louis Cardinals, theater, and polar bears.

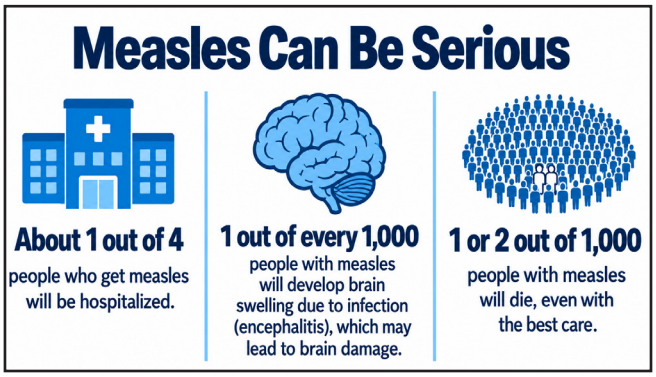
Alice's classroom had one simple rule: "Be Kind." She lived that lesson by sharing her time, offering help without seeking recognition, and making people feel they mattered. Her legacy lives in the diplomas earned, the voices encouraged, and the generations of our Northridge Family who carry her kindness forward.

## *Shane's Brains* ~ Measles: It Isn't Just a Rash

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the United States is experiencing a 35 year high outbreak of measles cases - over 4400 cases. In Ohio, 2026 has seen 254 cases so far according to the Ohio Department of Health - a 460% increase in cases compared to 2025. Why is this important to Northridge Local Schools? Because children are the most vulnerable population, particularly in populations where not all students are vaccinated as we have here in Northridge. And measles can be deadly and spread very rapidly in unvaccinated populations.

**What does measles look like?** Measles is caused by a highly contagious virus. A person typically gets a high fever, runny nose, cough and white spots inside the mouth first (a few days). Afterwards, a red rash (not itchy) starts at the head and neck and moves down the body after 3 to 4 days. People are most contagious early in the illness (before the rash), which can help the spread because it initially looks like many other illnesses.

**What would happen if a case came to Northridge Schools?** Much like the COVID epidemic, we would work closely with the Health Department to contact trace and isolate exposed individuals. There is a 72 hour window from exposure to get the vaccine and be okay. Unvaccinated students/adults would need to be vaccinated or be isolated from school for an extended period to prevent spread.




## 59th Annual Homecoming Parade

The Northridge community came together for the 59th Annual Northridge Homecoming Parade, featuring the nostalgic theme *Cruising to the Oldies*. The parade showcased the creativity and school spirit of participants while bringing together families, alumni, and community members for a festive celebration.

Members of the Northridge High School Homecoming Court served as judges for the parade's floats. The Fine Arts Boosters earned first place with their eye-catching *Diner* float, followed by PAC in second place with *Cruising for Christ*. The K–2 Cheerleaders captured third place with their spirited *Old School* float.

The festivities also included a classic car show, where attendees admired the beautifully maintained automobiles and the dedication their owners put into preserving these timeless treasures. Local vendors added to the festivities, providing additional attractions for paradegoers to enjoy.

Thank you to all the participants, volunteers, vendors, and community members who helped make this year's Homecoming Parade a success. Northridge looks forward to continuing this cherished tradition next year!

## Hands-On, Future-Building Social Studies

Northridge Social Studies students bring history and government to life through hands-on activities and real-world learning.

- **Clay Barhorst's** 9th-grade World History students analyze primary sources and debate historical questions.
- In 7th grade, **Brittany Pritchett's** students create maps using keys, scales, and compass roses.
- **Martin Hogue's** 6th graders build mobiles from tree branches to illustrate the three branches of government.
- Students in **Drew Jackson's** class also learned from Ohio State Highway Patrol **Sgt. Jones** about traffic safety, the reasons behind traffic laws, and respectful communication during traffic stops.

Through these interactive experiences, Northridge students are developing the critical-thinking skills and real-world knowledge they need to become informed, engaged citizens.

## Taking A Personal Approach

Behavior Interventionists (BIs) help students develop positive social skills and succeed in school and future workplaces. At the middle school, **AJ Johnson** and **Deonika Fowler** support students, while **Travis Jackson** and **Shaun Gunnell** serve at the high school. Drawing on 25 years of experience in education and administration, Mrs. Johnson explains, *"Drawing on 25 years of experience in education and administration, I work to build trusting relationships, understand what contributes to challenging behaviors, and teach students strategies for making positive choices."*

Daily responsibilities include checking in with students, assisting teachers, monitoring hallways and transitions, responding to incidents, and helping students return to learning. BIs also review referrals to identify patterns, collaborate with teachers and administrators on interventions, and communicate with families to promote consistency between home and school.

Beyond addressing immediate concerns, BIs teach essential life skills, including communication, problem-solving, self-control, and accountability. Through restorative conversations, active listening, and individual goal-setting, they help students manage emotions, resolve conflicts, and take responsibility for their actions. By pairing guidance with genuine care, they empower students to overcome challenges, strengthen relationships, and develop the skills they need to succeed far beyond the classroom.

## NHS Drama Presents: *Eight Minutes Left*

The Northridge Drama Department is pleased to present *Eight Minutes Left* by **Eb Lee**. This set of vignettes invites us to watch a series of residents of Charlesville, NJ in the last 8 minutes before the world ends. What would you do if you knew you had only 8 minutes left?

Join our talented student actors as they draw us into this gripping scenario! A note from the director: bring tissues. Tickets are sold at the door with cash or credit card. We hope to see you there!

## EVENTS Calendar

1 Standard Time - Fall Back

**3 Election Day - Get Out & Vote**

6-7 NHS Drama - *8 Minutes Left* - 7:00 p.m.
8 NHS Drama - *8 Minutes Left* - 3:00 p.m.

19 Board of Education Meeting and Work Session - 6:00 p.m.

23 Thanksgiving Dinner - 5:00-7:00 p.m.

23-27 Thanksgiving Break **- No School**

## November Sports

### Varsity Boys Basketball

**14 Celina* - 10:00 a.m.**
**27 Indian Lake* - 11:00 a.m.**

### Varsity Girls Basketball

**Game time 5:00 p.m. unless noted.**

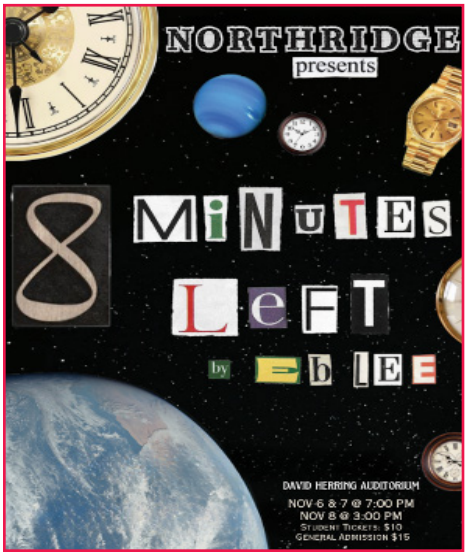
**9 Yellow Springs/McKinney**
**19 Yellow Springs/McKinney**
**27 Ponitz* - 6:30 p.m.**

### Bowling

**Home matches are held at Poelking Lanes on Wilmington Pike. Matches begin at 4:00 p.m. unless noted.**

**16 DECA***
**19 Legacy Christian***
**30 Stivers***

* Home



NORTHRIDGE LOCAL SCHOOLS

ISSUE #7 • NOVEMBER 3, 2026

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

Northridge Local Schools has proposed Issue #7, a **2.2-mill permanent improvement levy,** to take the place of the expiring 2.4-mill bond levy.

The existing bond debt will be **fully paid off at the end of 2026,** whether Issue #7 passes or not.

If approved, the levy would fund **eligible ongoing maintenance, repairs, renovations and improvements** to school facilities, grounds and equipment.

These projects would maintain district facilities, extend their useful life, and help protect the community's investment.

## WHAT WOULD IT COST?

**$77** per year
About $6.42 per month
For each $100,000 of the county auditor's home value.

**$43** per year
About $3.58 per month
Estimated cost for a home at Northridge's median residential property value, per the auditor.

**FUNDS CANNOT PAY FOR SALARIES, BENEFITS OR OPERATING EXPENSES.**

**If approved, Issue #7's 2.2-mill rate would still be 0.2 mills lower than the former 2.4-mill bond rate.**

**Questions?** Call 937-278-5885 | **Dave Jackson:** djackson@northridgeschools.org | **Lori Green:** lgreen@northridgeschools.org

dividends
of Learning in Northridge Schools

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**Published monthly, September through June**
**by Northridge Board of Education**
**Tina Fiore - President**
**David A. Jackson - Superintendent**