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Fueling Our Future
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North Canton City Schools

Viking Vision

OCTOBER: 2016

VOLUME: 4 ISSUE: 2

Building a Better Future

Jeff Wendorf
SUPERINTENDENT

As we transition with a new leadership team, we have an opportunity to build a better understanding of the needs of our school district and the path forward.

Over the past few months, the school district has reached out to our stakeholders, asking questions about our performance, our successes, our weaknesses, our opportunities for growth and threats that keep us from succeeding in our mission. We listened to you. We read your comments. Finally, we compiled the results that we are sharing with you in this issue of the *Viking Vision*.

The results of the 2016 Community Survey, the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis, and financial, academic and students resources gave us the basis of our new strategic plan. We have

collaborated to set new targets and goals, which we will work to implement over the next three years.

We heard you say that you want a school district that is transparent and empowering to both students and staff. Thus, we are sharing the results of the community survey and SWOT analysis. Due to space limitations, we cannot publish the full results in this newsletter, but the data is available on the North Canton City School District website. On the home page, go to Leadership and then Mission and Vision. There you will find the full results. We also invite you to continue to stay in touch with us to let us know how we are doing. We appreciate your commitment to continuing the tradition of excellence.

Northwood - "A Cool School"

Read about our Cool School on page 11



North Canton at Top Level in Latest State Test Academic Results

Dave Pilati
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Last month the Ohio Department of Education released its annual State Report Card for the 2015-16 school year for every school district and every school building in Ohio. At the district level, it's a 31-page document that shows academic results connected to various measures in elementary through high school levels. The 2015-16 school year was the second consecutive year in which the state of Ohio implemented new state tests in multiple grade levels and content areas, meaning that the full slate of tests which Ohio uses to rate school districts has not been the same for the last three years. While the average percent of students passing these state tests decreased dramatically across Ohio in this most recent year, the average passing percent for North Canton students was still approximately 21% higher than the rest of the state's students for the 23 different state tests in math, English Language Arts, science, and social studies that are in place for students in the graduating classes of 2018 and beyond. Below are some additional highlights pertaining to North Canton students' results on these state tests:

- North Canton was tied with one other Stark County district for meeting the most indicators associated with the achievement component (met 22 of 29).
- North Canton was the only district in Stark County and one of only 50 districts out of 608 in the state to meet the state's new gifted indicator, which measures the percent of students who are identified as gifted, the percent of gifted students who receive gifted services, the achievement levels of

gifted students, and the growth made by gifted students.

- North Canton students ranked #1 in Stark County in percent of students passing for seven different state tests, which include 4th-grade math, 5th-grade math, 7th-grade math, high school American History, 11th-grade writing, 11th-grade social studies, and 11th-grade science. Additionally, North Canton students ranked #2 in passing percentage in Stark County in seven other state tests.
- The North Canton City School District, as a whole, received an A for its overall growth component grade, which included three A's and one B in the subcomponent categories which measured the growth made by gifted students, students with learning disabilities, students in the lowest 20% achieving group in the state, and all North Canton students as measured by the state tests. North Canton was one of only five Stark County districts to attain all A's and B's for the growth grades on the State Report Card.
- When using a 4-point grading system (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, and D = 1) for the six different component grades on the State Report Card, North Canton City Schools was tied for 30th best out of all 608 school districts in Ohio and tops in Stark County. Go online to http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2016/09/a_gpa_for_every_school_distric.html#incart_sms to see the complete listing.

District News

A Look at What's Inside

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Viking Vision

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Questions or comments regarding the *Viking Vision* should be directed to Jeff Wendorf, Superintendent of Schools, 330-497-5600.

VFW Post 9904 Greentown

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans' organization. The nonprofit service organization is proud to proclaim, "No one does more for veterans than the VFW," which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. The local organization is proud of its work in also offering help and opportunities to students and educators. The VFW has a National Citizenship Education Teacher Award; Patriot's Pen, which is a patriotic essay contest; Voice of Democracy, a patriotic audio essay competition; and Young American, creative patriotic art awards. Interested students should contact their guidance office for more information. Our local organization is VFW Post 9904 Greentown.

In Memorium

We are saddened to report that Charles Demchock passed away Sunday, October 1. Charlie was a long-time bus driver for the school district. He retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Co., and for many years, he drove routes serving Greentown Intermediate and North Canton Middle School. He will be missed. We wish to express our condolences to his wife, Barbara, and family and friends.



Superintendent Jeff Wendorf (far left) congratulates inductees and Dr. Miller.

Alumni Association Hall of Distinction

The North Canton Alumni Association Hall of Distinction held its annual dinner and induction ceremony at Hoover High School September 14. This year's inductees are **Martin Alexander**, former vocal music teacher, who was represented by his daughter, Tana; **Brian Dyak**, a 1967 graduate; **Michael Gallina**, a former Superintendent of North Canton Schools; and **Phil Howes**, a 1953 graduate, represented by his son, Daniel.

Dr. Jonathan Miller, a 1994 graduate, received the first "Raymond 'Bud' Swope, Jr. Outstanding Achievement Award."

Fueling our Future; Building Each Mind, One Meal at a Time

Janice Williams
FOOD SERVICE

This year, the North Canton City Schools Food and Nutrition Department's mission statement is "Fueling our Future; Building Each Mind, One Meal at a Time." This reflects our belief that healthy food and education go hand in hand. For our students to be at their best, they need access to healthy food choices and a variety of appealing menu options that tempt their taste buds.

We have begun the year with many fresh fruit and vegetable options, from watermelon, strawberries, pears and plums to Ohio grown cucumbers, peppers and apples. Not only are these options fresh and abundant, but we are able to use our commodity government dollars to purchase these items through the Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. This helps to stretch our budget so that we can continue to provide high quality food to our students.

We are also committed to expanding the children's pallets with new and exciting food options that will prepare them for a lifetime of healthy eating. One of our newer and most popular menu options is our Chinese take-out

meal. We pair General Tso Chicken and stir-fried rice in an authentic Chinese take-out container, along with fruits, Far East vegetables and a fortune cookie. This isn't just a hit with our older students, it is one of our elementary students' favorite meals. Our Food and Nutrition Staff enjoy the excitement and enthusiasm that comes from learning and trying new things. We encourage each child to build lifelong, healthy eating habits.



North Canton City Schools Board of Education



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Board of Education meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the INQspot at Hoover High School.

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Transportation Data

Todd Henne
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS

This summer, the Ohio Highway Patrol conducted its annual inspection on the North Canton City Schools' bus fleet. Thanks to the hard work of the mechanics and transportation staff, all 48 of our buses passed inspection. Given the age of our fleet and the combined 5,048,016 miles on the odometers, passing inspection was no easy task. Here is a breakdown of our 48 buses by the numbers:

- Average miles on each bus: 105,167
- Number of buses over 200,000 miles: 4
- Number of buses between 130,000 and 200,000 miles: 17
- Number of buses under 60,000 miles: 15
- Number of buses 1999 or older: 8



The North Canton City Schools Transportation Department was able to purchase a new, full-sized school bus equipped with a wheel-chair lift. This new bus services students that attend Hoover, Clearmount and the Early Childhood Center. Funds for this purchase were taken from the district's Permanent Improvement account which was the levy passed in 2012.



FAMILY SUPPORT SPECIALIST

iCARE Family Support Specialist

North Canton welcomes back retired School Counselor, **Judy DeMarco**. Judy served 30 years in education and has worked at elementary, middle and high school levels. She will be the district's Family Support Specialist through a researched-based program, new to North Canton, called iCARE. Judy is hired through the Stark County Educational Service Center, and the United Way of Greater Stark County assists with funding of this desired program that is implemented in various schools throughout the county. Judy states, "I am very excited to be returning to North Canton and I am looking forward to serving students and families in our community."

The implementation of iCARE is comprised of teachers, administrators and staff from multiple community agencies, including law enforcement, mental health, alcohol and drugs, and other social service agencies located throughout the county. The team works together in a school-based environment to address challenges facing the at-risk student population and their families. Judy will serve as the liaison, working closely with all stakeholders involved. To learn more, please take a moment to visit http://www.starkcountyesc.org/icare_home.aspx.



Bruce Nist with (L to R): Shirley Dobry, Angela Smith, Mallory Reolfi, and Kris Friday, NCCS Education Endowment Fund board members.

"Big Idea" Winner Announced

The NCCS Education Endowment Fund Board of Governors recently announced the winner of the fund's \$2500 "Big Idea" Grant for the 2016-2017 school year.

The winner is **Bruce Nist**, the theatre tech teacher at Hoover High School. His project is entitled "Digital Stage Management & Design." Mr. Nist will purchase three iPad Pro laptops and Apple Pencils that will be used by the student technical director, the stage manager and the lighting/sound designers. The students will collaborate on developing ideas for the production as well as sharing notes on where technical elements for the show occur. Also, students will work during rehearsals to add notes for the technical side of the production to help other students plan and assist with the rehearsal process if they aren't present.

Mr. Nist said, "This project takes the idea of our 1:1 computing and develops it into a more collaborative environment that students are likely to encounter in theatre productions in college. This is the first step in the direction of having all scripts be digital for an entire production, which will make us the first theatre program in the county to be entirely digital."

Background on the NCCS Endowment Fund

The North Canton City Schools Education Endowment Fund was designed to bring attention to those educators who continue to make North Canton City Schools Viking Strong. Their innovative ideas advance our students' education, but these ideas often require financial support to see them fully implemented.

Statement of Purpose: The purpose of the North Canton City Schools Education Endowment Fund is to promote,

sponsor, and encourage the pursuit of excellence for all students attending the public schools in the district. We recognize that additional monies beyond the local, state and federal funds are continuously needed for the development of exemplary and creative programs. We further recognize that many educators have innovative ideas which need financial support to make them operational in the schools for the direct benefit of students. The North Canton community has high expectations for its schools; thus, we look toward meeting these needs in part through innovative programs made possible by the NCCS Education Endowment Fund.

All In: Ensuring Success for ALL Students

By Michelle Hostetler

The purpose of the All In: Ensuring Success for ALL Students Straight A Grant Program is to promote awareness and appreciation for ALL students, regardless of their diverse learning needs, and to develop and implement rigorous learning experiences for every student so they are career and/or college ready upon graduation from high school. There are three phases of the grant for North Canton City Schools and the 27 participating school districts. In the **Infrastructure and Instructional Mindshifts** phase of the grant, educator participants will work collaboratively to build upon past and current academic success strategies and leverage this knowledge to expand and ensure high quality teaching and learning of ALL students. Within the **ALL IN Student Academy** phase of the grant, a three-day academy will be held throughout the 2016-2017 school year in which the Hoover High School student team will collaborate with peers from across the multi-county area, and engage in authentic, community-based activities. The grant's final phase, **Family and Community Connections**, will provide a series of learning and discussion opportunities around proactively supporting all students and families, especially those of marginalized populations.

NCTv Storytellers began their journey with the ALL IN project during the summer of 2016. The work of the grant will be documented as Storytellers follow and film all phases of the grant work throughout the year. Filming of a three-day "Institute for District Social Justice," followed by two days of the "Student Academy" provided material for an introductory short story that can be found at <http://www.nctvstorytellers.org>.

<http://www.nctvstorytellers.org/all-in--straight-a-grant.html>

SWOT Process

During the first week of September, the North Canton City School District conducted a SWOT analysis by inviting students, community members, secondary certified staff, elementary parents, elementary staff, secondary parents and classified staff to share their insights. Over 100 individuals were interviewed regarding the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats posed to the district. Below you will find charts that rank the responses of each group in order of highest priority to lowest priority.

2016 North Canton SWOT - Strengths							
Students	Community I	Secondary Certified Staff	Community II	Elementary Parents	Elementary Staff	Secondary Parents	Classified Staff
All extracurricular - a lot of options	Academics, Arts, Athletics	Staff dedicated and professional	Prepare for college or next steps in life	Great teachers	Communicate well with parents and frequently	Academics - quality	Excellent staff
Choices for classes - you can try different things like business, health, etc.	Prepared students well for college	Provide a lot of opportunities for children arts, academics, athletics	Quality programs curricular, business courses, AP	Parental involvement	Collaboration and support between teachers	Variety of options in academics - career, CCP, etc.	Common goal of having the students come first
Good use of technology	Involved families	College readiness	Quality of teachers	Great education	Hiring the right, professional, teachers	Communication - many emails, schoology, etc.	Good education for the student - a lot of opportunities with options for classes and activities
Plenty of opportunities to get help if you need it	Provide a safe environment	Staff takes an interest in the whole child and not just academics	Diversified - arts, academics and athletics	Opportunities clubs and extra curriculars	Extra hands - aides in the building to help with students, copies, etc.	Athletic opportunities	A lot of support from the community
Flexibility with schedule	Dedicated staff including maintenance, drivers, and teachers	Good sense of community within the schools - supportive of the school and each other	Tradition and heritage of Hoover, Reputation, pride, spirit	Excellent academic opportunities for all students at all levels			Strong leadership at the building level
	Programs for all kids - special needs, gifted, etc.	Role model - tradition					Graduation rate

2016 North Canton SWOT - Weaknesses							
Students	Community I	Secondary Certified Staff	Community II	Elementary Parents	Elementary Staff	Secondary Parents	Classified Staff
No backpacks	Strife on the BOE	Trust issue - issues in the past have caused the trust issue to grow. Yet - staff remains open	Trust and perception, character	Assuming everyone is from North Canton - opportunity to attend open house and meet teachers too late	Full time Title Teachers for as many students as we need them for	Lack of consistency in handling the drug and alcohol issue at the high school and middle school	Classified staff feels that they are on the "Back Burner" - we are left in buildings to work and not provided professional development
Inconsistent discipline	Communication within the district	Communication is not good - staff, too much, community, not coordinated, creates trust issue, find out from outside source	Lack of communication with community causes lack of transparency	Not able to get to know staff - bios, information, meeting, etc.	Shorter day for our primary buildings	HS presents a better picture than what reality is / lack of transparency / accountability when things go wrong	Communication - the further up the organization the worse it gets - who to listen to, too much, contradiction
Knowing schedule before first day of classes	Lack of goals - what is our vision? What is the 5 year plan?	Lack of dealing with drug issue - drugs, vaping and alcohol are in the building and in the parking lot	Brand and reputation is declining	Concern with overall quality of education - particularly in language arts	We get the cart before the horse - for example SLOs and then found out not needed, Chromebooks with no instruction	Perceived lack of security and safety as well as communication about procedures and possible lack of procedure	Trust (speaking confidentially, admins do not always give honest/straight answer) "do what you say you are going to do, say what you mean"
Not enough time in scheduling to get to classes	Communication with the community	Poor listening - Decisions are made without asking teachers and staff opinions, jumping from ideas quickly	School rating - down to silver	Turning heads to struggles that families have - social services etc. are not used due to pride issues	Facilities are too small for the number of students and special segments such as special ed, etc.	Need resource officers in the middle school and the high school	Lack of training for support positions - aides, etc. in dealing with children
Knowing everything you need for supplies like exploratories - incomplete supply lists	Teaching life skills	Parents too involved - and we entertain it - administrators run with information from parents and do not check it.	Vertical education does not allow for staff and administrators to get to know students		Lacking in technology instruction and teachers at the early elementary level		
					Limited resources for students with intensive behavioral issues		

District News



School Finance 101

How it works in North Canton: State Funding

Todd Tolson
TREASURER

School funding in Ohio comes from two primary sources: The State of Ohio, and the school district's local taxpayers. This article will focus on our funding from the state.

The State of Ohio's General Assembly, charged with developing a thorough and efficient way of funding local schools, sets a budget every two years to determine the level of funding each district will receive. Ohio's school funding is a multi-tiered model with many funding components. The base component is the "Opportunity Grant" and the level for the 2016-17 school year is set at \$6,000 per student. Unfortunately, the state does not fund this component at this amount. They determine what percentage to fund each district on a State Share Index (SSI), based on calculations using district property valuations, median income, and student count. North Canton's SSI this year is 45.0% and, as a result, we will receive \$2,700 per student for our "Opportunity Grant."

Additional funding components are in areas such as Transportation; Special, Career Technical & Gifted Education; K-3 Literacy; Economically Disadvantaged; and Limited English Proficient. The final components, considered "bonus" funding, are available to districts with high third grade reading scores and graduation rates. We anticipate receiving a total of approximately \$15.1 million from the state, or roughly \$3,330/student, which represents about 35.1% of our spending needs this year.

Look for future articles to see how our local funding works, as well as articles on where and how we spend our resources.

Interested in additional information regarding school funding? Please investigate the following links:

- ODE line-by-line explanation: goo.gl/ChZhCq

- Funding Reports: goo.gl/oLO6OD



2016 North Canton SWOT - Opportunities

Students	Community I	Secondary Certified Staff	Community II	Elementary Parents	Elementary Staff	Secondary Parents	Classified Staff
Different business have fund raisers for the school district	A lot of experienced community members available for mentorship	New administration across the board - such a negative impression of the district - we have an opportunity to get back on track	Collaboration among districts to provide more choice and AP courses, technology and language	New administrative staff	New administrator and superintendent	Grants and funding - need a person who is focused on finding monies for district	Hoover Company growth
Would be great to give student discounts	STEM jobs are a great opportunity - we need to prepare	Walsh University, Malone, Kent, etc. in area that we can partner with	Capitalize on strong history of support and willingness to help	Partnering with the business community for arts, academics and athletic	New administration needs to trust staff as professionals and let us do our jobs	Opportunities to job shadow and do career exploration with connected business and communities	Safe community
Should let students in free to games	High number of thriving higher ed organizations in area	Levy possibility	Create a business mentoring and internship program and participation with many local business	Partnering with the community service organizations like the North Canton Police	New local BOE - three seats available	Levy will be an opportunity to connect with aging population	Early childhood resource centers - resources for the teachers - we can tap into more local resources
10 nuggets for \$1.49	Partnership with law enforcement and other government, business, religious organizations	Community support and organizations like booster clubs, JA at the MS	Working with high ed institutions like Walsh, Malone, etc.	Acknowledging diversity as we become more diverse	Hoover Building - taxes and funding opportunities	Working with other districts to offer more programs - for example IB, etc.	Resources U of A, KSU, Stark State, Mt. Union, Malone
Community involvement - more ways to get involved		Having the Y where it is located is an advantage for student after school, sports		Hoover district	HS and MS interact with younger students	Young families are moving into the district - we need to engage them	
						Economics are improving in North Canton - economic development and City of North Canton	

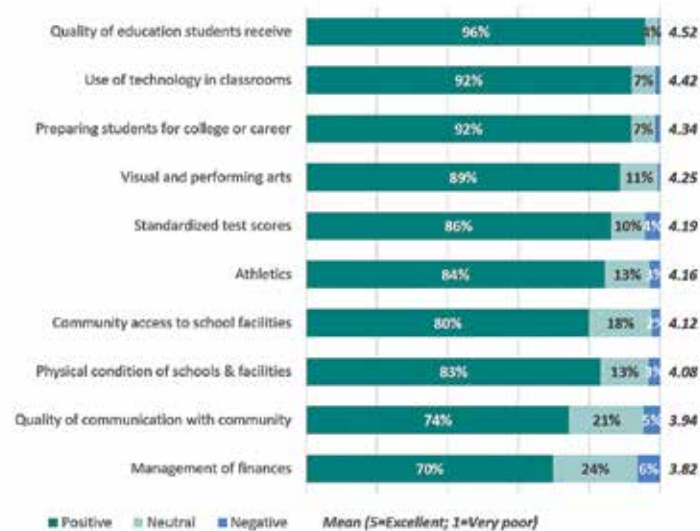
2016 North Canton SWOT - Threats

Students	Community I	Secondary Certified Staff	Community II	Elementary Parents	Elementary Staff	Secondary Parents	Classified Staff
Drug abuse - weed, pills, alcohol	Drug and alcohol abuse in the school	PR issue	Caving in to the beliefs of a few	Violence as a whole - society	Demands on staff including evaluations are reducing the amount of time to teach	Drugs and alcohol	Terrorists
Vaping in study hall and bathrooms - sometimes teachers don't care	Reduced state funding	No raises and possibility of levy not being put up - promises not kept, programs and staff cuts	Changing community demographics	Drug abuse by students and parents	Parents are driving decisions in the district	Changing educational standards and state testing	Drugs
Lack of training on lock down or issues during lunch - would not know what to do	Declining population and no where to grow in NC - taxes	State requirements	Drugs and alcohol	Being a desirable district can be a threat to academic achievements	North Canton looks at numbers instead of need	Social Media and cyber threats	Lack of communication
Middle school nothing special	Increased Mandates	How money is being spent in the district - questions around priorities	Aging population	Social Media	Special ed numbers are increasing due to lack of early intervention	State and National Election	North Canton is landlocked - no room to grow for tax base money
		Drugs and alcohol	State testing emphasis and change	New building and homes are causing overcrowding	State and Federal government passing education laws that are not appropriate NC		Chemicals and problems with the environment
		Mandated testing - a drain on staff, economic, instructional, time, makes kids numb to testing	Safety issues				Wrong type of development

Community Survey Methodology

The 2016 Community Survey was conducted with 384 residents from the North Canton City School District. Data collection began on July 12 and ended August 1, 2016. Most calling took place between the evening hours of 5:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Some interviews were conducted during the day and on some weekends to accommodate respondent schedules. The interviews took an average of 18.7 minutes. The survey was conducted by The Center for Marketing & Opinion Research (CMOR). Due to space limitations, only the executive summary appears in this newsletter. For a more complete look at the survey results in depth, please go to www.northcantonschools.org, Leadership, Mission and Vision.

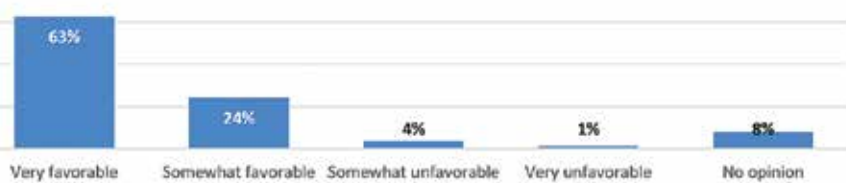
How do you rate these different aspects of NCCS?



A Snapshot of the 2016 Community Survey Results

What is your overall opinion of North Canton City Schools?

Overall Opinion of NCCS



Reason for Unfavorable Opinion	N	%
Dissatisfied with previous superintendent/school board	5	26.3%
Dissatisfied with faculty/teachers	2	10.5%
Bullying/Transferred	2	10.5%
A lot of drugs/No drug testing program	2	10.5%
Financial Mismanagement	2	10.5%
Present schools are different than previous schools	1	5.3%
Dissatisfied with administration/principals	1	5.3%
Eliminated Special Education for children with disabilities	1	5.3%
School system is hypocritical	1	5.3%
Testing	1	5.3%
MISCELLANEOUS	1	5.3%
Total	19	(n=19)

Ratings of NCCS	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor	Mean
Quality of education students receive	56.8%	39.1%	3.5%	0.5%	0.0%	4.52
Use of technology in classrooms	51.1%	40.9%	6.7%	1.3%	0.0%	4.42
Preparing students for college or career	45.1%	46.8%	6.8%	0.8%	0.6%	4.34
Visual and performing arts	36.4%	52.4%	10.6%	0.6%	0.0%	4.25
Standardized test scores	38.0%	48.1%	9.7%	3.2%	1.0%	4.19
Athletics	35.4%	49.0%	12.8%	1.7%	1.1%	4.16
Community access to school facilities	34.1%	46.0%	17.5%	2.4%	0.0%	4.12
Physical condition of schools & facilities	29.2%	54.1%	13.4%	2.2%	1.1%	4.08
Quality of communication with community	25.1%	49.3%	21.0%	3.8%	0.8%	3.94
Management of finances	20.1%	49.8%	23.7%	4.6%	1.8%	3.82

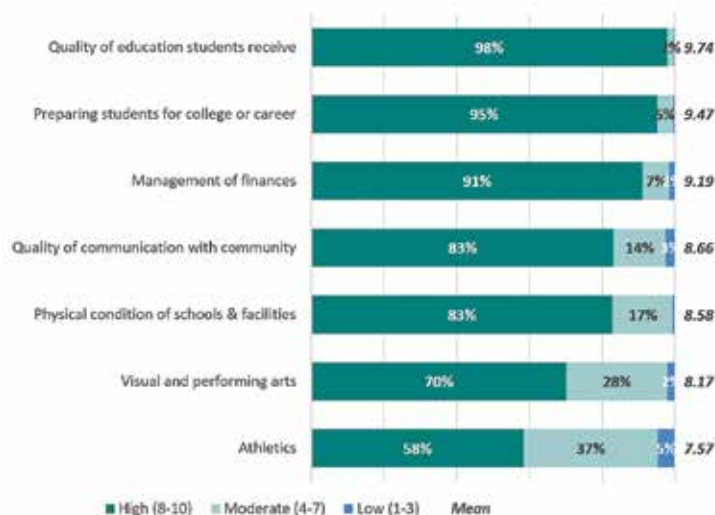
How do you rate the value of the education provided in relation to the taxes paid?

Value of Education Provided for the Taxes Paid



What factors are important to the success of the school district?

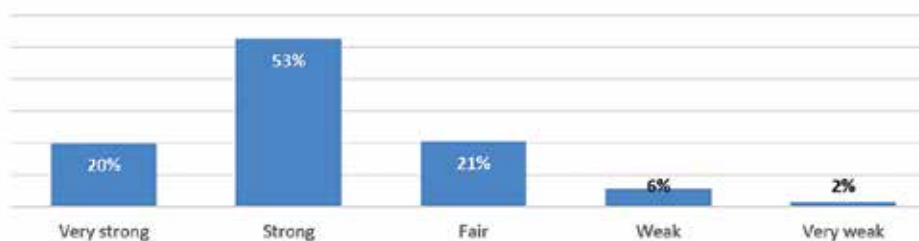
Importance of Factors to Success of District



Importance of Factors to Success of District	High (8-10)	Moderate (4-7)	Low (1-3)	Mean
Quality of education students receive	97.9%	1.8%	0.3%	9.74
Preparing students for college or career	95.0%	4.5%	0.5%	9.47
Management of finances	91.2%	7.2%	1.6%	9.19
Quality of communication with community	83.2%	14.2%	2.6%	8.66
Physical condition of schools & facilities	82.9%	16.5%	0.5%	8.58
Visual and performing arts	70.2%	27.7%	2.1%	8.17
Athletics	58.4%	36.8%	4.7%	7.57

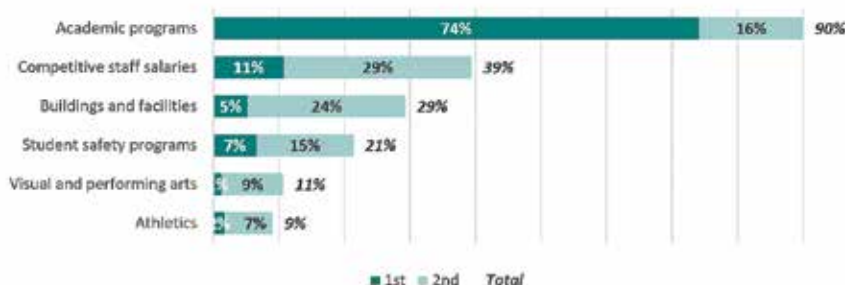
Would you say the financial position of NCCS is very strong, strong, fair, weak or very weak?

Financial Position of NCCS



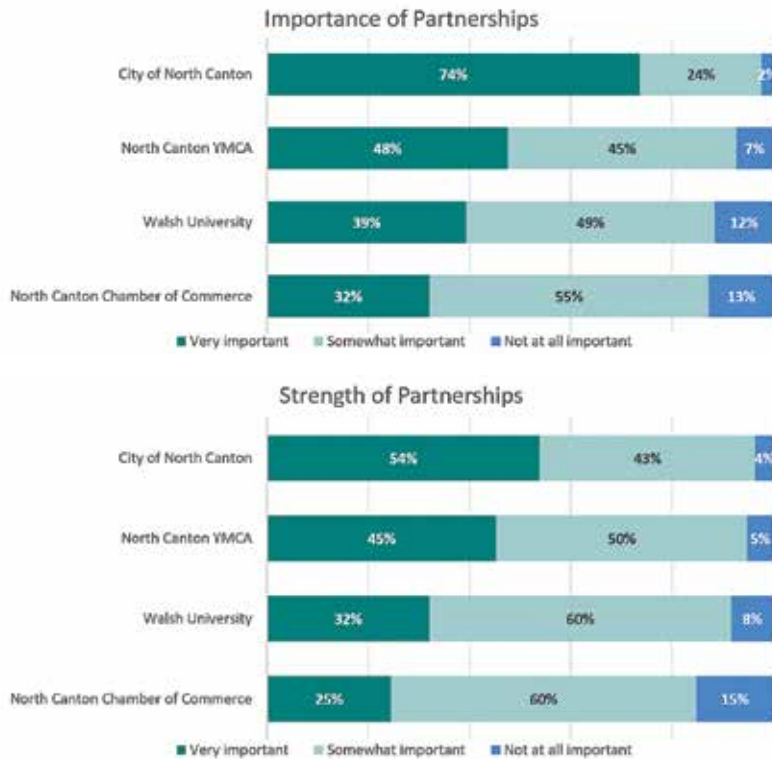
Which of the following should be the TOP funding priorities for the district?

Funding Priorities for District

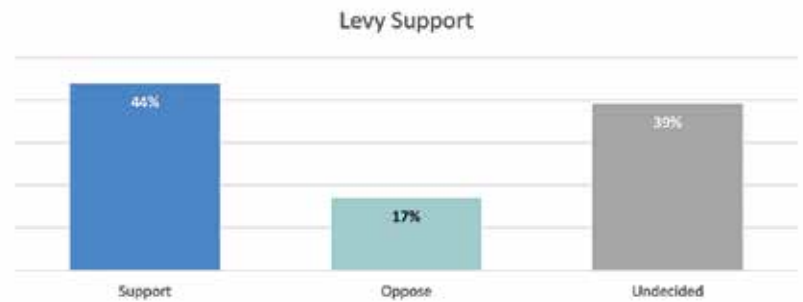


District News

How do you rate the importance of strength of these local partnerships?

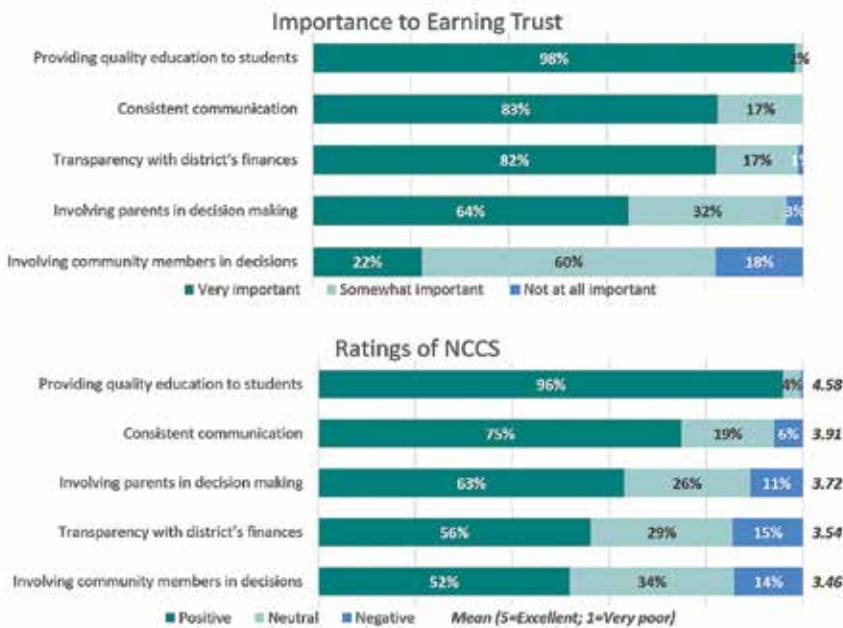


Sometime in the future, NCCS may put a levy on the ballot. If the election were held today, would you vote for the levy, against the levy, or have you not made up your mind?



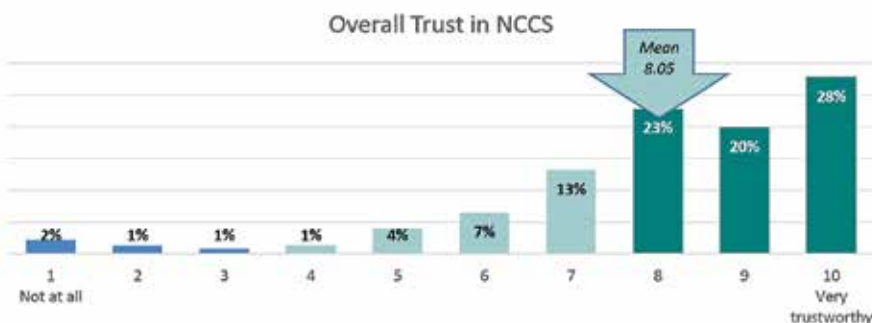
Reason for Supporting Levy	N	%
Strong schools equal strong communities	29	17.7%
Value education	25	15.2%
Maintain quality of education/Stay competitive	21	12.8%
Children/Grandchildren attend	20	12.2%
Support schools in our community	18	11.0%
Ensure ample funds	15	9.1%
Improve quality of education	11	6.7%
Property values stay strong	5	3.0%
Teacher/Retired teacher	5	3.0%
Maintain/Upgrade infrastructure	5	3.0%
Confident money will be spent wisely	3	1.8%
New administration	2	1.2%
Maintain performing arts	1	0.6%
Schools do a good job educating our students	1	0.6%
MISCELLANEOUS	3	1.8%
Total	164	(n=164)

What factors are important to earning your trust?



Reason for Opposing Levy	N	%
Better management needed of present funds	15	24.2%
High taxes/Increased taxes	15	24.2%
Lack of financial transparency	9	14.5%
Lack of trust with previous administration	4	6.5%
Limited income/Cannot afford it	4	6.5%
Have reservations about administration	3	4.8%
Too many school levies throughout the years	3	4.8%
Administrators/Top heavy/Salaries too high	2	3.2%
Financial irresponsibility	2	3.2%
Lack of communication	1	1.6%
No increase in teachers' salaries	1	1.6%
Student's request was not carried out by support staff	1	1.6%
MISCELLANEOUS	2	3.2%
Total	62	(n=62)

How would you rate the amount of trust you have overall in NCCS?

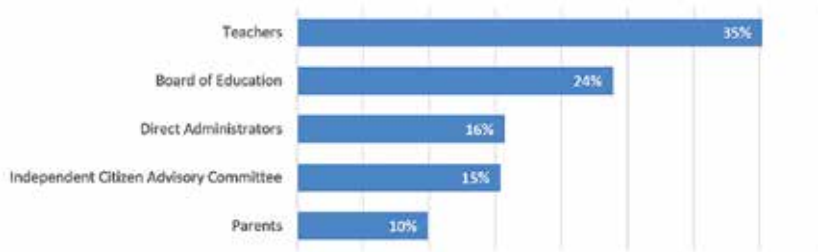


Information Needed for Voting Decision	N	%
Purpose of levy/Amount needed/Mill rate	63	42.9%
Transparency of finances	29	19.7%
Better communication/Additional information	26	17.7%
Convinced of strong leadership within school system	7	4.8%
Amount of tax increase	6	4.1%
Opinions from students/faculty about levy	2	1.4%
Levy money to be spent as designated/Value of cost	2	1.4%
Improved education/academic opportunities	2	1.4%
Convinced of financial need	1	0.7%
Involvement of non-school participants in levy process	1	0.7%
To know it is not a building levy	1	0.7%
To know how Common Core will be handled	1	0.7%
To know their social agenda	1	0.7%
More information on standardized testing	1	0.7%
To know the safety program will be kept	1	0.7%
To know performing arts will be kept	1	0.7%
To know levy will be spent on repairs and wages	1	0.7%
Total	147	(n=147)

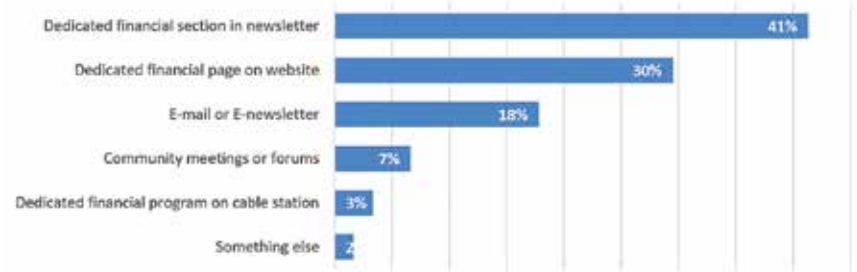
District News

Whom do you trust most to provide information about NCCS?

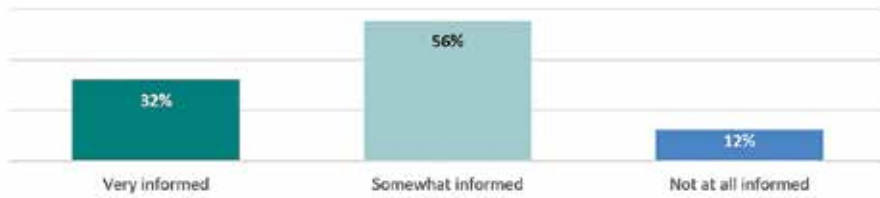
Trust Most for Information about NCCS



What is the best way to communicate information about NCCS finances?

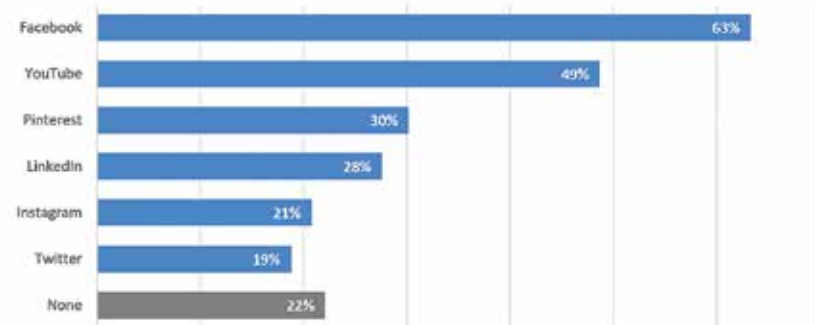


How well informed would you say you are about NCCS?

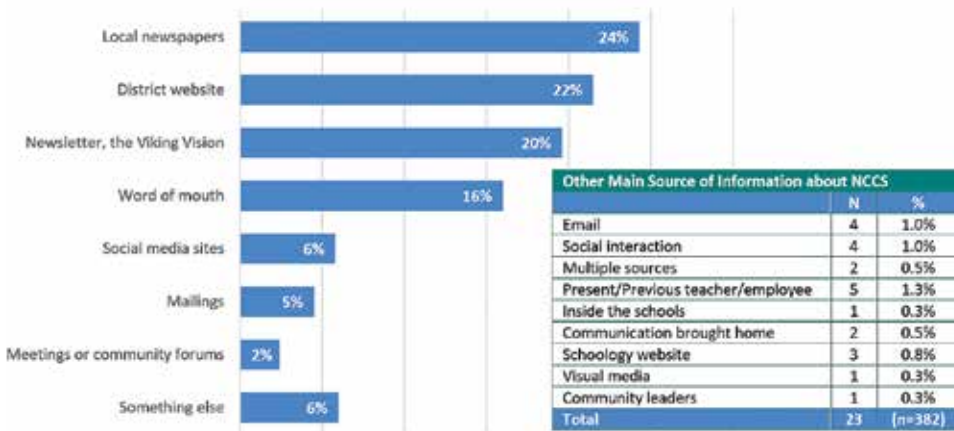


What social media do you use?

Social Media Usage



What is your main source of information about NCCS?

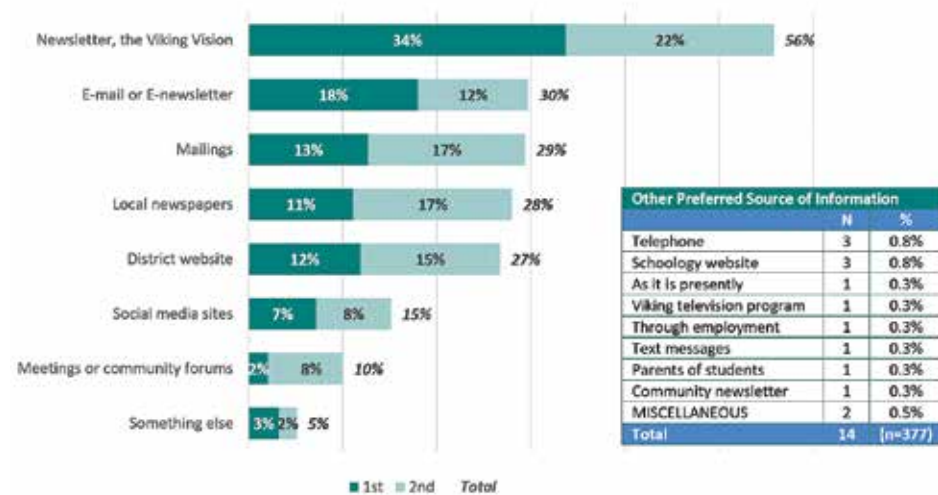


Other Main Source of Information about NCCS		
	N	%
Email	4	1.0%
Social interaction	4	1.0%
Multiple sources	2	0.5%
Present/Previous teacher/employee	5	1.3%
Inside the schools	1	0.3%
Communication brought home	2	0.5%
Schoology website	3	0.8%
Visual media	1	0.3%
Community leaders	1	0.3%
Total	23	(n=382)

What is your preferred newspaper or newspaper website?

Preferred Newspaper or Newspaper Website		
	N	%
Canton Repository	279	75.2%
Akron Beacon Journal	23	6.2%
cantonrep.com	8	2.2%
internet/apps	3	0.8%
North neighbor News	3	0.8%
New York Times	2	0.5%
yahoo.com	2	0.5%
Hoover Viking	2	0.5%
northcantonohio.gov	2	0.5%
USA Today	1	0.3%
Washington Post	1	0.3%
Wall Street Journal	1	0.3%
fox8.com	1	0.3%
drudge.com	1	0.3%
foxnews.com	1	0.3%
lifeneews.com	1	0.3%
northcantonschools.org	1	0.3%
MISCELLANEOUS	1	0.3%
No Preference	25	6.7%
Do not read a paper	13	3.5%
Total	371	(n=371)

What is your preferred source of information about NCCS?



Other Preferred Source of Information		
	N	%
Telephone	3	0.8%
Schoology website	3	0.8%
As it is presently	1	0.3%
Viking television program	1	0.3%
Through employment	1	0.3%
Text messages	1	0.3%
Parents of students	1	0.3%
Community newsletter	1	0.3%
MISCELLANEOUS	2	0.5%
Total	14	(n=377)

Mary L. Evans Early Childhood Center

Welcome



(Left to Right): Lynsee Foster (Purple Room) Sarah Gregory (Orange Room) and Alyssa Wise (Blue Room).

Lynsee Foster

This will be my first year teaching here at the Mary L. Evans Early Childhood Center. I am so excited to officially be a Viking and represent the North Canton City School District. Early childhood is definitely a passion of mine, and I am having a wonderful experience working with my preschool students. The families that are involved in the North Canton City Schools make teaching in this district that much more enjoyable. Prior to accepting the Preschool Intervention Specialist job at the ECC, I gained experience working as a Self-Contained Preschool teacher in an Autism Unit at the Euclid Early Learning Center. In addition, I had the opportunity to begin my teaching career in Illinois, where I taught Kindergarten for three years. I am looking forward to the rest of the school year and many more years here at the Early Childhood Center. Viking Strong!

Sarah Gregory

I am excited to be working with our Little Vikes here at the Mary L. Evans Early Childhood Center! I am a recent Walsh University graduate and hold degrees in both Early Childhood Education and as an Early Childhood Intervention Specialist. As a Hoover graduate, I am eager to begin my teaching career in my home community. I enjoy being a part of my students' first school experience within the school district, and I am passionate about seeing them grow and learn through their own curiosity. Building a relationship with my students and helping them achieve their own personal successes is something that I am looking forward to this year.

Alyssa Wise

My name is Alyssa Wise and I am one of the newest additions to the Mary L. Evans Early Childhood Center. I graduated from the University of Mount Union in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and a Reading Endorsement. I previously taught preschool at a KinderCare in Macedonia and kindergarten in Akron. I am very excited to have this opportunity to work with the students and families of the North Canton City School District.

I grew up in Macedonia, Ohio, and graduated from Nordonia High School. Last year my husband and I moved to North Canton and I couldn't be happier. I love the area and am very excited to have acquired a job in the school district.

So far, this year has been going great and I have truly enjoyed shaping the little minds of all the students in my class. I am excited to see where the school year takes us.



Clearmount Elementary

Fall Family Fun Night

The Clearmount PTO recently sponsored our annual Fall Family Fun Night. Designed to help connect new families to our school community, over 400 people attended a tailgating party on the playground before the Hoover vs. GlenOak football game.



Everyone had a great time re-connecting or developing new friendships. We have a strong sense of community here at Clearmount, and our PTO went above and beyond to help foster this community spirit here with our little Vikings! Pizza and



popcorn was provided by the PTO, and water was donated by Giant Eagle at Washington Square.

Greentown Intermediate

Service over Self

In the past, Greentown Intermediate School celebrated the end of the nine weeks with a small end of the day classroom party for students who met their goals, both academically and behaviorally. However, this year, Principal Ryan Kumpf wanted to start teaching students a message about "service over self." With that said, each building grade level has partnered with community organizations, such as Ronald McDonald House, Meals on Wheels, NC Nursing Homes and Akron Children's Hospital. On October 28, the last day of the nine weeks, the students will spend the morning working for the community organization with which they have partnered. In the afternoon, they will focus on their achievement celebration. This will happen four times this year at the end of each nine week period.



Orchard Hill Intermediate Totem Pole Restoration

As Hoover High School student **Derrick McKinney** was looking for ideas for his Eagle Scout project, he chose to concentrate on the restoration of the totem pole at Orchard Hill Intermediate School. Principal Renee Manse was excited by Derrick's work: "Derrick provided us the opportunity to bring something that was a part of Orchard Hill's past to life again. His Eagle Scout project not only restored the totem pole, but also provided our Galaxy students the opportunity to do some research to discover the history of the totem pole. Derrick McKinney will now be remembered when future Orchard Hill students ask about the history of the Orchard Hill totem pole."

The totem pole dates back to 2004. After building the pavilion and shed, the PTA decided that an older tree planted beyond the pavilion was starting to die and thought a totem pole carved from that tree would be a great addition to the outdoor education area. After doing much research, a member of PTA remembered a gentleman named Patrick Holbert, a retired Dalton history teacher who would sell small wood carvings at the Wooster fair each year.

The students were involved in choosing what to carve on the totem pole. After narrowing down the ideas a vote was cast by the students and the school chose to do an Indian, deer, eagle and an owl, things that were significant to our area and school.

On the day of the carving in mid-October, an assembly was scheduled that allowed each classroom to come down throughout the day to see Mr. Holbert and his associate carve the pole, a job which took only one day to complete.



Over the years, the totem pole had weathered and been vandalized. Derrick began his Eagle Scout project by holding a fundraiser to purchase the materials needed to restore the sculpture. He and his step-father contacted Mr. Galen Alpeter, a member of International Woodcarvers, whose sons Trevor and Troy were also Eagle Scouts. He worked on the totem pole to restore it with glue, putty, varnish and the woodworking secrets he has discovered over the years. The totem pole was then moved to the front of Orchard Hill where it can be enjoyed by present and former students who recognize the importance of the sculpture to the school.

Orchard Hill Intermediate Vike-A-Thon



Orchard Hill students participated in a school wide Vike-A-Thon on Sept 23 to help raise about \$6,000 for our Parent Teacher Organization. The money will be used to continue to improve our playground area, as well as to provide financial support for our teachers for special projects throughout the school year.



High School Marching Band Band Qualifies to State

Congratulations to the Hoover High School Marching Band! The Hoover Marching Band received all superior ratings at the Zanesville Marching Competition. Of the 18 bands in the competition, Hoover took home a third place overall and second place in their class. They also qualified for state marching competition for the fourth straight year.

Northwood Elementary Fall Family Fun Night



(Left to Right): Students with Principal Matt Donaldson and A.J. Colby.

Northwood Elementary hosted Fox 8's "Weather from your School Program," which was broadcast live from Northwood's Outdoor Learning Lab and the first-grade classrooms of Mrs. Ray and Mrs. Melert. Students assisted A.J. Colby with the reporting of the forecasts, including Alex Hobe, Austin Ash, Rowan Bilker, Calvin Somers, Denise Shaheen, Brett O'Donnell and Ella Capozzi.

Northwood also won Fox 8's "Cool School" and was featured on Thursday, October 6, on the morning show and the 4:00 p.m. newscast. Why is Northwood a cool school? Mr. Matt Donaldson believes "the strength of the

school is strong parent engagement." He is convinced that special people make special schools and Northwood is successful because of the people, from the strong PTO to the volunteers to the parent and community connection as well as the partnership with Walsh University education students. The school promotes a positive culture, and students are recognized for kindness. Teachers involve their students in active learning with high expectations to meet the individual needs of each student. Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, parents and volunteers who make Northwood Viking Strong!

Orchard Hill Intermediate Teacher of the Month

Orchard Hill Intermediate would like to congratulate Mrs. Sonya Ash for being chosen as Orchard Hill's Teacher of the Month.

Mrs. Ash began her teaching career in 1988. She started teaching at North Canton City Schools in 1992. Throughout her career she maintained a membership in the Ohio Music Education Association and the National Association for Music Education. She has been published in several magazines including TRIAD, Teaching Music Magazine, and Music K-8 Magazine. In addition, she was selected as an

Endowment Fund grant recipient on two occasions and was selected as a Target grant winner in 2011. In 2013 Mrs. Ash was given the Distinctive Educator Award at the Summa Celebration for Hoover High School graduating seniors.

Sonya completed her undergraduate work at Malone College where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education (Summa Cum Laude). She earned her Master of Music degree and served as a Graduate Assistant in Accompanying at The University



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THEN YOU HAVEN'T SEEN OUR TREES.**

A charitable fund isn't like an ordinary donation to a charity.
You decide what it benefits. **You plant it.**
Its value increases. **We grow it.**
Make a difference ... in a way that's just a little different.

**START BY CONTACTING BRIDGETTE NEISEL AT
330-454-7992 OR BNEISEL@STARKCF.ORG.**

**DILLENBACK FAMILY CHARITABLE FUND
EST. 2014**

Sylvia and Darryl Dillenback want to help youth and support childhood education, so their fund supports organizations such as Boy Scouts of America.


starkcf.org

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of Akron. She also earned a Piano Pedagogy.

Mrs. Ash is best known for her weekly music awards and her hidden treasure of a classroom. She has comfortably nestled herself in an area that most certainly no one else would ever want and has created a wonderful learning environment for her students.

Mrs. Ash devotes many hours to the Orchard Hill choir program as well. She is seen at school bright and early twice a week, arriving before most others for choir practice. Her love for music is evident as she incorporates so many wonderful teaching strategies to encourage learning every day. Mrs. Ash makes learning about music fun.



North Canton Middle School Anti-Virus Program Continues

North Canton Middle School has begun year two of the Leader's Edge Anti-Virus Character Education Program. The mission of the program is "to equip youth to live and act according to principles and values by standing for character excellence, who in turn influence others to bring about social change." Anti-Virus teaches young people to battle immorality by living with integrity. The curriculum focuses on seven main character traits: ambition, responsibility, hard work, emotions, restraint, common sense, and generosity. The unit is designed to inform, inspire, and ignite middle school students to live a life full of ethical principles.



The program, which is shared in sixth-grade science classes, is taught by **Linda Smith, Diana Pete** and **Audrey Blood**. Principal David Eby embraces the program because it "provides our students with the foundation to be role models during a time that social media presents major negative challenges. Students learn the importance of good character as they discover more about themselves and become independent."

North Canton Middle School Guest Speaker Carole Vesely

Carole Vesely spoke Tuesday, October 4, during Parent-Teacher Conferences on the topic of depression in teens. Carole Vesely, MA, LSW, is a crisis counselor at the Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center in Stark County. Throughout her career, Carole has been committed to educate the community on the risks of depression and help others know how to take preventative measures when dealing with this condition.



Hoover High School Five Exchange Students

Hoover High School has welcomed five exchange students who are learning what it means to be an American teenager. **Martina Fontanesi**, who is from Italy, is staying with the Testa family. Martina sees a big difference between her high school and Hoover. At her school, students attend Monday through Saturday with five one-hour classes. The teachers move from classroom to classroom while students remain together in one room. Because classes end at 1:00, students eat lunch at home. Food is of particular interest to Martina, who is fascinated by the Americanized versions of Italian food. She smiles when she talks about the pizza she has since arriving here: "I like the pizza—it's not Italian, but I like it." One American food that she won't miss when she returns home? Peanut butter. Martina has one year of high school when she returns home to Italy, and she is uncertain as to her major when she enters the university.



Ines Levesque had seven years of English while in school in her native Spain. She attends a school for children from three-eighteen years of age, so the size of Hoover High School does not seem large to her. When she returns to her school in Madrid, she will study for two years until she enters the university to study architecture or a related field. She is enjoying her experience as she meets new people and sees new places. Because "the U.S. is known as a free country, it's very different from Europe so you have a chance to live a completely different life for a school year." Ines will be staying with the Sullivan family.



Karo Lambregts is from Belgium. Like Martina, she attended a school where students remained in class while the teachers rotated from classroom to classroom. Unlike Hoover where a student's schedule is repeated through the week, students have a different schedule of classes every day. Karo enjoys the experience of learning a new culture, and one aspect of life here is especially good: "Free refills of soda pop are great! In Belgium we have to pay for another drink. I love it here!" When Karo returns home, she will likely enter a college in Belgium to study psychology. She has two host families, the Wakser and Mahajan families.



Maria Widmer sees some definite differences between high school in Germany and Hoover High School. She, too, remained in one all day with her classmates while teachers rotated in and out. Her high school offered more freedom because hall passes are non-existent and students are able to leave school whenever they wish. She is impressed with the amount of school spirit and the numerous sports and clubs available. When she returns to Germany, she will have two more years of high school before attending the university, where she is considering a major in medicine. Maria is presently staying with the Berrey family.



The fifth exchange student is **Tizian Schmidt** from Germany. Unfortunately, Tizian was absent and we were unable to interview him. We will share information about Tizian in a later issue.



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Hoover High School

Trailblazer in Technology



Hoover High School's **Casey Clark** is a Trailblazer. He is one of 16 Ohio educators chosen to spend last year learning about technologies for use in their classrooms in the Trailblazer Teachers' Program managed by Battelle Education and supported through the Ohio Straight A Fund. Battelle's Aimee Kennedy, Vice-President of Education, STEM Learning and Philanthropy believes, "Simple, reliable, and cost-effective technology can allow a good teacher to do more."

How did a high school English teacher become a Trailblazer for technology use in the classroom? He explains that he grew up Atari, playing games such as the Oregon Trail. He attended Mount Union as a high speed fiber optic system was being installed. He was fascinated with the internet and the opportunities that new technologies offered. He taught a year at Timken High School and then came

to Hoover where he hoped to increase the use of technology in his classroom. Once the school district bought Chromebooks for the students, he was able to pursue his goal of a classroom where traditional learning is blended with digital learning. Students have a paper textbook. They take notes on paper. Yet 90 percent of the resources are available online for student use.

Mr. Clark believes passionately in the use of technology in classrooms because, as he says, "Students are wired differently today. Digital learning is engaging. They like the novelty of it. Kids grew up with a phone in their hands. You can't lecture these kids. Their minds don't work that way anymore." He is quick to point out that their usage of technology doesn't mean they are tech-savvy, however. "They are good at games and social media. Using a calendar or email? No, they need to be taught how to use them effectively."

Mr. Clark even incorporates technology into grading essays. He uses Screencastify, a Chrome extension, to record his grading and loads the fifteen-minute video to YouTube. Students can log into YouTube and watch the private, unlisted video as he reviews the essay and makes suggestions to improve their writing.

Like any good trailblazer, Mr. Clark works to share his passion with his colleagues both at Hoover and beyond. He calls it his mission, and he willingly spends time going into other teachers' classrooms to facilitate their use of technology and offering personal workshops after school to help good teachers become even better.

Hoover High School

Joint Documentary Venture

Student video teams from North Canton City Schools and Plain Local Schools in Stark County have been selected to produce a documentary of the upcoming Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Capital Conference and Trade Show. The annual statewide education conference, Nov. 13-16, draws more than 9,000 public education stakeholders to the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Students from North Canton Hoover and GlenOak High Schools will expand their skills by filming conference events and conducting interviews with attendees, speakers, OSBA leaders and others before producing a 10-minute documentary, which will be streamed on OSBA's website (www.ohioschoolboards.org) and used to promote the conference. Thanks to a more than \$95,000 grant from State Farm Insurance and other donations, students will be able to edit footage on-site in North Canton Hoover's Mobile Storyteller, a custom-built 40-foot bus.



Hoover High School

Future Educators of America

Future Educators of America, FEA, is now known as **Educators Rising!** Even though the name has changed, the group will continue to recognize each month a Vital Viking, a staff member who makes a vital contribution to Hoover High School.

The first Vital Viking for the year is **Mr. Nick Plazak**. Students say

that he is "very smart" and "easy to understand." Not only does he "make class enjoyable," but also he "connects with his students" and has a unique sense of humor. Being "passionate about what he does" is another reason students selected him as the September Vital Viking.



Hoover High School

SFCU Paper Recipient

We would like to thank the students, staff, North Canton families, and the North Canton community for their support in Stark Federal Credit Union's (SFCU) One Million Sheets of Paper project. Thanks to the support you provided by voting, Hoover High School won 250,000 sheets of paper! **Mr. Nino Gemma** (left), CEO/President of SFCU; and **Mr. Tod Lackey** (right), the SFCU Marketing Manager are pictured delivering the donation to Hoover High School.



Hoover High School Homecoming Court 2016

The Hoover High School Homecoming Court for 2016 was announced at the home football game against Lake High School. The members of the court are Freshman Attendant, **Khalah Saleh**; Freshman Escort, **Coby Householder**; Sophomore Attendant, **Shannon Dillow**; Sophomore Escort, **Dylan Upperman**; Junior Attendant, **Makenna Drabick**; Junior Escort, **Greg Blondheim**; Senior Attendant, **Frannie Jeremiah**; Senior Escort, **Sam Jocos**; Queen, **Elaine Werren**; and King, **Alex Wright**.



Your **COMMUNITY**
Your **Y**



NORTH CANTON YMCA

SIGN UP!

Fall 2 programs like Swimming, Gymnastics and more!
7 week session begins October 31.

Youth and High School **BASKETBALL** through November 7

KIDS NIGHTS OUT!

Different themes each month! All include activities and dinner for kids ages 3(potty-trained) through 12.
Oct.21, Nov.18 and Dec.16 6:30-10:00 pm

Y member: \$14 Non-member \$20
Add \$5 for day-of event registration

COMMUNITY & MEMBER EVENTS AND CLASSES

TRICK OR TREAT AT THE Y October 31 5:00-7:00 PM
All are welcome-Free!

STAMPING CLASSES Nov. 6 & 16; Dec. 7- Call for details!

ASHI BABYSITTER TRAINING Nov.12 9:00am-3:00pm for ages 11 and up. Y Members: \$45 Non-members \$55

COOKIES WITH MRS. CLAUS Dec. 4 2:00-4:00
Free for Y members

For information on these and all other YMCA programs:
330.499.2587 www.ymcastark.org
Financial Assistance Available

Hoover High School

National Merit Awards



Matthew Polatas



Jack Rathbun

Hoover High School Principal Eric Bornstine is proud to announce that **Matthew Polatas** is a National Merit Semifinalist and **Jack Rathbun** is a National Merit Commended Student. Matt is one of approximately 16,000 students named in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. These finalists were selected from all students who took the 2015 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Matt now has an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$33 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and about half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

Matt plans to study chemical engineering in college. Jack is still undecided as to his major.



Hoover High School

Volleyball Team Gives back to the Community

Coach Mia Thomas and the varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams volunteered one Saturday morning at the Greater Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. In three hours they loaded 46 thousand pounds of meat in 30-pound boxes to be delivered to area food cupboards. Hoover High School students, their teachers and their coaches believe in giving back to their community.

Hoover High School Drama Presents:

YOU CAN'T BEAT THE HOUSE

Friday	November 11 th	2016	7:00pm
Saturday	November 12 th	2016	7:00pm
Sunday	November 13 th	2016	2:00pm

Tickets On Sale Now!
 Call (330) 497-5620x1110
 To reserve your seats!



\$8 presale | \$10 at the door



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Welcome

We welcome new teachers to our district for the 2016-17 school year. They are an outstanding group of educators who will carry on the excellent tradition of North Canton City Schools.

Welcome to **Katie Barber, Amanda Chaney, Lynsee Foster, Sarah Gregory, Mellissa Keim, Kelly Kirkbride, Matthew Roshak, Heidi Roth, Deanna Stahl, Nicholas Stroemple, Georgeanna Strohmenger and Alyssa Wise.**

Basketball Ticket Sales

BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON TICKETS

Season tickets for the 2016-17 Boys Basketball season are on sale again in the Hoover High School Athletic Office from November 7 through November 22, 2016. Ticket window hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:15 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:15 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Season tickets are \$63.00 per seat, and the Athletic Department accepts cash or checks from North Canton City School District residents.

Pre-Sale Ticket Schedule

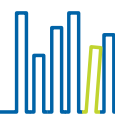
Season tickets will no longer be available for boys basketball after November 22. All remaining home game reserve tickets will be sold at each individual game and at our ticket window at Hoover High School.

- **Tuesday home games** - tickets will be sold Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- **Friday home games** - tickets will be sold Thursdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- **No Ticket Sales on Wednesdays**

Reserved tickets are \$7.00 and student tickets are \$4.00 each. General admission are sold only at the games for \$6.00 each.

New Athletic Website on the Way!

The Athletic Department is excited to launch a new website November 1. The website will share the latest news, schedules and results for all of the teams in the North Canton City Schools. We think you will appreciate having a site that keeps you updated on Viking sports!



educational resources

at the north canton public library

Skill Building Kits

These kits help parents assist children in improving academic skills in the following areas:



Literacy

Hooked on Phonics
Reading Center kits
Reading Rocket kits
Flash cards



Science

Hands-on models
Large magnetic life cycles and science concepts
Interactive activities to take home



Math

Hooked on Math
Math Center Kits
Flash cards



Social Studies

Puzzles
Flannel board activities

Books, of course

Our collection includes:
Concept books
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