WINTER 2026

www.tinora.org

NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Front row, left to right:
Wesley Maxwell, MacKenzie Maassel, Jennifer Lichtenwald, Alivia Knight, Owen Ferrell, Colt Etchison, Koben Bumb, Zoe Billings, Riley Baldwin, Grayson Askins, and Addilyn Delarber.
Back row, left to right:
Emma Wilson, Lindsey Weber, Corinne Vance, Logan Stein, Ella Schaublin, Nathan Sattler, Nolan Rittenhouse, Pal Patel, India Okuley, Jared Neff, Cheyenne Myers, and Noah Meyer.

National Honor Society Induction

On Monday, November 3, twenty-three students were inducted into the Tinora National Honor Society in the Performing Arts Center. To be eligible for NHS, students must have been a junior or senior candidate at Tinora the equivalent of one semester. Candidates must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50. They must have or be in the process of taking, 3 units of English, 2 units of Math, 2 units of Science, 2 units of Social Studies, 1 unit of foreign language and 1 unit of fine arts. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Congratulations to senior Addilyn Delarber, and juniors Grayson Askins, Riley Baldwin, Zoe Billings, Koben Bumb, Colt Etchison, Owen Ferrell, Alivia Knight, Jennifer Lichtenwald, Mackenzie Maassel, Wesley Maxwell, Noah Meyer, Cheyenne Myers, Jared Neff, India Okuley, Pal Patel, Nolan Rittenhouse, Nathan Sattler, Ella Schaublin, Logan Stein, Corinne Vance, Lindsey Weber, and Emma Wilson.

Message from the Superintendent:

On March 11, 2026, at 8:30 a.m., Northeastern Local Schools is proud to welcome our senior citizens to the Performing Arts Center for a special breakfast celebrating the heart of our community.

Our seniors represent the foundation on which our district was built, a legacy of hard work, dedication, and pride in Tinora and the surrounding community. Their stories, traditions, and values continue to shape who we are today and guide where we are going tomorrow.

This gathering is more than a meal; it is a moment to connect generations, honor the past, and look ahead with hope. As we prepare our students for the future, we remain grateful for the wisdom and support of those who came before us.

We look forward to sharing fellowship, gratitude, and community on this meaningful morning. Together, we honor yesterday while preparing for tomorrow.

Nicole Wells

Message from the Treasurer:

For years, families have been able to apply funds to students' lunch accounts via online payments. This is made possible by setting up an account in LINQ. Although there is a convenience fee for this service, it does allow parents to apply funds to their students' accounts at any time of the day or night, eliminate giving cash to your child for their school meals and provides a report of items purchased. It can even be set up with an automatic replenishment or email reminder when funds are at a set threshold.

The convenience fee does not go to the district. It helps with the security of your banking and personal information and ease of access to the LINQ website. The district does not have access to your online account or payment option details. Transactions set up as ACH, bank account, payments have a low flat fee instead of a percentage of payment amount as structured using a credit or debit card.

Online payments will not replace those who use cash or checks. It is an additional option for those who focus a majority of their purchase using online banking. With the start of the next school year, you will be able to pay your students' fees and Chromebook use fee through the LINQ website! Stay tuned.

Sara Buchhop

Veterans Day Programs

On Wednesday, November 12th Veterans were honored at the Tinora Performing Arts Center with a Veteran's Day breakfast and program. The program included grades 5-12. On Thursday, November 13th Veterans were honored for another program at the Tinora Performing Arts Center with a program for grades K-4. A special thank you to Tyler Rue, Jeremy Behnfeldt, Mark Heilman and the Defiance VFW.











DIA DE OKTOBERFEST

THS German Club

German Club has successfully completed their first three fundraisers of the year, bringing in money to support the German students who are traveling to Germany in the spring of 2026. As is a longstanding tradition at Tinora, German Club students sold Advent Calendars to students, staff and the community. Evie Wiemken was the top salesperson of the year. In early December, German Club traveled to the Christkindl Market in Bryan, where students held a bake sale of homemade cookies.

FCCLA Honors Local Veterans

The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) proudly served approximately 40 veterans at a special breakfast held prior to the schools annual Veterans Day Program. Students welcomed our honored guests, prepared and served the meal, and expressed their gratitude for the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served our country. This event continues to be a meaningful tradition for both students and veterans, fostering community, respect, and connection across generations.

Project Noel



Ram Crews teamed up with the Tinora National Honor Society to collect paper products, hygiene items, and non-perishable food to benefit Project Noel. Local Tinora families benefit from Project Noel during the holiday season. Many, many thanks to all that contributed!

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High School Student Council

The members of the high school Student Council have been working hard to create fun events for students to enjoy. This fall, we planned a Powderpuff Football game! The girls represented their classes by playing flag football, while our current football players served as coaches. The senior class won the championship this year. Student Council also organized holiday festivities for both students and staff by creating fun dress-up days to help everyone show their holiday spirit. In addition, Student Council planned an exciting pep assembly on December 18th to celebrate the completion of exams and build excitement for the upcoming holiday break!



Seniors after winning Powderpuff Football.

RAM Discount Cards

RAM Discount Cards are now available for purchase!
Businesses on the card this year are: Biggby Coffee, Fired Stone Tavern, The Crick, Dairy Queen, Drop Zone Pizza, Padrones, Eric's Ice Cream, Higbea Embroidery, Jacob's Meats, South 66 Lanes, KC's Creations, Kircher's Flowers, Jacob's Sweets and Eats, Sugar On Top, Putt-Putt, Nocking Point Outfitters, Risner Auto Group, Dunhams, Cut and Polish, Last Man Standing, Meek's Pastry Shop, Simply From Scratch, and Rettig Music. The Tinora Middle School PTO and 6th graders sincerely thank these merchants for sponsoring our discount card! The profit earned on the cards sold goes toward helping to reduce the cost of the 8th grade trip to Washington DC. If you would like to purchase a card ($5.00) ask a 6th grade student or contact Chris Risner at Tinora Middle School. Thanks to all those who support our RAM Discount Cards!!!!

OMEA District 1 Honors Choir



Congratulations to the following students for being selected to the 2026 OMEA District 1 Honors Choir. They will perform at the OMEA D1 Honors Festival on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at the Stranahan Theatre in Toledo. THS participants are Henry Crone, JR Geiger, Brock McDowell, Colin Stein, and Addie Thomas. TMS participants are Jaedyn Byers, Caeden Heil, Mali Lillemon, Henry Parsons, Chloë Sheets, Connor Stein, and Jenna Wensink.

Archery

The Tinora Archery Club is looking forward to another great season. The club has a total of 76 archers from 5th - 12th grade. There are 9 - 5th graders, 46 - 6-8th graders and 21 High Schoolers. Archers will be attending 10 local tournaments on Saturdays throughout Northwest Ohio from January-March. On March 20 & 21 they will be hosting a tournament in the Tinora High School Gym that will bring in roughly 750 archers. Archers will travel to Columbus March 14 & 15 for the state archery tournament.
New this year is a Bitty Archery Club. This club is made up 4th & 5th graders and will practice 2 days a week during January and February. It is designed to teach students about the school archery program & the skills that they would need to participate in the Tinora Archery Club that is for grades 5th – 12th. The club has 17 participants this year.

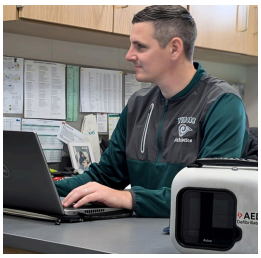
Athletic Boosters Scholarship

Scan QR code for the scholarship application.

We appreciate the continued support of the community, so we can help the student athletes at Tinora. Whether you are supporting the concession stand, donating items or buying tickets to our reverse raffle, your generosity does not go unnoticed. In 2025 we were able to help teams pay for camps, contributed to a room where teams can watch videos and bought equipment that will help our athletes. The Tinora High School Athletic Booster Scholarship Application is now available online at https://forms.gle/E5oDyk3DUne8xuqN7 and is due by March 13, 2026. Our annual reverse raffle is on April 25, 2026. Please see a coach or an athletic boosters board member if you would like to purchase a ticket.

AED Grant

Tinora is excited to announce that Athletic Director Jake Essig has successfully obtained a grant for a new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) through the Play Safe Fund, a collaborative initiative by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, Coaches' Tool Chest, the Cincinnati Bengals, and a private donor.



This fund assists Ohio schools in acquiring essential medical equipment based on need. Essig applied for the grant to enhance readiness for emergencies associated with student activities. "Securing additional AEDs ensures immediate, life-saving assistance is available, significantly mitigating potential injury," he stated. The American Heart Association emphasizes that using an AED with CPR can greatly increase survival rates during cardiac emergencies. The grant provides an Avive AED, including essential accessories valued at $1,749, highlighting the importance of this donation to the Tinora community.

Tinora Fine Arts Boosters

Our Fine Arts Boosters are an essential part of supporting Tinora's band, choir, art and drama programs and **we're always looking for parent volunteers** to help us. Parents of children **of all ages** are welcome to get involved, whether your child is currently involved in the fine arts or may join in the future. From assisting at events to supporting fundraisers, there are many ways to get involved. We would love to have some new faces and ideas at our meetings and events.

Upcoming Meetings:

6:00 p.m. in the band room - February 9 and April 13.
The March 9, meeting will be held during the Jewell Grain Banquet at approximately 6:30 p.m. at TES.
May - TBD

Upcoming Events

1/18/26 - OMEA Honor's Choir and Band at Stranahan Theatre
1/24/26 - HS Solo & Ensemble Contest
3/6/26-3/8/26 - HS Musical "Frozen"
3/9/26 - Jewell Grain Banquet, looking for set up and server help! (Monthly meeting)

Shoutout! Thanks to everyone who has volunteered at the concession stand, Feed the Bands, RibFest, and those who served on committees. You all make it possible to continue supporting our fine arts programs. **Check us out on Facebook and email: tinorafineartsboosters@gmail.com**

2025 HS Guidance Department Key Dates

IMPORTANT!

Jan. 9 ~ End of Tinora's 1st semester and 2nd quarter grading period.
Jan. 12 ~ NSCC Spring CCP classes begin.
Jan. 20 ~ Last day to request a schedule change in the high school.
Jan. 25 ~ Last day to drop a CCP class - 100% Refund.
Feb. 1 ~ Four County Career Center priority application deadline for 2025-2026 school year ends.
Feb. 23 ~ CCP Information Night at NSCC auditorium - 6:00 PM
Mar. 2 ~ CCP Midterm Grades reported
Mar. 8 ~ Last day for CCP students to drop a class with a "W".
Mar. 9-15 ~ CCP students Spring Break Week at NSCC.
Mar. 10 ~ State-funded ACT for juniors including FCCC juniors at THS gymnasium.
Mar. 13 ~ Deadline to submit THS Athletic Booster Scholarship application.
Mar. 16 ~ NSCC opens Summer and Fall registration for CCP students.
Mar. 20 ~ End of 3rd Quarter
Mar. 31 ~ Defiance Area Foundation Scholarship deadline
Mar. 23 ~ May 8 ~ End-of-Course (EOC) testing windows open. Specific dates TBD.
Apr. 1 ~ CCP Intent to Participate form and Agreement form is DUE!
Apr. 1 ~ Summer Term CCP Application Deadline
Apr. 15 ~ Fall Term CCP Application Deadline
May 1 ~ COLLEGE DECISION DAY - Wear your college apparel!
May 4-9 ~ CCP exam week at NSCC
May 9 ~ Last day of Spring semester for CCP students at NSCC
May 31 ~ Class of 2026 Graduation
June 2 ~ Last day for THS students

Tinora FFA

The FFA attended the National FFA Convention from October 29th to November 1st in Indianapolis, Indiana. We took along 7 students. Those who attended were: Cash McCann, Abigail Bacon, Lindsey Weber, Zoe Billings, Bailey Wiseman, Cale Johnson, and Jack Wiseman. The convention culminated with Jason Dewyse being awarded his American FFA Degree on Saturday Morning.

On October 9th, Tinora FFA participated in the District Dairy Cattle Judging and Milk Quality Products contest. Tinora placed first in Milk Quality Products, with Cash McCann placing 1st overall as an individual. Other team members included Zoe Billings, Lindsey Weber, Cale Johnson, and Mackenzie Maassel. The Dairy Cattle Judging Team consisted of Emma Gerencser and Colt Etchison.

Evaluation time is approaching, during which students will be applying for their State and American Degrees, Proficiency Awards, Science Fair participation, and officer books. Wish them luck in the upcoming award season.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the patrons who supported us with our fruit, nut, and meat sales. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Tinora High School Yearbook

The 2026 Tinora High School yearbook can be purchased at www.jostens.com/yearbooks. A special thank you to the following businesses for sponsoring the yearbook, which helps keep the cost of the book affordable for families.

Yearbook Ad Patrons

419 Beauty Bar, ANS Steel Buildings, Auto Servant, Batt and Stevens Body Shop, BPOE Elks 147, Buckeye Seamless Gutters, Culligan, Defiance Area Animal Hospital, Defiance Automotive Center, Defiance, Chiropractic Center, Defiance College, Defiance Dental Group, Defiance Moose Lodge, Defiance Physical Therapy, Easy Living, Fancy Petals, Gustwiller Electric Supply, Higbea Embroidery, Homier's Monumental
Hot Rice, Kissners, La Jaliscience Mexican Grocerie, Marco's Pizza, Maumee Valley Group, Morris Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing, Northwest State Community College, Ohio Construct Group, Packrats Pawn Shop, Rath Builders Supply, Raylecom Communications, RG Zachrich Construction, Sam Switzer Realty, Schaffer Funeral Home, Schreve Insurance, Seigman Siding and Window, South 66 Lanes, Stykemain GMC,
The Crescent News, The Jewell Grain Co., The Old Red Barn, Vernon Home Inspection, Wal-Mart, Wish Me Knot Skincare Studio and Wooden Indian Pawn Shop.

Tinora Middle School Spelling Bee



Tinora Middle School held its fourth annual spelling bee on December 18th in the Performing Arts Center. Eight participants from each grade level were selected to represent their class for a total of 32 participants in our school bee. Participants were excited to have a chance to compete in the county Spelling Bee at Ayersville on January 13th at 7 pm. Ava Kehnast, a fifth grader, had the winning word of "immigrants." Ava and the runner-up had a spell-off against each other, making for an exciting final round! They went back and forth several times in the final round, attempting to win. Colton Travis, an eighth grader, was the runner-up, and he will also compete at the county bee. Congratulations to our winners, and great job to all of our participants!

Rambunctious Radicals





Kindergarten Screening

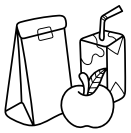
Tinora Elementary is now taking registrations for the 2026-2027 school year kindergarten classes. Students must be five years of age by September 1, 2026, to be eligible for kindergarten in the upcoming school year. Please note that this is a change from previous years due to the passage of House Bill 114 that states that students must be 5 years old by the first day of school. Students currently attending the Early Five program at Tinora are already registered for regular kindergarten next year.

Screening dates for kindergarten are Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24, 2026. Morning and afternoon sessions are available on Thursday and Friday. The screening will last approximately 90 minutes. The screening will consist of tests for vision, hearing, speech, vocabulary, motor skills, and pre-academic skills. Children are encouraged to wear tennis shoes so that they can comfortably complete the motor skills portion of the screening. Students will be escorted to all the stations by school-provided volunteers. While the children are being screened, parents will be expected to complete all school paperwork for their child. When parents arrive at Tinora Elementary, please park in front of the school and enter the front doors. If possible, we encourage parents to not bring younger siblings to their child's screening. Please bring the child's birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, and custody papers (if applicable). Proof of residency can be a current utility bill, bank statement, or lease agreement. A driver's license is not proof of residency. Also, if there are child care arrangements, please bring that information so busing can be arranged. To register their child, parents please go to northeasterndefiance-oh.finalforms.com or use the QR code.
Choose the 2026-2027 school year. Complete the online forms and submit.
Parents will be contacted to set up a screening date and time.

THS Marching Band Guard & Twirling

Do you like to dance? Do you want to perform? Do you have twirling experience?
Are you responsible and want to be more involved at school? Do you have a good sense of time?
Do you have good grades? Joining the Tinora High School Marching Band Auxiliary is for you!
Tryouts for High School Twirler and Color Guard will be held in the Spring! Please note, color guard does not require experience but baton twirling experience is highly recommended. If interested and have questions about becoming a High School Twirler please contact Coach Dori Robertson at **drobertson@tinora.org**, or see Mr. Middleton, Tinora High School Band Director in the band room.
If interested in color guard please contact Coach Megan Wiles at **mwiles@tinora.org**

School Breakfast and Lunch



Northeastern Local School serves breakfast and lunch to students. The cost of breakfast is $2.00 and lunch $3.25. Breakfast is served Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:20 a.m.

Calling All Book Lovers!



The Tinora HS Book Club will be collecting books for a district-wide fundraiser/book sale taking place later this Spring. Please consider donating your gently used books. All levels and genres will be welcome! Books can be donated to the high school office.

5th Graders Explored Space

Tinora Middle School 5th graders explored space in November through a live virtual visit with Dr. Evan Bray, an optical engineer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. He described how optical components like mirrors and lenses are designed and tested to help scientists study distant galaxies. Students received a behind-the-scenes look at the Roman Space Telescope, viewing NASA vacuum chambers, the giant centrifuge that simulates launch forces, and the clean room where real telescope parts are being assembled. After the tour, Tinora students asked thoughtful questions about supernovas, comets, and the challenges NASA engineers face, leaving them inspired by real NASA science and futures in STEM.



Tinora Elementary PBIS

TES implements an elementary school wide behavior program to encourage amazing “Ram Rockstar” behaviors. Students early 5s through 4th grade are able to earn Ram Tickets by showing positive behaviors around school. They place their earned tickets in a box designated for their assigned house (Tiffin, Noble, Richland, and Adams). At the end of each quarter they have an assembly where their houses compete in different activities and can earn points for their house. Also, all of the Ram Tickets they earned that quarter help give points to their team to help them win! After the tickets are totaled, they go in one big bin and around 20 students’ tickets get pulled to win prizes. The students and staff at TES would like to thank the phenomenal businesses who donated prizes this year for the elementary students to win: Putt-Putt Fun Center Defiance, Imagination Station, Detroit Historical Society, National Museum of Great Lakes, Auburn Automobile Museum, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Fort Wayne Komets Hockey, University of Toledo Football, Crazy Pinz (Fort Wayne), Black Beard’s Bay Waterpark, Georgetown Entertainment (Fort Wayne), Meek’s Donuts, and Eric’s Ice Cream. North Star Bluescope Steel also gave an extremely generous donation to our PBIS committee to use towards purchasing other prizes to use for student rewards including Lego sets, craft supplies, games, and much more! We would like to give a shoutout to Biggby for donating prizes for our staff members to receive when earning TES Staff Member of the month!

What’s coming to the Tinora Performing Arts Center?





Fall Play – “Kodachrome”

"The Tinora Drama Department’s fall production of Kodachrome was a truly meaningful and memorable experience. This cast worked incredibly hard to understand the emotional nuance of the script, and their thoughtful performances showed just how capable and talented our students are. Each performer brought depth to their character, creating a touching mosaic of small-town stories that resonated deeply with audiences.

I’m also extremely grateful for the tremendous support we received from our school and community. From volunteers and staff who helped behind the scenes to the families and audience members who filled the PAC with encouragement each night, your support made all the difference.

Thank you for helping make Kodachrome such a rewarding production for our students. It was a privilege to watch them grow as artists, and I’m so proud of what they created together!

-Sydney Fogt







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