



NACS

newsletter

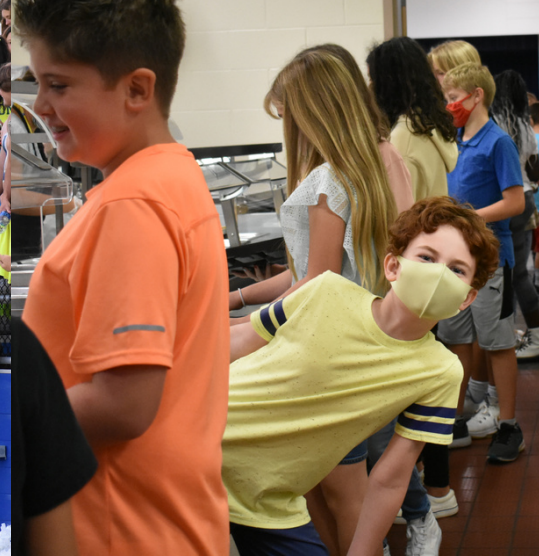
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Recess at Perry Hill Elementary



Gravin Watkins high fives Neon Nation at game



Lunch line at Maple Creek Middle

THE BEGINNING

by lizette downey

As we usher in a new school year, we welcome you to a new vehicle of receiving information—a district-wide quarterly newsletter.

NACS Newsletter will supplement school newsletters by providing highlights from a district perspective, helpful information as well as acknowledgements of students, teachers, departments and more.

Look for this e-newsletter to keep you informed on the latest NACS news and happenings. You are invited to submit story ideas to stories@nacs.k12.in.us. <>

NORTHWEST ALLEN
COUNTY SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER

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ART FILLS MORE THAN A WALL

by: alexis harry, 1st year art teacher,
cedar canyon elementary



It was a fun project to do. I actually received more responses from the kids than what I expected. I slowly hung up the hands throughout the week, so it seemed like the first several classes didn't really think much of the project at first.

However, as more and more hands got hung on the wall, students would come to class knowing the end goal of the project. They were then more excited to create a hand to add to the wall.

I spent time during the school day hanging the hands and I had a lot of classes walk by while I was working. This is where I saw the most reactions to the piece. I received many exclamations of, "Wow!" and a lot of awed faces as they looked at the hands that went all the way up to the ceiling. Quite a few students told me it was beautiful. I had one young student, probably a kindergartener, tell me, "I like all of your hands." I had to remind him that they weren't my hands - every student had created one and his was up there too. I thought that was a sweet reaction.

It seemed like a lot of kids genuinely enjoyed drawing on the hands and telling me things about themselves while they worked. It ended up being the perfect project to start my time at Cedar Canyon and a great way to get to know the students. The added bonus was learning the names of so many family pets. <>

Cedar Canyon Elementary





FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Dr. Chris Himsel

Introducing our outdoor Carroll High School facilities to create memorable experiences for everyone within sight for the first home football game generated a lot of excitement. The 41-acre project now opens the door for opportunities for our students previously unavailable to them, like hosting regional and semi-state competitions in athletics and marching band. Thank you NACS community, for your on-going support. We hope you come enjoy it with us.

THE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SETS THE TONE FOR CARROLL'S FUTURE. WE SHARE IN THE EXCITEMENT FOR WHAT AWAITS OUR CHARGER COMMUNITY.

We are also grateful to Weigand Construction, Barton-Coe-Vilamaa, Commonwealth Engineers, the many subcontractors involved, along with our staff overseeing the project advance and everyone involved with bringing it to fruition. The site project truly is a culmination of so many years of planning, literally since the mid-90s. Once we decided to do it, we moved swiftly, and all our partners kept up, so we finished on time and within budget. We are thrilled with the results. From traffic flow to adequate parking and lighting, plus outdoor extras like storage, laundry and a retail store, Carroll now reflects a Class 6A program from an infrastructure perspective.

Our next adventure will be hosting 16 marching bands on Sept. 25, for a competition we've not had the luxury of hosting since 2008.

We hope students, parents and staff feel the same energy at every event here as they did during our opening football game Aug. 20.

Charger Pride is in full swing. <>



CHS' Ceremonial Ribboncutting on July 29, 2021
L to R: Karen Fisher, Barton-Coe-Vilamaa;
Brandon Bitting, CHS principal; Dan Ginder, CHS athletic director/assistant. principal; Dr. Chris Himsel, superintendent, NACS; Larry Weigand, CEO, Weigand Construction; Liz Hathaway, VP, NACS school board

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT



This young student demonstrates how to use the 3-point harness safety belt. Watch his video on the NACS website.



Denise Herman, bus driver, Northwest Allen County Schools

HELPING OUR STUDENTS LEARN BUS BASICS

It started when a mom posted on social media that her kindergartener was having problems with her bus seatbelt and Denise Herman, a 4th year bus driver with Northwest Allen County Schools saw that post and offered to help. Herman invited the pair to come by and practice with the sample seat at the Transportation Center. She taught the kindergartener how to buckle so she could do it safely on the bus each day.

As a result of that practice session, word travelled, and Herman helped about 10 families practice buckling-up early in the school year.

"The parents were ecstatic for their kids to have a chance to practice," Herman said. "The students were relieved to have time to practice without the pressure of hurrying."

Herman taped a session for other children to see, learn and build confidence that they can do it, too. Find the video on the NACS transportation website at: [https://www.nacs.k12.in.us/departments/transportation/how to buckle on the bus](https://www.nacs.k12.in.us/departments/transportation/how%20to%20buckle%20on%20the%20bus).

These little gestures help our students feel prepared. It demonstrates our commitment to each student. Herman made herself available to these families on weekends and after school hours just to accommodate them. This story emulates our culture. It's living the lifeline lessons we teach to all our elementary students—Do the right thing. Treat people right. Thank you for making time for others, Denise. <>



TEACHER FEATURE

RAISED IN NACS AND STILL LOVING IT

by: nikki strasser
literacy coordinator, nacs



Northwest Allen County Schools has been my home since I started first grade in 1988. Except for the four years that I went to Ball State, I have woken up every morning since then, and walked into a NACS school. As a second-grade student at Perry Hill (back then we only had three elementary schools), I told my parents that I would go to Ball State and become a kindergarten teacher. It was my dream to have the opportunity to do that at NACS. I went through Carroll Middle School—which is now the Freshman Campus, and my experience at Carroll High School set a firm foundation for my academic and professional careers. I had the amazing opportunity to be a cheerleader and to participate in marching band all four years while focusing on all things school and keeping those goals and dreams in constant focus.

Many of my teachers at CHS encouraged me to try some things outside of my comfort zone. They prepared me for academics and life beyond high school, and celebrated my successes with me through high expectations, encouragement and praise.

My dream job of teaching first grade (close to kindergarten) began at Huntertown in 2004, and I coached cheerleading at CHS. While it was difficult to leave Huntertown in 2009 to move to Eel River when it first opened, I appreciated the unique and exciting experience of being a part of a new school family. I taught first grade for 16 years before moving into a curriculum coordinator position last year and now serving as the literacy coordinator this year.

It is not lost on me that as a student, my NACS teachers saw things in me that I didn't, and once I became a teacher, NACS administrators saw things in me that I never imagined. I am so humbled by and thankful for the opportunity to work beside some of my former teachers and all of the amazing teachers within NACS that I get to collaborate with every day. My mom was a CHS Class of '78 graduate, and my son is currently at Perry Hill on track to be a third generation CHS—to graduate in the Class of 2031. I am proud of and thankful for the lifelong opportunities that NACS has provided to me and my family, and I am so excited to see what the NACS family has in store for my son and me. <>

"I AM SO HUMBLLED BY AND THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK BESIDE SOME OF MY FORMER TEACHERS AND ALL OF THE AMAZING TEACHERS WITHIN NACS THAT I GET TO COLLABORATE WITH EVERY DAY."



RECOGNITION

SPARKING a love of reading outside of **school**



Allen County Public Library's summer reading program, known as SPARK, keeps evolving and growing. Northwest Allen County Schools worked directly with the library system to encourage our students to participate and eyebrows raised when we saw how many students read, logged and submitted their reading time over the summer. We ended the nine-week summer season with 736 committed summer readers from NACS who chalked up 42,842 minutes of reading. Breaking that figure down a bit further—it equates to 714 voluntary hours of reading by K-12 grade students who participated this summer.

The library tracked the time and participants by grade, and it turns out we had the greatest number of 2nd graders participate and the greatest number of minutes logged by 6th graders. We are proud of all their efforts! In recognition of their joy of reading, Dr. Shamanoff, assistant superintendent of Northwest Allen County Schools, will read a special story-time for 2nd grade students. The 6th graders will receive a bookmark.

We hope students will continue to read long after they complete their studies. We are pleased that so many students took part in this community initiative and we challenge more to join the ranks next summer. Way to go NACS students! <>

Elementary Cross Country Schedule

All races are one-mile distances

Race 1: Otter Classic race at Carroll Middle School
Friday, Sept. 10, Deadline is Sept. 4 at 11:59 p.m.
https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=136086

Race 2: Kinderlauf race at Swiss Heritage Village in Berne, IN
Friday, Sept. 17, Deadline is Sept. 10 at 11:59 p.m.
https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=134249

Race 3: Husky Hustle at Hickory Center Elementary School
Friday, Sept. 24, Deadline is Sept. 16 at 11:59 p.m.
<https://14th-annual-husku-hustle.cheddarup.com>

Race 4: Cougar Chase at Perry Hill Elementary School
Thursday, Sept. 30 Registration information is in the works

Check with your school for more information.



Perry Hill's Cougar Chase

instructional assistants - bus drivers - remote teachers

HEY NACS-

Do you know someone looking for part-time or full-time work? Direct them to nacs.k12.in.us/employment for current openings.

speech - substitutes for all - custodian

special ed - food service asst - technology - custodian

teachers - lunch/recess help - office help