



North West Hendricks School Corporation: Committed to preparing students to be their BEST.

TRIAD

March 2024

District Newsletter

NEWS & VIEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

CONTACT INFORMATION

Superintendent—
Dr. Scott Syverson

Assistant
Superintendent—
Mr. David Hobaugh

Curriculum Director—
Mrs. Shari Switzer

Special Education
Director—
Dr. Kelly Grillo

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Lizton, IN 46149
317-994-4100**



TRIAD INSIDE

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As spring arrives, it's an exciting time to reflect on the incredible successes happening at North West Hendricks Schools (NWHSC)! Our FFA program is thriving, and we're thrilled to announce the addition of another Ag Teacher for the upcoming school year and two new AG courses at the Middle School! This is a true testament to the program's growth, staff, and popularity among our students. While this program is fairly new to our district, it is now a HS pathway for students to graduate and prepare for post-secondary education!

It's also a point of pride to share that we've achieved the top spot in the state on the state IREAD 3 test, showcasing the dedication and excellence of our educators and students. Furthermore, NWHSC has earned the impressive rank of number 5 in the state on the state ILEARN test and landed in the top 20 on the SAT exam. At TWHS, we're proud to witness continued academic growth and success in dual credit and AP courses. These accomplishments underscore our commitment to providing high-quality education that prepares students for success in college, careers, and beyond.

In addition to our top standardized testing results, we have four elementary robotics teams advancing to the state competition this year and our performing arts students consistently winning ISSMA Gold at both the middle and high school levels. Additionally, we're delighted to introduce new sports and opportunities at both the middle and high school levels, including middle school baseball, softball, and tennis, as well as high school tennis, enriching the extracurricular experiences available to our students.

As we approach the end of the year, we're thrilled to report that we've nearly accomplished every goal outlined in our 2021-2024 strategic plan, a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, students, and community. As always, thank you for your continued support as we celebrate these remarkable achievements and strive for even greater success in the future! I want to wish everyone a safe and restful spring break!!

Yours in Education,

Dr. Scott Syverson
Superintendent



PITTSBORO PRIMARY SCHOOL

PITTSBORO PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—
Susan Alcorn

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



LIBRARY BUDDIES

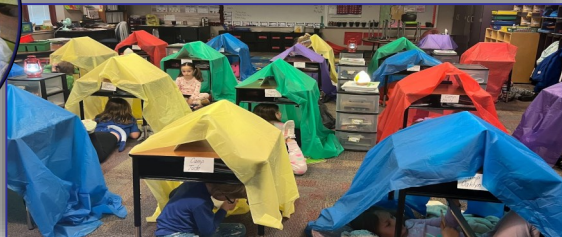
Mrs. Hall, our PPS and PES librarian, organized a Library Buddies program where fourth graders and fifth graders from PES come into PPS Kindergarten and first grade Library time. It's a fantastic opportunity for the older kids to demonstrate their leadership skills and the younger kids love to read with the big kids!



READ-A-PALOOZA

We celebrated Read Across America and put on our 7th annual Read-a-Palooza the week of February 26.

We had guest readers in classrooms - grandparents, parents, and TWHS students all participated. On March 1, our students read for 90 minutes and our students raised more than \$5,000 that will go towards instructional materials and new books. We are so grateful for the community support and donations!



SMEKENS MINI-LESSONS

Teachers at PPS participated in a feedback session with Courtney Gordon from Smekens Education. Teachers modeled a lesson in front of district leaders and peers. Mrs. Neff, Mrs. Higbie, Mrs. Backs, Mrs. Mahrer, Mrs. Smith and Ms.

Evans all prepared and taught lessons within their classroom following the mini lesson protocol! It was a great learning opportunity for both students and staff to improve our reading and writing skills.



PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—
Wendy Natalie

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



ROBOTICS TEAM SUCCESS

Under the direction of Ryan Oppy and Julie Wiles, our robotics team is soaring to new heights this year. We have many state finalists and are working hard to send even more of our teams to state! Of course we couldn't do any of this work without the time, resources, and dedication of our staff, families, and community members. Many of our students spend their lunch & recess time daily to make updates on their robot or practice running through their fields. We have hosted several meets here at PES, with the most recent in tandem with our Middle School team.

It was a huge success!

We are most proud of our travels to other venues where we consistently receive praise and recognition for good sportsmanship and positive team play. PES recognizes our robotics team and all of the good work they have done to grow their thinking, creativity, and competitive nature.



PES RILEY DAYS

PES recently sponsored a Riley Day with the theme "Dress as your favorite Professional"! Wow, our students knocked it out of the park! Many of our students chose to dress like their favorite educator.

Thank you to our families who helped us raise money on this day for a very good cause. We will sponsor another day to raise money for Riley Children's hospital on April 12th with children dressing as their Favorite Movie! We cannot wait to see how creative our kiddos will be on this very special day!



STATEHOUSE VISIT WITH DR. JENNER

It was an absolute thrill to be invited to the State House alongside Shari Switzer and Dr. Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education, to receive recognition for 100% Passing IREAD. Our teachers and staff are the absolute best and work so hard to support student learning. We work hard every day to ensure that ALL students learn and grow. Congratulations students and staff, you make a difference EVERYDAY!



NORTH SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NORTH SALEM ELEMENTARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—
Tiffany Cox

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



CUBS PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT



Cubs PK is still taking enrollments for the upcoming school year for any child who turns age 4 by August 1, 2024.

Follow the [link](#) for registration or call the school for more information.

ROBOTICS IN MOTION

We wrapped up our Robotics season and we are super proud of the hard work all of our team put forth. Great job robotics team!



A 'GRAND' BREAKFAST

This year we have had monthly grandparent breakfast events to invite our special family members in to join us for a great start to the day.

It is so amazing to see multiple generations sitting together and enjoying each other's company!

Thank you to everyone who made a child's day by joining us for our Grand Breakfast Events!



FUN FIELD TRIPS

One of the most fun ways to learn is hands on but off campus! Our field trips this year have been fantastic!

Thank you to our NSES PTO for always supporting these special learning experiences.

TRI-WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

TRI-WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Principal—
Ryan Nickoli

Asst. Principal and
Athletic Director—
Adam Bontreger

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



6th Grade Health and Wellness Classes Discuss Managing Stress

Mrs. Spoonmore's classroom has been talking about dealing with Stress and Conflict in the Health classroom. They have been experimenting with many different ways students can relieve stress so they can find something that might work for them in tough situations. Recently, the students did relaxation stations.



High School FFA Visits TWMS



Mrs. Grinstead and several student members of the high school FFA (Future Farmers of America) recently visited the middle school to inform 8th graders about the program. Students visited multiple stations and learned straight from high school students about the program.



7th and 8th Graders Enjoy the Winter Dance

Nearly 200 middle school students attended the winter dance on Friday, February 9. The dance floor remained busy throughout the night.

Thanks to all the staff members and parents who were in attendance.

Middle School Robotics Team Finishes Season

Thanks to Coach Auman and all the middle school students who competed this year on our robotics team.

A special thanks to PES for hosting both the elementary and middle school competitions this year. The team competed in four events and got better along the way.



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



Tri-West Academic Bowl



The Tri-West Academic Bowl Team competed at the Hendricks County competition in February.

Congratulations to the first place English and second place History teams!



Model UN

The Model UN team represented well at the IU Invitational in Bloomington.



Speech Team

Two speech team members were quarterfinalists at the State Meet at Hamilton South-eastern High School in March.



Tri-West HS Theatre Entertains with *Shrek, The Musical*

Tri-West High School Theatre, under the direction of Jessalyn Larson, Kaitlyn Drummond and Drew Childs, had a successful run of *Shrek, the Musical* mid-March. A cast and crew of 50 students performed with skill and enthusiasm for full houses at each of the four performances.

Congratulations to these talented teens!



TRI-WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Classroom Peer Support



Peer facilitators collaborate in Ms. Lucas' Essential Skills classroom.

FFA Accomplishments & Service



FFA competed in the District Competition at Eastern Hancock HS. Several students advanced to the State competition that will be held this Summer at Purdue University.

Math in Action



Mr. Doan's class working through math problems using Vertical spaces.

FFA Students visited with Tri-West Middle School students to demonstrate important skills learned by participating in the FFA program.



Thank you, Mr. Walden



Mr. Walden has been deployed with the U.S. Airforce. We wish him good luck and Godspeed. Please keep him, his family and friends in your prayers as he serves our great nation.

Training Tomorrow's Leaders

High school members of the Superintendent's Advisory Board worked with Ted Wiese to learn about the keys of successful leadership.



TRI-WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Tri-West High School Wall of Excellence Information



Tri-West Hall of Fame inductees come from all walks of life: armed services, athletics, business, education, fine arts, government, law, literature, media, medicine, performing arts, and/or science. Applications may be made by alumni, parents, current Tri-West students, faculty, staff, school district administrators, and/or North West Hendricks residents. Nominees are considered for three years if not chosen the first year of submission. All nomination forms are kept on file for those three years, there is no need to resubmit applications.

[Click Here for Application.](#)

QUALIFICATIONS FOR TRI-WEST HIGH SCHOOL WALL OF EXCELLENCE NOMINEES:

- Individuals must either be a Tri-West graduate and have left school in good standing and remain in good standing or an individual who gave service to Tri-West High School in the form of a coach, director, volunteer, staff member or community partner.
- Former students must have attended Tri-West for a minimum of two years.
- Individuals are not eligible for nomination until five years after graduation or service to the school
- Must exhibit dedication and loyalty to Tri-West High School.
- Their work must have made a concrete and lasting contribution to the welfare of the Tri-West High School or North West Hendricks Schools.
- Special achievements, honors, awards, or other recognition received on a local, regional, national and/or international level in the nominee's area of specialization or
- Shown leadership to his or her community through community service, involvement and citizenship.



2023 Tri-West High School Wall of Excellence Honorees:
Kelly Eisert, Dick Thompson, and Bridget Sloan (not pictured)



DISTRICT UPDATES

CONSTRUCTION NEARING THE FINISH LINE

Improvements in student learning areas are nearing completion. The classroom remodels and upgrades at Pittsboro Elementary School are scheduled to be completed by the end of spring break. PES will have a few more items such as finishing carpet and painting walls, as well as completing LED lighting upgrades in non-classroom areas and that will mark the end of the year-long project.

North Salem will get the remainder of the LED lighting upgrades finished when school is out for the summer and this will mark the end of the current construction projects at North West Hendricks. It has been a five year process to upgrade building security, HVAC systems and learning spaces from the 1990's and earlier but students will be reaping the benefits of updated learning spaces for many years to come.

NORTH WEST HENDRICKS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

The North West Hendricks Mental Health Committee has been working, as part of the strategic plan over the past two years, to evaluate the supports that are currently in place for students and staff and then build a comprehensive program to better support our school community. The evaluation of the program has led to the decision to continue programs that were previously instituted in the primary and elementary buildings, such as character and citizenship building lessons and lunch group supports aimed at different focus areas like making friends and anger awareness. Additionally, under the direction of the committee, brain science lessons have been instituted to help students understand how their brains work in stressful situations and provide insight into what students can do in these situations to feel calmer and help teachers and staff in the same areas to better support students and themselves. The middle school and high school have done much of the same brain lessons and are seeing the benefits.



Counselors in the buildings are doing an amazing job of working together to share information and support one another with what they have been learning. One example is the Crisis Assessment Protocol that we now use district wide for counselors to evaluate the level of response a student or staff member may need during a personal crisis. The high school recently had the Indianapolis Colts "Blue" come to speak to the student body on the dangers of social media and why what you post on social media matters. The middle school had a speaker present to the students the importance of resilience and how that can affect your mental state and life.

The committee has compiled a list of supports for many different needs that is posted on the corporation website under the "Parents" tab at "[Family and Mental Health Resources](#)". The committee is now examining what further supports can be put in place for students based upon the needs we see at North West Hendricks School Corporation. As the program develops and grows, information will be made available to our students and staff so everyone can take advantage.

SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

All NWHSC schools will be closed and off limits during the eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024. Due to concerns of emergency service availability and expected onslaught of visitors to our state, NWHSC will be closing off entrances to all school buildings for the day. Please plan accordingly and be safe during this upcoming event. Thank you!



DISTRICT UPDATES

HENDRICKS REGIONAL HEALTH ATHLETIC PHYSICALS FOR 2024-2025

Any athlete wanting to participate on an athletic team in grades 6-12 for 2024 - 2025 must have a valid physical dated after **April 1, 2024** on file in the appropriate athletic department office prior to participating in the sport. Hendricks Regional Health is once again offering an opportunity for student athletes to get their athletic physicals for the 2024- 2025 school year.

Go to Hendricks.org/sportsphysicals to register.



PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICALS

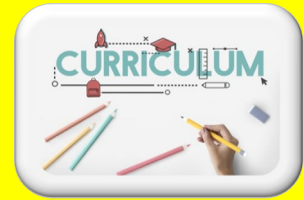
APRIL 21 • APRIL 28 • MAY 5

Hendricks Regional Health is proud to provide pre-participation physicals for our school partners.

For more information, to secure an arrival time and register visit HENDRICKS.ORG/SPORTSPHYSICALS

A portion of the physical fee is donated back to your school

Curriculum Corner



Science of Reading Professional Development



Starting the 2024-25 school year, all schools in Indiana will be required to teach students to read in alignment with the Science of Reading (SoR) according to [Indiana House Bill 1558](#). The SoR is an evidence-based approach to teaching literacy that draws on research from cognitive science, linguistics, and psychology to understand how children learn to read. It emphasizes the importance of systematic, explicit instruction, especially in phonics which teaches students the relationship between sounds and the letters that represent them. At NWHSC we have used Orton Gillingham for this reason and will continue to do so. In addition to evidence-based phonics instruction, SoR recognizes the significance of explicitly teaching phonemic



awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension to develop strong reading skills. By focusing on these foundational elements, the SoR helps children become proficient readers who can decode words accurately and comprehend written text effectively. During our professional development time on the afternoon of March 4, sixty-five of our NWHSC K-5 classroom teachers, special education teachers, instructional assistants and administrators were able to come together to listen and learn about the SoR from the Indiana Department of Education's senior Dyslexia specialist, Josiah Columbo-Espinoza. Additionally, we were able to begin the SoR learning Modules that the state provided in conjunction with Marian University. We will continue to learn and grow together and communicate with our parents and community throughout, if you want to learn more please visit (<https://www.in.gov/doe/files/3-science-reading.pdf>). This work is really all about making sure kids learn to read really well for success in life. House Bill 1558 is designed to ensure teachers have access to resources to learn more about applying the science in their classroom. We believe it is our job to support our teachers in getting better at teaching reading so that kids can become super readers, enjoying all the cool stuff books, articles and any reading materials have to offer!

Parents can support their children's literacy development by learning more (see <https://improvingliteracy.org/kit/learning-about-your-childs-reading-development>) and engaging in activities that promote language development, word play, reading aloud regularly, and providing access to a variety of books and reading materials.

NWHSC Educational Acronyms

As Dr. Syverson conducted his last round of coffee chats with the community, it was suggested that we build a list of acronyms we use throughout our educational planning and programming around our district and state. We do understand that in education we use an inordinate amount of acronyms. It is our hope that this list of [NWHSC Education Acronyms](#) is helpful.

Statewide Testing Schedule



SAT= March 4: Each of our high school juniors completed the SAT on Monday, March 4th. We are anxiously awaiting our results.



IREAD-3= March 4-15: IREAD-3 is a reading assessment that measures foundational reading skills through grade three, including students' ability to read and understand grade-level text. IREAD-3 was developed in accordance with the 2010 Indiana General Assembly passage of Public Law 109, which required the evaluation of reading skills for all third grade students to ensure they can read at grade level prior to fourth grade. Our 2nd and 3rd graders completed IREAD-3 on March 15. Our preliminary data looks good. These scores are embargoed by the State. We will share the results as soon as we possibly can.



ILEARN 3-8= April 15-May 10: Students in grades 3-8 will be completing their math and English Language Arts assessments during this window. Additionally, our students in grade 4 and 6 are assessed on science standards, grade 5 students are assessed on social studies standards and our students enrolled in Biology will complete the ILEARN Biology End-of-Course Assessment (ECA). Teachers, students and administrators are very committed to ensuring that we teach our Indiana State Standards to mastery and that we work to individualize that instruction to help each child grow to achieve their greatest potential. Supporting and encouraging our students throughout this testing window takes our entire village of staff, students, parents and community, in general.



i-Ready End of Year Assessment K-8= May 6-May 17: This will be the final assessment of 3 with our new district-wide formative assessment, i-Ready. Upon completion of the assessment, each teacher will meet with each student to celebrate and review student growth throughout the year. Additionally, as a district and by school, we will reflect on all data reports for the entire year and celebrate those areas of strength and start to plan for ways to make improvements during the 2024-25 school year. Once all data chats are completed with each student, schools will send all data home to families and as always will extend a welcoming offer for families to meet with teachers to review that growth data if so desired.

Student Services & Special Education Updates

Calling All Business Leaders in Our Community!

Are you interested in supporting work skill development locally? Our students need to complete career exploration activities that include interviewing community members, job shadowing and potentially mini-internships. Are you interested in learning more?

Mr. [Joe Brooks](#) our NWHSC board member is interested in learning more and serving where needed. Mr. Brooks has worked and lived in our community for 20+ years and is dedicated to supporting the growth of our student's communication and job skill development. Mr. Brooks looks forward to helping our students envision themselves as contributing members of our community. Specifically, he wants to share that the construction industry has a place for anyone who wants to work and contribute to building projects across our community, county, and state. He is excited to ignite the same passion he possesses about his field.



If you are like Mr. Brooks and have the desire to support students by allowing them to interview you and/or potentially job shadowing you for a day, please email [Dr. Grillo](#) today!



Spotlight on Language Diversity

North West Hendricks School Corporation is committed to providing foundational academic support to our culturally and linguistically diverse students. English Learners (ELs) are students whose linguistic background, such as country of origin or home environment, includes a language other than English.

The population of ELs in the state has grown dramatically in recent years. ELs comprise roughly 6% of Indiana's total student population (139,000 Indiana students), and students are enrolled in every school in the state. More than 295 languages are spoken in Indiana schools (IDOE English Learner Guidebook, 2023).

Led by Melissa Bitting, EL Coordinator/Instructor, the team engages 87 amazing students in all domains of language acquisition (listening, reading, speaking, and writing) through individualized accommodations and specialized instruction. The English Language Learner (ELL) population has skyrocketed and staff members at NWHSC use a flexible combination of push-in, pull-out, and co-teaching services to support the students' needs. ELL services enhance students' achievement of English Language Proficiency and understanding of academic content. These modifications are made to lessons and assignments by the ELL teacher and the general education teacher in the content area classrooms, with the appropriate level of English language development for each student based on his/her English proficiency level.

Our team strives to ensure that all teachers, staff and students have success here at NWHSC and we also ensure ELs have equal access to a high-quality education and the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential.



Parent Advisory Council 2023-24

We aim to hold our Council meetings the second Tuesday of the month prior to the Corporation board meetings in the months of September, November, February, and April. Please join us, no RSVP required. These districtwide meetings will begin at 5:15 PM and end sharply at 6:15 PM. Mark your calendars! The council focuses on the goal to conduct four targeted parent workshops annually. Our parents also work to learn more deeply the federal requirements in the law for supporting and serving students with disabilities and how to constructively support other parents/caregivers who want to learn more.

Please join us at the Parent Advisory meeting in the Superintendent's Conference Room on Tuesday, April 16 at 5:15 PM at the Central Office, 104 N. Church Street, Lizton, IN 46149. Thank you and see you in April!

COMMUNITY NEWS



Tri-West

**Dollars for
Scholars.**

**Our 14th Annual
Phone-a-Thon
was a huge success!!**



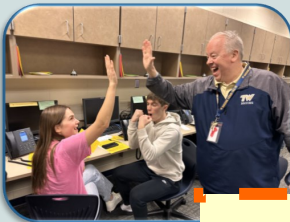
During the last weekend of February, 71 TWHS students showed up, grabbed a phone, and collectively called thousands of TW friends and neighbors. The kids were amazing and our community stepped up in a big way by pledging over **\$41,000** for scholarships!!!

Way to go Bruins!!!

If you pledged, THANK YOU SO MUCH! You should receive a pledge letter in the mail to return your payment. If we missed you, and you would like to join the effort, it's not too late. You may drop your check off, payable to *TW Dollars for Scholars*, at any of our schools, or mail to PO Box 70, Lizton, IN 46149.

Together we can truly do great things!

Thank you!



Jackie & Larry Sparks

Memorial Alumni Scholarship

Open to TWHS grads who have completed at least one year of college.

Scholarship is renewable for three years.

First year award is \$500.00

Second year award is \$750.00

Third year award is \$1,000.00

Application closes May 31



[APPLY NOW at Tri-West.DollarsforScholars.org](http://Tri-West.DollarsforScholars.org)

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and give back to the
school!



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