

— The Fall Issue 2024 —



The Husky Herald



A newsletter of Northwestern Local Schools



**FOLLOW
US ON
SOCIAL
MEDIA:**



@NWHUSKIES

Welcome to The Husky Herald!

We're excited to introduce Northwestern Local Schools' brand-new newsletter, designed to keep you connected and informed about the happenings across our district. In each issue of The Husky Herald, you'll find updates from our elementary, middle, and high schools, highlighting student achievements, classroom innovations, and school events that make Northwestern unique.


We'll also bring you the latest news from our Board Office, sharing key decisions, upcoming initiatives, and opportunities to get involved. Thank you for being a part of the Northwestern community—stay tuned for stories that celebrate our students, teachers, and families!

From our Acting-Superintendent....

As we close out the first academic quarter and wrap up a competitive fall sports season, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to each of you. Seeing so many of you in the stands, cheering on our students and supporting our school events, has truly been a highlight of this season. Your enthusiasm and presence make a tremendous difference, not just for our athletes, musicians, and performers, but for our entire school community.

Your support strengthens our district and fosters the kind of positive, inclusive environment that our students thrive in. Thank you for being such an integral part of our school's success, both on and off the field.

As we progress through the school year, I'm pleased to share our staff's commitment to professional development continues with administration and staff working cohesively to bring the best instruction to their students. Our professional development sessions have been thoughtfully structured and highly impactful, equipping our team with the skills and knowledge to support our students effectively. The district leadership team remains dedicated to working together, enhancing our instructional practices, and ensuring we provide the best possible learning environment for your children. Our collaborative efforts are focused on moving our district forward, staying aligned with our goals, and delivering meaningful, high-quality education. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in making our district a thriving learning community.

A portrait of Julie McCumber, a woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a dark blue button-down shirt with a ruffled collar. She is smiling and looking directly at the camera.

Julie McCumber, Acting District Superintendent, Director of Curriculum & Personnel, & Title IX District Investigator

The Mission Statement for the Northwestern Local Schools is "We prepare our students today for tomorrow's opportunities!"



**Jerry Buccilla,
Treasurer/CFO**

From our Treasurer...

A letter from our district Treasurer, Jerry Buccilla, and our Acting Superintendent, Julie McCumber, regarding the upcoming November 5th Ballot Initiative to Repeal the District's Income Tax Levy.

Community members have asked us numerous times over the past eight weeks how the district's operating budget would be impacted if the current income tax revenue that the district receives is repealed. To help answer this question I have summarized the impact on our operating fund if the repeal is approved on November 5th:

ESTIMATED INCOME TAX REVENUE LOSS IF REPEAL IS APPROVED

- Fiscal Year 2025: loss of approximately \$1.9 million of operating revenue
- Fiscal Year 2026: loss of approximately \$2.9 million of operating revenue
- Fiscal Year 2027: loss of approximately \$2.9 million of operating revenue
- Fiscal Year 2028: loss of approximately \$2.9 million of operating revenue

TOTAL ESTIMATED LOSS of OPERATING REVENUE: \$10.6 MILLION

The district's general operating fund will have an estimated \$3 million DEFICIT by the end of Fiscal Year 2028 if the Income Tax is repealed.

The district is not permitted to operate in the negative. Therefore, the district would have to reduce its operating budget or raise additional revenue or do a combination of both to balance the general fund operating budget.

If the Board chooses to make operating cuts to reduce the district's operating budget much of these cuts would come from reducing the district's personnel costs. This is because we are in the education business and approximately 85% of the district's operating costs come from personnel salaries and benefits.

If the Board of Education chooses to raise additional revenue this would be accomplished by placing either a new operating levy on the ballot that would ask our community to increase property taxes on landowners and homeowners, or to place another income tax levy on the ballot. The Board of Education will need to consider these options very soon after the November 5th election.

VOTE

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING ON THE INCOME TAX REPEAL

- To Vote to Oppose the Income Tax Repeal
Which Keeps the Income Tax Revenue Funding
the School District: THE VOTE IS “AGAINST” THE
REPEAL

- To Vote to Support the Income Tax Repeal
Which Removes the Income Tax Revenue from the
School District: THE VOTE IS “FOR” THE REPEAL

For additional information regarding the district’s Income Tax, that has been providing general fund operating revenue to our schools for over the past 34 years, please visit our school website at www.northwestern-wayne.k12.oh.us. On our home page click on Townhall Meeting Video and Information. You can also call the District Office, 419-846-3151 and ask for Treasurer Jerry Buccilla or Acting Superintendent Julie McCumber.

UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

NOVEMBER 18

DECEMBER 16

JANUARY 13

All school board meetings are scheduled for 6:30PM in the High School Library. Meetings are also livestreamed (barring any technical difficulties) to our district YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@NorthwesternSchools>



YOUR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION & BOARD MEMBERS

Julie McCumber

(Acting District Superintendent),
Director of Curriculum & Personnel, & Title IX
District Investigator
nrws_mccumbe@tccsa.net

Jerry Buccilla

Treasurer/CFO
nrws_jbuccilla@tccsa.net

Chris Sykes

Director of Special Education
Co-Gifted Coordinator
nrws_sykes@tccsa.net

Rachel Beun

Director of Special Programs
nrws_beun@tccsa.net

Anita Jorney-Gifford

Athletic Director & Transportation Supervisor
nrws_ajgifford@tccsa.net

Jill Keller

School Board President
nrws_jkeller@tccsa.net

John Smith

School Board Vice-President
nrws_jsmith@tccsa.net

Rick Ellerbrock

School Board Member
nrws_rellerbrock@tccsa.net

Reggie Kline

School Board Member
nrws_regkline@tccsa.net

Brad Stull

School Board Member
nrws_bstull@tccsa.net



elementary news



**Doug Hopkins,
Elementary Principal**

Hello Northwestern Community,

As we settle into the new school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our wonderful start at Northwestern Elementary. The excitement and energy in our halls have been infectious, setting a positive tone for what's to come.

Trimester Ending: As a reminder, our first trimester is coming to a close on November 8. We've seen tremendous growth and achievement in our students, and we look forward to celebrating their progress.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: A heartfelt thank you to all the parents who participated in our Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 10. Your engagement and feedback were invaluable, and we appreciate the collaboration in supporting our students' success.

Grandparents Days - All Grandparent's day times are from 8:45 am to 9:45 am. Grandparents can enter through the doors near the gym. Here is the list of our grandparents days.



“GRANDPARENTS DAY” DATE:

Tuesday, November 26 -4th grade

Friday, December 20 - 3rd grade

Friday, January 10 - 1st grade

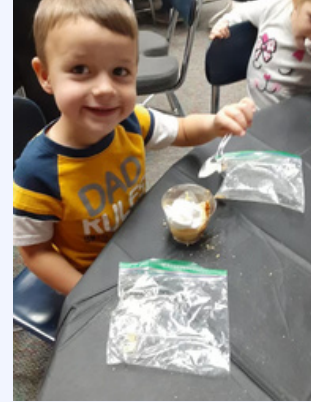
Thursday, February 13 - 2nd grade

Friday, February 28 - Kindergarten

Tuesday, May 20 - 5th grade



elementary news



STEM Exploration Day

Pumpkin Science Fun! Our AM class enjoyed a hands-on STEM day with pumpkins, exploring their parts, measuring, and discovering that pumpkins float! Highlights included a bubbling pumpkin volcano, counting and tasting seeds, and crafting tasty pumpkin pudding cups. A fun-filled, educational day to remember!





elementary news



STEM Apple Exploration Day!

Our students enjoyed a full day of apple-themed STEM fun! They explored apple parts, tasted red, yellow, and green apples with various dips, and read 10 Apples on Top! before building their own “apple trees” and stacking apples. Through measuring, weighing, and discovering that apples float, they learned new concepts in a hands-on way. The day wrapped up with an apple seed experiment and making apple-scented playdough—an educational adventure filled with fall flavors!





elementary news

STEM Problem Solving with Hovercrafts at Northwestern Elementary

Northwestern Elementary students recently took on an exciting STEM challenge focused on problem-solving and teamwork as they built and tested hovercrafts!

Students began by brainstorming how to draw a precise circle, using the provided tools, to create the hovercraft's skirt. After carefully adding the skirt, they moved on to testing their hovercrafts to ensure they were ready for action. The day ended with an exciting hovercraft race, where students cheered on their creations and celebrated each other's successes.

Throughout the activity, students engaged in valuable discussions on problem-solving, perseverance, and character, making this a fun and meaningful learning experience!





elementary news



Fourth Grade Field Trip to the Buckeye Agricultural Museum

Northwestern Elementary's fourth graders recently enjoyed a memorable field trip to the Buckeye Agricultural Museum, a unique facility dedicated to preserving and celebrating Ohio's rich agricultural heritage. Located nearby, the museum offers hands-on exhibits and displays that highlight the history, technology, and importance of farming in Ohio.

During their visit, students explored interactive exhibits showcasing traditional farming equipment, learned about the evolution of agriculture, and saw firsthand how advancements in technology have shaped farming practices over time. This trip allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of the agricultural roots that have contributed to the community's growth and development.



Thank you to the Buckeye Agricultural Museum for an engaging and educational experience that deepened our students' connection to Ohio's agricultural history!



elementary news

Support Our Community Food Pantry at Northwestern Elementary

Northwestern Local Schools is proud to host a community food pantry at our elementary school, open year-round to support local families in need. To keep our pantry well-stocked, we welcome donations of food and essential household items throughout the year. Donations of NEW items can be dropped off at the elementary school, with arrangements made through Becky Sugg or Alison Fiala at 419-846-3519.

Suggested donation items include:

- ***Canned fruits and vegetables***
- ***Cereal***
- ***Pasta & pasta sauce***
- ***Granola bars***
- ***Canned chicken, tuna, or SPAM***
- ***Soup***
- ***Peanut butter & jelly***
- ***Rice***
- ***Personal care items***
- ***Basic cleaning supplies***



Please check expiration dates before donating, and call upon arrival if assistance is needed. Drop-offs are accepted Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, and Saturdays by appointment. Thank you for helping us support our community!





middle school news



**Corey Richardson,
Middle School Principal**

Hello from NMS!

At Northwestern Middle School, we're thrilled to share how well the start of the school year has gone! Our House System launched with a fantastic event on August 29th, where 6th-grade and new middle school students were sorted into Houses of Performance, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Enthusiasm. Students quickly embraced their new Houses, participating in engaging House Games that challenged their mental and physical skills.

The enthusiasm has been palpable at events, with tremendous support from parents and the community during our open house and parent-teacher conferences, as well as the energy of our students cheering on our athletes. We're especially looking forward to our upcoming November assemblies, which will focus on achievement, fortitude, Veterans Day, and an awards ceremony to recognize student successes.

Together with families and the community, we're building a culture of trust, excellence, and support. Our vision is for Northwestern Middle School to be a beacon for Ohio middle schools, and we invite everyone to partner with us as we continue to provide the best educational experience in the area.



Welcome to Our New Middle School Assistant Principal, Michele Yocum!

We're excited to welcome Michele Yocum as our new Assistant Principal! Joining us from Black River, Michele brings valuable experience and a commitment to fostering a positive school environment. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome to our community!



middle school news

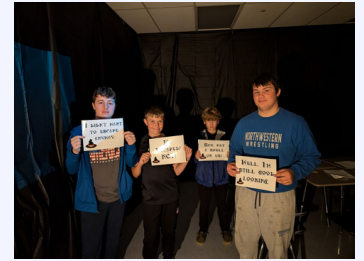
8th Graders “Escape” the Salem Witch Trials in Mr. Woodring’s American History Class!

This Halloween season, Mr. Woodring’s 8th grade American History class dove into the dark and eerie chapter of the Salem witch trials through an interactive, thrilling activity: a spooky classroom escape room! Students were transported back to the year 1692 in a “Salem Village” setting, where they used their knowledge of the witch trials to unlock clues, solve puzzles, and ultimately find their way out of Mr. Woodring’s “bewitched” classroom.

Drawing on everything they’d learned about the trials—characters, events, motivations, and the hysteria of the era—students worked together to solve clues that tested both their historical understanding and problem-solving skills. From decoding messages to discovering hidden historical artifacts, students immersed themselves in the fears and mysteries of 17th-century Puritan New England.

"I love the opportunity to have students "do something" with the material they've learned. Today, we got to think critically, using the information we learned the day before. Whenever class seems like a puzzle, it's a win for me" said Mr. Woodring.

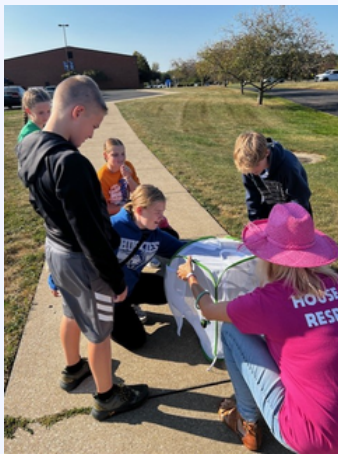
The Salem witch trials escape room was an exciting success, with students reporting that they loved the hands-on experience. It combined history with teamwork, critical thinking, and just the right amount of Halloween spirit. This unique lesson not only brought the trials to life but also made history an unforgettable adventure!





middle school news

6th Graders Witness the Miracle of Monarch Butterflies in Mrs. Raber's Science Class



Mrs. Raber's 6th grade science class recently celebrated a remarkable moment in nature: the release of monarch butterflies they had raised from tiny caterpillars! Over the past several weeks, students had the unique opportunity to observe the monarch life cycle up close, witnessing firsthand how the caterpillars transformed into chrysalises and eventually emerged as vibrant orange and black butterflies.

The project began with each student carefully monitoring their caterpillar's growth, documenting changes, and learning about the monarch's incredible journey from caterpillar to butterfly. Through this process, students studied the biology of metamorphosis and discovered the role of monarchs in our ecosystem, particularly their remarkable migration patterns.

As the butterflies were finally released, students shared mixed emotions of excitement and pride, knowing they had helped nurture these tiny creatures on their way to the next chapter of their journey. "Watching them grow and finally setting them free was amazing," one student shared. "It made everything we learned about science come to life."

Mrs. Raber's hands-on approach not only brought the life cycle lessons into vivid focus but also inspired a sense of wonder and responsibility for the environment. This memorable experience left a lasting impact, reminding students of the beauty and importance of caring for the world around them.





high school news



**Tyler Keener,
High School Principal**

Husky Families,

As we settle into the school year, I want to extend my deepest thanks to each of you for helping us begin with such a strong and positive start. Your continued support, dedication, and partnership make a tremendous difference in creating an environment where our students can thrive.

At Northwestern, we believe in the excellence that defines our Husky Traits, and it has been incredible to witness our students embrace these qualities as we create a great culture of learning for all students.

Our Huskies are Driven to Excellence, showing their ability to be Critical Thinkers, Creative Problem Solvers, and Independent Learners. They've approached challenges head-on, demonstrating resilience and a growth mindset. Our students have taken advantage of the awesome opportunities here at the high school, whether in FFA, arts, engineering, biomedical studies, or in any of our other classrooms, it is evident that our students are learning skills that will last them long after they graduate. We desire to continue providing the most excellent experiential learning opportunities for each and every Northwestern student.

Additionally, I'm proud to see how our students reflect Respect and Personal Responsibility in their daily interactions. Whether in the classroom, hallways, or beyond, they are taking accountability for their actions, contributing to a positive and inclusive school community. Our students are building a culture that they can be proud of as well as leaving a legacy that will impact future generations.

As we continue this school year, we remain committed to expecting and demanding excellence in all areas as we strive to grow 1% each day. I encourage you to keep reinforcing these Husky traits at home, as together we will help our students reach their highest potential.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Let's keep this momentum going, and here's to a year filled with growth, learning, and Husky pride!



high school news



The NHS Drama Club is pleased to present it's fall play, "A Family Reunion to Die For" by Matt Steel and Mike Steel Friday, December 13 and Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 7pm.

It's time for the Knotting Family Reunion, and newlywed Christine Franklin is eager to show off her husband Freddie to the family she hasn't seen in years. The joyful reunion quickly turns sour though when Aunt Gretchen, Cousin Rachel, and Cousin Stefan are all murdered.

Come kick up your boots at Wilcox's Western Bed and Breakfast (NHS Cafeteria) for this murder mystery dinner theatre performance. Tickets are \$15 which includes dinner, beverages, and the show. Children three and under will be admitted for free, but still require a reservation. Prizes will be awarded for best western wear. Seating is limited and reservations are necessary. To make a reservation please email Mrs. Leslie Andrews at nrws_landrews@tccsa.net or call 419-846-3833 ext. 1314. For your reservation, we need a last name and the number of patrons. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR, however, payment will be taken for reservations at the door the night of the performance. Doors open at 6pm each night of the performance. This show will sell out, so be sure to make your reservation early.

Thank you,

Leslie Andrews
Director of Choral Music
High School Theatre Arts



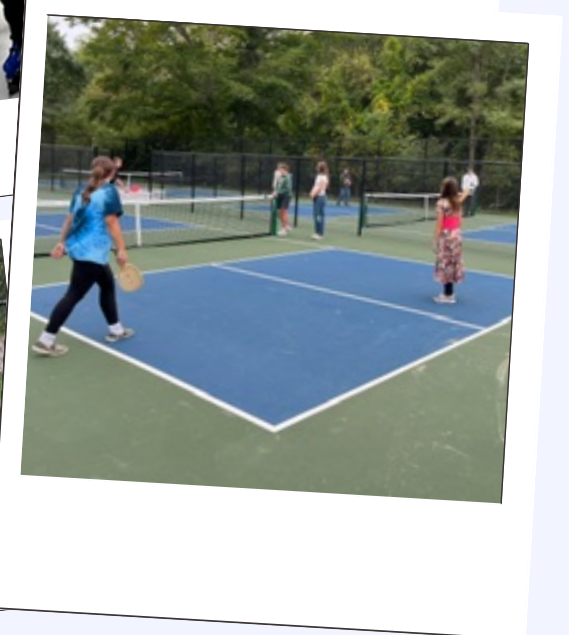
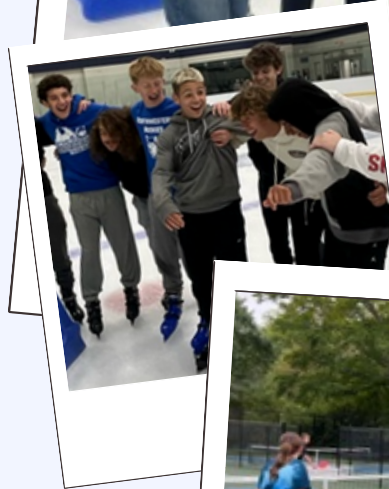
high school news

Northwestern High School Field Trip Highlights Lifetime Physical Activities

On September 27, students from Northwestern High School's Health, PE, and Sports Administration & Officiating classes embarked on an active field trip, exploring a variety of lifetime physical activities around the local area.

The day kicked off with ice skating at the Alice Noble Ice Arena, where students practiced skating skills and enjoyed time on the ice. Next, they headed to Christmas Run Park, where they engaged in pickleball, basketball, frisbee, and explored the playground. Unfortunately, the planned hike at Wooster Memorial Park was canceled due to rain, but the students still enjoyed an energetic day filled with fun, fitness, and new experiences.

Thank you to our staff and local facilities for supporting this fantastic learning opportunity!





high school news

NHS Child Development Class Update

High school students in Mrs. Wooding's Child and Adolescent Development classes are engaging in hands-on lessons about the realities of pregnancy through the use of an "Empathy Belly." This weighted simulator replicates the physical and emotional challenges faced by pregnant individuals, offering students a deeper understanding of what it's like to carry a child.

The empathy belly is designed to mimic key symptoms of pregnancy, including extra weight gain, pressure on the bladder, shortness of breath, back pain, and even the baby's movements. Weighing around 25 to 30 pounds, the simulator is worn by students over their shoulders and around the abdomen, giving them a sense of the discomforts that develop as pregnancy progresses.

So far, students have found the lesson impactful. Some express surprise at how even a short time wearing the simulator can be exhausting. "I didn't expect it to be this hard just walking or bending down," says one participant. Others express embarrassment at having to walk down the hall or through common areas in the school. It definitely makes you think about what it feels like to be pregnant!

In the near future students will extend their learning even further by honing their skills in caring for newborns through participation in the Reality Works Infant simulator experience...stay tuned.





high school news



News from our FFA

Northwestern FFA was able to give a helping hand in cleaning up the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Students from the Northwestern FFA and the following chapters from Wayne County: Triway, Smithville, and Norwayne were able to take part in the recycling program at the fair this year. The following students participated in fair recycling Jack Morris, Laurie Bauman, Emma Connelly, Addy Connelly, Makenna Connelly, Madilyn Smith, Case Keener, Hank Morris, Addison Moser, Tessa Buzzard, Marissa Smith, MJ Coman, Jesse Hanshaw, Jocelyn Knapp, Clara Saal, Mason Mobley, Olivia Madden, Jaycee Reed, McCullough Porter, Adalynn Gray. While recycling throughout the week students collected any recyclable materials. Materials that were collected were plastics, cans, and cardboard. The chapters worked together to keep our community cleaned up and looking green. With the help of the FFA members and Alumni we were able to collect 16049.65 pounds of cardboard and plastic. 12279.75 pounds were able to be recycled and 3400 pounds were able to be composted. This material was kept out of the landfill and will be used in making other products such as clothing, bookbags, and furniture.



Northwestern FFA attends Farm Science Review

On September 17th, members of the Northwestern FFA chapter attended the Farm Science Review on The Ohio State University's 2,100-acre Molly Caren Agricultural Center which is located two miles north of London on U.S. Route 40. Farm Science Review is a two- day agricultural and industrial exposition that visitors come to from around the states that features over 100 educational sessions, 600 exhibits, and has multiple field crop demonstrations in their Gwynne Conservation. Members of the chapter were able to tour around the exhibits which were put on by The Ohio State University and many of their science programs and agricultural teams. They also got to go on a shuttle tractor ride to the conservation area where the soil pits were to check out our knowledge in soils. Some of the members favorite activities within the event were looking at all of the new equipment, playing cornhole with different schools, and seeing friends to catch up with. The members that were able to attend this great event were, Morgan Ervin, Kaylee Cherry, Jake Howman, Chet McNeil, Gabriella Riedel, Keaton Harris, Blake Good, Austin Mooney, Ben Ream, Bladen Friend, McCullough Porter, and Chloe Starcher.



high school news



News from our FFA

Northwestern FFA Member Attended Washington Leadership Conference

INDIANAPOLIS (June 2024/National FFA Organization) – For more than 50 years, thousands of FFA members from across the country have converged in our nation's capital each summer to engage with legislators, hone civic engagement and leadership skills and create community impact projects to take back to their cities and towns.

Mallory Gilbert of the Northwestern FFA Chapter was among those students traveling to D.C this summer to attend the Washington Leadership Conference. Mallory attended the conference June 18th - 26th. She spent the week under the guidance of professionals, counselors and FFA staff. In workshops, seminars and small groups, members focused on identifying and developing their personal strengths and goals while undergoing comprehensive leadership training that will help them guide their local FFA chapters. The capstone of the event was a civic engagement activity where participants apply what they have learned to a hands-on activity.

The students participating analyzed the needs of their communities, developed wide-ranging and high-impact community service initiatives and implemented their plans with the help of their FFA chapters upon returning home. Students in recent years have promoted agricultural literacy; brought attention to abuse; collected and distributed shoes to individuals in Haiti; created a hunger awareness plan and more.

FFA members that attended were able to experience the history of our nation's capital and tour landmarks, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol building, White House, Ford's Theatre, Arlington Cemetery, Smithsonian museum, and the WW2, Vietnam, and Hiroshima memorials. Each day of the conference focuses on a different principle taught through the context of our nation's capital: exploration, encouragement, advocacy and service.

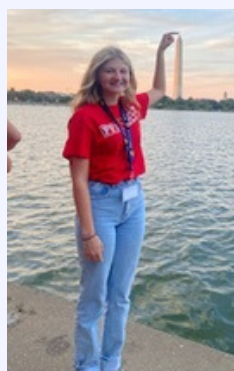
The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 1,000,000 student members as part of 9,163 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



high school news



Pictures from our FFA





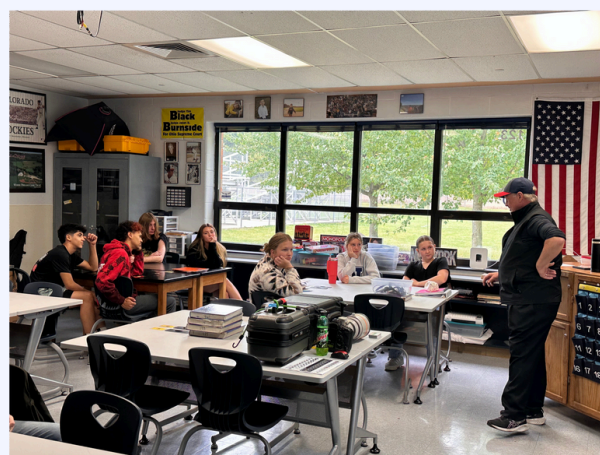
high school news

Mr. Black's Photography Class Ventures into Real-World Photography

Mr. Black's high school Photography class is taking the leap from theory to hands-on experience this semester, moving from foundational lessons on camera mechanics and settings—including the essential exposure triangle—into the dynamic world of real-world photography. With a focus on natural light portraits, students are now applying their knowledge outside the classroom, capturing unique moments and expressions in authentic settings.

Adding to the excitement, the class recently welcomed a guest speaker, Brian Bayless, a seasoned photographer with extensive experience in sports and education. Bayless, who currently photographs D1 collegiate and high school football in Columbus, Ohio, and serves as an associate editor for Press Pros Magazine, shared invaluable insights drawn from his own career. With eight years of teaching photography at the high school level, Bayless offered students a unique blend of technical expertise and career advice, inspiring many to consider the professional possibilities within photography.

Looking ahead, Mr. Black's students will dive into studio photography next semester, where they'll work with flash and gain skills in advanced editing software like Photoshop and Lightroom. The course promises to prepare these budding photographers for a variety of creative challenges, equipping them with both the skills and confidence to pursue photography in any setting.

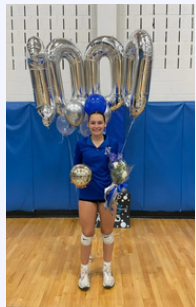




athletic news



Anita Jorney-Gifford
Athletic Director



Alexa Riffel recorded
her 1000th career
assist



🏆 Celebrating Northwestern Athletics! 🏆

A huge congratulations to our High School Volleyball team and Boys Soccer team for being crowned Sectional Champs! And a special shoutout to our 7th Grade Volleyball team for taking the WCAL Championship! Way to go, Huskies – we're so proud of our athletes!

🏆 NEW RECORDS & MILESTONES 🏆



Wahied Fasihi breaks school record for assists in a single season. Wahied Fasihi recorded his 19th assist this season in an 8-0 tournament victory over Loudonville.



Mateo Dague broke the previous season record of 25 goals. Mateo currently holds school records for most goals in a season, most points in a season, and most assists in a career.



Morgan Ervin sets Northwestern Record. Morgan Ervin surpassed the school record with her 1196 career dig.



high school athletic news





middle school athletic news

