Northwest Local School District

WELCOME MAGAZINE

2026 - 2027























Knowing Every Student by *Name*, *Story*, *Strength*, and *Need*

OUR FAMILY TREE

High Schools

- Northwest High School
- Transitions Academy
- Colerain High School

Middle Schools

- Pleasant Run Middle
- White Oak Middle
- Colerain Middle

Elementary Schools

- Pleasant Run Elementary
- Struble Elementary
- Monfort Heights Elementary
- Taylor Elementary
- Colerain Elementary

Pre-K

- Houston Early Learning Center

MISSION, VISION, BELIEFS



OUR MISSION

The Northwest Local School District will create a responsive learning community where all students are valued, challenged, and guided along a pathway to success.

OUR VISION

Teaching and learning in Northwest Local Schools will:

- Provide learning experiences that empower students to contribute to a future not yet imagined
- Inspire learners to adapt, be resilient, collaborate and problem-solve
- Create a supportive social-emotional culture
- Provide a foundation to cultivate healthy relationships

OUR BELIEFS

- We believe students and staff excel best when they feel welcomed in the building, safe in their classrooms and trustful of each other
- We believe all students and staff can learn and deserve opportunities to show and achieve success
- We believe valuing diversity and working to understand one another is vital and important
- We believe a high priority should be placed on providing holistic support to ensure success for all
- We believe building and maintaining collaborative relationships with community members is foundational to teaching and learning in NWLSD

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



DARRELL YATER

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! There is nothing quite like the excitement of a new school year. Whether you're joining Northwest for the first time or returning for another year, we're grateful you've chosen to be part of our close-knit community. Each school year brings fresh opportunities to learn, grow, build relationships, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

As we look ahead, I'm also incredibly proud of what we've accomplished together. Last year, Northwest was recognized by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce with the Momentum Award, an honor given to less than 7% of districts statewide for demonstrating significant academic improvement and continued growth. We improved to a 3.5-star district on the Ohio School Report Card, bringing us another step closer to our One Plan goal of becoming a 4-star district. Our students continued to excel as well, with National Merit Finalists from both Colerain and Northwest High School and the Class of 2026 earning more than $7 million in college scholarships.

These accomplishments reflect what's possible when students, staff, families, and our community work together toward a shared vision.

Our commitment to continuous improvement extends beyond academics to our facilities. Construction continues to progress on the new Colerain Elementary School. Thanks to careful financial planning, district savings, and state credits, we're able to build this state-of-the-art facility without asking our community for a single dollar.

This fall, our community will also consider a school operating levy. We encourage you to learn about what it is, why it's needed, and what it means for Northwest's future. Inside this magazine, you'll find factual information about the levy, along with introductions to new staff members, district impact statistics, and more helpful information as we embark on a new year.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Together, we'll continue to #GoBeyond and make this another incredible year for Northwest Local School District.

2026 OPERATING LEVY FAQs

Based on the levy cycle, it is time for the District to increase revenue through a 5 mill property tax levy. The Board of Education voted to put an earned income tax on the ballot in lieu of the additional property tax.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

1.5%
earned income tax
will replace
two existing property taxes

It will phase in over 18 months and the existing property taxes will expire in 2027 and 2029.

Why now?

The district has begun deficit spending in the current and prior fiscal year. Without additional revenue, the district will need to cut approximately $7 million in programs and services each year beginning in the 2027–2028 school year.

Is this new or additional tax?

60% of this levy is NOT an increase; it renews the existing emergency levy tax structure in place since 2012. The other 40% is the additional revenue that would normally expected through our 5-year levy cycle and is based on our 3% community partnership not to grow our operations by more than 3% in a given year.

What would the 1.5% earned income tax pay for?

Maintaining the current level of operations:

- Staff salaries and benefits
- Purchasing educational supplies and technology
- Maintaining and cleaning 1.3 million square feet of facilities
- Funding extracurricular activities and programs
- Other operating costs

What happens if the levy doesn't pass?

The district would need to cut about $7 million from its budget each year starting in the 2027–2028 school year, impacting:

- Staff
- Academic programs & services
- Transportation
- Extracurricular Programs
- Classroom resources
- Student services

Tier 1 and Tier 2 deductions will have to be implemented should the levy not pass in 2026.

Don't see your question? Scan the QR code to submit one and find more info on our levy webpage.

OUR COMMITMENT: BY THE NUMBERS

These metrics reflect the scope of our work and our commitment to serving students, families, and the Northwest community through high-quality education and effective day-to-day operations.



These numbers tell a story. They reflect our District's commitment to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and to providing comprehensive educational services for each child. From transportation and nutrition to facilities management and instruction, every aspect of our operation is designed to support the next generation of learners.

WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF



Jessica Laber
MD Assistant



Olivia Kelsey
Social Studies Teacher



Noah Ohr
2nd Grade Teacher



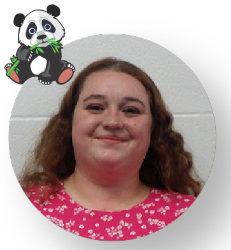
Melissa Peterson
Art Teacher



Kristie Larsen
RN Health Assistant



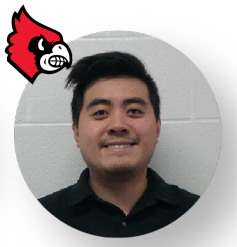
Lakisha Griffin
RN Health Assistant



Erika Flynn
Intervention Specialist



Kristen Hartzell
P.E/Health Teacher



Osric Wong
Science Teacher



Victoria Oberg
Math Teacher



Cheryl Lowe
Principal



Tanner Seward
1st Grade Teacher



Staci Stephens
Intervention Specialist



Ryan Fessler
Assistant Principal



Tara Boettcher
Math Teacher



Ray-Shawn Oglesby
MD Assistant



Ambor Moy
Reading Specialist



Deanna Brooksbank
Intervention Specialist



William Chaney
P.E./Health Teacher



Brittney Bill
Intervention Specialist



Aketa Barrow
Principal



Amy Heinrich
RN Health Assistant



Hannah Campbell
MD Assistant



Sofia Oshaben
Math Teacher



Katelyn Wheeler
Intervention Specialist



Erin Story
Intervention Specialist



Jeffrey Gluff
MD Assistant



Carla O'Quin
Office Personnel



Jami Clark
MD Assistant



Sarah Burton
Counselor

WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF



Richara Richardson
Assistant Principal



Lauren Reyes
3rd Grade Teacher



Mariah Faulkner
MD Assistant



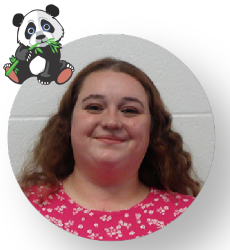
Julia Burchwell
Intervention Specialist



Audrey Weber
Chorus Teacher



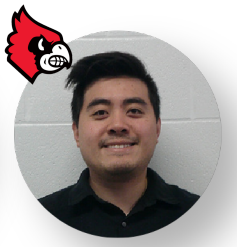
Karli Head
Intervention Specialist



Erika Flynn
Intervention Specialist



Kristen Hartzell
P.E/Health Teacher



Osric Wong
Science Teacher



Victoria Oberg
Math Teacher



Cheryl Lowe
Principal



Tanner Seward
1st Grade Teacher



Lindsey Manning
Assistant Principal



Elizabeth Benken
5th Grade Teacher



Mya Maghathe
4th Grade Teacher



Lisa Ruffin
ESL Tutor



Diego Neri
Study Hall



Briana Mathews
3rd Grade Teacher



Brennan Gallo
4th Grade Teacher



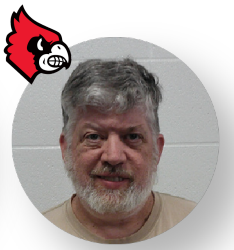
Daryl Powell
Bus Driver



Ella Hartung
Intervention Specialist



Lauren Rusinek
4th Grade Teacher



John Cathcart
Math Teacher



Amanda Stevenson
Intervention Specialist



Emily Wisniewski
Intervention Specialist



Ericka Bryant
Office Personnel



Karen Hinkel
MD Assistant



Katherine Menster
Chorus Teacher

The staff included are not exhaustive. They reflect staff whose photos were available at the publication of this magazine.

2026-2027 CALENDAR

The Board of Education approved this calendar on 3/24/2025 for the 2026/2027 school year, subject to any further amendments that should become necessary.
Green-Inservice-No Students Report Blue-Inservice w/ Record Keeping Included--No Students Report Grey-No School/No Staff Report Pink-Conference Release Day

8/12, 8/13, 8/14--Inservice Days

8/17--Student Phase-In
First Day for Students
Grades,1, 3, 5, 6, 9
Preschool Screenings - by appt only

8/18---Student Phase-In
Grades K, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Preschool Screenings - by appt only

HELC Student Phase-In
8/19 - Last names A-L
8/20 - Last names M-Z

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

9/7--Labor Day--No School

9/8---Inservice Day--No School

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

10/15--Last Day First Quarter

10/16--Inservice Day--No School

10/19--Fall Break--No School

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

11/3--Inservice Day--No School

11/23---Conf. Rel. Day--No School

11/24-27---Fall Rec.--No School

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

12/18--Last Day Second Quarter
Last Day First Semester

12/21-1/1--Winter Rec.--No School

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1/4 - inservice Day--No School

1/18--M.L.K. Jr. Day--No School

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2/12---Inservice Day--No School

2/15 --Presidents Day--No School

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

3/11--Last Day Third Quarter

3/12--Inservice Day--No School

3/26-Conf. Rel. Day--No School

3/29-4/2--Spring Rec.--No School

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

3/29-4/2--Spring Rec.--No School

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

5/4--Inservice Day--No School

5/26--Last Day Fourth Quarter

5/27-28--Inservice Day--No School

5/31--Memorial Day

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

6/18--Juneteenth

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

7/4--Independence Day

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MEET OUR BOARD OF EDUCATION



Sitting (left to right): Jim Detzel, Vice President Chris Heather, President Nancy Slattery, Nicole Taulbee, Ciera Jones

Board meetings are held on a rotating basis at each of our schools. Visit our website (www.nwlsd.org) for any changes to the meeting dates for the current year.

Online Checkbook - NWLSD has fiscal data available on OhioCheckbook.com, the online spending database hosted by the State Treasurer.

This is a free and easy-to-use transparency tool.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO STAY CONNECTED AND ENGAGED!

Want to learn more about NWLSD Board Meetings?

Visit Us Online:
nwlsd.org/page/board-of-education

Watch school programs, board meetings, our Superintendent podcast and more! →

www.waycross.tv/northwest

SAFE SCHOOL HOTLINE

The SaferOH Tip Line will accept both calls and texts 24 hours a day regarding bullying, potential suicide risks, violence, or other school safety related issues. This information is anonymous.

Call or text 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764)

CONTACT US

Superintendent	Mr. Darrell Yater	513-923-1000 ext. 3915
CFO/Treasurer	Mrs. Amy M. Wells	513-923-1000 ext. 3940
Assistant Treasurer	Mrs. Elizabeth Whitt	513-923-1000 ext. 3941
Human Resources	Ms. Trey Rischmann	513-923-1000 ext. 3916
Business Operations	Mr. Chris McKee	513-923-1000 ext. 3904
Accountability	Mrs. Brenda Miller	513-923-1000 ext. 3925
Curriculum	Mrs. Lori Riehle	513-923-1000 ext. 3945
Student Services	Mr. Jake Kuhnline	513-923-1000 ext. 3907
Federal Programs	Mrs. Jenny Blust	513-923-1000 ext. 3903
District Nurse	Mrs. Keva Brice	513-923-1000 ext. 3926
PR/Communications	Mr. Angelo Vidal	513-923-1000 ext. 3905
Special Education	Ms. Chevonne Neal	513-923-1000 ext. 4920
Food Service	Mrs. Ruth Graber	513-923-1000 ext. 4914
Transportation	Mrs. Yolanda Palmer	513-923-1000 ext. 3102

Houston Early Learning Center
3240 Banning Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45239
Phone: 513-385-8000
Fax: 513-385-8090

Struble Elementary
2760 Jonrose Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45239
Phone: 513-522-2700
Fax: 513-522-2711

Taylor Elementary
3173 Springdale Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45251
Phone: 513-825-3000
Fax: 531-825-2983

Pleasant Run Elementary
11780 Pippin Rd.
Cincinnati, Oh 45231
Phone: 513-825-7070
Fax: 513-825-1076

Monfort Heights Elementary
3711 West Fork Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45247
Phone: 513-389-1570
Fax: 513-389-1572

Colerain Elementary
4850 Poole Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45251
Phone: 513-385-8740
Fax: 513-385-8770

Colerain Middle School
4700 Poole Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45251
Phone: 513-385-8490
Fax: 513-385-6685

White Oak Middle School
3130 Jessup Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45239
Phone: 513-741-4300
Fax: 513-741-0717

Pleasant Run Middle School
11770 Pippin Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Phone: 513-851-2400
Fax: 513-851-7071

Colerain High School
8801 Cheviot Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45251
Phone: 513-385-6424
Fax: 513-741-5032

Northwest High School
10761 Pippin Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45231
Phone: 513-851-7300
Fax: 513-742-7179

Transitions Academy
3242 Banning Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45239
Phone: 513-674-0731

JOIN OUR BUSINESS PARTNER PROGRAM

Northwest Local School District is looking for businesses and organizations that are interested in partnering with our school district in order to grow and prepare our PreK-12th grade students to be future leaders!



Is your organization interested in providing career presentations, hands-on learning opportunities, sharing tips about real-world skills, participating in career fairs, and/or providing students with internship and co-op opportunities? If so, scan the QR code to get started!