

The **Blazer Beat**

National Trail Local School District

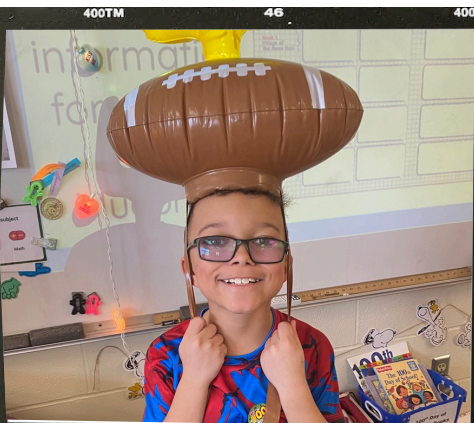
Footloose
THE MUSICAL

Youth Edition

Everybody cut, Footloose!
More pictures inside!



Keeping our
NT family connected.



National Trail Local School District School Board

President
Mindy Ward

Vice President
Greg McWhinney

Members
David Harris
Aubrey Hickey
Cari Vonderhaar



Mission Statement

Our vision is to be a district where every student, regardless of background or need, experiences rigorous core instruction, timely interventions, and a safe, supportive culture that ensures growth, belonging, and post-school success.

Our Culture Playbook

$$E + R = O$$

Event *Response* *Outcome*

Blazer Culture Goals

- Common Language Throughout District
- Understand Above the Line/Below the Line
- No BCD (Blame, Complain, Defend)
- Understand the concept of 20 Square Feet

Blazer Culture Expectations

- Use the same language
- Develop behavioral skills to use in your school life and with students
- Share with other staff members



Couch's Corner:

The Superintendent's Message

As we approach spring break, I want to take a moment to reflect on the hard work and progress made across our district during the months of January, February, and March.

First and foremost, thank you to our students and staff for your continued dedication and commitment throughout this school year. Your efforts each day are what make our schools strong and our community proud.

I would also like to recognize the intentional work happening across our buildings. Our staff has taken important steps toward developing iMTSS systems in each school, using data to guide decisions and ensure we are meeting the needs of every student. At the elementary and fifth-grade level, teams have been thoughtfully working through the implementation of a new reading curriculum for grades K–5. In addition, our elementary and middle school teachers have worked diligently to meet the requirements of the Science of Reading mandates by aligning instructional materials and new curriculum, dedicating appropriate instructional time, strengthening interventions, and providing high-dosage tutoring to support student success.

Our math teachers have also engaged in a thorough High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) adoption process, including piloting curriculum options, to address Tier 1 instructional needs and strengthen math learning across the district.

Our Building Leadership Teams and District Leadership Team have dedicated time to refining our mission statements and clarifying our district vision. This focused work is helping ensure alignment and purpose in all that we do.

I am grateful for the ongoing commitment of our staff to deepen their understanding of best instructional practices and expand their professional knowledge. These efforts are critical as we continue to enhance both instruction and meaningful extension opportunities for all students.

At the same time, we recognize the challenges ahead. We are monitoring concerns related to potential cuts in state funding, the uncertainty surrounding property tax reform, and the possible impacts on our programs, opportunities, and resources. Despite these uncertainties, our focus remains steadfast: doing what is best for our students.

Thank you again for your hard work, resilience, and dedication. I hope everyone has a restful and well-deserved spring break.



"...our focus remains steadfast: doing what is best for our students."

Jennifer Couch
jcouch@nationaltrail.us
Superintendent

Jen

Building Principals' Update:

Checking in with NT Elementary, Middle, and High School Leadership



Mrs. Krista Alldred

kalldred@nationaltrail.us

Elementary School Principal

The third quarter has been filled with many events and lots of fun! Our PTO sponsored our “A Knight for a Princess” dance. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter, music, and special memories. It was heartwarming to see so many families enjoying time together. Thank you to our PTO for making this event successful. For the second half of the year, students are choosing a new Discovery Day club to attend. This is a fantastic opportunity for hands-on learning and exploration. Students engage in interactive activities that spark curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. Thank you to our teachers who spend extra time creating these clubs and activities. This week we had our “Right to Read” week. Students celebrated the joy and importance of literacy. Our school participated in dress-up days, read around the school, a reading challenge to dress me up as a clown, and special classroom activities. Finally, we have our Grandparents’ week and the Book Fair coming up March 16-20. We are excited to see our families in our building!



Please join us in honoring

The Class of 2026

Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, May 23, 2026
6:30 p.m.

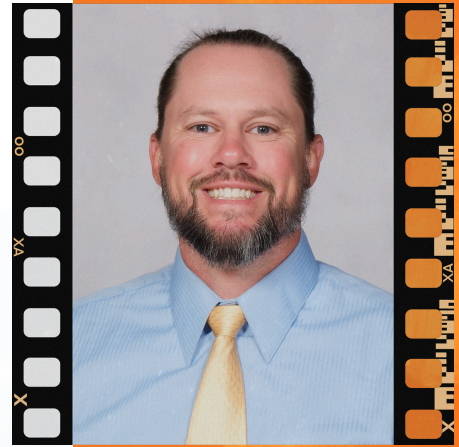


Mr. Chas Boggs

cboggs@nationaltrail.us

Middle School Principal

It has been a remarkably productive winter at National Trail Middle School, marked by outstanding student achievements and significant academic growth. Our students showcased their brilliance in the Preble County ESC competitions, with Kya Ferguson and Marcella Hoffman taking top honors in the County Spelling Bee, and our Geography Bee teams securing impressive second-place finishes across multiple grade levels. In the classroom, we are dedicated to academic excellence through the pilot of a new math curriculum for grades 6-8 and the successful completion of our latest iReady diagnostics. We have also remained focused on our students' futures by introducing 7th graders to the YouScience aptitude platform and hosting a successful 9th Grade Prep Night to support our 8th graders' transition to high school. Beyond academics, our winter sports season concluded with immense pride as our 7th-grade boys basketball and 7th/8th-grade wrestling teams all brought home WOAC Championships.



Mr. David Herring

dherring@nationaltrail.us

High School Principal

National Trail High School had a productive quarter filled with meaningful learning experiences and school spirit. On March 3, juniors and seniors participated in Industry Sectors Day, visiting local businesses such as Eagles Point, Kettering, Progressive Processing, Metallus, and Henny Penny to explore career pathways in the region. Supported by Edison State Community College and a sponsored lunch from Positive Points Inc., the event gave students valuable exposure to local careers. The school also administered the ACT to 62 students using an improved virtual day format for non-testing students, reducing distractions and improving testing conditions. In addition, an eighth-grade transition night helped incoming freshmen and families learn about scheduling and course options, while the District 13 OMEA Solo and Ensemble competition highlighted the talent of music students who earned superior to excellent ratings. The quarter concluded with a spirited FFA Week featuring themed dress-up days, a scavenger hunt for the hidden FFA emblem, and a special breakfast hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Kennel and the Agriculture Program.



Footloose

Youth Edition

THE MUSICAL





Everybody cut, Footloose!

National Trail students brought great energy and talent to the stage with their production of the musical *Footloose: Youth Edition* on March 6–7.

The cast delivered lively songs, fun dance numbers, and heartfelt moments that had the audience smiling and tapping along. From the opening scenes to the final bow, the actors truly “cut loose” and showed confidence, creativity, and dedication as they brought the story to life.

A special thank you goes to Ms. Jordan and Mrs. Toothman for their leadership and hard work in guiding this production. Their efforts, along with the dedication of the talented actors and the hardworking stage crew behind the scenes, made the entire show a success. The students truly sparkled on stage and off, and our school community is proud of the time, teamwork, and passion that went into such a wonderful performance!



Give a cheer for National Trail for the school we love the best. Whether foes be few or many, we will put them to the test. We will praise the sons of glory as they march to victory, and hail the name of Blazers as they lead triumphantly! Hey!

“

Finish The Sentence

We asked Blazers to finish the sentence:

“I leave my mark by...”



“...leaving a good impression.”

Josie,
Grade 8

National Trail Local School District

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

3/30-4/3 Spring Break

April

4/11 FFA Banquet

4/18 Gathering of the Pans:
Steel Drum Festival

4/25 Prom

4/30 State FFA Convention

May

5/4 HS Music Banquet & Spring Concert

5/8 Hope Fair

5/18 HS Senior Awards @ 8:00 a.m.

5/19 MS Music Banquet

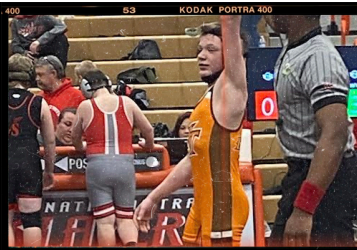
5/23 HS Graduation @ 6:30 p.m.

5/24 Memorial Day Parade

5/28 Last Day of School

All events are subject to change.

ES = Elementary School
MS = Middle School
HS = High School



BLAZER SPORTS SCHEDULE

Scan the QR code for the current sports schedule or visit ntblazers.org





NATIONAL TRAIL School Foundation

ntschoolfoundation.org

Are you looking for ways to keep making NT great? Consider contributing to the National Trail School Foundation. Donations help the NTSF supply grants, scholarships and program supplementation.

In addition, we work to promote community involvement, enthusiasm and support for the school, through parental, faculty and alumni support in the preservation and enhancement of quality education in the school district.

If you are interested in learning more, please email info@ntschoolfoundation.org



"...taking accountability for my work and my choices."

*Olivia,
Grade 11*



"...showing students that I am a caring adult who wants the best for them."

Mrs. Vance



Gathering of the Pans

Come feel the rhythm and enjoy the vibrant, high-energy music!

**Saturday, April 18
7:00 p.m.**



FREE

**HOPE
SQUAD**

HOPE FAIR

**Friday,
May 8
5-8 p.m.**

Raffle items, bounce houses, carnival games, kickball, yard games, and more!

Food trucks will be present to purchase food

Blazing the Trail, Reliving the Moments

Blazer Highlights



Tayten Reynolds placed 4th as an individual at the District 5 Contest for Ag Mechanics.

Students conquered the 3rd quarter, achieving at different levels. While the weather created record-level freezing temperatures, our students kept things fired up with a positive school culture! High school students hosted various games, activities, and a buffet-style breakfast for the staff during FFA Week. From reading around the school to finding success outside of the classroom, from becoming “word surgeons” to excelling as academic champions, our students represented our school well and showed why “it is better to be a Blazer!”



Students received buttons with words of affirmation on Valentine's Day.



Elementary students performed “Contraction Surgery,” by adding apostrophe bandages to words.



Elementary students enjoy reading around the school during "Right to Read" Week.



Middle school students stop to smile at their Pizza Party lunch reward.



Kya Ferguson takes home first place at the Preble County Spelling Bee.



Renaissance students received the post cards that they wrote to themselves last summer at their conference.



High School FFA students prepared and served a breakfast buffet during FFA Week.

We are excited to feature our incredible Blazer Staff! Read what they had to say when we asked them these questions:

Staff Spotlight

1. How long have you worked in education/for National Trail?
2. Who was an inspiring teacher/adult in your life?
3. Do you have a funny or favorite memory as a staff member?
4. What does it mean to you to #LEAVEyourMARK?

Lisa Ebersole

Custodian

1. I started working at National Trail in the Fall of 1997.
2. My 3rd grade teacher inspired me to be involved with my children's school, to get to know the staff that will be helping me raise my children, and now my grandbabies.
3. One of my most favorite funny memories, in the first few years working at National Trail, before teachers had keys to all classrooms, a few middle school teachers, like to, let's say, play games with each other and would ask me for help getting them into each other's rooms after school to rearrange or decorate the other teachers' rooms. They never knew how they were getting into each other's rooms and never asked if I was helping the other teachers. It was so funny to see their reactions and to help plan to get them back.
4. Doing my best daily to be a part of this Blazer Body, to keep it moving forward, Healthy, Safe, and CLEAN!



Jeremy Everman

Elementary Teacher

1. I am currently in my 16th year in education and my 14th year teaching at National Trail. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work with many great students, families, and colleagues. Being part of the National Trail community has been very rewarding, and I truly enjoy helping students grow both academically and personally each year.
2. One of the most inspiring adults in my life was my high school business teacher and cross-country coach, Ed Bell. He emphasized the importance of discipline, teamwork, and always giving your best effort. He pushed us to improve every day while also showing that strong relationships and encouragement can make a lasting impact. Those lessons have stayed with me and continue to influence how I work with students and the athletes I coach today. I was lucky to have many great influences as a student at National Trail. Sharon Norman, my gifted and talented instructor, helped raise me as a second son. By incorporating me into her family, she allowed a kid from a struggling background to see a world that wasn't always available to him. For that, I will always be grateful.
3. One of my favorite parts of teaching is the excitement students show when something finally "clicks" for them, especially in math. Seeing a student who has been struggling suddenly understand a concept and feel proud of themselves is incredibly rewarding. Of course, there are also plenty of funny moments along the way. Students have a way of saying the most unexpected and hilarious things during class discussions, which definitely keeps every day interesting. It is probably best that I keep these out of print and only shared in stories.
4. To me, #LEAVEyourMARK means making a positive and lasting impact on students. While helping them grow academically is important, it is just as meaningful to help them build confidence, learn perseverance, and understand that mistakes are part of learning. If students leave my classroom believing in themselves and knowing that someone supported them along the way, then I feel I have truly left my mark.

