

dividends of Learning in Northridge Schools

Football Asst. Coach Inducted into Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame

Mark Landers has profoundly impacted civilian life through his dedication to veterans and his community. After retiring as a Colonel in 2005, Mark channeled his legal expertise into advocating for veterans' rights and benefits. Mr. Landers will be inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 7th, at 10:00 a.m. at The Ohio State University Fawcett Center, located at 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, Ohio 43210.

With an extensive background as a U.S. Government litigator, Mark successfully handled over 300 cases, involving litigation exceeding one billion dollars. His civilian career is marked by significant contributions, serving as a

county veterans service commissioner for ten years, and afterwards as Executive Director of the Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission from 2018 to 2019. During this time, he increased the number of veterans served by over 300% and played a pivotal role in the Dayton tornado recovery efforts, ensuring timely financial support for affected veterans.

Mark's commitment to veterans is further demonstrated by his instrumental role in developing *VetsLink*, a 24/7 online service for veterans, and his active participation in the Greater Miami Valley MyVeteran Community. He continues to advocate for veterans through private legal practice where he is a VA accredited attor-

ney and expert advocate in securing VA benefits.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mark is a founding member of *Just a Pair of Shoes*, a nonprofit providing shoes to children in need, and has raised substantial funds for local charities through 100 Plus MEN. He has mentored young athletes for over 40 years as a coach and high school and college football official. Mark is committed to serving all veterans by ensuring they secure all benefits they have earned. He enters the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame at age 72.

"Every Veteran deserves every benefit they have earned. My mission is to ensure that they receive them." #OhioVetsHOF2024



2024 Northridge Football Coaching Staff

From left to right:

Front Row: Athletic Trainer Brittany Robinson, Greg Millsaps, Head Coach Bob Smith, Mark Landers, and Armiya Muhammed

Back Row: Ayyoub Muhammed, Chris English, and Tom Peaco

Northridge Homecoming Parade: A Wet but Winning Celebration



Despite some rainy weather on Sunday, September 29th, courtesy of *Hurricane Helene*, the 57th Annual Northridge Homecoming Parade was a success! We celebrated the Polar Bears' impressive 24-0 victory against Covington Friday night and enjoyed the beautiful Homecoming Court on Saturday. Many student groups and local churches proudly displayed their Polar Bear spirit throughout the event.

A big thank you to Harrison Township and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for ensuring the roads were closed and keeping everyone safe.

Mark your calendars! The 58th Annual Northridge Homecoming Parade will be Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. The theme will be *Bears Go Old School*, and we're excited to bring back old school floats. Start planning yours today!

Northridge Community

Building Strong Foundations Together

Help your little ones develop key literacy skills that set the stage for future success! At this age, simple activities can make a big impact. Try the following fun exercises to boost:

- Letter Recognition: Practice recognizing and naming letters everywhere you go!
- Sound Recognition: Play “I Spy” with beginning sounds of objects around the house.
- Simple Blending: Help your child blend simple sounds like “c-a-t” into words.
- Rhyming: Create silly rhymes together to make learning fun!



Your involvement at home is essential to building strong reading skills. Let's work together to nurture their love for learning! #KindergartenSuccess #BuildingReaders #ParentTips #EarlyLearning #NorthridgeStrong

Give Your Kindergartener a Head Start! Help your little one soar in kindergarten by practicing these essential skills at home:

- Sound recognition: Identify sounds in words (e.g., “cat” starts with /k/).
- Letter recognition: Name and write letters of the alphabet.
- Simple blending: Combine sounds to form words (e.g., /m/ + /a/ + /p/ = “map”).
- Simple rhyming: Find words that sound alike (e.g., “cat,” “hat,” “mat”).

These activities will boost their literacy skills and make their transition to school a breeze! #KindergartenPrep #LiteracyTips #BackToSchool



Students Explore Future Careers at Construction Expo



On Thursday, September 19th a group of Northridge Local Schools students participated in the Construction Career Expo held at the Miami Valley Training Center in Miamisburg, Ohio. This event provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn about the diverse career paths available in the construction industry. Students

interacted with industry professionals, explored various construction equipment, and gained insights into the skills and training required for these rewarding jobs.

Northridge Local Schools is committed to exposing students to a variety of career options, and the Construction Career Expo was a perfect platform for those interested in a hands-on, skilled trade.



Student Day Times

Middle/High School (6-12)

7:35 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Elementary (K-5)

8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Champions Preschool

AM Session: 8:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

PM Session: 12:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

1-HOUR DELAY EVERY FRIDAY

Title 1 Parents Right to Know: Professional Qualifications

Parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including:

- (1) If the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;
- (2) If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which State qualifications or licensing criteria are waived;
- (3) The teacher's baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, and field of discipline;
- (4) and whether your student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

For additional information, contact Superintendent **Dave Jackson**, 2008 Timber Lane, Dayton, 45414; (937) 278-5885.



ADA Accessibility

Individuals with disabilities who require special assistance or arrangements to participate in a program or activity should contact Superintendent **Dave Jackson** at 937-278-5885.

Parks and Rec Takes a Bite Out of Science

Northridge's Parks and Recreation program is enriching the lives of its participants by fostering a love of science and agriculture. On September 18th the program took a group of students on an educational trip to The Ohio State University Farm Science Review (FSR), one of the nation's premier agricultural events, showcasing the latest advancements in farming techniques, equipment, and research.

During their visit NHS students had the opportunity to witness cutting-edge agricultural machinery and technology, engage with experts from OSU and other institutions on various aspects of farm science, observe livestock demonstrations and animal husbandry practices, and explore interactive exhibits that highlight the science behind food production. The trip offered students a unique hands-on experience, deepening their understanding of agriculture and the science that sustains our communities.

Guidance Counselor **Heather Allison** and the seniors explored college booths and toured the exhibit area, while the freshmen and sophomores, led by Parks and Rec Instructor **Zane Fessler**, visited the conservation area and learned about water quality, home safety, career opportunities, and animal science.



Student Records

In accordance with law and with policies enacted by the Northridge Board of Education, the following is provided to make you aware of: the content of your child's school records, gaining access to those records, and the procedure for amending the record if necessary.

Directory information includes name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially organized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, certificates and awards received, and other similar information.

Non-directory information includes grades, proficiency test scores, family background information, disciplinary actions and reports of serious or recurring behavior patterns, reports by staff specialists, and interest inventories.

Directory information may be released without obtaining written consent unless you notify your child's building admin. Release of non-directory information will always be with your prior knowledge unless by court subpoena.

Search For Children With Disabilities

The Northridge Local School District, along with other school districts across the state of Ohio, continue participating in an effort to identify, locate and evaluate all children from birth through 21 years of age who may have disabilities. Disability, in this instance, means such conditions as cognitive disability, hearing impairment, speech or language impairment, visual impairment, emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, other health impairment, specific learning disability, deaf-blindness, and multiple disabilities. Public schools have responded vigorously to federal and state mandates requiring the provision of a free appropriate public education regardless of a child's disability. Many children with disabilities are not visible because they do not function in the mainstream of the community. Also, some identified children with disabilities are preschoolers.

The Northridge Local School District is interested in meeting the needs of children with disabilities. If you have or know of a child who may have a disability or have any questions concerning this notice, please contact Superintendent **Dave Jackson** at 937-278-5885.

The district's written policies and procedures for the identification of children with disabilities are available upon request.

EVENTS

18 Staff Development
- **No School for Students**
24 Board of Education
Work Session - 6:00 p.m.

Blood Drive

NHS Key Club Fall Blood Drive
Thursday, October 17th
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

To donate, contact **Trish Engle** at
937-278-5885, ext. 2216.

Solvita urgently needs donors -
please consider helping!

Trunk or Treat is Coming

Join us for some Polar Bear Halloween fun, hosted in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Northridge, Northridge Local Schools, and Harrison Township.

Tuesday, October 29th
Board of Education Parking Lot
2008 Timber Lane
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Children Up to 7th grade

- Free hot dogs (while supplies last)
- Families park in the lower lot; event near The Rat Skate Park
- Alumni, staff, and community members are invited to decorate trunks and pass out candy. Arrive by 5:45 p.m.
- Child-friendly decorations encouraged!

Want to Help?

- Donate candy (collection bin at Board of Education)
- Decorate your trunk and join the fun!

Contact **Tina Fiore** at momfiore3@woh.rr.com for more info.

October Sports

Varsity Football

(Game Time 7:00 p.m. unless noted.)

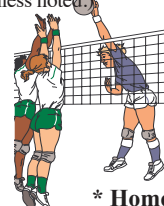
- 4** Bethel
11 Troy Christian
18 Milton-Union* - Alumni Night
25 Lehman Catholic* - Senior Night



Lady Bears Volleyball

(Game time 6:30 p.m. unless noted.)

- 1** Bethel*
3 Troy Christian*
5 Triad - 11:00 a.m.
7 Tri-County North*
8 Milton-Union
10 Lehman Catholic



* Home

NHS Elevates Welding Program with Cutting-Edge Virtual Technology

In a significant boost to its vocational education offerings, Northridge High School has just introduced virtual welding machines to its welding program. This innovative addition aims to elevate students' competency and hands-on skills in welding, preparing them for future careers in the industry.

The virtual welding machines, which simulate real-life welding scenarios, provide students with the opportunity to practice techniques in a controlled, digital environment. This technology allows learners to refine their skills, receive immediate feedback, and master welding practices with greater precision. Virtual welding allows students to refine their skills in a very cost-efficient way, as it reduces the need for physical materials and minimizes the risks associated with traditional welding practice.

"Our goal is to enhance the learning experience and ensure our students are well-prepared for academic and career challenges," said the Welding Instructor **Kodi Hardigree**. *"These virtual machines offer a modern, interactive approach to welding education that complements traditional methods."*

Introducing this technology is expected to benefit students by providing more practice time and the ability to work through complex welding techniques safely. As the program continues to evolve, it reflects Northridge High School's commitment to integrating cutting-edge tools into its curriculum, ensuring students are equipped with the latest skills and knowledge in their fields and helping to meet the local in-demand job market.

For more information about the welding program and other vocational courses, visit Northridge Local Schools' website or contact **Dr. Andrea Townsend**, Director of Career Technology.

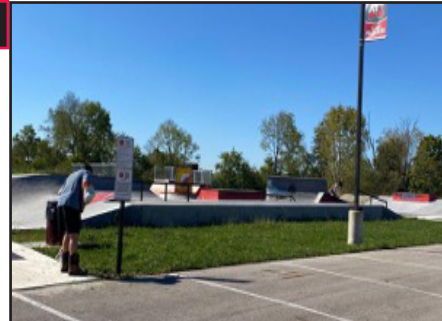


Northridge Junior, Andrew Yahle practices on a Virtual Welder as a part of his Welding class.

Parks & Rec Students in Action

Our talented Parks and Recreation students are hard at work performing routine trimming at The Rat this week! They recently completed the OSHA-10 safety certification and have been practicing their skills around our school! These hands-on experiences help them learn valuable skills while maintaining and beautifying our community spaces.

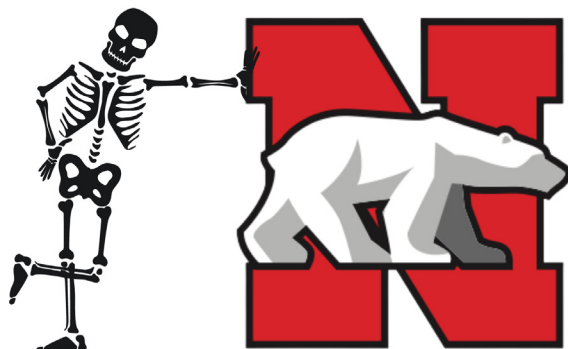
Great job, team! Keep up the awesome work!



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Northridge Board of Education
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