

# North West Hendricks School Corporation

NWHSC is committed to preparing students to be their



## TRIAD

September 2022

### District Newsletter

#### NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Parents and Guardians,

We are so excited to have everyone back for the 2022-2023 school year. The start of the school year has been terrific and it feels like time is already flying. Over the 2021-2022 school year, we launched many new initiatives and got to work on our 3 year strategic plan. Although this list is definitely not all inclusive, here are a few highlights of our successes:



- ◆ Launched a new website and phone app for NWHSC
- ◆ Acquired bond money to make several upgrades throughout the district to buildings and equipment - and still lowered the tax rate
- ◆ Finalized our 3 year strategic plan that is driving our work each day in the 3 pillars of the plan (Teaching and Learning, Community Perception and Branding, School Safety and Facilities)
- ◆ Significantly increased teacher pay and some key classified staff salaries
- ◆ Implemented iReady in grades K-8 to support achievement, prepare for ILearn, and meet kids where they are academically

- ◆ Announced a Teacher of the Year (Mr. Pemberton) and a Classified Employee of the Year (Mrs. Sparks)
- ◆ Provided extensive Professional Development at all levels on differentiating instruction
- ◆ Added 2 instructional coaches to support teachers at all levels
- ◆ Administered more AP exams and had more students pass AP tests than any time in history of TWHS
- ◆ Showed tremendous academic growth in our elementaries and middle school. Presentation to the board can be found online in the June board meeting information
- ◆ Received numerous extracurricular awards and tournament titles
- ◆ Completed construction in 2 schools and making great progress at NSES and TWHS
- ◆ Opened the new transportation center, maintenance building, and central office space

As many of you may already know, NWHSC will be bringing our Special Education services in house beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. While this was not part of our strategic plan, we feel this is absolutely the best decision for our students. This process will undoubtedly bring some new opportunities and support for our resource students. Over the summer, we selected Dr. Kelly Grillo to lead our process of moving away from the Joint Services co-op and lead our Special Education department moving forward. This transition will take all year and we will continue to lean on the Joint Services team for this school year. Learn more about Dr. Grillo and opportunities to hear more about the transition on page 3 of the newsletter!

As we move into the new school year, we will also continue to focus on our strategic plan pillars and focus on our Mission of **Preparing Students to be their BEST!** NWHSC continues to be a top performing school district and the future is bright! I look forward to working with our parents, students, and community as we unfold another outstanding school year! As always, THANK YOU for your support of our students and schools!

Dr. Syverson  
Superintendent



### CONTACT INFORMATION

317-994-4100

Superintendent—  
*Dr. Scott Syverson*

Assistant Superintendent—  
*Mr. David Hobaugh*

Curriculum Director—  
*Mrs. Shari Switzer*

Special Education Director—  
*Dr. Kelly Grillo*

### Meet with the Superintendent

Want to hear district information and updates from the Superintendent? Please look for dates and times for 'Coffee and Donuts with the Superintendent' in the near future. Dates will be communicated to parents on social media and weekly parent messages from the schools.

### TRIAD INSIDE

- 2—NWHSC New Hires
- 3—Meet Dr. Grillo & District Construction
- 4—PPS & PES
- 5—NSES & Teacher & Classified Staff of the Year
- 6—TWMS
- 7—TWHS
- 8—Curriculum Corner
- 9—Community News

# DISTRICT UPDATES

## Welcome New NWHSC Staff

In late July, we welcomed all of our new certified staff to NWHSC in a bit of a different fashion. Our focus was intentionally built around teaching and learning and differentiating that professional development to meet the needs of each of our new hires.

Our goals were:

1. To provide PD that had been shared with our staff in previous years, to ensure our new hires were hitting the ground running.
2. To provide a sense of "Who We Are"- experiences in Pittsboro, Lizton and NS along with a Historic Bus Tour, to ensure our new hires started with a sense of the amazing community they get to work within.
3. To share that we would be providing ongoing PD, support and celebrations, throughout quarterly New Teacher Academy Meetings designed to address questions, dig deeper and foster that continual sense of community, value and respect in an ongoing fashion.

We are honored to have such an amazing new crew and are excited about all they are bringing to teaching and learning to help us continue to grow each and every child!



## Welcome to our New and Returning Substitute Teachers

In late July, we hosted an open house in our new central office board room for our amazing substitute teachers. Our goal was to welcome them and remind them how very important they are to the work that we do. We also provided them with some school safety lessons with our new School Resource Officer, Mr. Josh Poynter! It was great to have almost 30 of our substitute teachers together in one room to kick off the start of an exceptional school year!

## Welcome to our new NWHSC English Learner Coordinator

We are super happy to welcome Mrs. Missy Bitting to a different role within our district. Mrs. Bitting has served as an amazing Kindergarten teacher for Pittsboro Primary School. In her new role, she will be working alongside teachers of our English Language Learners in all 5 buildings this year. She will also be working on all ILPs, screeners & WIDA testing, and any other work related to servicing and supporting our EL students and their classroom teachers! We are super excited about the work Mrs. Bitting will lead to help grow each of our EL students!



# DISTRICT UPDATES

## WELCOME DR. GRILLO

### HIRING NEWS

We are very much in need of help with our Students After School Program (SAS) at Pittsboro Primary. We are looking for adults that would like to help with that program for grades PK-5 after school.

Please contact Denise Smeltzer at [smeltzerd@hendricks.k12.in.us](mailto:smeltzerd@hendricks.k12.in.us) or Mrs. Hollingsworth at [hollingsworth@hendricks.k12.in.us](mailto:hollingsworth@hendricks.k12.in.us) for more information.

We are in need of bus drivers. If you are interested please contact Edwards Transportation at 317-994-5591.

### SCHOOL FINANCE 101

Understanding school finance is not an intuitive process. There are very prescriptive rules for how money is collected and distributed in a public school. To try and help answer some of the basic questions we have created a School Finance FAQ on our website under the community tab.

Go to: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z9hp2R4de1GqMzYJU4tOGkh6\\_S9\\_fOSTWEzntWX-tUc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Z9hp2R4de1GqMzYJU4tOGkh6_S9_fOSTWEzntWX-tUc/edit)

Dr. Kelly J. Grillo is excited to join North West Hendricks School Corporation. She has over 2 decades of experience and often laughs and says, "I'm now banking 45 years of experience with disabilities", as she herself is disabled. Her commitment to empowering students with exceptionalities and their families is unmatched. She wants for every student what she has been afforded, high-quality education with amazing educators who unlock learning, no matter how challenging at times.



Dr. Grillo earned her PhD at the University of Central Florida as a Federal Office of Special Education Programs Fellow. She interned and worked as a contractor at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education in Washington DC. Due to her work in a small rural district she was a nominee and honored in Washington as a STEM Champion of Change, she said, "she simply gave kids access to STEM, kids like me". Her research focus is the achievement of students within Inclusive STEM Environments and literacy outcomes for students with reading impairments.

Growing up with a significant learning disability, Dr. Grillo said she "never felt smart until she met her high-school Biology teacher," who made a point to champion her successes at every turn. Today, Dr. Grillo changes students' lives and plans to play an active role to ensure student success at North West Hendricks Schools. Her goal is every child, everyday! Ultimately, she wants to support each student who enters our buildings, having high expectations and allowing them to reset their personal belief structure that they can and will learn, support them to develop a true love of learning, be a critical part of the school culture, feel respected, welcomed, and included no matter the impairment.

Want to meet Dr. Grillo? Join Dr. Syverson and Dr. Grillo for a meet and greet with an overview of the North West Hendricks Special Education Program October 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. Can't make it in the evening, NO PROBLEM, we will have a repeat performance on October 26, 2022 at 9:00 am in the Central Office large Conference Room. Plan to join us to hear the exciting things happening at North West Hendricks!

Dr. Grillo also invites you to follow her on Twitter @KellyGrillo

## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Over the summer there has been a great deal of progress on our projects.

The Tri-West Middle School has a new chiller system that is working to keep the building cool.

The Tri-West High School campus has a new parking lot and entrance to State Bank Stadium on the south end of Hendricks Regional Field. Along with the entrance are new bathrooms, concessions and ticket booth. Jeff Gordon Legacy plaza sponsored by Tecton is also completed with donor bricks installed. Work continues further south on campus as the softball and baseball fields are up to grade and beginning to have the playing surface installed. Dugouts are getting roofs and the bathroom/concession/announcer stand is going up at baseball as well as the announcer stand at softball.



The multipurpose building on the north end of State Bank Stadium is getting the finishing touches inside and is slated to be done after fall break.

The next step on campus is completing the practice football fields on the south side of the new parking lot. and then beginning work on the new road and tennis courts on the north end of campus. Completion date for all of this work is still slated for November, 2023.



North Salem Elementary is currently seeing its new secure entrance and administration area being constructed. It is nearly enclosed which will enable the final steps to be taken to finish that area so office staff can move in around fall break. The final step at the elementary is to gut the office area and create a new media center. Completion of all of the work at North Salem Elementary is still slated for January, 2023.



# PITTSBORO PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PITTSBORO PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—  
*Jennifer Hollingsworth*

540 Osborne Avenue  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
317-994-2100



Students had a donut party to celebrate students that completed the Camp Learn-A-Lot challenge this summer!



Teachers at Pittsboro Primary School have been teaching students about their reading voice, thinking voice and distracting voice this year. Students are practicing reading and thinking, and hopefully not getting distracted, as they read!



We are growing readers at PPS! Every time a student reads a book independently they get to add a leaf to the tree. We can't wait to see how our tree looks at the end of the school year!



# PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—  
*Wendy Natalie*

206 N Meridian Street  
Pittsboro, IN 46167  
317-994-2000



PES worked closely with TWHS Senior Dustin Pensworth to help update the courtyard area. Dustin is completing the requirements to receive his Eagle Scout Recognition and spent time this summer building raised gardens, trimming and updating landscaping, and painting. We are so excited to begin planting and sowing seeds in this new space and are incredibly thankful for this opportunity to help Dustin with his vision!



Mrs. Auger's Fifth grade classroom played a game to help get to know each other better. Mrs. Natalie may have stumped them with her clues, but they quickly figured it out! Great job to these amazing sleuths.

Our 2022-2023 school year began with a friendly game of Goosechase to help our staff recognize important features in our school building to support student and staff safety. We are pleased to report that all teams successfully completed their mission and we are prepared!



# NORTH SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## NORTH SALEM ELEMENTARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—  
*Tiffany Cox*

7027 N SR 75  
North Salem, IN 46165  
317-994-3000



Our annual Walk-A-Thon fundraiser kicks off at the start of September. This fundraiser is run by the NSES PTO and is our only school wide fundraiser. This event raises enough money to support all field trips for the entire year for all students. What an amazing opportunity for families and local businesses to support students in their community and help to provide great educational experiences outside the classroom.



Students are in the swing of things and off to a great start! It is great to see students walk in the door full of smiles and ready for the day!

Our new entrance is taking shape. The limestone arch that was salvaged from the 1920's building has been installed and looks great! The progress on the new administration area is moving along nicely.



## DISTRICT UPDATES

### District Teacher & Classified Staff of the Year



Congratulations to Tom Pemberton as North West Hendricks Teacher of the Year. Tom is an English teacher at Tri-West High School. Congratulations to Kristin Sparks as North West Hendricks Classified Staff of the Year. Kristin is the nurse for Pittsboro Primary School.

# TRI-WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 8th Grade Science Students Test Reaction Time

8th Graders jumped right into scientific investigations at the start of the school year. After reviewing the steps of the scientific method, students explored the correlation between hand dominance and reaction time through two different tests. Students had to try to catch a ruler with each hand, use a computer reaction test, and then analyze the results between those two tests. Overall, it was determined that the majority of students had a faster reaction time with their dominant hand!



## TRI-WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—  
*Ryan Nicholi*

Asst. Principal and  
Athletic Director—  
*Adam Bontreger*

555 W US 136  
Lizton, IN 46149  
317-994-4200



## TWMS Welcomes New Staff Members

The Middle School is happy to welcome 4 new staff members to the building this year. Please help give them a huge Bruin welcome. New staff members are pictured below and include:

- Mrs. Rachel Patton - 8th Grade Science
- Mr. Kyle Hartzog - 6th-8th Grade Band
- Ms. Holly Neff - Instructional Assistant
- Mrs. Paige Devliegher - Media Center
- Ms. Francesca Wojcik - Intern Guidance Counselor

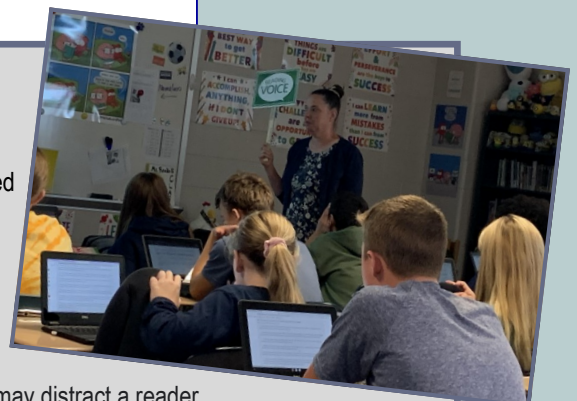


## Middle School Cheer Competition Has Strong Fair Season

Before school even started the middle school cheer competition team was busy at work. Over the summer, the team finished first at the Marion County Fair, second at both the Putnam County Fair and State Fair, and third place at the Hendricks County Fair. Great job to Coach Rose and all the ladies!

## English Teachers Reinforce Reading vs. Thinking Voice

All students can read the words on a page, but do they really know what they read and what it means? Recently, all middle school English teachers reinforced the idea of thinking about what you are reading by introducing students to their “Reading Voice” and “Thinking Voice”. A reading voice is where you are reading the text and taking in what the text says. A thinking voice is the voice you hear when you are applying different strategies like asking questions, making connections, making predictions and analytically thinking through the text. It's critical that students think about what they are reading while reading. Students were also introduced to the “distracting voice”, which are all those factors that may distract a reader.



# TRI-WEST HIGH SCHOOL

## TRI-WEST HIGH SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—  
*Matt Rund*  
 Asst. Principal—  
*Scott Frye*  
 Athletic Director—  
*Scott Knapp*

7883 N SR 39  
 Lizton, IN 46149  
 317-994-4000

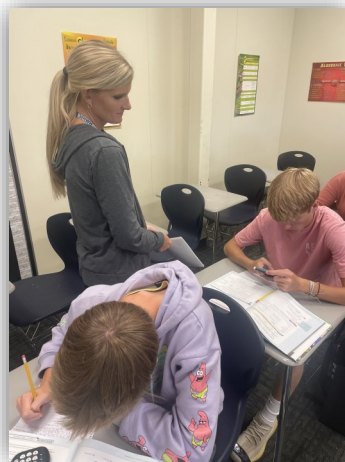


## Highlighting Amazing Teaching & Learning

Don Gadberry works with English students on a writing assignment.



New math teacher, Heidi West, works with math students on equations.



Biology teacher, Michael Eddie, helps students with a molecule lab.

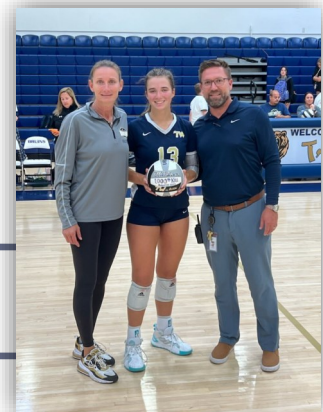


## TWHS Sports Celebrations

Members of the Tri-West Girls Soccer team celebrate a victory with custodian supreme, Trevor Castillo.



Senior Elle Patterson achieved her 1000th career kill with the Tri-West Volleyball Team.



## FFA Outreach



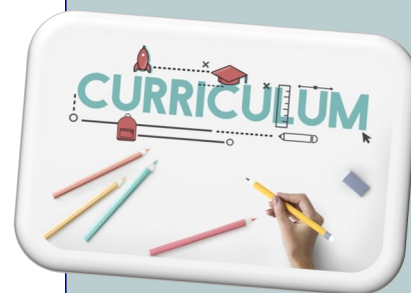
Tri-West FFA Members worked at the FFA Pavilion at the 2022 Indiana State Fair.



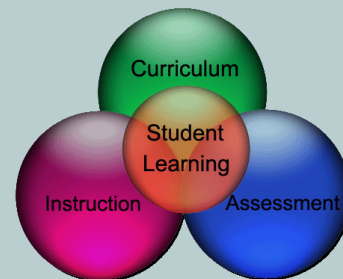
Dr. Syverson, Board Members Cindy Griffith and Craig Brelege, along with Tri-West students receive a check from State Bank representatives during the Opening Night Football Game at State Bank Stadium.

# Curriculum Corner

## NWHSC Instructional Coaches at Work



This year is the beginning of our second year with two amazing instructional coaches! Mrs. Megan Hobaugh serves and supports our K-5 teachers and administrators and Mrs. Tricia Diagostino serves and supports our 6-12 colleagues. Our coaches are very skilled at and excited about planning lessons with teachers, co-teaching, modeling instructional strategies and, in general, being supportive and responsive to teacher needs! We have the very best teachers at NWHSC and our goal is to do everything we can to support them and help them grow their craft!



## Scheduled eLearning Days for the 2022-23 School Year

Each quarter, like last year, we have one (3) hour synchronous eLearning Day built into our school calendar. Since we approve school calendars 2 years in advance, these days have been planned for afternoon teacher professional development for several months. This year, due to changes in Indiana State Law, our eLearning days are required to be synchronous learning, meaning our teachers must be teaching "live" with students versus sending out pre-recorded lessons or assignments. This is certainly a change and adjustment that we are working to follow and will continue to look for ways to make these half days of instruction less stressful for teachers, parents, and students. It was exciting to see how our students responded to the lessons, as well as, exciting to see some of the creative strategies our hard working teachers implemented. During the morning, our students are collaborating and learning with their peers and teachers, virtually, in new and exciting ways and in the afternoons we have the much needed time to support and coach all of our teachers with differentiated professional development to help make our instruction even better! Our next eLearning day is scheduled for **November 7**. As we look at school calendars in the future, we will continue to look for creative ways to manage snow days, snow make up days, teacher PD, and eLearning days. As a whole, the first eLearning day across all grade levels went smoothly.



## i-Ready Formative Assessment

Our K-8 formative assessment, i-Ready, continues to provide us with data and information to help drive our instruction and to provide needed differentiation. We are excited to have completed our Beginning of the Year assessment and have conducted data chats, individually, with each child. Parents should have received all Beginning of the Year data along with a letter and linked information which provides guidance to explain what the data is showing! Our teachers will be using that data to differentiate their instruction to support the growth of each student. Please reach out to building administrators or classroom teachers if assistance or clarification is needed. Thank you for your support!

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## North West Hendricks Education Foundation News

Love our schools and looking for a way to make a difference? The North West Hendricks Education Foundation (NWHEF) could use your help! We are looking for Board Members and Volunteers to help with a variety of projects and events. No matter the time commitment you can give, NWHEF has opportunities for you!

Anyone interested in more information, becoming a board member and/or becoming an additional volunteer to our grow organization should contact Michelle Milbourne at 317.716.2181 or email:

Michelle Milbourne [michelle.milbourne@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.milbourne@gmail.com)  
Audra Bear [abear@bctradeconsultants.com](mailto:abear@bctradeconsultants.com)  
Angela Ganote [AGanote@fox59.com](mailto:AGanote@fox59.com)  
Amy Watson [dartswatson@gmail.com](mailto:dartswatson@gmail.com)

## 2022 Jackie and Larry Sparks Memorial Alumni

Scholarships were awarded at the July School



**Pictured: Recipient Emily Starnes, Sponsors Tim Sparks & Adriann Young, Recipient Matthew Harris**

Beginning November 1, 2022, Tri-West seniors may apply for scholarships online at <http://tri-west.dollarsforscholars.org>.

### Important dates

November 1, 2022 – Scholarship Applications Open

January 31, 2023 – Scholarship Applications Close

February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – 2023 Phone-a-Thon

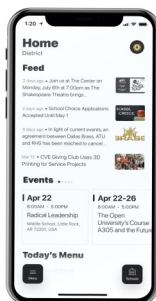
May 17, 2023 – Scholarships Awarded!

Tri-West Dollars for Scholars welcomes three new board members: Cheryl Dickerson, Amy Elam, and student member, Reagan Shaw.

Donations of any amount are accepted and are greatly appreciated.  
You may drop off donations at any NWHSC school or mail a check to the following address:

**Tri-West Dollars for Scholars**  
North West Hendricks School Corporation  
104 North Church Street, PO Box 70  
Lizton, IN 46149

Questions: email [scholarships@hendricks.k12.in.us](mailto:scholarships@hendricks.k12.in.us)



It's everything North West Hendricks,  
**in your pocket.**

Documents · Events · Staff Directory · Alerts



Together  
we can do  
**GREAT things!**



Fall Begins —  
*September 22*  
Fall Break —  
*October 10-14*