



# Your Royalton Schools

Winter 2020

North Royalton & Broadview Heights



North Royalton High School Math Club

## North Royalton High School's Esteemed STEM Program Shines

By North Royalton High School Sophomore Emma Kolick

While the classrooms of North Royalton High School (NRHS) brim with conscientious and innovative students, teachers readily begin the day by presenting their students with extremely relevant and prominent topics, such as that of science, technology, engineering and math. These topics are more commonly known as STEM subjects. As NRHS was recently recognized as one of the top 5,000 STEM schools in the country by *Newsweek*, students are constantly motivated and assisted by the outstanding program in which they are routinely engaged in hands-on experiences that enhances the way they understand the STEM subjects. Despite the eagerness of the students to learn, much of the school's success can be accredited to the wide

range of classes open to students and the highly-skilled teachers that consistently aid students in their endeavors.

"Not only do we offer AP courses in the math and science departments, but we go beyond the classic courses that people associate with STEM," said math teacher Jennifer McFadden. "We offer numerous courses that integrate technology and engineering into our programming through our industrial arts department."

### CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

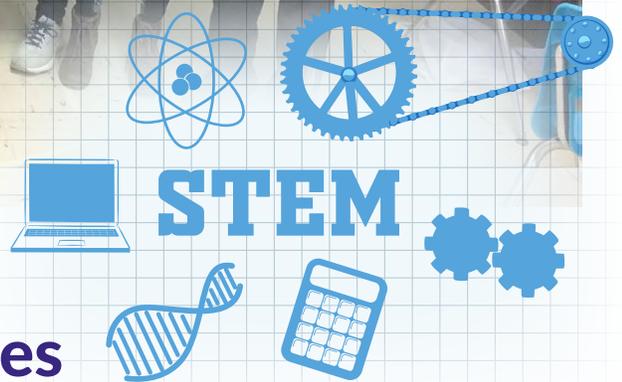
In addition to math and science classes that include AP Physics I, AP Physics II, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC and a variety of other enriching honors courses, the technology education department offers an abundance of classes to satisfy students of

all interests. With classes such as AP Computer Science Principles, Introduction to Engineering Design and Architectural Design, North Royalton's course options reflect the idea that STEM is valuable in preparing students for a multitude of careers. Next year, the high school will offer AP Computer Science A as well.

### CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Moreover, numerous clubs bearing the titles of Math Club, Science Club, Science Olympiad and Computer Club, among others, exist within North Royalton High School with the primary goal of honing in on the varied interests and talents of students. While North Royalton City Schools has inspirational teachers who take the initiative in helping their students learn, the teachers have also

*continued on page 2*



encouraged students to create various clubs and organizations to further enhance the learning process. The creation of the Math Club epitomizes this idea.

“I started Math Club because I think people tend to think of math as a tedious subject that can often be considered difficult, but the club turns it into something enjoyable,” said junior Sakthi Kasi, the president and creator of Math Club. “I’m in awe over how many kids showed genuine interest in Math Club. It’s generally student-run, which I think shows how engaged in learning most of the students are at North Royalton.”

Sakthi’s efforts were enthusiastically supported by the students and faculty, and McFadden altruistically volunteered to assist in supervising the club, exemplifying the way North Royalton places conspicuous importance onto STEM subjects and motivates students to creatively enhance their learning by their own means. Furthermore, in addition to Math Club, and the wide array of other STEM-based clubs, students have the opportunity to participate in an internationally recognized, highly competitive organization Science Olympiad.



“Science Olympiad provides students with the opportunity to showcase themselves in a competitive environment,” said Science Olympiad member Pankti Mehta. “Through collaboration with like-minded people, students are able to gain experience in the STEM field, and I’ve learned so much.”

Within Science Olympiad, members frequently prepare for tournaments throughout the course of the year with the help of their instructor, Kathy Schultz. Ensuing their rigorous training, competitors participate in 23 team events that pertain to a wide array of topics, such as anatomy, physics, genetics and earth science. The success with which the members perform is a testament to their hard work and their dedication, as well as their instructor’s willingness to engage in the learning process. The District has Science Olympiad at the middle school level as well. In the past two years, students have competed in regional and state competitions and scoring very well with top-five and also first-place finishes in the events.

### NEW STEM WING TO OPEN FALL 2020

While the work of North Royalton’s teachers has aided students in achieving tremendous triumphs in the STEM areas, the achievements of those who have thrived will only advance once the new STEM wing is completed. The wing will be comprised of modern, updated classrooms, new science labs, contemporary industrial technology that is currently being decided upon, and vast amounts of space within the classroom to allow students to innovatively engage in learning.

The soon-to-be updated North Royalton High School, coupled with the remarkable STEM program that is already implemented, will ensure the success of current and future students



in the STEM subjects. “I’ve always felt that our school cares deeply about my passion for STEM, but the invention of the new part of the school and the teacher’s compassion for my learning really makes it obvious why we were chosen as one of the top 5,000 STEM schools in the country,” said Pankti. ■



*In the spring issue of Your Royalton Schools, **Emma Kolick** will showcase North Royalton High School’s fine arts program.*



Science Olympiad provides students with the opportunity to showcase themselves in a competitive environment. Through collaboration with like-minded people, students are able to gain a lot of experience in the STEM field, and I’ve learned so much.

~ Pankti Mehta, Science Olympiad member



I’m in awe over how many kids showed genuine interest in Math Club. It’s generally student-run, which I think shows how engaged in learning most of the students are at North Royalton.

~ Sakthi Kasi, junior, president/creator of Math Club

# North Royalton High School's Student Writers and Artists Showcased in School's "Inkwell" Magazine

One of North Royalton High School's (NRHS) most appreciated and valued traditions is the publication of "Inkwell," a literary magazine celebrating excellence in student writing, art and photography. On December 12, the 2019 edition was unveiled and celebrated in a room filled with family, friends, teachers and staff. Royal Harmony began the evening by singing a medley of holiday songs.

English/language arts teacher and "Inkwell" advisor Stacie Leatherman welcomed everyone and shared how fortunate the students at NRHS are because not every school offers an opportunity like this to be published in a magazine very similar in style to collegiate and professional literary magazines. "We have so many wonderful opportunities for band, choir and theatre at our high school, and this is a chance for our writers and artists, those in the "quieter arts," meaning those who work more individually, to shine," said Leatherman.

"Inkwell" is a full-color magazine, more than 90 pages long, filled with artwork, photography and various forms of writing from NRHS students. High school students are encouraged to submit their pieces in the fall and then students in the creative writing classes read and select the stories, poems, and artwork to be published in the magazine.

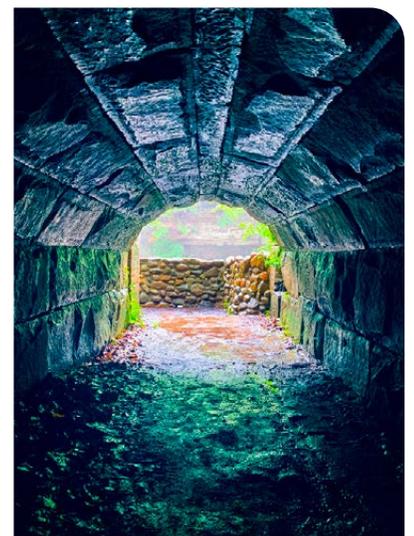
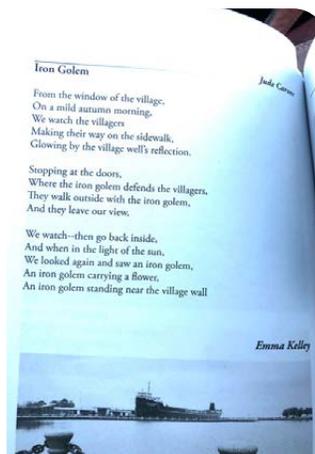
This year's magazine featured more than 100 pieces of work with the cover showcasing a watercolor painting by senior Megan Spisak.

Artists featured in the 2019 "Inkwell" magazine include: Alyssa Barbeck, Paige Boldt, Kate Brierley, Gabrielle Brihn, Bri Bucci, Frankie DeLorenzo, Zoe Douglas, Sydney Frydryk, Dorian Harmatiy, Harikrishnan Kasi, Sakthi Kasi, Emma Kelley, John Kolosionek, Radha Mamidi, Ilysa McCoy, Pankti Mehta, Anjali Patel, Aleesha Shamblyn, Megan Spisak and Colin Weitzner.

Writers featured in the 2019 "Inkwell" magazine include: Alyssa Barbeck, Kate Brierley, Gabrielle Brihn, Isabella Carlucci, Jude Carver, Makayla Clark, Zoe Douglas, Dedeepya Duppi, Vincent Fink, Jaret Gold, Emilee Greathouse, Cara Humes, Sakthi Kasi, Taylor Matlock, Kellen McAllister, Serena Mraz, Anjali Patel, Rebecca Pavelich, Julia Rouge, Megan Spisak, Jude Stanley, John Young and Yana Zub.

Once students select works to include in the publication, a panel of English teachers recognize a few pieces for further recognition. A cover art prize is awarded, as well as poetry prizes. Writers receive gift cards to local bookstores, and the artist receives a gift card to Michael's. Judges' comments are also presented to the audience, offering a literary commentary on why the works resonated with the judges and were considered exceptional. These awards were given to Kate Brierley, Poetry; Gabrielle Brihn, Poetry Honorable Mention; Becca Pavelich, Poetry Honorable Mention; and Megan Spisak, Cover.

The community can view the "Inkwell" release celebration at [www.northroyaltonsd.org/VideoGallery.aspx](http://www.northroyaltonsd.org/VideoGallery.aspx).



# SNAPSHOTS

FROM AROUND THE

# DISTRICT



It was a historic moment on December 23 as the final beam was set in place at North Royalton High School. Hundreds of community members signed this beam back in September and it is now set in place above the new main entrance area of the building.



Albion Elementary and Valley Vista Elementary Schools were recognized by the State Board of Education and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria for achieving high performance and outstanding progress and momentum for students. Both schools received the “Overall A” award for earning an “A” on the state report card. For Albion Elementary, this is the second time to receive the award.



North Royalton High School was recently recognized as one of the top 5,000 STEM schools in the country by *Newsweek*.



North Royalton Middle School held their annual Middle Level Leadership Conference on January 22 with a focus on how to handle the unexpected things that happen in life. Dee Hankins, the keynote speaker for the conference, gave his speech he calls “Life. Curveballs. Home Runs.” There were 14 other schools from across Northeast Ohio that attended this conference. After Hankins spoke in the morning, the students had lunch, participated in leadership development and group networking sessions, and were given school tours.





The District's Crystal Starfish recipients were announced before the holiday break. At Royal View Elementary School, Response to Intervention Specialist Cathy Rush was presented with the Crystal Starfish Teacher Award. Sharon Capadona, a paraprofessional at North Royalton Middle School was the recipient of the Crystal Starfish Support Staff Award. The First Federal of Lakewood Crystal Starfish awards are presented to support staff members and teachers who make a difference in their schools and go above and beyond in all that they do. Both Cathy and Sharon are deserving of this recognition. Our vision of identifying individual student needs and providing support for those needs is exemplified in what Sharon and Cathy do each and every day. Online nominations are now being accepted for our second semester awards at [www.northroyaltonsd.org/CrystalStarfishProgram.aspx](http://www.northroyaltonsd.org/CrystalStarfishProgram.aspx).

Musicians at all of our buildings were quite busy during the holiday season and put on wonderful performances for families and community members. The NRHS Marching Band traveled to Walt Disney World and marched in the Magic Kingdom parade on New Year's Eve! Traditionally, this band trip is done in the spring, so it was a real treat to be able to perform at the Magic Kingdom during the holiday season.



Student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom, on the field and courts, and in the community. The North Royalton High School football team recently received the Academic All-Ohio Award for their overall GPA. The team is 14th on the list. There are 611 public school districts in Ohio, with many of them having multiple high schools, as well as numerous parochial and private schools, so being 14th in overall GPA is fantastic! In addition, Joey Marousek, who signed his letter of intent to continue to be a student-athlete at Akron University, is fifth on the list of Academic All-Ohio. In addition, the football team once again hosted a Coats for Kids/Stuff the Bus event this past fall. Approximately 700 coats and more than \$2,500 was raised.



North Royalton Middle School students spread cheer and holiday joy to our local safety forces. They worked hard baking cookies and treats. They especially enjoyed the behind the scenes tour of the fire station.



# Construction Update



## North Royalton High School

Construction is progressing on the two-story high school addition and renovation. The exterior of the building is nearing completion for the Phase 1 addition. The final sections of brick veneer are being placed as the roof nears completion. Glass installation continues and storefront framing is ongoing. While the exterior is wrapping up for the winter, work on the interior is ramping up. The final concrete slabs are being poured in the first-floor science areas. Overhead and in-wall mechanical/electrical/plumbing and technology rough-ins are progressing along with interior wall framing throughout the first and second floors of the addition and current renovation areas. The new main entry vestibule, located on the south side of the building addition adjacent to the old Heritage Hall entry, is also being constructed. Steel beams will be set to create the new vestibule roof structure, including the District's signature beam which was set Monday, December 23. ■

For renovation work, Phase 3 continues with the old media center being converted to the new dining hub and administration offices, and renovations of the old administration offices to become the new kitchen. Phase 4 renovation work will commence this upcoming summer to convert the existing cafeteria to the new media center. The phased high school project is on schedule with the grand opening of the 100,000 square foot addition and select renovation areas set for the 2020-21 school year.



## North Royalton Elementary School



The North Royalton Elementary School campus has progressed significantly, with completion of the masonry bearing walls and enclosure of the main mechanical area for winter. This will allow work to continue seamlessly throughout the inclement winter weather months. Underground utilities are completed outside the building pad and are roughly 80% complete within the building's footprint. Structural steel erection will continue throughout the winter months. As areas of steel are completed, the structural studs and exterior sheathing will follow, creating the walls and building the shell of the school. In the coming months, you will also see interior concrete slabs being poured as areas become enclosed and heated. The project continues to progress on schedule, opening for our elementary students in fall of 2021. ■

# Elementary School Students Take Part in Interactive Construction Assembly and Beam Signing

On January 14, 15 and 16, members of Hammond Construction met with our students at Albion, Royal View and Valley Vista Elementary Schools to discuss the different phases of construction of the new North Royalton Elementary School. Students were able to hear first-hand what is involved in building a new school. Along with this, students signed one of three beams that will be the final pieces of the skeleton of the new school. These final beams should be installed in the next few months. ■





Your Royalton Schools

“We Inspire and Empower Learners”

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Permit No. 1614

**NORTH ROYALTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

6579 Royalton Road  
North Royalton, Ohio 44133

Dr. John H. Kelly, President  
Heidi Dolezal, Vice President  
Jackie Arendt  
Terry DeLap  
Anne Reinkober

Greg Gurka, Superintendent  
Biagio Sidoti, Treasurer



@RoyaltonSchools



North Royalton City Schools



www.northroyaltonsd.org



More District news can be found in our digital magazine, the **Bear Way**. Read the fall issue at <http://bit.ly/BearWayFall2019>.

Archived District Communications & Videos: [www.northroyaltonsd.org/PublicInformation.aspx](http://www.northroyaltonsd.org/PublicInformation.aspx)

## All North Royalton City School Buildings Receive Ohio Department of Education Purple Star Designation

The Ohio Department of Education has selected Albion Elementary School, Royal View Elementary School, Valley Vista Elementary School, North Royalton Middle School and North Royalton High School as 2020 Purple Star designees. The Purple Star designation recognizes schools that meet important criteria for serving military-connected students and families, including ensuring students’ unique social, emotional and academic needs are being met. Our five buildings were the only schools in Cuyahoga County to receive this recognition.

“We know that when children of military families enroll in our District, there are times when deployment or other issues cause disruption in their lives,” said Superintendent Greg Gurka, North Royalton City Schools. “We are committed to helping families during those times. In addition, we value the relationships

that we have with military families and veterans and work to invite them into our schools and recognize them. Whether it is a Veterans Day assembly, flag raising at our varsity football games or simply the high school band’s tribute at their end-of-year concert, we value the sacrifice these families are making and strive to support them.”

“We applaud and appreciate your outstanding commitment to serving military-connected students and families in your schools,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Paolo DeMaria, Ohio Department of Education. ■



Supporting Military Families