

NILES NEWS

www.nilesschools.org

October 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

At Niles Community Schools, we're continuing to keep the back to school enthusiasm alive, with many exciting happenings to look forward to this year. I want to thank our hardworking staff for a successful start to the school year in all of our buildings, and the students for their continuing desire to learn.

The district has a strong commitment to health and wellness as we work to promote getting students to eat healthy and be active. We are dedicated to educating children emotionally, mentally, physically and

socially. As a result, our very own Ring Lardner Middle School was selected as one of three schools in the state of Michigan to receive a \$100,000 Don't Quit Fitness Center from the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils. We have been looking forward to the completion and opening of the fitness center since the initial announcement last spring.

The district was eager to welcome Viking alumni back at homecoming on Friday, Sept. 20 for a football game against Mattawan High School. Our alumni are an inspiration to us all, and we are always happy

to see them. Homecoming festivities included float building, dress-up days and a parade featuring our fall sports teams, as well as our award-winning marching band.

We also introduced the new 1:1 computing initiative this year. Students in grades six and nine will all be assigned a new Chromebook device. The ultimate goal over the next four years is to become 1:1 in grades five through 12. Teachers took advantage of professional development offered this summer that focused on teaching with technology, to prepare for this year's rollout.

As the leaves begin to change, the district remains devoted to meeting the current needs of our students. The programming we offer allows our students to enhance their education and take it to the next level. We look forward and are dedicated to continuing to bring innovative and creative learning opportunities to our students.

*Dr. Daniel Applegate
Superintendent*

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TEAM BUILDING AT EASTSIDE

As Eastside Connections School begins another exciting school year, the teachers have made it a point to launch their school year through team building activities, which aim to motivate and encourage their learners through fun team challenges.

As a Problem and Project Based Learning (PBL, PrBL) school, the team building challenges serve as a wonderful lead into the plethora of PrBL and PBL activities that will take place throughout the year. Eastside Connections Student Affairs Specialist, Keera Morton-Hayes adds that she often sees the team building challenges help students to break down social barriers and build new relationships, while developing life skills such as confidence, communication, democracy and public speaking.

As students work together to solve challenging team building activities, Mr. Todd, 4th and 5th grade ECS science teacher, believes that the team challenges play a vital role as the learners transfer their growth and experiences into classroom projects. Mr. Todd went on to state that “team building challenges our students to problem solve and learn how to work together. We work hard to encourage our learners to think outside the box, explore their creative side and think critically.”

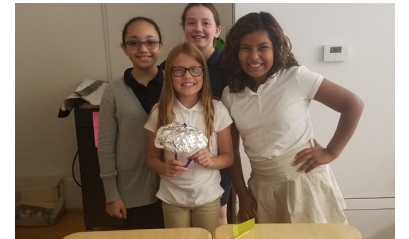
The dedicated ECS teaching staff is passionate about encouraging learners to discover the relationships between their experiences and ideas. Heather Loos, 3rd grade teacher, claims that her “students learn to organize their thoughts during brainstorm sessions and define ideas, compare viewpoints, find

similarities, gauge differences and understand why the best answer is correct and that perhaps there is more than one accurate answer.”



Eastside Connections strongly holds to the notion that true learning happens when learners are able to discover new wondrous solutions to the vast array of problems surrounding us. As a school, ECS is working hard to continuously develop year round projects that will strengthen the students' ability to critically think and problem solve.

The 2019-2020 school year is slated to be full of team challenges and projects to develop learners' 21st century skills. From building and flying airplanes and drones to crafting models of ocean and lakeside bluffs, the school year is bound to be a blast and students are already off and exploring!



HOWARD ELLIS SPOTLIGHT



Above: Howard-Ellis students are looking forward to earning "Bus of the Month" by demonstrating appropriate bus behavior. The Bus of the Month will proudly display this magnet.



Above: Students in Mrs. Grishaber's 4th grade class will begin their days with "soft start" manipulatives provided by a grant from the Niles Education Foundation. These materials put students' minds at ease when they enter the classroom and prepare them for a day of learning.

Students at Howard-Ellis show that they are both respectful and responsible by cleaning up after themselves in the cafeteria.



Above: Howard-Ellis is pleased to welcome new staff members: Katie Gould (Bowling Green State University), Mary Kane (Western Michigan University), Ashlee Reed (Bethel College), Casey Kopriva (Western Michigan University) and Deserai Kent (Grand Valley State University). The Howard-Ellis team looks forward to learning and growing along with our new staff members.

BALLARD WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Ballard is very excited to welcome its new staff this school year! We are excited to introduce each of these hardworking individuals below.



Anika Bachman
Noon Supervisor

Anika graduated from Buchanan High School with Honors in 2015. Throughout high school she attended Professional Health Careers Academy and an early college program in conjunction with Lake Michigan College.

Her experience includes working at a veterinary hospital, as well as working at an equine training facility helping train children in basic horsemanship. She also was a childcare provider at Redbud Fitness, along with providing private childcare.

Anika lives in Buchanan with her husband of one year, Alex, and three dogs, Willow, Aspen, and Timber.



Adrian Harvey
Special Education Resource IA

Adrian graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science in Counseling Psychology. He has 7 years experience working as a

Substance Abuse Counselor and has recent experience working at Benton Harbor Charter Schools as a permanent substitute.

He is married with two school-age children and an adoring cat, Maggie.



Michelle Krieger
4th Grade Teacher

Michelle is a recent graduate of Western Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Professional Education with a minor in Language Arts. Mrs. Krieger has an Early Childhood PK-General and Special Education Endorsement, and a Language Arts Elementary Endorsement. In addition, she is working on her ESL endorsement. After graduating last December, she taught 3rd grade International Academy at Hull in Benton Harbor.

Michelle is married with three sons: Cadden, Thom, and Dylan. Before becoming a teacher, Mrs. Krieger worked as a church administrator and youth minister. Michelle also owns a landscaping business and has a vineyard in which she grows grapes for Welch.



Denall Miller
Special Education K-1 Resource Teacher

Prior to coming to Ballard Elementary, Denall has been and is currently employed part-time with the Niles Virtual program as a teacher for K-8 virtual music courses. Denall started her career as an elementary music and physical education teacher.

For many years, she had the privilege of staying home with her children and then started to guest teach in area districts where she found a passion for working with students with special needs.

She is a long time member of the flute section of the St. Joseph Municipal Band and is on staff at Citadel Dance and Music Center in Benton Harbor as a flute instructor.



Miguel Perez
4th Grade Teacher

Miguel Perez began his career in education as Head of Security in 2012 at Audubon Elementary in Chicago. A passion for working with children led to working as a paraprofessional at elementary schools in Chicago and then Niles. Later, he enrolled at Concordia University-St. Paul, substituted in the Niles area, and was an At-Risk Specialist at Brandywine. Miguel received a Master of Arts in Teaching in May 2019.

Mr. Perez also holds a bachelor's degree in film, media, and video studies from Western Michigan University (2009) and enjoys playing music, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family.



Danielle Pompey
Special Education Resource IA

Danielle began her journey as a substitute this past winter. Danielle holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (2018) from Ferris State University. She is also proud to hold an associate degree for visual and performing arts (2015) from Southwest Michigan College.

Danielle is a member of Ghostlight Theatre in Benton Harbor, along with a few other community theatres. In her free time she's either in a play, musical, or doing improv and stand up. She also enjoys photography and all things Michigan State (GO GREEN!).



Anna Smith
Part-Time Secretary

Anna is a graduate of Niles schools. She has a lot of experience working with children of all ages. In her spare time, she loves to spend time with her son. She loves to hunt and fish. She looks forward to working with all of the kids at Ballard and Ring Lardner!

NEWS FROM NORTHSIDE

The beginning of school is an exciting time at Northside Child Development Center. For many of our friends, this is their first time at school and they are learning and having lots of fun. The Kinder-Connection students are learning letter names and sounds. The pre-school students started school on September 16th and are having a great time at Northside. Our special education students have started amazing art projects and are playing together in the new classrooms. Northside construction has been completed and we are looking forward to the dedication ceremony coming up in October.



Northside School held their annual Hat Parade. The students created hats in each classroom and we held an apple parade at school on Thursday, September 19th. The students walked through the halls and played instruments as they showed off their Apple Festival hats.



Northside participates in the Apple Festival Youth Parade every year. We begin by hosting an Apple Festival T-shirt Painting night for families. Mrs. Donna Dodge leads this wonderful event each year by designing the t-shirts and creating the materials. This year the theme is Apple Festival Celebrates Michigan and our families created t-shirts with stamps of the state of Michigan, apples, turtles, apple blossoms, and more. These shirts were worn at the parade on Saturday, September 21st.



CHANGES IN BUILDING AND STAFF AT SOUTHSIDE

The 2019-2020 school year at Southside started off with a bang at the newly renovated school! Air conditioning, new flooring, and furniture are among the new additions to the building that students and staff are enjoying.

Students were greeted on the first day of school by Southside staff which included three new members; Ms. Elise Sorensen- Principal, Mr. Adam Roark- High School EI teacher, and Mr. Jerry Scott- Pre-Voc teacher. Staci Balos, Pre-Voc teacher, and Barb Daniels,

secretary, joined Southside after school began.

Pre-Voc students have been busy bees in Mr. Scott's classroom. In his home maintenance class, students are currently learning the basics of car detailing. Staff at Southside are volunteering their cars so students get the opportunity to display their newly acquired skills. Multiple steps of car washing, such as pre-washing, were covered last week. Waxing and interior detailing will be taught next week. Ms. Sorensen and Mrs.

Troup are the next lucky winners of car washing and inside detailing! In cooking class, students made blueberry pancakes and apple cinnamon muffins. They worked on math skills to equally divide the muffins amongst students.



Zack and Chris package apple cinnamon muffins in Mr. Scott's class

Chatten enjoys his new desk in Mrs. Forester's room

NILES NEW TECH SPOTLIGHT

When facilitators design a project, they hope the experience will be a unique and memorable learning experience. As any New Tech facilitator will attest to, these projects only come about when an immense amount of planning, work, and communication happens. Part of this planning requires connecting to an outside partner to make the learning experience come to life. So what actually goes into creating a good project at Niles New Tech? How are the standards connected to the projects? How do the facilitators in a project-based learning model develop these masterful learning experiences, especially in a small town like Niles?

Truth be told, facilitators spend many hours in project design. Being part of a larger network enables the facilitators to access resources that ensure projects are designed to meet very

specific criteria and support the appropriate levels of rigor that need to be present in every project. Initial planning all starts with the facilitators considering the learning that needs to take place. They also consider and create the assessments that will ensure each learner achieves mastery of content. The essential academic concepts are scaffolded within these projects and the projects are then vetted through the use of network provided rubrics and planning guides. After a concept makes it to this stage of development, it is time for the facilitators to search for a partner in the community to assist with creating authenticity for the project.

Many of the partners for Niles New Tech are local businesses within our city. One of the goals for the facilitators, beyond teaching the essential content,

is to provide opportunities for their learners to experience the nuances of business and understand various issues that face our local community.

To assist with this, learners are required to present to the partners, sometimes with a solution to a problem. This is what makes the learning real and relevant. They learn the needed concepts and apply the concepts by developing unique solutions or business plans. The project-based model provides learners the platform to express their learning; it requires them to make their thinking visible. This type of learning model encourages a balance of content and application. Learners at Niles New Tech, like all students on the Niles High School campus, engage in reading, research, and assessments, but in the end, working in groups with their

peers and formally presenting the derived solution is the true indicator of a well designed project.

Niles New Tech is fortunate to have facilitators who work tirelessly to create meaningful projects for their learners. Along with the facilitators, we are fortunate to have a great supporting cast of parents and business partners who are all willing to help us bring the curriculum to life for our learners. We are excited to continue working together, as a community, to provide impactful learning experiences that will shape and prepare our learners for a lifetime of success. Thank you to all those who have been partners with Niles New Tech in the past. We look forward to working with more of you in the future.

NILES ADULT EDUCATION STARTS THE NEW YEAR AT THE NILES DISTRICT LIBRARY

On the first day of classes, new and returning students were lined up at the Niles Adult Education door in the lower level of the Niles District Library. Over 25 students were in attendance that day, an impressive start to the new school year. Our new location is proving to be more accessible and attractive to adults seeking to complete their high school diploma or GED and improve their job opportunities. With new individualized learning strategies, we strive to help participants “fast track” their completion as quickly as possible. Other supports are available at the Library such as free library cards, access to Tutor.com for extra help with classes, access to a Michigan Works! Talent Development Specialist and other career resources, and access to social workers with connections to important personal and family support resources.

Enrollment is open throughout the school year, Monday through Thursday, 3 p.m.-7 p.m..

For more information, please contact:
 Niles Adult Education
 620 E. Main Street
 Niles, MI 49120
 (269) 684-4480
 email: NilesAdultEducation@nilesschools.org



NILES HIGH SCHOOL: MEET THE STAFF



Jonathan Smith

Tell us about your educational background. (college, years of experience, major/minors, degrees, etc.)

I grew up in Niles and attended Niles Community Schools as a youngster. After high school, I took a little longer to find academic focus and to choose a career. I attended Roanoke College in Salem, Va. from 2010 to 2014 and graduated with a degree in sports management. I began substitute teaching while working at the University of Notre Dame after moving back into the area in order to make a little more money. I really enjoyed my experiences in the classroom and here I am.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is definitely the relationships that are cultivated and developed throughout the school year. I find it very rewarding to be an influential part of young people's lives when they are in such an impactful stage in their development as individuals. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious!

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? Why?

My favorite teacher growing up was my 4th grade elementary teacher, Mr. Frost. He encouraged me to try new things and to explore new passions. He was and continues to be one of the most enthusiastic and positive people I know and that has had a big impact on me.

If students take away one thing from your class, what would you like it to be?

My classes aren't just about math and the content that they will learn throughout the year. I want to leave them with a better understanding and respect for the people around them as well as themselves. The world is larger than one person, one classroom or one subject.

My students would be surprised to know that I...

hated high school and was a terrible example for other students while I was here. It took me a long time to figure out a lot of the things that other people know about what they want for themselves early on.

What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies, activities, etc.)

I love new experiences and anything that gets me outside. I try to be as active as possible. I enjoy biking, hiking, and hanging out with my close friends and family. Hunting is one of my biggest passions and I am in the woods as much as possible throughout the fall and winter. I'm excited to try some bird hunting this season with my new German Wirehaired Pointer puppy, Rooster!



Mr. Steven Young

Tell us about your educational background. (college, years of experience, major/minors, degrees, etc.)

I have Bachelor of Arts in Special Education (LD) from Michigan State University, with minors in sociology and history. I also have a master's degree from Grand Valley State University in secondary administration. This is my 16th year of teaching. I started out at Lakeshore and have been at

Buchanan High School for the last 12 years.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

I love working with students and helping push them to reach their potential. Some days are better than others but when my past students contact me years later, saying how much a difference I've made in their lives, it gives me that drive to get me through the tough days.

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? Why?

My favorite teacher was Mrs. Lange my 7th and 8th grade math teacher. The biggest thing that I learned from Mrs. Lange is it's ok to have fun and let the students have fun and be themselves. In her class we had fun but we always worked when she said it was time to get going. We wanted to work for Mrs. Lange and she made math fun and I enjoyed coming to class every day.

If students take away one thing from your class, what would you like it to be?

Above all else I want them to be productive and hardworking members of society who love life and live all aspects of their lives with integrity. If they can learn that they will have a great life.

My students would be surprised to know that I...

I danced a couple of times with the MSU Motion Dance team as a member of Michigan State University's Izzone during the TV timeouts in college. I have no rhythm so I'm sure it was very comical for anyone watching.

What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies, activities, etc.)

I love going to Michigan State games with my family and going fall camping. Fall hoodie weather is my favorite time of year and I love sitting by a campfire, laughing, and telling stories with my family. I also love coaching basketball and have been coaching 15 years at the freshman and JV levels.



Ms. Makenna Reeves

Tell us about your educational background. (college, years of experience, major/minors, degrees, etc.)

I attended Principia College and earned a Bachelor of Science double major in Mathematics and Physics. I was accepted into a Ph.D. program at the University of Washington to study Geophysics and earned my Master of Science in Geophysics (focus on Space Plasma Physics). I attended Northern New Mexico College and earned my secondary teaching certificate in Science and Mathematics.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

I love watching students solve problems by applying what they learned in class.

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? Why?

My favorite teacher growing up was Mr. Kubicki in World History. He brought history alive by teaching us how to make connections between the past and the present. He also taught us to look deeper into the causes and effects that linked historical events.

If students take away one thing from your class, what would you like it to be?

I hope students leave my class with the ability to ask questions and the patience to search for answers.

My students would be surprised to know that I...

used to work in a lab where I researched water on other planets.

What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies, activities, etc.)

I love to garden, ballroom dance, practice yoga, and go to the beach.



Mr. Paul Depoy

Tell us about your educational background. (college, years of experience, major/minors, degrees, etc.)

I attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Ind. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sports and Exercise Science.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part of teaching is developing positive relationships with young adults.

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? Why?

It would be extremely hard for me to choose a favorite teacher growing up because I have so many wonderful teachers during my time as a student in Niles Community Schools. I would have to choose Dr. Ball from DePauw. Dr. Ball had a great sense of humor and loved to have conversations with us, wherever we saw him. Along with that, he was the hardest grader I have ever had! He taught me that you can have a great time with students and laugh with them, but still get what you need to done.

If students take away one thing from your class, what would you like it to be?

I care about them as a person and I hope they are successful in whatever they choose to do.

My students would be surprised to know that I...

am a huge Elvis Presley fan.

What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies, activities, etc.)

Students and athletes that have had me before probably think that I only coach football and go golfing, but I do have other hobbies. I enjoy working out, cooking, and visiting my college friends in Chicago.



Miss Jaime Swanson

Tell us about your educational background. (college, years of experience, major/minors, degrees, etc.)

I went to Hope College for four years in Holland, Mich. I have a math secondary education major, and a history education minor. I student taught at West Ottawa High School in Holland and was a teacher's assistant in many schools around Holland during my college years. This is my first year of teaching!

What is your favorite part about teaching?

My favorite part about teaching is getting to build relationships with my students. I have been so lucky to have amazing classes this year!

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? Why?

My favorite teacher growing up was my senior AP Calc teacher. He really cared about us as individuals, and pushed us to grow mathematically in every class. He is the reason why I became a math teacher!

If students take away one thing from your class, what would you like it to be?

I would love for my students to feel that they have increased their growth mindset and learning skills, and can use the math we learned in whatever field they choose in the future!

My students would be surprised to know that I...

I can juggle! Come find me and I'll show you!

What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies, activities, etc.)

I love to be with people, and spend quality time with my friends, fiancé, and family! Music is a huge part of my life, so you can always catch me listening to music. I also love to cook and watch shows on Hulu and Netflix!



Mr. Nick Cramer

Tell us about your educational background. (college, years of experience, major/minors, degrees, etc.)

I received my Bachelor of Arts in Music Education in 2019 from Western Michigan University,

What is your favorite part about teaching?

I love seeing the growth in my students and how excited they can be about band!

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? Why?

My favorite teacher was my band director, Mr. Bucec. His love for band was contagious and a large part of why I chose to do this as a living.

If students take away one thing from your class, what would you like it to be?

I want them to learn hard work and dedication. Band can be frustrating, but it is very rewarding. Whether or not my students continue in music after school, it is important to develop a good work ethic.

My students would be surprised to know that I..

did not like band in middle school. It took me a few years to really start to love it.

What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies, activities, etc.)

I am a huge Cleveland sports

fan, and enjoy playing video games with my friends who live far away. It's a great way to stay connected.



Mrs. Connie Wicklund

Tell us about your educational background. (college, years of experience, major/minors, degrees, etc.)

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Music: Instrumental Music Education from Western Michigan University and a Master of Arts in Music: Wind Conducting from The American Band College of Sam Houston State University. I am in my 11th year of teaching

What is your favorite part about teaching?

I enjoy sharing the love of music and getting to know my students and their interests.

Who was your favorite teacher growing up? Why?

My favorite teacher was my band director, Mr. Fox! He always pushed me to do my best, made class fun, and was an active part of my life both in and out of school as years passed.

If students take away one thing from your class, what would you like it to be?

I always want them to do their best and that I care about them.

My students would be surprised to know that I...

have been skydiving!

What do you like to do in your spare time? (hobbies, activities, etc.)

I enjoy cross stitching, reading, running, watching new shows on Netflix, and spending time with my husband and two kids.

DEVELOPING A FOUNDATION FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR: RING LARDNER

Ring Lardner Middle School is gearing up for another year of great success! Each fall we begin a new endeavor to best meet the educational needs of our students so that they are prepared for an ever-changing world. Over the years, there have been many changes in the way we educate students. Instructional methods and the ways students demonstrate mastery of content are very different today compared to years ago. Still, one element remains unchanged year in and year out at Ring Lardner Middle School; the practice of culture building and promotion of positive relationships. The practice of dedicating time during the first few weeks of school to purposefully build culture and promote positive relationships between students and staff has proven to effectively help us meet the unique social, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

Middle school can seem like a large and intimidating place for students transitioning from our elementary buildings. Team building activities go a long way towards helping students feel they belong. Our staff's commitment to fostering positive relationships among the teams allows this process to work. We all take our responsibility in developing the trusting relationships needed to help students navigate the difficult waters that middle school sometimes involves very seriously.

In addition to culture and relationship building, Ring Lardner is continuing to strengthen their PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support) system building wide. PBIS is a proactive, multi-tiered problem-solving model designed to prevent inappropriate behavior through teaching and reinforcing appropriate behaviors. Students have been able to witness appropriate behavior through staff created videos that students viewed in the beginning of the year, and are referred to throughout the year. PBIS also addresses the role of the environment in the development and improvement of behavior problems. Our PBIS model has been developed around Niles Community School's 3Rs: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Resilient. Please ask your students what they have done to exhibit these traits each day.

Lastly, in order to meet each students' unique academic needs, Ring Lardner will be implementing a 40 minute WIN (What I Need) block daily. During this block, students will receive academic support and/or enrichment in either language arts or mathematics. Through Delta Math assessments and Benchmark assessments in literacy, students will be grouped to focus on very student specific needs. In doing so, we hope to fill some learning gaps that students may have so that they are in the best position possible when they begin high school.

We are very excited about the traditions and new initiatives that are taking place at Ring Lardner this school year. Our goal is to make this the best year, socially, emotionally, and academically, for all of our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING AT "THE LANE"

It's our second year in the beautifully updated Niles Community Schools Administration and Education Center, formerly Oak Manor. We couldn't be happier with how well the building helps us serve the needs of our students. This year we are excited to share the building with central office administration and the W.A.Y. program.

At our September 10th Open House, students introduced their parents and guardians to their teachers to kick off a successful new school year. Here are some of the things parents and guardians have heard at home since school started:

- "I like this school."
- "It's the best school!"
- "I'm happy to be back in school."
- "My teachers are so nice."
- "The teachers are great."
- "He's coming home in a prouder mood. It's an awesome change."

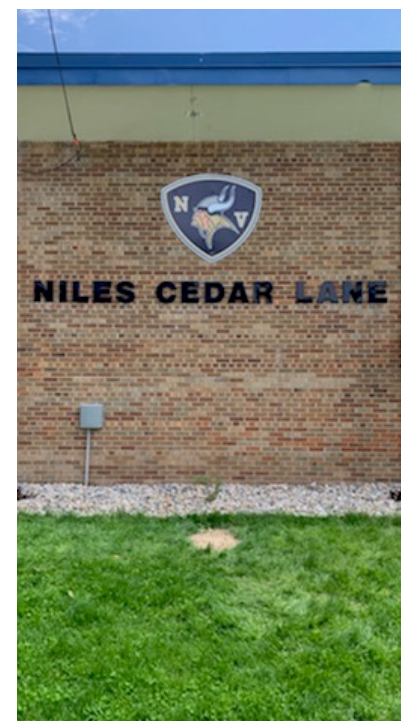
At our opening Town Hall meeting with students on our first day we were excited to announce how productive many of our returning students had been over the summer in our online Summer Credit Recovery program. Twenty students earned credit toward graduation requirements: 16 students completed core curriculum courses and another four earned credit for partial completion of courses.

This year we are implementing the WhyTry curriculum in our Connections classes. Niles Cedar Lane was awarded a Niles Education Foundation Grant for curriculum materials and training for a teacher and behavior specialist who, in turn, have trained our other teachers.

The WhyTry Program is a resilience education curriculum that provides simple, hands-on solutions

for dropout prevention, violence prevention, truancy reduction, and increased academic success. The idea is straightforward: teach social and emotional principles to youth in a way they can understand and remember. WhyTry is based on sound empirical principles, including solution-focused brief therapy, social and emotional intelligence, and multisensory learning. The WhyTry curriculum utilizes a series of ten visual analogies that teach important life skills (e.g., decisions have consequences, dealing with peer pressure, obeying laws and rules, plugging in to support systems). The first lesson dealt with the roller coaster of life, how each decision we make has consequences, and how we can continue to start over on a path that supports our goals. The next lesson will have students examine how

they can change their negative labels and show others their strengths and positive traits.



NILES VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Welcome back! We have prepared some awesome new virtual elective courses which can be found on our webpage or in the Niles Community Schools District Catalog. These electives are offered and available to ALL students registered in the Niles Community Schools district. If you are interested in participating in one or more of the Niles Virtual School offerings, feel free to reach out to Gail Bliss at gail.bliss@nilesschools.org for more information or give her a call at (269) 262-4505.

NILES EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Legendary Evening was a huge success thanks to the generosity of the Niles community. This year the foundation honored Jane Brandstatter as our Exemplary Viking. Jane gave a very moving acceptance speech about her love of Niles Community Schools and what it meant to be a Viking. Nancy Studebaker-Barringer was awarded the "Above and Beyond" award for her collaboration with Niles Community Schools and the Adult Education program.

Sarah Gerrits, our Legendary Evening Chairperson, did an amazing job orchestrating the evening! Special thanks to Melanie and Don Kennedy for providing The Grand LV as the perfect setting for the evening. Thank you to Daysha Amster for coordinating the delicious "Taste of Niles" Buffet. She and her crew, Becky Bloss, Lacey Peters and Tiffany Rusher set up the buffet and kept the food replenished. "Taste of Niles" participants were: Becky Bloss, Brew Ha Ha Café, Iron Shoe

Distillery, Jimmy John's, Jim's Smokin' Café, Martin's School of Cooking, Niles Community Schools Chartwell, Pizza Transit, Prime Table Restaurant, Smokin' D BBQ, The Brass Eye, Veni's, and Wings, Etc.

I would also like to thank Adam Roark (DJ), Charles Nelson from On Base Productions, Samantha Beck, (bartender), Flowers by Anna, and Iron Shoe Distillery (specialty cocktails). The following businesses and individuals donated items for our silent auction: Black Friday, BLV Stained Glass, Brandy Gessinger, Peggy Maiers, Dave Majerek, Sue Majerek, Marcy Metzger, Michiana Heating and Air Conditioning, Niles FFA, Orchard Hill Country Club, Pizza Transit, Charles Pullen, Rana's, RX Optical, Scott and Darla Schneider, Silver Beach Pizza, Skincare by Deb Hoese, Scott and Nancy Tyler, The Flower Cart, Jeff Upton, Wings, Etc, and Jim and Fran Weaver.

Our donors and sponsors complete the fundraising part of Legendary Evening.

For a complete list please visit our website at www.nileseducationfoundation.org. Over the past ten years, the foundation has contributed over \$200,000 in grants and projects. We appreciate the support of our community to fulfill our mission in making learning exciting! If you would like to help spread the word, please like us on Facebook. If you order on Amazon, please click on Amazon Smile and find the drop down for Niles Education Foundation. Our foundation will receive funds for every order placed through Amazon Smile.

Once again, I am proud to be part of a community that is willing to contribute to the success of our children.

*Peggy Maiers
Niles Education Foundation
President*



Jane Brandstatter

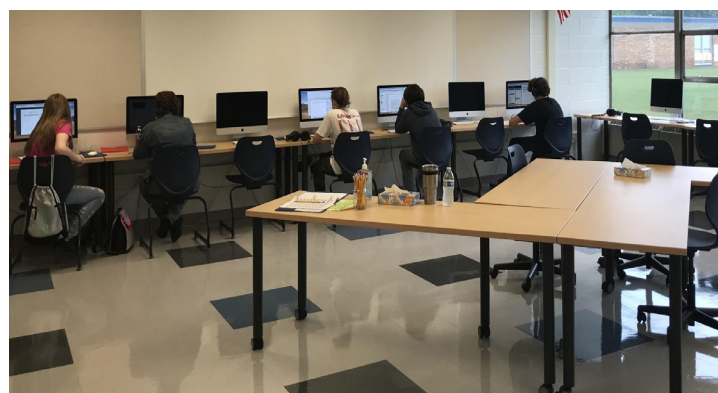


Nancy Studebaker-Barringer and Peggy Maiers

WAY NILES BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!

WAY Niles is excited to announce the opening of our brand new location. We are now located at 1 Tyler Street in Niles. Our labs and offices have been remodeled and are brand new. We believe that our learning environment should be engaging and encouraging to all of our students. Students have taken pride in their new environment and appreciate their new location.

Our curriculum has three components. We are project-based with a blend of online and in person courses. Our labs are equipped with all that is needed to be successful in our program. We are enrolling until October 2nd for this school year. We have a few openings and we would love to service your student. Call us for more information at 269-684-1532.





NILES COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND

THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF
RING LARDNER MIDDLE
SCHOOL'S FITNESS CENTER

Friday, Oct. 4 at 9 a.m.

AND THE RE-DEDICATION CEREMONIES OF
SOUTHSIDE SCHOOL

Thursday, Oct. 10 at 1 p.m.

AND

NORTHSIDE CHILD
DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Thursday, Oct. 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Notice of Non- Discrimination

Niles Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or handicap in the admission to, access to, participation in, benefits of, or employment in its programs or activities as provided by district policy and in compliance with federal and state law.

For more information, please contact:
Dr. Dan Applegate, Superintendent
Niles Community Schools
1 Tyler Street
Niles, MI 49120

Notice of Non- Discrimination in Vocational and Applied Technology Education

In compliance with the non-discrimination regulations of the Vocational Education Division of the Michigan Department of Education, notice is hereby given that Niles Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, marital status, or handicap in offering vocational education and applied technology opportunities to students of the school district.

For more information, please contact:
Mrs. Ann Bingham, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Niles Community Schools
1 Tyler Street
Niles, MI 49120