

Jackson Local School District 7984 Fulton Drive Massillon, OH 44646 NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID CANTON, OH PERMIT NO. 1005

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NOVEMBER 2022

POPLAR BEAR PRIDE

#### COMMUNITY · COLLABORATION · PARTNERSHIP

#### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Chris Diloreto

The beginning of a new school year always is an exciting time. In the Jackson Local School District, we have started the 2022-2023 school year with so much great news for our school and I want to share the highlights with you.

The U.S. Department of Education informed us in September that Sauder Elementary is the newest Jackson Local School building to have earned the Blue Ribbon Award. This is a high level of distinction based on academic achievement, and we are proud of our faculty and support staff at Sauder for what it does every day throughout the school year. Particularly of note is the work Principal J.R. Reindel did, working collaboratively with elementary curriculum coordinator Rebecca Gribble, to navigate the lengthy Blue Ribbon application process.

# Sauder Elementary earns national Blue Ribbon Award



S auder Elementary School is one of just 297 schools around the country, and 13 in Ohio, to be designated a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School. The U.S. Department of Education made the announcement in September. This recognition is based on Sauder's exemplary academic performance.

Sauder is the third of six Jackson Local School District schools to earn National Blue Ribbon status. Jackson High School and Lake Cable Elementary earned the prestigious awards in 2009.

"This is a tremendous

students, educators, families, and communities striving for – and attaining – exemplary achievement.

"We are blessed to partner with great parents and families to educate their children," Sauder Principal John Reindel said. "In addition to the collaboration

> with our families, we have a tireless staff of teachers, cooks, custodians, monitors, support staff, and many others who tirelessly work to provide our students with an environment that fosters growth and promotes learning."

The U.S. Department of Education can invite up to 420 schools each year to apply. Recommendations from the top education official in each state are received by the U.S. Department of Education. From there, a rigorous application process takes place.

Sauder is the third Jackson Local building to earn this distinction, with Jackson High School and Lake Cable Elementary each being awarded in 2009.

We spent the summer months and the start of the school year looking at new data from the Ohio Department of Education. This is the first year for a new star-rating system of report cards as opposed to the previous letter grades for school districts. We are pleased to report the work of our students, families, faculty, staff and

Continued on next page

achievement for our Sauder Elementary families, our students, our teachers and support staff, and Principal John Reindel," Jackson Local School District Superintendent Chris DiLoreto said. "The Blue Ribbon award is among the highest honors a school can receive. We appreciate the collaboration between our families, our school, and the greater Jackson Township community."

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of

educators and other schools nationwide. The Blue

Ribbon award affirms and validates the hard work of

effective school practices for state and district



Sauder Elementary Principal J.R. Reindel greets students at parent drop-off in the morning.

"I applaud all the honorees for the 2022 National Blue Ribbon

Schools Award for creating vibrant, welcoming, and affirming school communities where students can learn, grow, reach their potential, and achieve their dreams," U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona said. "As our country continues to recover from the pandemic, we know that our future will only be as strong as the education we provide all our children.

Continued on next page

#### "From The Superintendent" cont'd

administrative team resulted in a very favorable rating for our district. Jackson Local significantly exceeded (five stars) state standards in most of the categories. Our team is busy working to improve on those ratings for the next set of scores that will come out next summer. Of course, test preparations already have started for those.

Then more recently Niche.com, a website that often is used as a starting place for homeowners looking to move into an area, improved our school district's rankings over last year. Jackson is No. 41 in Ohio (out of more than 600 districts) and No. 750 (out of nearly 11,000) in the country. Niche also



ranked us No. 1 in Ohio for student-athletes (No. 43 in the U.S.) and No. 1 in Stark County for school districts, places to teach, and student-athletes.

All of this is a testament to the partnerships that have long been established in Jackson Local between the school, our families, our teachers and staff, our township elected officials, and the Jackson community as a whole. In our classrooms, our teachers are busy working and raising our standards, pushing their students to be the best version of themselves and achieve to the best of their abilities. Our goal at Jackson is to always strive for excellence, which means we continually push that definition of excellence.

Normally, those academic celebrations would be enough. However, our student-athletes finished a great fall sports season, which is still going for some teams. There are nine sports (football, boys soccer, girls soccer, girls volleyball, boys golf, girls golf, girls tennis, girls cross country, and boys cross country) that contend for Federal League titles. The Jackson Polar Bears won six league titles in boys soccer (shared with Hoover), volleyball (unbeaten in the league), boys golf, girls soccer, and both boys and girls cross country.

Those fall sports league titles add up to a significant lead for our athletic department in the Federal League All-Sports Trophy. In addition to all those league championships, our boys golf team and coach Jim Kish advanced to the state tournament in Columbus. We also had a doubles team place third in the state girls tennis tournament.

When we talk about excelling, we divide our body of work into three categories: academics, athletics, and the arts. We talked about our successes in the first two.

Did you see that Black Light show? The Purple Army Marching Band, under the direction of Michele Monigold, was fantastic in our penultimate home game vs. Central Catholic. This show has been growing for decades and each year it gets better. We would like to thank Consumers National Bank for sponsoring the fireworks at the end of the show, which was the perfect finale to a superb show.

And this last piece is a shining example of what happens when segments of our community come together to help one another. Our Jackson School for the Arts, thanks to a grant provided by the Jackson Local Schools Foundation, collaborated with the Jackson Township Historical Society to literally bring to life the one-room schoolhouse. Senior JSA students started working on this project during the summer. They researched, with help from the Historical Society, what it was like to go to school in the 1850s.

#### Cover story continued



Students and staff at Sauder Elementary had a great deal to celebrate last month when they learned they were a national Blue Ribbon Award school.

Blue Ribbon Schools have gone above and beyond to keep students healthy and safe while meeting their academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. These schools show what is possible to make an enduring, positive difference in students' lives."

All schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup students' scores, and graduation rates: Exemplary High-Performing Schools are among their state's highestperforming schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests; **Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools** are among their state's high-performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

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Those students created a script and program that resulted in a field trip for all third-grade students to take to the one-room schoolhouse to experience what school was like in the 1850s. Our JSA students taught the lesson and our third-graders had a nametag with the name of a real person from Jackson Township from the era. This truly was students helping students, school, foundation, township, and community working together for a great program.

And to think we're just getting started here at Jackson Local!

Thank you for your tremendous support of our schools, our students, and our staff. Go Bears!

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29 Classes Resume

#### DECEMBER

21 Winter Break Begins

#### JANUARY

4 Classes Resume

12 End of 2nd Marking Period - 45 Days

13 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12) 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School (K-12)

#### FEBRUARY

16 Parent Conferences (K-12) 4:00-7:00 pm 17 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12) 20 Presidents' Day - No School (K-12) 23 Parent Conferences (K-12) 4:00-7:00 pm

#### MARCH

17 End of 3rd Marking Period - 42 Days 20 Spring Break Begins 27 Classes Resume

#### APRIL

7 K-12 Conference Exchange - No School (K-12)

#### MAY

25 Last Day for Students & Staff 25 End of 4th Marking Period - 43 Days 29 Memorial Day

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

# **Jackson Local Board of Education**

The 2022-2023 Jackson Local Board of Education members have met four times this school year. The members are: Board President Christopher Goff, Esq., Vice President Tonya Wright, Thomas Winkhart, Esq., Lia Jones, 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 an Adjunct Professor of Law at The University of Akron School of Law. 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.



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.



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 the director of the Center for Gift and Estate Planning at the University of Akron. Jones lives in Jackson Township with her husband, Caleb, and their young daughters Elle and Olivia.

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



TOM WINKHART began his first term on the board in 2002 and has been reelected 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.



### **PROUD TO SUPPORT THE JACKSON POLAR BEARS**

330-828-5506 www.MCTVOhio.com INTERNET / TV / PHONE We go the extra smile.







The Jackson Local Schools Foundation provided lunch for our faculty and staff at Sauder Elementary to celebrate and thank them for their hard work in obtaining Blue Ribbon status from the U.S. Department of Education. Sauder is the third building to receive the award for academic achievement. Jackson High School and Lake Cable Elementary each received it in 2009.

# **Jackson Local Schools Foundation Updates**

The Jackson Local Schools Foundation and the Jackson High School Alumni Association are excited to share with our community all the great things that have happened over the past few weeks and some things to look forward to in the coming months. On Oct. 3 we held our second annual Jackson Polar Bear Chip-In Golf Outing. It was a beautiful fall day, and our 100 golfers and 50 sponsors raised \$24,000. This money will be shared by the Jackson Local Schools Foundation and the Jackson High School Alumni Association and invested in our schools through scholarships and special projects. We especially want to thank our main sponsors, Employers Health, Hardesty Partners, Bixler Moore, Vasco, Sol Harris Day Architecture, Cutler Real Estate, Ash Family Dental, Key Bank, and Travis DeZordo Modern Woodmen Fraternal Financial. We hope to see you all again next year!

In addition to the golf outing, the Jackson Local Schools Foundation recently reviewed and awarded more classroom grants for this school year. This cycle's grants will help literacy, provide a speaker to our elementary students and assist our Junior Achievement in its upcoming competitions. To date, the Jackson Local Schools Foundation has awarded over 50 classroom grants for more than \$134,000. This is only possible through our main funding source for our grants, which is our annual Polar Bear Plunge.



Kody Gonzalez President, Jackson Local School Foundation

The Polar Bear Plunge will be taking place again this year in February on the beautiful shores of Lake Cable. For those of you who are new to the Plunge, jumpers can form teams and raise money for the charity of your choice. Half of the money that is raised will go towards their chosen charity, and the other half goes to the Foundation, to be given out in classroom grants.

You will register online and create your own page. There you can tell people why you are jumping, set your fundraising goals, track your donations, and use tools to share your information and progress. You will see more information coming out through the school's newsletters and on social media. If you have a school-aged child, you will also be receiving information from your school directly about how they will be involved.

We are always looking for sponsors and jumpers. This is a great opportunity to help our teachers, our students, and a charity that is near and dear to your heart. For more information, please visit jacksonpolarbearplunge.org.

As always, we want to thank the community for its ongoing support. It is because of that support that we have been able to grow our foundation and provide so many more opportunities to our teachers, administrators, staff, and most importantly our children. If you would like more information about The Jackson Local Schools Foundation or the Alumni Association or would like to get involved, please visit our website at jacksonlocalschoolsfoundation.org.

Go Bears!

Kody Gonzalez

# Interested in advertising in a future issue of Polar Bear Pride ?

Get your message in over 11,000 mailboxes! Contact Ruby Mathys at 330-495-0339











The Jackson Local School District has worked with our website content management system, Blackboard, to develop a robust app our students, parents, employees, and community members can use to stay connected to our district. This new app will be an invaluable tool for all who use it. As with any new piece of technology, there will be a few wrinkles to iron out once the school year starts. However, this app will allow lunch account balances to be checked and replenished, grades can be checked, attendance notices will be sent, as well as Jackson Local School District social media news connections.You can download the app now either on the Apple App Store or Google Play Store for free. The app is free to use and contains event information for community members. Parents were emailed usernames and passwords to log in to the app at the start of the school year. Please check spam and junk email folders. We will continue to send those usernames and passwords for those who have not logged in. To log in to the app, please touch on student info and follow the prompts to provide your username and password. Your password can be changed after your initial login.

# WHAT WE'VE DONE...















# ...SO FAR!











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. . . . . . . . .







For the most up-to-date wait times, check **aultman.org/nowurgent care.** 

#### **RIDE ON THE FORWARD PASS ZIPLINE**

#### **OFFER VALID THROUGH 12/31/2022**



# SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS OUR YOUNG LEADERS

JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023



## GREG CAMPBELL president

#### WHAT MAKES JHS SPECIAL?

The amazing people and opportunities we have at our school. We have so many people involved with different sports, clubs, and extra curricular activities, and this leads to so many opportunities for each and everyone of our students. Each day we are able to grow our friendships that will truly last forever.

#### FAMILY

My parents are Greg and Jenn Campbell. I have a sister, Victoria (15) and is going to be a Sophomore at JHS.



## CHAD GRAHAM VICE PRESIDENT

#### WHAT MAKES JHS SPECIAL?

The high expectations our teachers and coaches have for us to work hard and achieve our goals make JHS a special school. We are always encouraged to raise the bar and set a higher standard for ourselves and our fellow students.

#### FAMILY

My parents are Char and Michael Rachita. I am the youngest of four siblings, Eric (23), Sarah (21), and Thomas (18). I also have a 14-year-old cat named Casey.



### AVERY CALDWELL secretary

#### WHAT MAKES JHS SPECIAL?

The community and friendships that JHS has given me with my classmates and teachers. Also the diverse opportunities we've been given over these past three years at JHS!

#### FAMILY

My parents are Greg and Ginger Caldwell. I am the oldest of four; Paige (14), Addison (14), Grant (14), and Harrison (9). I



also have two beaglier puppies, Macy and Phoebe!





#### WHAT MAKES JHS SPECIAL?

There is something for everyone here. We have every type of student at JHS: from athletes to musicians, and artists to gamers. Our amazing teachers and staff work hard to ensure we are given opportunities that include everyone's diverse interests.

#### FAMILY

My parents are Mark and Tonya Wright. I have a younger sister, Ava (14), and 2 dogs, Rudy and Lue.



By Paul Dillick

# Jackson cross country teams continue to dominate



Provide the point of the best kept secrets in Jackson Township is the Jackson Cross Country program (or JXC, as it's known) led by coaches Kevin Walsh and Scott Akers. Look across the open fields off Wales Road, just behind Jackson Middle School, and you'll see a giant banner on a large wooden podium quietly beckoning to let you in on the secret. Virtually every October, you'll see the Polar Bears standing on the top step, hoisting another championship trophy. That was the case this year when our girls team won its fifth straight Federal League title and our boys won for the fourth time in six years.

In May 2013, head coach Kevin Walsh and assistant coach Scott Akers invited me to join their staff, coaching long distance running at Jackson High School. I didn't have any experience as a runner at any level, and hadn't run a mile since my high school gym class over twenty years ago. But Coach Walsh said to me then what he has said to thousands. of students over the decades - "Oh that doesn't matter! Just come run with us! We're just looking for someone enthusiastic and positive, and you're perfect for this. We'll teach you everything you need to know about running, we just want you to be a part of our family." And that invitation perfectly captures the unprecedented success of the JXC program since Coach Walsh and Coach Akers took the reins in 1997 – POSITIVITY, PASSION, FAMILY. And I should add to that list, SUCCESS. Coach Walsh would argue that the former three are the key ingredients to the latter. Jackson Township is a running community made up of many healthy and active professionals and their families, great schools and plenty of parks. Coach Walsh has invested heavily in that community, founding a youth running club for elementary kids at the David YMCA, a youth racing circuit for middle schoolers, and an annual Night Glow 5K event at the Jackson Community Celebration every summer, all while forging the Jackson High School Cross Country boys and girls teams, with more than 200 runners at times, into an elite program respected around the state.

The numbers speak for themselves: 19 league championships, 21 county championships, 16 district championships, 6 regional championships, 28 state qualifying teams, 92 regular season invitational championships, 19 1st Team All-Ohio runners, 80 1st Team All-Federal League runners, 107 All-Stark County runners, and 62 individual runners competing at the collegiate level. Together, Coach Walsh and Akers' teams have regularly finished in the Top 10 in the state, with the girls varsity team finishing as state runner-up in 2005 and the boys varsity currently ranked second in the state!

As impressive as the numbers are, if you talk to any friend of the program they'll tell you that the real accomplishment is the impact the JXC program has made in the lives of the runners and their families. Coach Walsh often reminds his athletes that life is like a race – a challenging course with hills and valleys, mud and sun, rain and wind, with long lonely stretches when you are racing alone and exciting dashes with the crowds cheering you on - and that it is his job to help prepare them to set big goals, conquer obstacles with a positive attitude, and cheer on both your teammates and even your opponents in their own battles in life. Every summer, alumni return to join the current team at camp, or at an alumni race with a little potluck dinner, reminiscing about memories of past races and catching up on life, as at any family reunion. That's the environment Coach Walsh and Akers have built – a family that runs together, from the pre-schoolers in the 1-mile Fun Run to the medal winner in the 80+ age group at the Night Glow – the invitation to lace up your shoes and join in the run is always open. Hopefully, it's no secret anymore.

Paul Dillick is a physics teacher at Jackson High School since 2003, and has been an assistant cross country and track and field coach since 2014.

# Preventative mental health service available for all students

New initiative aims to aid student-athletes



The new normal is settling in following the past two years of stress, anxiety, depression, and isolation for many individuals. For many students, learning online at home was a welcome relief to normal academic life.

R eturning to the classroom stirred many behavioral and emotional issues for several kids from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Kids, who never would have considered seeing a mental health therapist, were suddenly in the throes of needing help.

Returning to normal activities has spotlighted the crisis on mental health services. As in every occupation, finding qualified help is a constant battle in retention/recruitment. Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health, like most mental health agencies, is down 33% in staffing.

The need for services is higher, but the availability of clinicians is lower. Therefore, in the past three years, C&A is developing more preventative programs to get the message out to students. By offering preventative programming and messaging, C&A is able to help children and youth resolve the smaller issues and hopefully bypass the need to see a therapist.

For the past three years, C&A has presented Stark County Schools Mental Health Awareness Week; Collegiate Self-Care fairs; and this year is introducing a new project Athletes Strong for Mental Health. C&A's programming also includes Stark County Youth Led Prevention and Stark County Adult Led Prevention. All four initiatives provide students/young adults with important reminders for self-care.

#### Stark County Schools Mental Health Awareness Week

Last year, all students viewed a unity video created by the mental health champions and a message from The Ohio State University head football coach Ryan Day. These videos were shared at Centennial Plaza.

This week of unity and positive messaging would not be possible without our partners from AultCare, Stark County Mental Health Addiction and Recovery (StarkMHAR), Kent State University-Stark, State Farm Agent Michael Dougan, Q-92 and CommQuest services.

#### ATHLETES STRONG FOR MENTAL HEALTH

This fall C&A is partnering with Stark County native and Lake High School graduate Dr. Steve Graef, a Columbus-based sports psychologist and performance coach, and owner of Mindurance, a collection of mental fitness communities dedicated to helping like-minded people develop mental fitness through virtual coaching and online community.

This program is designed to provide mental health strategies and tips for coaches, parents and athletes to make sure the athlete is staying mentally fit. Dr. Graef is creating a video series called "Ask Dr. Steve" around different topics coaches, athletes or parents may encounter and unique challenges athletes face. The videos and tips sheets can be found on C&A's website.

Stark County Schools Mental Health Awareness Week (SCSMHW) started out as an initiative working with eight local school districts. In a short period of time, this program has grown and will touch all 19 Stark County School Districts and 20 high schools – more than 60,000 students from pre-K to seniors.

This positive week provides age-appropriate important messaging for students at every grade level.

- Pre-K and elementary students receive age-appropriate posters, morning announcements and erasable bookmarks (students can change the positive affirmation).
- Middle school students also receive age-appropriate posters, morning announcements, JPEG affirmations and mood changing color pencils, which helps students identify their moods.
- High school students receive multiple mental health champion posters to be hung in each school. This poster features a champion from each school. Students receive positive JPEG affirmations and peer-to-peer messaging self-care videos (students from each high school make the videos). Twenty-seven students stepped forward to be champions.

#### Examples of topics Dr. Graef is exploring:

- Coaches when and how often should I do mental health check-ins with my athletes? Taking notice of when a player's attitude changes and how that maybe affecting the individual/team?
- Athletes what joy is playing athletics bringing to you? If a player gets a season- ending injury, how do we help the athlete overcome this challenge.
- Parents how can you be supportive of your athlete? How can you be empathetic to what your athlete is experiencing? What changes are you noticing or should be on the look out to notice.

Eventually, these topics and resources will be converted and applied to the performing arts.

# **Jackson Local improves** in Niche.com rankings

New Niche rankings have moved Jackson Local School District up among the best districts in Ohio and named us the No. 1 district in Ohio for student-athletes. Way to go Polar Bears! And thank you to our extended Jackson community for your support always. Niche.com helps to connect families with neighborhoods and schools. The website has indepth profiles of all U.S. school districts and uses a ranking methodology for state and national ratings.

Jackson Local is among the top 6% of school districts in Ohio and the U.S. Jackson Local is the top-rated district in Stark County in Niche's rankings and it is among the top 12% for the best places to teach in Ohio.

In addition to the Niche.com rankings, for the fifth straight year, Jackson High School has earned a GreatSchools College Success Award. The GreatSchools 2022 College Success Award means we are following best practices to prepare students

for college success after high school.

### **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 IDEApublic 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 childís 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 communityís 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 Districtis Special Programs Director with any questions you may have regarding the above notice at 330-830-8006

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**Jackson Local School District** 

**New Niche Rankings** 

Top 6% of all districts in Ohio

Top 6% of all districts in U.S.

No. 1 for student-athletes in Ohio

No. 1 district in Stark County

No. 1 district in Stark County to teach

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