

POLAR BEAR PRIDE

Your connection to the Jackson Local School District

Supporting each other: Community, Collaboration, Partnership

Why your vote on Issue 12 is important

FROM THE LEVY CHAIRMAN

MARK WRIGHT, CFO AULTMAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Your support allows us to strive for excellence

It is my great honor to serve as the chairman of the Issue 12 campaign for the Jackson Local School District.

We are proud residents of the Jackson Township community. One of the foundational pillars of any excellent community is a top-notch school district. The Jackson Local School District and Jackson community always have had a symbiotic partnership that has created an environment to develop a best-in-class public school education and, at the same time, added value to our township and properties. In Jackson Township we choose to maintain excellence.

Perhaps it was more evident this school year than any other of our stellar school district. We are thankful for the amount of work, time, and commitment the faculty and staff at Jackson Local School District put in to overcome any obstacles put



The Wright family (from left): Mark, Ava, Tonya, and Anna. Mark Wright is the chairman of the Issue 12 campaign and is asking for your support of Issue 12, a substitute levy on the May ballot with no new taxes.

in the path of learning and developing our children. In addition to the daunting tasks that COVID-19 brings, the certified teaching staff was charged with

See Support Issue 12 Page 3

DID YOU KNOW JACKSON SCHOOLS ...

■ Jackson Local School District ranked in the top 4% of all districts in the country, according to Niche

■ Jackson Local School District ranked as the best district to teach in Stark County, according to Niche

■ Jackson Local School District ranked by Niche as 30th best district out of more than 600 in Ohio

■ Jackson High School named one of the top 50 high schools in Ohio by U.S. News & World Report

■ Jackson High School named among the best high schools in the nation, U.S. News & World Report

■ Jackson High School earned a 2020 College Success Award from

GreatSchools.org

■ Jackson Local School District is among the 20% of public districts in Ohio with the lowest operating expenses per student

■ Jackson Local School District is among the 20% of public districts with the highest academic performance score

■ Jackson High School was named as one of the top schools in Ohio for student-athletes

■ Jackson Local School District is ranked in top 10% of all Ohio public school districts, based on combined math, reading proficiency testing data, according to Public School Review



No funds from the Jackson Local School District were used in the production or distribution of this Polar Bear Pride edition

WHAT'S INSIDE?

HERE IS WHAT ISSUE 12 WILL LOOK LIKE ON YOUR BALLOT
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**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

ELECTION: SPECIAL EDITION

**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

Jackson Local Schools Board of Education members

**LOW-SPENDING
HIGH-ACHIEVING**

Jackson spends less per pupil than 80% of all Ohio schools, yet ranks in the top 10% academically.



Douglas



Gindlesberger



Goff



Winkhart



Wright

The 2020-2021 Jackson Local Board of Education members have met each month this school year during a pandemic. The members

are: Board President Scott Gindlesberger, Vice President Chris Goff, Kenneth Douglas, Thomas Winkhart, Esq., and Tonya Wright.

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

Jackson Local Treasurer's Office honored for clean audits



Members of the Jackson Local School District's Treasurer's Office are (from left) Bryan Haas, Catherine Wertz-Carbenia, Karen Floyd, Carla Scali, Treasurer Linda Paris, Brenda DiRuzza, and Debbie Ciesielczyk.

The Jackson Local School District is a regular recipient of the Auditor of State Award since its inception in 2011. The Treasurer's Office of Jackson Local School

District has been awarded eight Auditor of State Awards for its clean and accurate financial audits with no findings for recovery, material weaknesses, significant

deficiencies or questioned costs. In a letter to Treasurer, Linda Paris, Auditor of State Dave Yost wrote, "Clean and accurate record keeping are the foundation

for good government, and the taxpayers can take pride in your commitment to accountability."

Paris credit the work of her entire staff for routinely receiving clean audit awards.

"It's all about good record keeping and accountability, similar to watching your home budget. We all have limited resources. At Jackson, we are charged with using

our resources in the best possible ways to benefit the students who are always our first priority.

"I am proud of not the just the work ethic of our staff, but the pride in which they do their jobs. These awards are a direct result of the care they take in managing our office and district budget. We are blessed to have a quality staff here at Jackson."

JHS again named a top U.S. high school

- # 1,186 in National Rankings
- # 43 in Ohio High Schools
- # 1 in Canton Metro Area High Schools



POLAR BEAR PRIDE is published four times each year under the auspices of the Jackson Local Board of Education with advertising support from area businesses. It is printed and mailed to Jackson homes and businesses at no cost to the school district. Polar Bear Pride is not a public forum. Its purpose is to keep the community informed of life and learning in the Jackson Local Schools.

**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

ELECTION: SPECIAL EDITION

**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

Support Issue 12 Page 1

The amount of property taxes you paid last year to the school district on an existing structure WILL REMAIN the same with the passage of Issue 12.

delivering education to Jackson students in two models. They have taught both in-person students, remote students, and, uniquely, students creating their own hybrid that met families where they were during this trying pandemic year.

Turn on the news any given night and it was evident there were school districts throughout the country offering a remote-only school environment, and in fact, there were many districts in Northeast Ohio offering the same well into March. It seems the national spotlight focused on many districts not in school. While our children at Jackson Local have had the opportunity to be in-person learners all school year.

When district leadership developed the 2020-21 school year learning models, it seemed obvious they were developed with incredible care and our Jackson families in mind. As the father of two Jackson Local students, I appreciated the learning models, and our family appreciated being informed and having our opinions heard.

Then as the school year went along, it unfolded in typical Jackson fashion: with accolades for our district's academics, arts, and athletics.

- U.S. News & World Report continues to recognize Jackson High School as one of the best schools in the country
- The Jackson School for the Arts was one of a handful of schools

148 JACKSON TWP 22

OFFICIAL SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT
MAY 4, 2021
STARK COUNTY, OHIO

- To vote: completely darken the oval (●) to the left of your choice.
- Note the permitted number of choices directly below the title of each candidate office. Do not mark the ballot for more choices than allowed.
- If you mark the ballot for more choices than permitted, that contest or question will not be counted.
- To vote for a write-in candidate: completely darken the oval (●) to the left of the blank line and write in the candidate's name. Only votes cast for candidates who filed as write-in candidates can be counted.
- Do not write in a candidate's name if that person's name already is printed on the ballot for that same contest.
- If you make a mistake or want to change your vote: return your ballot to an election official and get a new ballot. You may ask for a new ballot up to two times.

12 Proposed Tax Levy (Substitute)
Jackson Local School District
(Stark and Summit Counties)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall a tax levy substituting for an existing levy be imposed by the Jackson Local School District for the purpose of providing for the necessary requirements of the school district in the initial sum of \$9,118,500, and a levy of taxes be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to require 5.7 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 57 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation for the initial year of the tax, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022, with the sum of such tax to increase only if and as new land or real property improvements not previously taxed by the school district are added to its tax list?

For the Tax Levy

Against the Tax Levy

SAMPLE

in Ohio to perform a fall musical and sold virtual tickets to watch a stunning performance of "The Wizard of Oz" in our own homes

- Two national runners-up in the national speech and debate tournament
- The Purple Army took the field during home football games
- Our volleyball, soccer, and boys basketball teams all advanced to the regional tournament and Niche Report ranked our district one of the best in Ohio for student-athletes

Our school district has a proven track record of being good stewards of our taxpayers' money and helping to protect the integrity

of our property values.

It is with respect that I write to you to ask your support of Issue 12, a substitute levy that amounts to a renewal levy for all township residents who had residences in Jackson Local School District last year. That's right: the amount of property taxes you paid last year to the school district on an existing structure WILL REMAIN the same with the passage of Issue 12.

This levy, like its predecessor, is for five years. It is one of two levies that fund our nationally recognized school district. The Jackson Local School District DOES NOT rely on a continuous levy. Levy measures return to the community

for renewal.

This year illustrates and highlights what a high-performing district we have. As a community member, I thank you for your continued support of the Jackson Local School District, and please vote yes on Issue 12.

— Mark Wright

Mark Wright is the chairman of the Issue 12 renewal campaign. He is the CFO of the Aultman Health Foundation. He and his wife Tonya live in Jackson Township with their daughters Anna and Ava.

*Members of
Mark Wright's
levy committee*



- Jon Ash
- Chad Bailey
- Ken Douglas
- Chris DiLoreto
- Susie Gardner
- Jeff Dimos
- Brooke Harter
- Justin Hardesty
- Jim and Cincy Camp
- Kari Heck
- Don Childress
- Jeff Kracker
- Dayna Charlick
- Barry Mason
- Lori Martino
- Dan Michel
- Walt Stanislawski
- Monica Myers
- Todd Pallotta
- Todd Porter
- Linda Paris
- Bryan Haas
- Harley Neftzer
- Janelle Winkhart
- Keith Kohmann
- Kevin Stanich
- JR Reindel
- Jim Williamson
- George Woods

**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

ELECTION: SPECIAL EDITION

**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

Issue 12 is a substitute levy; here is how it works for you

In 2011, Jackson voters approved a Substitute Levy for the first time. That levy expires at the end of 2021. On May 4, Jackson voters will be asked to approve the 5-year measure for the exact amount of the expiring levy.

Here's how it works

1 In the first collection year of the levy, the district receives the exact dollar amount that was generated by the expired levy. **No new taxes for you.**

2 In years 2-5, there are still **no new taxes** for existing property owners, but the district receives a small portion of the taxes generated by any of the township's new commercial or residential construction.

YEAR 1
Existing Properties
NO NEW TAXES

New Construction
BENEFITS YOUR SCHOOLS

The Substitute Levy generates the same dollar amount the expiring levy had generated.

YEAR 2
Existing Properties
NO NEW TAXES

New Construction
BENEFITS YOUR SCHOOLS

Taxes on new homes and businesses built in year 1 are added to the levy base, allowing your schools to benefit from the growth.

YEARS 3-5
Existing Properties
NO NEW TAXES

New Construction
BENEFITS YOUR SCHOOLS

Taxes on new homes and businesses built in years 2-5 are added to the levy base, allowing your schools to benefit from the growth.



Justin Hardesty is the treasurer of the Issue 12 campaign, a substitute levy with no new taxes for the Jackson Local School District. Hardesty is joined by his family (from left) daughter Haley, wife Alicia and son Cole. Haley and Cole attend Jackson Memorial Middle School.

District remains good steward of tax dollars

Throughout today's special edition of the Polar Bear Pride, you will read many wonderful facts about our school district from academics, to arts, to athletics and beyond. I would like to focus on the financial aspect of our school district.

In a sense, we are all fiduciaries of our own home budgets. We make daily decisions on what and how we spend our money. We determine, "Will I get a good 'return' on this expenditure or investment?" The concept of "return on investment" is the idea of measuring the amount of return on a particular investment, relative to the investment's cost.

For our school district, the superintendent and Board of Education are tasked with being good fiduciaries of our tax dollars. How are they doing? Are we as taxpayers getting a good return on our investment?

First, are they a good fiduciary?

Jackson Local School District is among the 20% of public districts in Ohio with the lowest operating expenses per student.

Second, are we getting a good return on our tax dollar investment?

Jackson Local School District is among the 20% of public districts with the highest academic performance score. Jackson Local School District is ranked in the top 10% of all Ohio public school districts, based on combined math and reading proficiency testing data, according to Public School Review.

Since the answer is yes to both of these questions, I will vote yes for Issue 12 on May 4. I urge you to join me in voting yes for Issue 12 and helping our community maintain our excellence.

Justin Hardesty is treasurer of the Jackson Local Schools Levy Campaign for Issue 12 and president of the Jackson Local Schools Foundation.

DID YOU KNOW?



Jackson High School Classes of 2019 and 2020 combined to earn more than \$12 million in college scholarships.

DID YOU KNOW?

57 percent of Jackson High School's Class of 2021 will enter their first year of college with a semester of college credit already because of the advance course offerings in the Jackson Local School District. On average, that's a savings of about \$8,000 a family.



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Twitter: twitter.com/JacksonLocal_SD

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Administration

Covers costs associated with the day-to-day operation of the school buildings and the central offices as far as administrative personnel and functions are concerned.

Building/Operations

Covers all items of expenditure relating to the operation of the school buildings and central offices. These include the costs of utilities and the maintenance and the upkeep of physical buildings.

Instructional

Includes all the costs associated with the actual service of instructional delivery to the students. These items strictly apply to the school buildings. They include the salaries and benefits of the teaching personnel and the other instructional expenses.

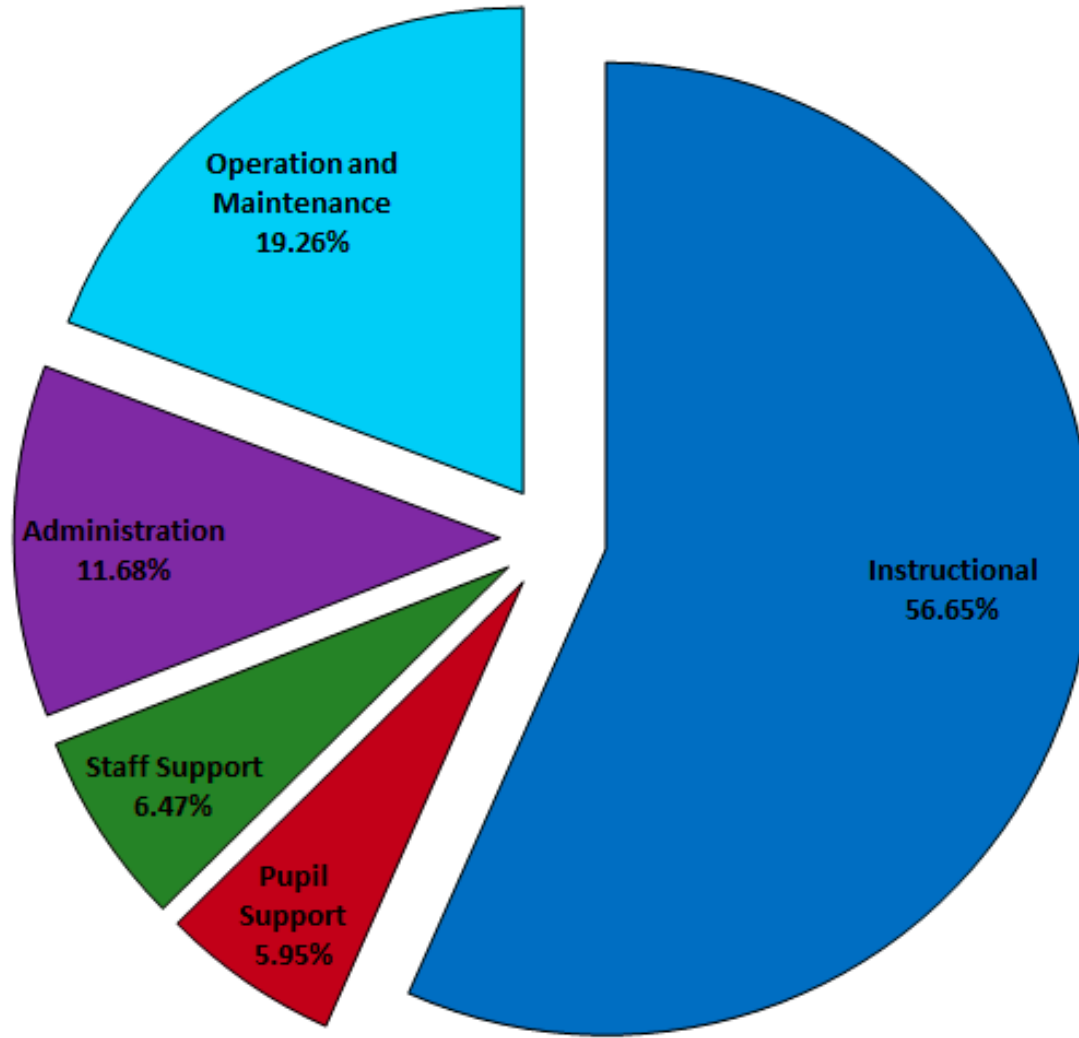
Pupil Support

Includes expenses associated with the provision of services other than instructional that enhance the developmental processes of students. These cover a range of activities such as counseling, psychological services, health services, social work services.

Staff Support

Includes all the costs associated with the provision of support services to school districts' staff. These include in-service programs, instructional improvement services, meetings, payments for additional trainings and courses to improve staff effectiveness and productivity.

2019-20 Operating Expenditure Per Pupil



DID YOU KNOW?

Jackson School for the Arts was one of a handful of high schools in Ohio to hold a fall musical. Cleveland news station WKYC featured "The Wizard of Oz" production on a five-minute segment for several days. JSA sold virtual tickets and those who bought a ticket could watch "The Wizard" in their own homes.



DID YOU KNOW?



Jackson Local Schools have offered in-person learning since the start of the start of the school year in August.

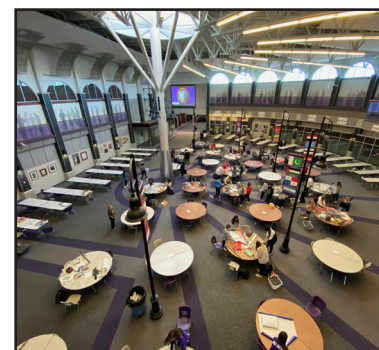
DID YOU KNOW?



Jackson High School Classes of 2019 and 2020 combined to earn more than \$12 million in college scholarships.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jackson High School's Student Council had an adopt-a-family drive over the winter holiday season and helped more than 85 Jackson Local families. That was 206 children whose holiday seasons were brighter because of the community service of our students.

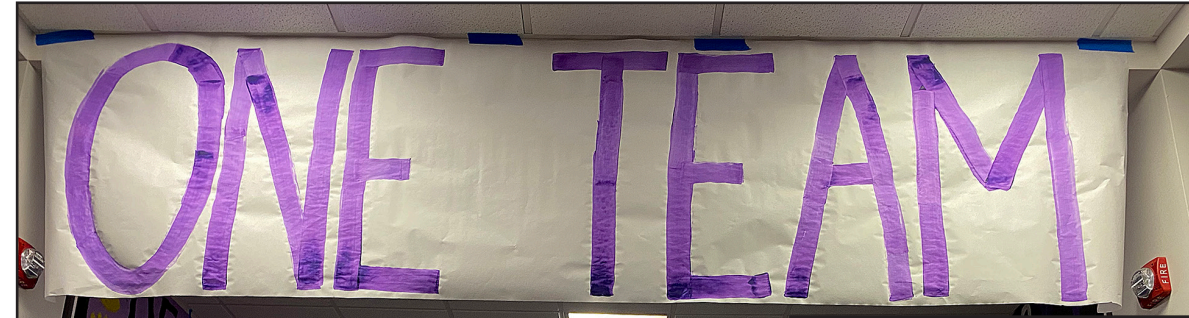


Jackson Local Schools strive for excellence,

Students in the Jackson Local School District have had the opportunity to experience many traditional rites of a school year including: first day of school pictures, lining the parkways of Jackson High School with flags to celebrate and honor our veterans, Friday night high school football games, the Purple Army taking the field at halftime at Robert Fife Stadium, decorating the hallways of Jackson High School for Beat Hoover week, deep tournament runs by our athletic teams, prom and graduation. We are thankful for the faculty, staff, community volunteers and administrators who helped make it all happen.



make memories against COVID-19 odds



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Jackson High's steel drum band performs annual show

Members of Jackson High School's Steel Drum Band were scheduled to open Jackson Township's new amphitheater on North Park on April 11, however the popular show had to be moved indoors at Jackson High School's Commons due to inclement weather.

Other components of the Jackson School for the Arts are scheduled to perform in the new North Park Amphitheater. The North Park Amphitheater was finished last summer but COVID-19 pandemic and Ohio Department of Health guidelines on public gatherings kept the Amphitheater closed for events.

The steel band's performance lasted about 90 minutes. Please check Jackson Township resources for more planned Amphitheater events.



THINK! CREATIVELY. BUILD CONFIDENCE.

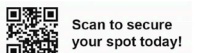
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Grades: 1st - 6th
Location: Strausser Elementary School
8646 Strausser St NW, Massillon, OH 44646
Date: June 1 - 4, 2021
Time & Cost: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM | \$235 (before discount)
Camp Director: Kathleen Elliott | kell2jc@jackson.sparoc.org | (330) 830-8056 x2003

Registration is limited to students that attend Jackson Local Schools and children of District staff members entering grades 1st through 6th next school year.
All Camp Invention Program Team Members are Certified and Licensed District Teachers. This flyer has been produced, printed, and paid for by the National Inventors Hall of Fame.



If these locations/times don't work for you, please visit invent.org/camp for other locations near you.

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Jackson Local Schools Foundation,
Jackson High School Alumni Association
support

PASSING ISSUE 12

*** No New Taxes ***
Maintain Our Excellence



REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

For School Year 2021 - 2022

To be eligible for kindergarten in the Fall of 2021, your child must be 5 on or before September 30, 2021.

Online registration will open February 16, 2021

Our kindergarten information and registration forms are available on our website. Please go to <http://jackson.stark.k12.oh.us>. You can find "New Student Registration SY 21-22" under "Quick Links". If you have another student in grades 1 - 12, you may register them at this time as well using this same link.

After completing the registration forms online and scheduling an appointment, please note the following support documents listed below are needed to finalize your registration.

Braydon Miller earns rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 935

Braydon Miller is a member of Troop 935 of Jackson Township and earned his rank of Eagle Scout on October 18, 2020.

He has been active in scouting since 2009 and has held many leadership positions in his troop, including Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Scribe and Instructor.

Braydon has earned many awards, including the National Outdoor Award for camping and was elected by fellow scouts into the Order of the Arrow, The National Honor Society of Scouting.

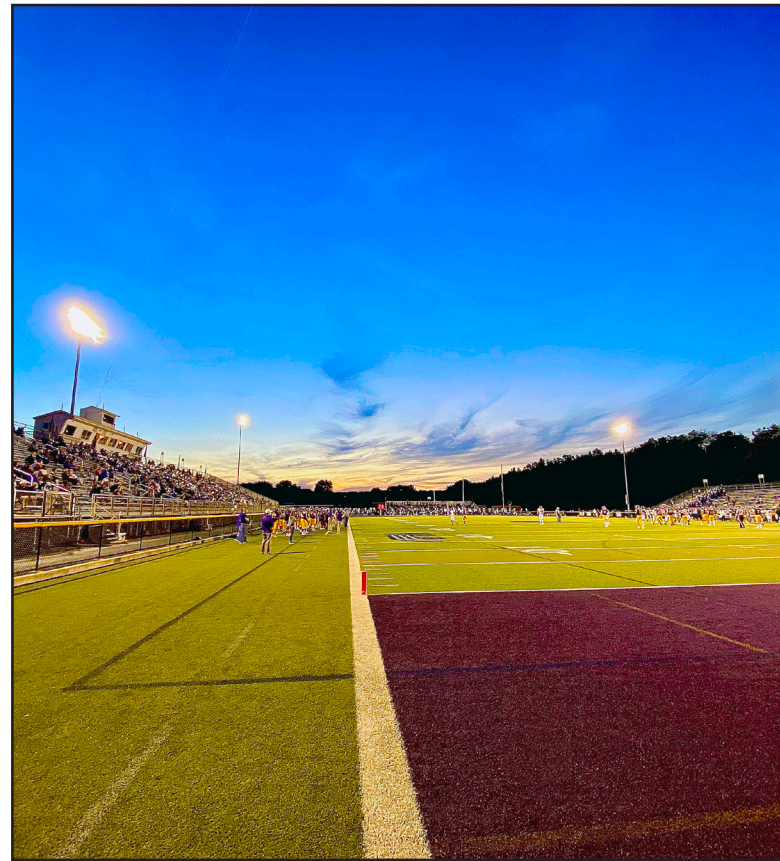
If you have Eagle Scout awards or the equivalent and want to recognize the scout who earned the award, please email the information to tporter@jackson.sparcc.org and it may appear in a future edition of Polar Bear Pride. The Jackson Local School District wishes to congratulate and thank all of our scouts for their commitment to our community.



Braydon Miller, a member of Troop 935, earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the fall. Braydon is a senior at Jackson High School.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

JLSD saves more than \$4 million in energy resources



The Jackson Local School District has saved more than \$4.3 million resulting in a 33% savings for taxpayers. The reduced energy consumption program is a combination of behavior-based training and more energy efficient equipment.

Jackson High School has more than \$2 million in cost avoidance savings since the program was implemented. Jackson Local's four elementary school buildings — Amherst, Lake Cable, Sauder, and Strausser — combined to save more than \$1.7 million.

“We are always looking for ways to save money on resources and this is a testament to the work being done by our Assistant Superintendent Barry Mason, Building and Grounds Supervisor Harley Neftzer, and all our employees for being aware of energy consumption and savings,” Jackson Local Superintendent Chris DiLoreto said. “We will continue to look for ways to save money on our resources and we will continue to adjust our behaviors to meet those goals.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Jackson Local School District St. Baldrick teams led the way in Stark County during this year's fundraiser to fight childhood cancer. JLSD teams raised more than \$100,000 for St. Baldrick's, led by the Lake Cable team with more than \$35,000.



DID YOU KNOW?

When you vote on a local levy, 100 percent of every dollar stays in Jackson Local for our 5,800 students, as opposed to state taxes that return only 25 cents on the dollar to our district.



GO BEARS

**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

ELECTION: SPECIAL EDITION

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NO NEW TAXES**

Domer earns Eagle Scout rank for his project at John Knox Presbyterian Church

Owen Domer from Troop 265 located in Jackson Township, earned his rank of Eagle Scout in October 2020. Owen joined Scouting in September of 2017 and has earned 32 merit badges. He has served in several leadership positions for his Troop and is a member of Order of the Arrow. He has completed National Youth Leadership Training through Buckeye Council at Seven Ranges.

For his Eagle Scout Service Project, Owen collaborated with John Knox Presbyterian Church in Jackson Township to design a connecting walkway from an outside door to the patio.

He solicited individual donors and local donations from Lowes and Menards for material and supplies. He led a team of individuals to prep and build a walkway to assist the church in making the back patio more



Owen Domer from Troop 265 in Jackson Township earned his Eagle Scout rank in the fall. Owen has earned 32 merit badges since joining Scouting in 2017. Owen collaborated with John Knox Presbyterian Church to design a connecting walkway from an outside door to a patio.

accessible.

Owen is the son of Chris and Davida Domer and is a junior at Jackson High School. He is involved in the Cisco Networking

and Cyber Security Program, Jackson Academy for Global Studies, Purple Army, Steel Drum Band, Volleyball, and National Honor Society.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jackson High School had eight National Merit Scholship finalists this year, the most in recent school history. The finalists are: Allen Cao, Zach Charlick, Ryan Farneth, Lauren Hall, Dorothy Stuhlmiller, Pranev Nagajothi, and Matthew Visco.



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Who knows our Jackson Community better than a long-time resident?

KEY DATES

May 1: Jackson High School junior/senior prom

May 4: Election Day

May 25: Class of 2021

Commencement, Fife Stadium

GO BEARS



GO BEARS

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**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

ELECTION: SPECIAL EDITION

**VOTE on Issue 12
NO NEW TAXES**

In-person commencement, prom for Jackson High School

Jackson High School seniors will have an in-person commencement in accordance with Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 guidelines. Commencement for the Class of 2021 will take place May 25 at 6 p.m. at Robert Fife Stadium. This is the first time commencement has been held at Robert Fife Stadium since the 1970s.

Each graduating senior will have the opportunity to secure four tickets for graduation. The



ceremony will be streamed live on the Jackson Local School District's YouTube channel.

Parents of seniors are invited to go to our commencement FAQ found on the Jackson Local School District's website (Jackson.stark.k12.oh.us) for more information. Ohio Department of Health guidelines for graduation ceremonies will be followed. Those include, but are not limited to, wearing a facial covering, social distancing at 6 feet from other

family groups, practicing good hand hygiene, and staying home is exhibited any signs of illness.

Jackson High School juniors and seniors have the opportunity to purchase tickets to prom, which will be held May 1 at Jackson High School from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Students can buy one ticket for themselves and a guest. Again, Ohio Department of Health guidelines for proms will be followed.

This year's prom will have a carnival theme with fair food and games throughout the high school campus.



DID YOU KNOW?

Jackson High School's JAGS students collected cleaning supplies as part of the winter holiday baskets for families in need and were able to help nearly 90 families with baskets full of supplies that helped them through the winter.



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DID YOU KNOW?



The Niche Report ranks the Jackson Local School District the 12th out of 611 school districts in Ohio for school safety.

Did You Know? **BAND** – In grades 5-12 more than 900 students participate in some form of band. At the high school, band members participate in one of four ability-based concert bands, all of which have advanced to state level competition. The jazz program thrives at Jackson starting with middle school jazz bands and an after-school improv club, leading to 5 big bands and a jazz combo at the high school level. Our two steel drum ensembles perform throughout the community as well, and our students are actively composing and arranging.

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