



Northridge Local School District Newsletter

Year Ahead Full of Learning, Exploring, and Growing

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Northridge Local Schools is entering an exciting time. There is so much to celebrate. Construction of our new elementary was completed this summer, and we celebrated with a “Ribbon Tearing” ceremony. It was great to see so many community members, alumni, and current families attend the celebration. The kids loved tearing the ribbon, and everyone enjoyed the beautiful views from the classrooms, and, of course, the playground was a big hit. We can’t thank the community enough for your support of this new building that provides our youngest students with a safe and appropriate space in which to learn. The high school and middle school have celebrations as well. Both buildings received updates this summer, including new exterior doors, camera systems, secure visitor entrances, and updated office spaces. We’re pleased to report that these updates are all in place for the start of the new year.



Superintendent
Scott Schmidt

We know that learning takes place inside and outside the classroom. Many of our teachers participated in a variety of professional learning courses and activities this summer in preparation for the new school year. We appreciate and celebrate their dedication to ensuring they are prepared to empower all students to reach their fullest potential. We know also that our students were busy this summer completing their 4H projects, traveling with family, exploring nature around their home, or preparing to show their animals at the fair, with many celebrating their ribbons and awards – all great opportunities to grow and learn.

They say it takes a whole village to raise a child – or, in our case, three villages – and as a school district, we are working hard to do our part. This includes analyzing our students’ achievements and seeking ways to improve our operations and instructional practices in an effort to help our students to grow academically. As the 2021-22 school year begins, we are more than just a little excited to be celebrating our students’ return to the classroom, and we look forward to an amazing year full of learning, exploring, and growing.

Scott Schmidt, Superintendent





New Northridge Staff Join Viking Community

Dr. Katie Karacson joins Northridge as the new Director of Instructional Services. Entering her 19th year in education, Dr. Karacson has a diverse educational background and a variety of experiences working in schools that have allowed her to build and apply a whole child perspective to the educational setting. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education from Defiance College, a Master of Arts in School Counseling from the University of St. Francis, and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Cincinnati. She also has a Doctor of Education in School Administration from The Ohio State University. Dr. Karacson started her career at a district in northwest Ohio where she provided intervention services and taught at the elementary level before becoming a school counselor. She later accepted a principal position at a district in central Ohio, where she has been an administrator for the past nine years. Dr. Karacson is honored and excited to join the Northridge family. She looks forward to working collaboratively with staff to continue to fulfill the district's mission to empower all students to reach their fullest potential and to modeling and embedding the Viking values in all aspects of her leadership. ☼



Welcome
Dr. Katie Karacson



Welcome
Grace Waggoner

Northridge Middle School welcomes Mrs. Grace Waggoner as the Principal. She has a bachelor's degree in History and master's degrees in Youth and Family Services, Intervention Services, and Educational Administration. She brings with her experience teaching in multiple content areas, working to help students achieve academic success with a strong emphasis on individualized learning and instructional differentiation. Over her 11 years in education, she spent 8 years coaching multiple sports and worked with students in both Johnstown and Granville, before serving as an administrator at Tolles Career and Technical Center where she worked to put strategic supports in place to support students' social and emotional well-being. Mrs. Waggoner has lived in Licking County for 36 years, and is excited to be home professionally as part of the Northridge team. ☼

Mr. Kevin Jarrett will serve as Northridge's Athletic Director. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Muskingum College, a Master of Science in Physical Education from Ohio University, and Master of Education from Ashland University. Mr. Jarrett has spent most of his 33 years in education working in Licking County. He started his career as an intervention specialist in Muskingum County before he was a history teacher and intervention specialist in Newark. He then served as dean of students in Thornville and assistant principal in Newark. For over 20 years, Mr. Jarrett was the athletic director in Newark, Granville, and Heath. In addition to these roles, he has held multiple coaching positions for a variety of sports and across a range of age groups. Mr. Jarrett lives in Newark with his wife (Marci) of almost 30 years who is also an educator in Heath. He has two grown children: a daughter who is a pilot and a son who is in graduate school. ☼



Welcome
Kevin Jarrett

Viking Community Newsletter

Welcome to the Team

- ★ Beth Agourrame
- ★ Olivia Bitner
- ★ Cheryl Bower
- ★ Catherine Drop
- ★ Courtney Fluharty
- ★ Alex Healey
- ★ Hillary Hess
- ★ Hayley Hummell
- ★ Dawn Jarema
- ★ Emily Karhan
- ★ Maddie Keller
- ★ Andrea Knabe
- ★ Brittany Mabbitt
- ★ Audra Metzger
- ★ Mandy Miller
- ★ Anastasia Peratopoulos
- ★ Paige Poffenbaugh
- ★ Rebecca Pollock
- ★ Megan Prime
- ★ Dinah Rice
- ★ Kaylina Ruth
- ★ Kristen Solomon
- ★ Jenni Stockberger
- ★ Julia Thomas
- ★ Kennedy Wilcox
- ★ Tracey Zink

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
Viking Values/General Elective
Emergent Literacy Specialist
School Psychologist
Cross Categorical Intervention Specialist
Band Director
High School Physical Education/Health
First Grade Teacher
Early Learning/Elementary Intervention Specialist
Elementary Intervention Specialist
Grade 5 English Language Arts
Grade 6 Mathematics
Middle School Intervention Specialist
High School Intervention Specialist
Teaching Assistant
Grade 6 English Language Arts
K-5 Technology Integration Specialist
Elementary Library Media Specialist
Teaching Assistant
Middle School Counselor
Grade 4 English Language Arts and Math
Board Certified Behavior Analyst
Elementary Social Worker
Teaching Assistant
Early Learning Intervention Specialist
Mental Health Specialist

Northridge Preschool Excited for New Year

A MESSAGE FROM NORTHRIDGE PRESCHOOL

We are welcoming 2 new preschool teachers, Dawn Jarema and Kennedy Wilcox, and 3 new assistants, Julia Thomas, Mandy Miller and Megan Prime, to accommodate our growing preschool program. Ms. Emily Phipps, Early Childhood Intervention Specialist, and Mrs. Amber Miller, Teaching Assistant, are returning. At this time, all of our spots are full for peer models. Families interested in their preschooler being a peer model may apply to be on our waitlist by going to the Northridge School District's website. We accept preschoolers who are eligible for preschool special education services throughout the school year. If a family suspects their child may have a disability, they may contact Jamie Bingham 740-967-6631 and leave a message regarding a screening or evaluation. We are looking forward to meeting our returning and new preschoolers at our Meet the Teacher on August 26th. Please contact Renee Linn at 740-966-3277 Extension 510. The first day of preschool is August 30th. It's going to be another exciting year full of learning at growing at the Northridge Preschool in the new elementary building. ★



Viking EXchange

The Northridge Education Foundation is launching the Viking EXchange, a dedicated physical space located in the former computer room in the high school. The EXchange will be a “store concept” where we will be providing access to food and clothing and general supplies for all students and their families. The goods will be facilitated, organized and managed by student leaders. Based on a community service philosophy, the idea is to pass on the **VIKING SPIRIT** through the collection of new and gently used Viking clothing and nonperishable items. All items are free to our Viking Family.

In order to support the food/clothing pantry, we are currently selling patriotic Viking wear and 100% of the proceeds will help stock food and supplies that are currently in need.

We will be selling patriotic T-shirts online for the month of September.



Please check out our website:
<https://northridgeeducationfoundation.org>



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Boosters to Host Fall Family Sports Festival

A MESSAGE FROM NORTHBRIDGE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

There will be something for everyone at the Northridge Athletic Boosters back to school event, the Fall Family Sports Festival, on Saturday, September 4th. From bounce houses to a family field day and corn hole tournament, wrapping up with live music from well-known artist, Chris Logsdon, the Boosters will host the event at the Hartford Fairgrounds. According to Booster President Andy Kalas, the gates will open at 2:30 pm with events beginning at 3 pm. Admission for adults is \$10 and there is no charge for high school seniors and younger. “A highlight of the day

will be Meet the Teams at 6 pm when each fall athlete and the coaches are introduced,” Kalas commented. “We started Meet the Teams events in 2019 and they were very successful, and we think it’s a great way to recognize each athlete and to support all of the fall teams.”

This year’s fall event will have a family flair starting that afternoon and wrapping up with the evening concert and a children’s movie at dusk. The Boosters will open the fair booth for concessions featuring the new and improved Viking Burger that premiered during Hartford Fair week.

“We will be making an exciting announcement about the future of Viking stadium that will impact the lives of our student athletes, band members, coaches and spectators for years to come.”

~Athletic Boosters President Andy Kalas

“We will be making an exciting announcement about the future of Viking stadium that will impact the lives of our student athletes, band members, coaches and spectators for years to come,” stated Kalas. “There is incredible momentum at Northridge right now as the new elementary school opens this fall and we hope to capitalize on that emotion and rally as a community to support the next step in the growth and development of this district.” The Boosters are looking for people to help work games and concession at the event – anyone interested please contact Teri Holder (740.403.6593) or Kate Isler (614.214.0804).

