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Treats for Troops	What We've Done So Far	National Merit Finalists	Band Back from Hawaii

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JANUARY 2024

POLAR BEAR PRIDE

Your Connection to the Jackson Local School District

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Putting the Unity in Community

Each year at this time I am reminded of the appreciation I have for serving our school community as your superintendent. This year, our students have generously dedicated service hours across the district, well ahead of our Senior Service Day in May. In a heartwarming holiday initiative, groups including the Student Council, Jackson School for the Arts, Jackson Academy for Global Studies, and others, came together to provide clothing and gifts for 106 local families, touching the lives of approximately 500 individuals.



The funds for this project were raised by our Student Council through the homecoming dance. They successfully gathered resources to purchase

essential clothing, warm gear, gift cards, and toys for families in need during the holiday season. This endeavor, which begins well before the holidays, has been made possible through the dedicated efforts of our district and school leadership teams. We are immensely grateful for the hard work invested in supporting our students and families.

Of course, we would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to thank our Jackson community for its support of Issue 30, a renewal levy (no new taxes) that provides our district with about \$6 million in revenue. We are fortunate at Jackson Local to have a community that backs our schools.

Our commitment to responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us remains a top priority. According to the Ohio Department of Education's Cupp Report, Jackson Local Schools stands as the most efficient district in administrative, instructional, and overall per-pupil costs among 20 comparable districts in Ohio.

ARTS & ATHLETIC PERFORMANCES

We are almost halfway through the 2023-2024 school year. Our second quarter ends on Jan. 11 after winter break. Since the start of the school year, it has been an inspiration to watch our students perform in the classroom, on the stage, or athletic fields and courts. The Jackson School for the Arts production of *Newsies* was superb. While the acting, singing, dancing, and music were wonderful, the set design on our stage certainly was something to take in. Bravo to all involved.

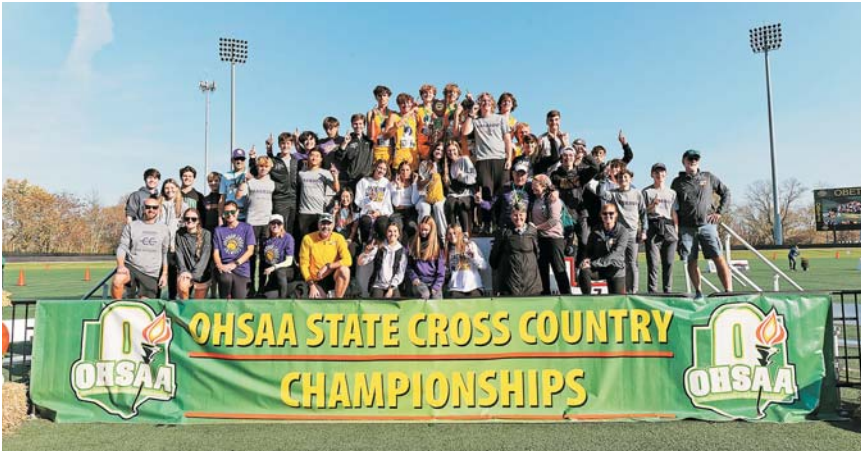
The Purple Army Marching Band self-funded a trip to Hawaii and performed at Pearl Harbor over Thanksgiving. What a great enrichment opportunity for our students. This was the back end of a yearlong military appreciation program from our Arts Academy that started last November with the production of *White Christmas*. Watching our talented students perform never ceases to amaze me, but it is always impressive to see the amount of talent being cultivated from within our hallways.

Our athletic teams are off to a great start this winter season in boys and girls basketball, bowling, swimming and diving, wheelchair basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, and competitive cheerleading. And this is on the heels of another state championship! Congratulations are in order for our boys cross country team, led by head coach Kevin Walsh, for winning the Division I state championship. This is our school's fifth state title (two each in boys basketball and baseball). The way our cross country team finished that race is the epitome of our school district: They got better as the race progressed and they had an incredibly strong finish!

In conclusion, I extend my congratulations to all involved in these achievements and thank our community for their unwavering support. Together, we continue to foster excellence and pride in Jackson Local Schools.

Thank you, and Go Bears!
Chris DiLoreto, Superintendent

Boys Cross Country Team Wins State Championship



The Jackson High School boys cross country team won the Division I state championship to close out the season in November. The Polar Bears won the title with an impressive team score of 86 points, well ahead of second-place Mason with 148 points. Olentangy Orange finished third with 172 points and St. Xavier was fourth with 178.

This is the first title in the history of the cross country program, and it came with a bit of drama to end the meet in a flurry for the Polar Bears. Jackson was trailing Mason by three points heading into the last mile of the race and rallied for the impressive 62-point win. Mason was the defending two-time state champions. Polar Bear junior Eli Ilg set another school record (14:59.7) and became the highest-finishing Jackson male runner in school history as he finished second. Senior Elliot Zuckett and Eli both earned First Team All-Ohio honors as Elliot placed 25th with a time of 15:48. Jackson had four runners finish in the top 50 (Ilg and Zuckett) with Will Prato (15:59) coming in 37th and Cael Ball (16:10) 49th. Sean McNulty (16:16) finished 57th, Carter Hull (16:19) finished 65th, and Andrew Huzyak (16:55) 123rd.

This is head coach Kevin Walsh's first state title in 29 years of coaching.

This historic win for Jackson High School's cross country team is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and unrelenting spirit. It is a victory that will be celebrated and remembered for years to come in the halls of Jackson High.

Jackson Local Schools
Student Calendar
2023-2024

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
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OCTOBER 2023						
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NOVEMBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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31						

JANUARY 2024						
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28	29	30	31			

AUGUST

9 Gr 6/New Student Orientation, 6-8:00 pm
9 Gr 9/New Student Orientation A-L, 7-8:00 pm
10 Gr 9/New Student Orientation M-Z, 7-8:00 pm
10 Open House - All Elementaries, 4:30-6:30 pm
16 1st Day for Students (K-12)
17 Open House - JMMS, Last Name A-M, 6:00-7:00 pm
Last Name N-Z, 7:00-8:00 pm
23 Open House - High School, 5:00-7:00 pm

SEPTEMBER

1 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
4 Labor Day - No School (K-12)

OCTOBER

3 Parent Conferences (K-5) 4:00-8:00 pm
3 Parent Conferences (Gr 6-12) 4:00-7:00 pm
5 Parent Conferences (K-5) 4:00-8:00 pm
6 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
9 Columbus Day - No School (K-12)
11 Parent Conferences (K-5) 4:00-8:00 pm
11 Parent Conferences (Gr 6-12) 4:00-7:00 pm
20 End of 1st Marking Period - 44 Days

NOVEMBER

22 Thanksgiving Break Begins
28 Classes Resume

DECEMBER

21 Winter Break Begins

JANUARY

4 Classes Resume
11 End of 2nd Marking Period - 45 Days
12 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School (K-12)

FEBRUARY

15 Parent Conferences (K-12) 4:00-7:00 pm
16 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
19 Presidents' Day - No School (K-12)
21 Parent Conferences (K-12) 4:00-7:00 pm

MARCH

15 End of 3rd Marking Period - 42 Days
25 Spring Break Begins

APRIL

2 Classes Resume

MAY

24 Last Day for Students & Staff
24 End of 4th Marking Period - 44 Days
27 Memorial Day

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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MARCH 2024						
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APRIL 2024						
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MAY 2024						
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JUNE 2024						
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30						

	First and Last Student Day
	Professional Development Day
	No School (K-12)
	K-12 Conference Exchange Day

Key 2024 Dates

January 4
Classes Resume

January 11
End of Second Quarter Grading Period

January 12
No School, professional development

January 15
No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16
No School, professional development

February 19
No School, Presidents Day

March 15
End of 3rd Quarter Grading Period

March 25-29, Spring Break

April 8
Solar Eclipse

May 24
Last Day of School,
End of 4th Quarter Grading Period

Jackson Local Board of Education

The 2023-2024 Jackson Local Board of Education members have met two times this school year. The members are: Board President Christopher Goff, Esq., Vice President Tonya Wright, Lia Jones, Esq., Thomas Winkhart, Esq., and Scott Gindlesberger.



CHRISTOPHER GOFF began his first term in January 2008 and has been re-elected three times. He holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration, with a major in finance from Ohio Northern University, a master's degree in political science from The University of Akron, and a juris doctor from The University of Akron School of Law. He is CEO and General Counsel at Employers Health and is a former adjunct professor of law at The University of Akron School of Law, and currently is an adjunct professor at Northeast Ohio Medical School. Mr. Goff and his wife have three adult children who have graduated from Jackson Local Schools.



TONYA WRIGHT was appointed to the Board of Education in June 2020 and was elected to the Board in November 2021. She has a track record dedicated to servant leadership in Jackson and Stark County. Tonya graduated cum laude from the University of Akron with a bachelor of arts degree in business and organizational communications in 1992. She earned her master's degree in business administration from Kent State University in 2000, while working full-time. She has served in various corporate leadership roles, most recently product marketing manager at Diebold-Nixdorf. She also was an adjunct instructor at Stark State College in the business department. Mrs. Wright and her husband, Mark, have two daughters, Anna and Ava, both Jackson Local students.



LIA JONES was elected to the board in 2021. She graduated from Denison University with a bachelor of arts degree in communication. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Akron School of Law. Jones is senior vice president and senior fiduciary strategist for the Akron, Canton, and Mahoning Valley region at KeyBank. In addition to her work on the JLSD Board of Education, Jones is a member of the Akron Symphony Board of Directors. She was the 2018 recipient of the 30 for the Future Award, presented by the Greater Akron Chamber. Jones lives in Jackson Township with her husband, Caleb, and their young daughters, Elle and Olivia.



TOM WINKHART began his first term on the board in 2002 and has been re-elected to the board five times. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Toledo and a juris doctor degree from the University of Akron School of Law. He is president of the law firm of Winkhart & Minor and also of Cornerstone Real Estate Title Company. Tom and his wife, Janelle, have five children, who have graduated from Jackson High School.



SCOTT GINDLESBERGER was elected to the board in 2004 and has been re-elected four times. Mr. Gindlesberger holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mount Union and a master's degree in finance from the University of Akron. He is a Senior Vice President with Stifel Nicolaus. Mr. Gindlesberger and his wife Susie have four children.

The Board of Education meets monthly. Regularly scheduled meetings can be found on the district's website.

GET FREEZIN' FOR A REASON!



Take The Plunge

February 10th, 2024

Lake Cable

12:00 PM

Sign up today and start raising funds for the charity of your choice. Half of all of the money you raise will go to the Jackson Local Schools Foundation to fund classroom grants for our teachers. The other half will go directly to the Non-Profit of your choice. Sign up today at

www.jacksonpolarbearplunge.org



Selfless donations

This fall, Strausser first-grade students made a heartwarming and selfless decision to generously donate all their Halloween candy to "Treats for Troops." Their candy donations were sent to VA Hospitals and bases as well as National Guard and reserve units. It was Strausser students' way of telling those who have served and those who currently are, *Thank you!*

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Classroom Amplification Systems

The Jackson Local School District, and Lake Cable Elementary School specifically, were the recipients of a generous grant from the Quota International of Massillon Club received via the Austin Bailey Foundation. The foundation awarded the Massillon Club a \$25,100 grant to purchase 20 classroom amplification systems for classrooms at Lake Cable.

These systems enhance learning in the classroom by enabling students to hear teachers clearly. The teacher wears a wireless microphone that connects to a speaker system in the classroom. When the teacher speaks, it is as if he or she is standing next to each child to hear her.

Children who can hear and understand what is being said tend to learn better. Research has shown how effective these systems are in improving learning in the classroom.

The club has been dedicated to providing classroom amplification systems for over 20 years. The Quota International of Massillon Club has placed over 350 systems in Western Stark County schools.



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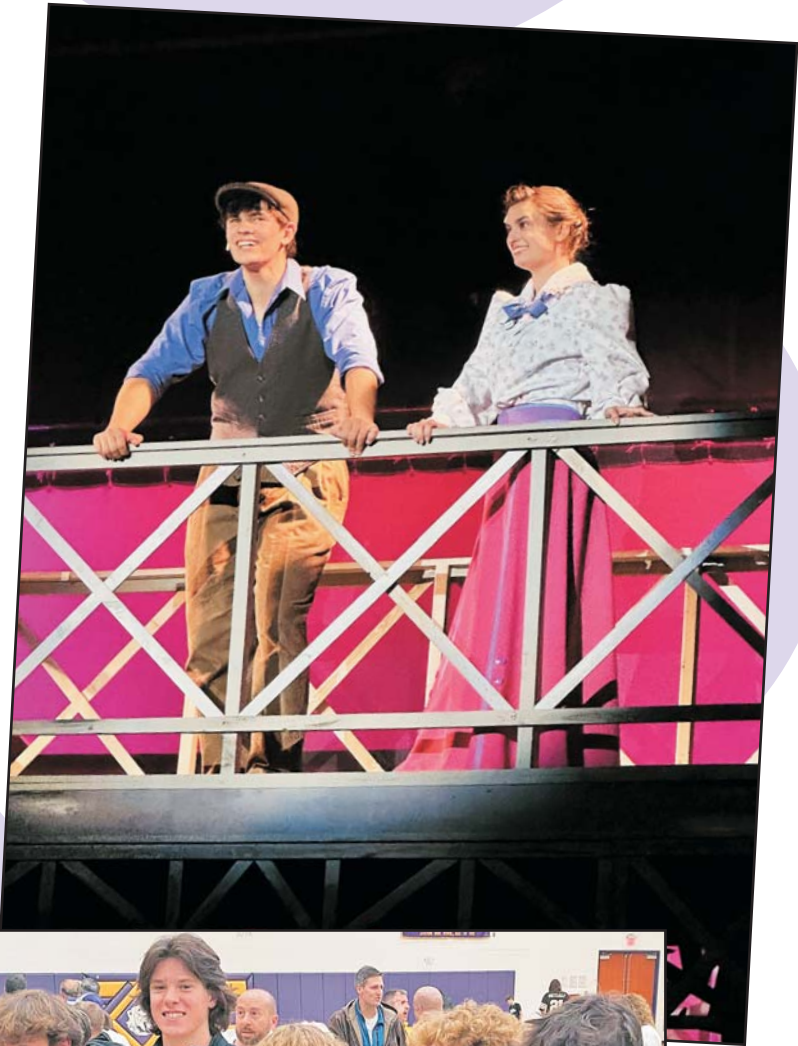
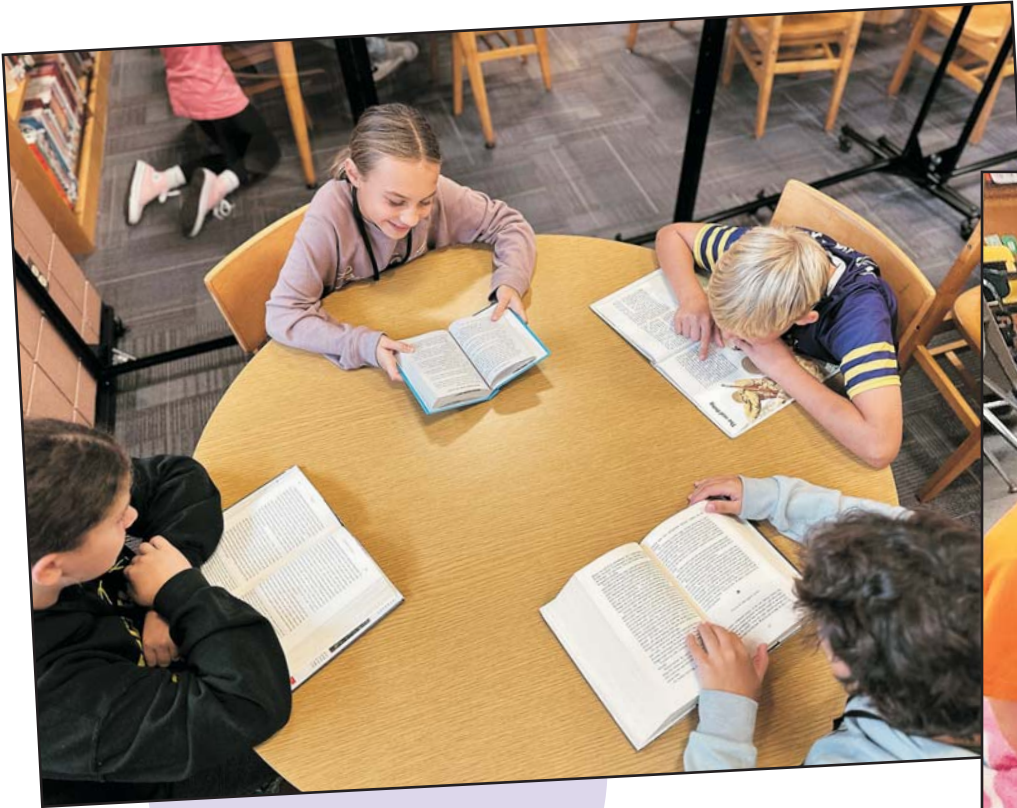
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WHAT WE'VE DONE...



...SO FAR!





CONGRATULATIONS

Seven Jackson Local students earned National Merit Recognition, including two who are semifinalists!



VIVIAN JANES

SEMIFINALISTS



SHIV NAGAIOTHI

COMMENDED STUDENTS



TANISQ PAUSKAR



MITHIL PAUSKAR



LUCY VISCO



ISHAN TRIPATHY



RIYA BHULLAR



18 Students Earn Capstone Diplomas

We're thrilled to announce that 18 of our brilliant students have earned the prestigious AP Capstone Diploma!

Meet Our AP Capstone Stars:

Hana Ahmed, Chloe Ahn, Ahana Dey, Anushka Dey, Chad Graham, Kiara Hockman, Jade Hooper, Lauren Kelly, Angelena Manova, Michael Mitri, Victoria Nadeau, Riya Patel, Jerusha Rajan, Cole Rajaratnam, Divya Shanmugam, Ryan Wang, Andrew Xing, and Kailey Zags.

Why is this a big deal?

- Develops Critical Thinking & Research Skills
- Encourages Collaboration & Presentation
- Allows Students to Explore Their Passions

Our students are among 15,800 worldwide to earn this honor, and it's all thanks to their hard work and the dedication of our amazing teachers.

Fleming & Wise

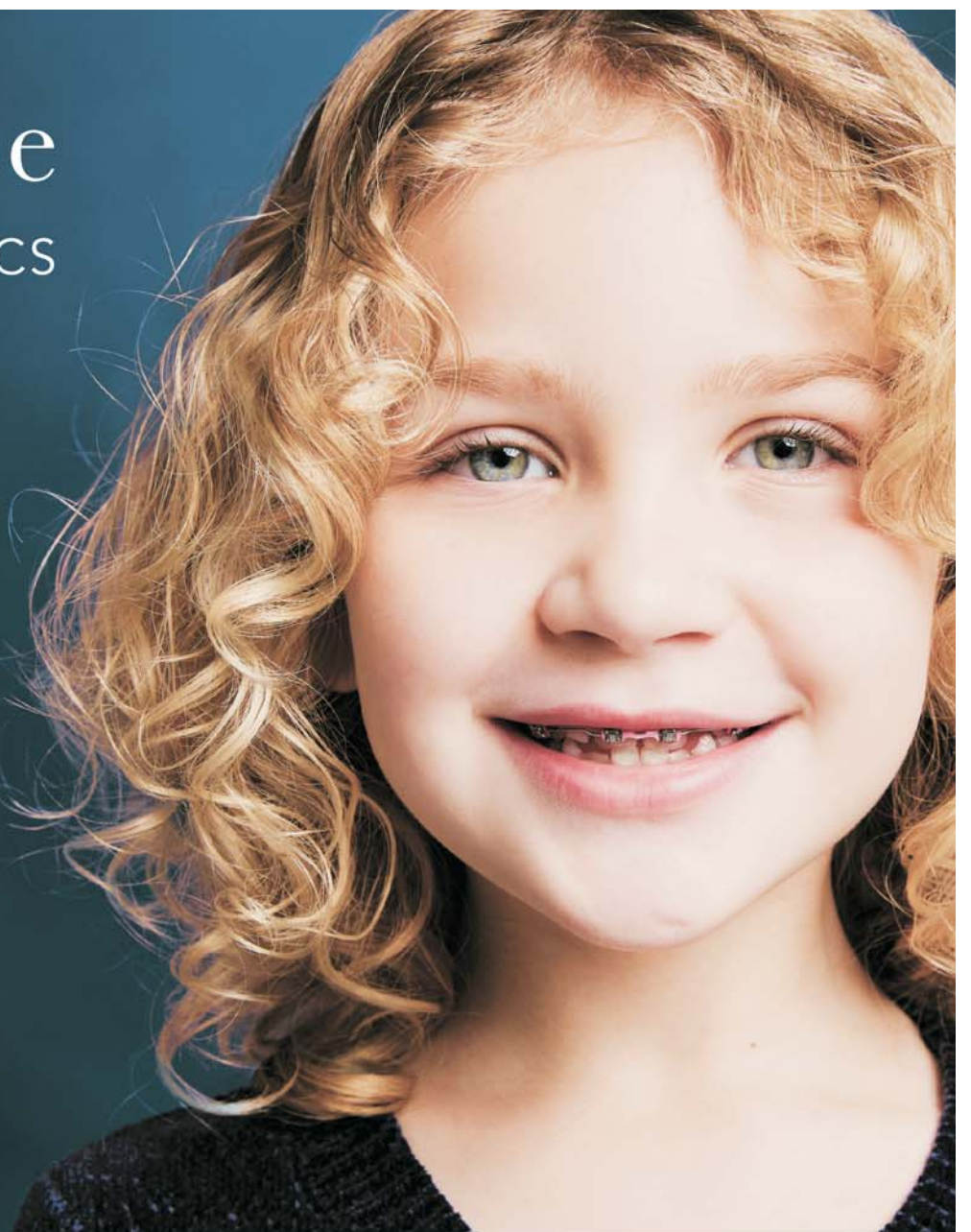
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Jackson Local seeks to serve students with disabilities



Within the intent of the federal statutes (Rehabilitation Act of 1973-section 504 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act IDEA-public law 105-17), the Jackson Local School District continues its effort to locate and identify children with disabilities from birth through age 21. Children with disabilities have physical, emotional, and/or mental impairments that may require special education. Public schools provide free and appropriate education regardless of a child's disability. However, before these children can be served, they must be found. Many of these children are not visible because

they may not function in the community's mainstream, and many are preschoolers. Parents may not realize that programs and services are available through their school district or from agencies in their community.

If you are aware of a child who may need a special education program or services, contact Kathy Brand, Jackson Local School District's Special Programs Director, with any questions you may have regarding this notice at 330-830-8006



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Polar Bears in Hawaii

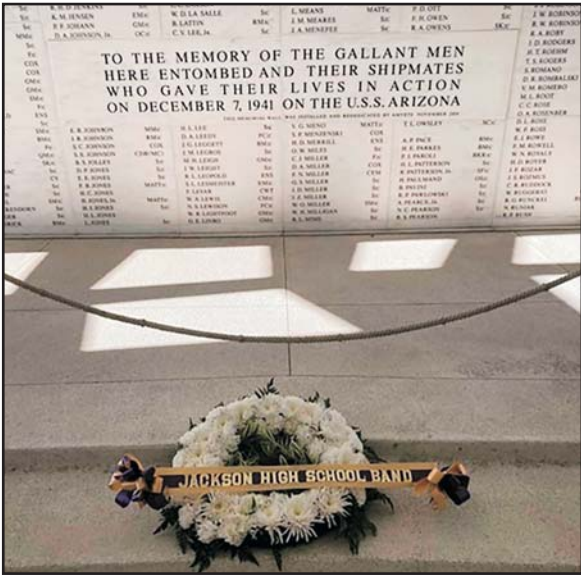


ALOHA, POLAR BEAR COMMUNITY! Our Jackson High School Marching Band is back from an unforgettable journey in Hawaii, and what a trip it was!

They started with a stirring patriotic concert aboard the USS Missouri, paying tribute to our heroes in a truly historic setting. Following this, our talented musicians honored the past with a poignant wreath-laying ceremony at the Arizona Memorial, a moment that touched all our hearts.

They marched in the Waikiki Holiday Parade! Our students shone bright, bringing a piece of Jackson to the sunny shores of Hawaii. They immersed themselves in the rich Hawaiian culture at the Polynesian Cultural Center, learning about traditional dances, foods, and the islands’ fascinating history.

A huge thank you to everyone in our community who supported this incredible experience. Your encouragement means the world to us and our students. This trip was more than just a performance tour; it was a learning, remembrance, and cultural exchange journey.



ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP Signing Day

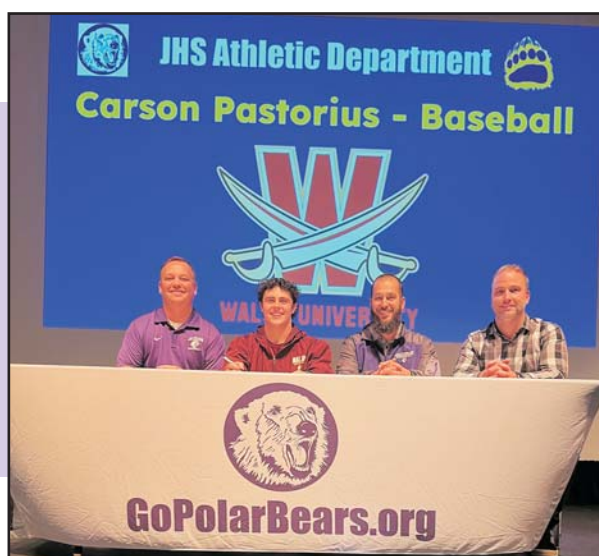
Jackson Local Schools is proud of this group of seniors who recently announced where they will be continuing their academic and athletic pursuits after graduation.



A.J. Wertz will continue playing baseball at Walsh University on a baseball scholarship. Pictured with A.J. are baseball coach Bill Gamble (left) and Dan Rodriguez.



Carter Mottice is heading to Bowling Green State University on a baseball scholarship. Pictured with Carter are baseball coach Bill Gamble (left) and Dan Rodriguez.



Carson Pastorius will continue his baseball career on scholarship at Walsh University. Pictured with Carson are baseball coaches Bill Gamble, Dan Rodriguez and Marcus Geiselman



Jordan Kish, shown with parents Jim and Jo, signed with Youngstown State on a golf scholarship.



Meghan Campbell, with head girls basketball coach Anthony Butch, will continue her basketball career at Tiffin University on a scholarship.



Swimmer **Luke Vickers** is heading to Ohio State on a swimming scholarship. Pictured with Luke are his family Jason (dad), Catherine (mom), Leah (sister), swimming coach Doug Nist (back, center), Rose Mogus (back right), and cross country coaches Kevin Walsh and Scott Akers.



Ethan Kasler will continue to play golf at Cedarville University on a scholarship. He is pictured with golf coach Mike Fisher (left) and Jim Kish.

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