8th Grade Creative Writing Staff

January 21, 2026
First Exciting Issue!

What's New at NMS?

MS. GUTHRIE'S KIDS ARE PRETTY COOL!!!

A FEW OF THEIR FAVORITES

By Brynn Sellers and Londynn Clifton

Londynn and I went down to the room past the art room, the MH Room, and interviewed 5 people. Aiden, Kaitlyn, Michael, Madalynn, and Jared are all a part of the MH unit and told us a few of their favorite things.

Aiden was the first one who answered and we asked him 7 questions. We wondered what his favorite color is and he said green. Next, we asked what his favorite animal is and if he has any pets. Aiden said his favorite animal is a fish and he has one dog. When asked favorite food and favorite game he responded with, sandwich and "Roblox". His favorite part of school is the brain breaks that they get during class. And lastly, we wondered what Aiden's favorite T.V. show is. He doesn't have one specific show, but he likes watching YouTube.

Next, we interviewed Kaitlyn. Our first questions were what her favorite color and food are. Kaitlyn said she likes the color pink and enjoys pizza. We also wondered what she likes to play in her free time. She said she loves playing "Uno" with her teachers and friends. Kaitlyn added while she likes cats she doesn't have any pets of her own. Her favorite part of school is cooking every Wednesday. Kaitlyn was asked what her favorite T.V. show is and she was proud to say "Bluey"!

Our third interviewee was Michael. He said his favorite color is purple and his favorite food is breaded chicken strips. Then, we asked if he has any pets and what his favorite animal is. He said his favorite animals are hermit crabs, which he happens to have as a pet. He named his hermit crab Baby Henry. Michael was asked what his favorite T.V. show and game is. He said he likes playing "Garden Warfare 2" and also enjoys "Minecraft". Michael has a lot of YouTubers that he likes to watch. The last thing we wanted to know was what his favorite part of the school day is. He said he enjoys spending time with his high school friends on the bus.

Our next interview was with Madalynn. Her favorite color is purple and she likes to eat pizza. Madalynn's favorite animal is a cat which works out for her because she has 18 cats!!! We asked her what her favorite game is and she said she likes to play "Roblox". Next, we wondered what she likes most about school and she said math without hesitation! The last thing we wondered is what her favorite T.V. show is. She responded with "Stranger Things".

Last but not least, we interviewed Jared. We wondered what his favorite color and animal is. He said he likes the color black and his favorite animal is a whale. Then we asked him what his favorite food and school activity is. Jared responded that he enjoys eating chips and likes playing outside. If he can't play outside he really likes to play a game called "Endless Monster". Jared also added that he likes watching "The Loud House".

If you see any of these kids in the hallway, make sure to say, "Hello!"



Londynn (far left) and Brynn (far right) hang out with Ms. Guthrie's students.



Ruby in the snow. Official Husky of "What's New"?



"THE MIRACLE SEASON" ON NETFLIX

By Brynn Sellers and Londynn Clifton

This inspirational movie is about a high school volleyball team grieving the loss of their star player and captain. Her best friend is asked to fill the gaping hole that was left on the court. The team has to fight their grief to continue the legacy of their friend and teammate.

We both watched this movie and it left us in tears. If you like emotional, heart-wrenching movies then this is for you. We would recommend this movie to anyone looking to watch something good.

Based on a true story the team decides if they can win state again like they did last year. Will they carry on their friend's spirit as they fight to beat all the odds?

MRS. THIMKE HELPS NMS STUDENTS IN NEED

By April Aguilera

I got to interview the Norwalk Middle School counselor, Mrs. Thimke. Her favorite part about her job is talking to students.

Mrs. Thimke deals with many problems at this school. Her biggest one is dealing with drama with different individuals. She solves the problems by using conflict resolution skills she's learned.

Mrs. Thimke attended and graduated from two colleges. At BGSU she had gotten her bachelors degree and at Heidelberg she got her masters.

In Mrs. Thimke's free time she likes to spend time with her husband Mr. Thimke by watching movies and going shopping. A few motivational messages she gives to others who are struggling is to keep trying, don't give up, and it definitely gets better!



Mrs. Thimke












ROBOTICS CLUB IS A VALUABLE, FUN EXPERIENCE!

By Emma Holbrook

The Nerd Nation robotics team has a lot happening. We have four teams: The Pink Cobras, Dora The Explorer was Secretly a Clanker, The Mega Bites, and The Bots in Black. We have a few competitions coming up, one at Kalahari and one at NASA, so make sure you cheer on the robotics teams.

The Pink Cobras are the first team I interviewed, they came up with their team name because that's one of the only ones their whole team agreed with. They work together pretty well and they have good teamwork and get along with each other well. The game works by staking pins on one another to get more points while working together with another team. The biggest problem they had so far is getting things to work on time for competitions. They think that the rest of the robotics season is maybe to win a competition, continue working hard, keep improving, and designing.

The team Dora the Explorer was Secretly a Clanker is a team I interviewed, they came up with their name when one of the teammates randomly said names and they all laughed at that one. Their favorite thing about competitions is meeting new people and going to see other teams and robots when at pits. They think they will do well and are hoping to improve, they plan to get into state and move in different parts of the competition.

The Mega Bytes got their name from a team name generator. They work well together as teammates since they added a teammate, they have good sportsmanship and good creativity as a team. Their goals are to program better, practice driving the robot. They think they will do good and get into state competition.

The Bots in Black came up with their name from one of their teammates. The biggest problem they have had driving. They like meeting new teams and sharing ideas with them. They hope to do better in future competitions.

MUSKOVICH AND SELLERS KEY FACTORS IN BOYS' BASKETBALL WIN VS. SANDUSKY

By Dhruvin Bhatt and Ryker Crumrine

Norwalk against Sandusky is always a rivalry game for both grades. The 8th grade had never beaten them but finally won after hard work and determination. The leading scorers were Blake Muskovich and Jacob Tyler for the 8th grade. The leading scorers for the 7th grade were Benny Sellers and Maddox Gamble. This game was one of the hardest atmospheres to play in because the opposition were talking the whole game and being obnoxious.

We interviewed Blake Muskovich for the 8th grade and he had double digit points and rebounds making it a double-double! We asked him how his season has been going and he said, "Pretty good, we are 6-2 and beat teams we had not beat last year." He said one thing he could improve on is rebounding and pushing the ball in transition. He is looking to score and create opportunities for his teammates. We asked him what he thought of the game and he said, "It was the best game we have played all year. The atmosphere was very intense and the press was very easy to break." He also thinks we can beat them next time we play them and the score will be 67-41, Norwalk.

Muskovich, Sellers



We spoke with Benny Sellers, who had 24 points for the 7th grade and hit 6 threes! We asked him how the season has been going and he said, "We are doing pretty good and we are the 1st seed." We asked him what he is looking to do for his team and he said it is to get them easier shots. He also wants to improve his game by seeing the floor better. He says that they can beat them again when they play them next. He predicts the score for the next time they play them will be 50-35 in favor of the Norwalk Truckers. Lastly, he thought the game went well and they beat a team that was undefeated like them.

MCKENNA IS A CUBING MASTER

By Andrew Palacios Mendez and Connor Hoffman



We interviewed Zak Mckenna for his talent of speed cubing. We asked Zak, why did you start speed cubing? He replied, “I have been wanting to be able to solve a cube since I was little and a while back I was bored out of my mind and I decided it was time to learn”. When did you start speed cubing? He said, “In November, over break.”. How did you learn to solve a Rubik's cube? “ I went to the official Rubik’s site and I saw that they had videos to help. I also looked up videos to make hard methods seem easy. We asked Zak what his fastest time to solve a Rubik’s cube was and he said, “My fastest time is 40 seconds so far”.

We asked Zak what some tips are for beginners. He said, “If you want to be fast then practice daily and memorize specific moves to know how to solve cubes in any scramble”. Zak also wanted to share that if you learn how to solve a Rubik's cube, it’s addicting and it is hard to stop and it's a great thing to do if you’re bored”.

SWIM TEAM DIVES INTO NEW SEASON!

By Gabryella Blackburn and Alexiana Branham

First we interviewed Jessica Chappell and asked her a few questions. Her favorite thing about being on the team is making new friends, meeting new people, and going to new places. Something funny or cool that happened at practice was that she pulled her coach into the pool. Jessie has suffered a cramp while swimming. She got a cramp in the arch of her foot and then she just stopped kicking her foot in the pool. A bad experience she had while swimming was that there were boogers in the pool. Jessie thinks swimming is an important skill to have because you don't drown.

The next person we interviewed was Kellynn Marshall. Her favorite thing about being on the swim team is getting better. Something cool or funny that happened at a practice was that there were boogers in the pool. She did suffer a cramp and it was in her leg during a race and she just kept swimming. A bad experience she had was she sprained her ankle and the same day she had a swim meet. She thinks swimming is an important skill to have so you do not drown while you swim.

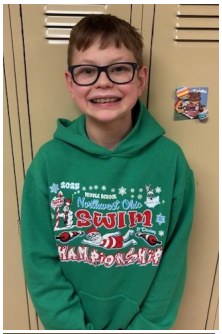
Next we interviewed Hudson Meagrow. His favorite thing about being on the team is he gets to swim and he likes swimming a lot because his dad taught him when he was little. Something cool or funny that happened at practice was they get to play games sometimes at the end of practice. He has never had a cramp while swimming. He sometimes gets bloody noses during practice. He thinks swimming is an important skill to have so you can get used to the water and “be one with the fishes”.

The final person we interviewed was Zane Daniels. His favorite thing about being on the swim team is that he gets better at swimming. Something he enjoys about practice is the conversations he gets to have with people. He has suffered a cramp and he said what he did to fix it was to pull his toe. A bad experience he had while swimming was he ran into someone while swimming. He thinks swimming is an important skill to have so you do not drown while you swim.

Chappell, Marshall, Meagrow, and Daniels (Top to Bottom)









MRS. WARD IS HAPPY TO BE BACK AT NMS!

By Mason Mckeefer

I asked Mrs. Ward to describe a few of her responsibilities she does daily as a part of her job. She answered, “I support students with their assignments and help teachers with grading, classroom tasks, and office work”. I asked her to describe a few of her favorite things about working at the middle school. She answered, “My favorite things about working at the middle school are the people I work with, and the students. I love being in a supportive environment. When I asked her why she chose this job she said, “I chose this job because I love working with children and helping them learn and grow. I like being someone they can rely on”.

I asked her if she had any pets and what type she said “I have two dogs. Two Labradoodles named Dozer, Tonka and a Yorkie named Si”.



I asked her to describe the members of her family. She said, “I live with my husband Keith. We've been married for 27 years. We have four children, Jade, Lexi, Kohen and Brody. All my children have gone to Norwalk City school. Jade is a registered nurse at Firelands Hospital. Lexi is in her last year at Wilmington College. Kohen is a Diesel Mechanic at Great Lakes Trucking, and Brody is a 4th grader at Main Street”.

STUCO NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

By Brynn Sellers and Londynn Clifton

Do you feel like you never know what’s going on around the school? Well if that’s the case then you can stop wondering now!

To find out what’s happening there are a few sources you can look at. There are announcements in the cafeteria, announcements in the morning, the newsletter, your email, TikTok, posters in the hallway, any of your classmates that are student council representatives, or you could just ask Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Hoyt, or Miss Lawrence.

So really… What is going on? Well to round out January we have spirit week coming up on Jan. 26-30, Monday: Teachers dress like students, students dress like teachers, Tuesday: Trucker Battle Colors, Wednesday: Hawaiian Day, Thursday: Dress to Impress, Friday: Blue and Gold Day (We also have a pep assembly that day!).

You may not know this, but February is National Kindness Month. In honor of that we will be doing a kindness bingo on Feb. 2nd. Make sure to finish the bingo and turn it in to Mrs. Baker by February 27th. If you turn it in you will get a small prize!

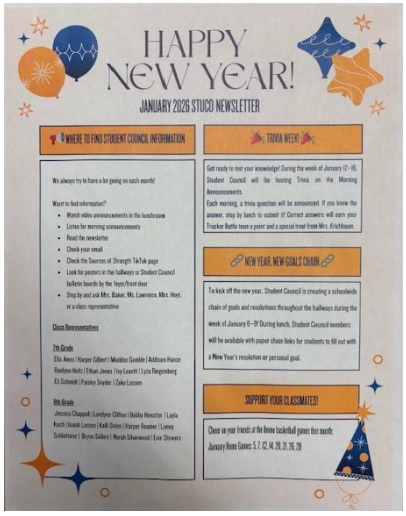
Starting on February 6th you can guess how many candy hearts are in a jar at lunch. The closest guess gets a prize! Next, on the week of Jan. 9-13 there will be candy grams at lunch. Just make sure you know how to spell the person’s last name! On that Friday (the 13th) there will be 100 hearts hidden in the hallways. Whatever trucker battle team finds the most hearts will get a trucker battle point, so make sure to keep your eyes peeled!

Masked Singer is coming soon on announcements! Be sure to listen and put in your guess on which staff member you think it is!

Don't think we forgot about all the 8th graders! “**Lights, Camera, Glamour”**, is the formal in planning; the theme is HOLLYWOOD! Make sure to wear lots of glitter, gold, black, and red.

COMING MAY 8TH!!!

Make sure you tell your friends about all of these upcoming events!



HER FAVORITE DAY

An original story by Sofia Skolyak

Halloween, her favorite time of year. No one could see her face and everybody was having fun.

She started 3rd grade just two months ago. She wasn't popular, at school at least. Her ears stuck out too much and she read more than she talked. People had all sorts of names for her, but most of them were just mean. School was tough, between bullies and learning. She liked writing, though, and reading. But none of that mattered now on Halloween. She got her costume ready, happier to go to school than she ever had been. She put on her suit and her astronaut helmet and was ready to leave.

On her way to school her mom gave her the usual talk about not letting bullies get to her but today she couldn't care less. When she got to school she kept her helmet on as she walked down the halls. People gave her high fives. She got compliments. People talked to her without being asked. She kept her helmet on and her head high.

This is why she loved Halloween so much. It was the one day she could feel like everyone else. She always told herself if she had one wish, it would be for Halloween to be everyday. Or for people to treat her the same way without the helmet.

Restricted Imagination

An original story by Evie Stowers

The smell of old books wafted to my nose as I pushed the doors to the library open. Thunder boomed, followed by lightning. The flash of lightning lit the wide and roomy library with a blinding white.

My friend needed a book, and my hands trembled as I made my way to the Restricted Section. That part of the library was only for the owners of the library. They didn't have any room to hide the books, so instead, they used a gate surrounding the books. Why the books were so special, I didn't know, but something seemed off as I arrived at the gate. My friend, Freya, needed a certain book but was busy at the moment. She had handed me a makeshift key to the gate and left me with it. Freya was super smart, so during the day, she would look at the lock and memorize the pattern. Doing this was illegal for sure, but Freya told me she needed the book. It was called "Broken Thoughts."

I shoved the key into the lock and turned. I silently willed it to work, and the lock popped off.

Yes!

Lightning crashed again, making me jump. I searched the shelves by name, and eventually found it.

"Perfect," I whispered. I opened it and flipped to the first page, intrigued to see what was so "restricted" about these books. My gaze dropped to the first couple sentences.

An average person has about sixty thousand thoughts a day. But that doesn't mean they all make sense. It can vary from thinking about math to dreaming about a cow. But, in this book, I'll be explaining 'broken' thoughts. The thoughts from the mind of people with mental disorders.

But then I paused, remembering something Freya told me.

"Get the book, but never read it. Never. Do you hear me, Laura? It's dangerous, and if you read it… you'll regret it."

I dropped the book quickly. *How did I forget what Freya told me?*

I squinted in the near-darkness, trying to find something that might endanger me. The book emitted a soft glow from the ground. I backed away slowly, fumbling for the gate handle. A small gravitational force started to pull me towards the book. I tried to resist, but the harder I tried, the stronger it got.

Soon, I was inches from the book. The world started to warp before me, and it seemed I was getting pulled downwards. My vision went black, and when my eyes opened, I wish they hadn't.

Little cells that had stems branched out from all around me. I then remembered that these were called neural stem cells.

I'm in a brain?

Even more so, how was I microscopic?

What's happening?!

Ironically, a thought occurred to me. But it wasn't so funny when I realized what it truly meant. Not funny *at all.*

I was *in the book.*