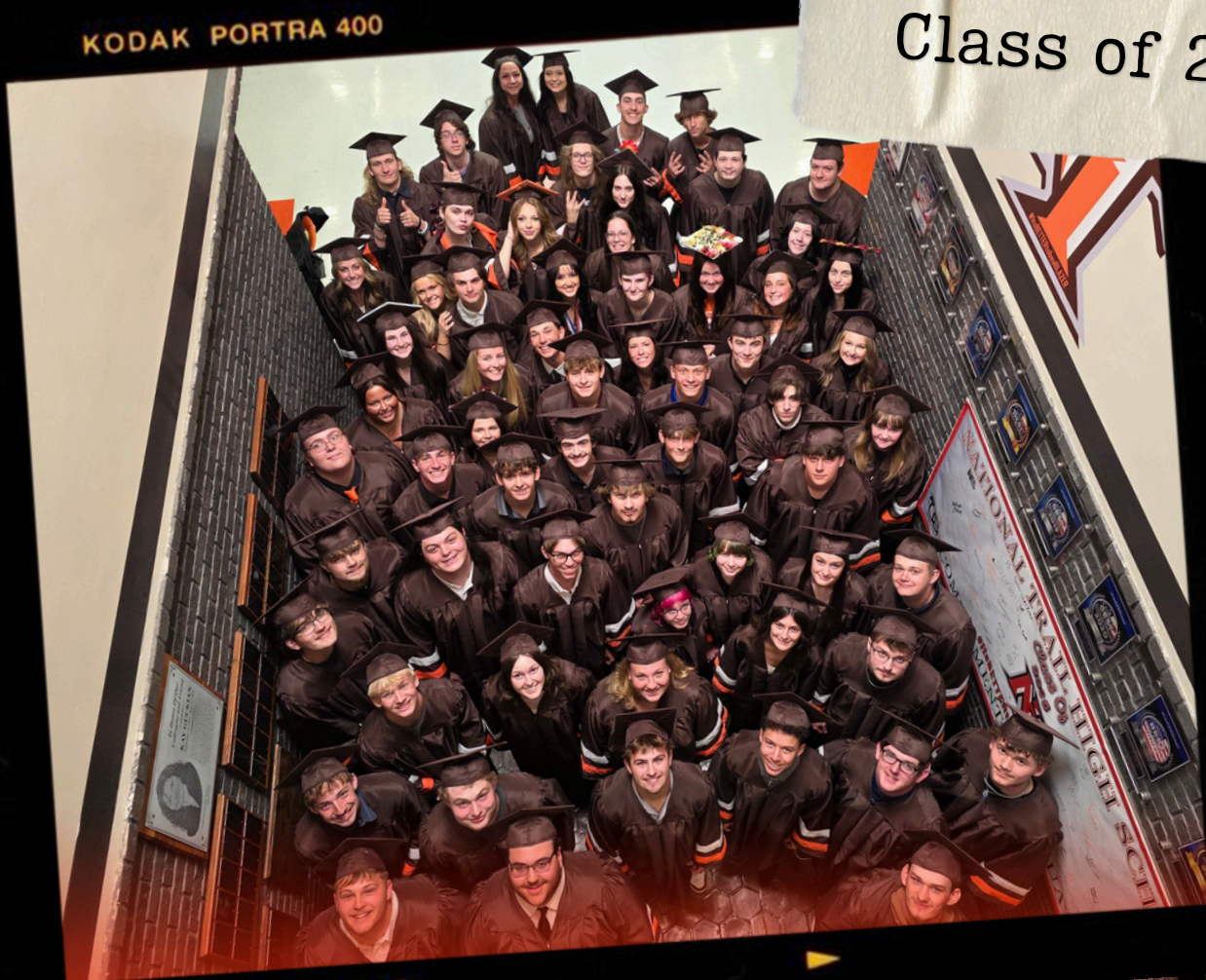


The **Blazer Beat**

National Trail Local School District

Leaving Their Mark:
Class of 2026



Keeping our
NT family connected.



**National Trail
Local School District
School Board**

President
Mindy Ward

Vice President
Greg McWhinney

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David Harris
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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 close another school year, I want to thank our students, staff, families, and community for your continued support and dedication throughout the year.

This year brought many opportunities for learning and growth for our students. From the classroom to athletics, music, FFA, and extracurricular activities, our students continued to challenge themselves, build new skills, and represent National Trail with pride. I am proud of the resilience, responsibility, and determination they have shown throughout the year.

Our staff remained focused on supporting student success by strengthening instructional practices, implementing new curriculum and intervention supports, and using data to better meet the needs of all learners. Their dedication to continuous improvement has helped create meaningful opportunities for student growth across the district.

As the school year comes to a close, we congratulate the Class of 2026 and wish them the very best in the next chapter of their lives. We are proud of their accomplishments and excited to see where their future paths lead.

We also extend our sincere appreciation and best wishes to our retiring staff members: Jean Brower, Julie Hohulin, Joy Yeazel, Barb Bauman, and Kay Swihart. Thank you for your years of service, care, and commitment to our students and school community.

While we continue to monitor challenges related to school funding and future financial impacts on public education, our commitment remains the same: doing what is best for students and providing them with meaningful opportunities to learn and grow.

Thank you again for a wonderful school year. I hope everyone has a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer break.

Jen



"...our commitment remains the same: doing what is best for students."

Jennifer Couch
 jcouch@nationaltrail.us
Superintendent

Building Principals' Update:

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



Mrs. Krista Alldred

kalldred@nationaltrail.us

Elementary School Principal

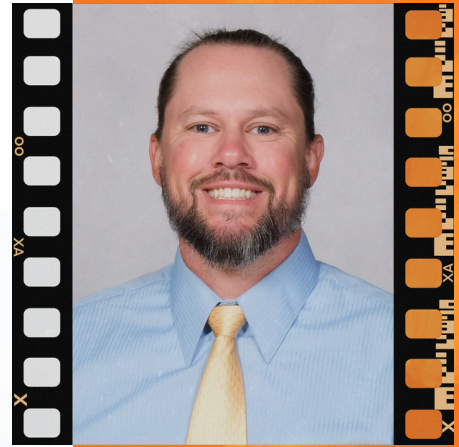
As we near the end of another wonderful school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many meaningful experiences our students have enjoyed together. It has been a busy and exciting season filled with learning, fun, and memorable moments. Our 3rd and 4th-grade students completed their ELA and Math state tests and worked really hard! Our students have had lots of fun and exciting field trips and experiences in the last part of our school year. Our fourth grade got to visit the Great American Ballpark, third grade went to Brukner Nature Center, second grade had their swim lessons at the Preble County YMCA and a visit to Carillon Park, first grade went to the Indianapolis Zoo, and Kindergarten went to the nature center. We will end our year with one last Discovery Day, a fourth-grade Wax Museum, and our amazing Field Day! This year has been another successful time in elementary. We are grateful and thankful for our students, teachers, staff, and parents. We hope you have a wonderful summer!

Mr. Chas Boggs

cboggs@nationaltrail.us

Middle School Principal

The past few months have been incredibly busy, rewarding, and filled with memorable experiences for our Middle School students. Throughout the spring, students participated in a variety of meaningful activities and events, including a food drive, field trips, a formal dance, HOPE Week, OST testing, their third i-Ready Diagnostic, band and drama performances, National Junior Honor Society induction, the Washington, D.C. trip, and the Middle School Music Banquet. In addition, our track, softball, and baseball teams represented NTMS with pride and enjoyed very successful seasons. It has been exciting to watch our students grow academically, socially, and personally through these opportunities. As we approach the final weeks of the school year, we look forward to finishing strong and creating a few more lasting memories together. We are incredibly proud of our students and grateful for the continued support of our families and staff. NTMS is truly a special place because of the amazing kids we have each day.



Mr. David Herring

dherring@nationaltrail.us

High School Principal

The high school concluded the fourth quarter with a series of events that highlighted student achievement, community engagement, and institutional values. The quarter featured engaging agricultural programming, including “Drive Your Tractor to School Day” and “Bring Your Animals to School Day” during Elementary Ag Day, which provided elementary students with hands-on learning opportunities and fostered enthusiasm for agricultural education. “Hope Week” reinforced the district’s commitment to mental health awareness through themed staff participation, an assembly, and the “Hope Fair” that brought together students, staff, and community members to celebrate positivity and resilience. The academic year concluded with ceremonies for both seniors and underclassmen during which students received awards spanning leadership, academics, and subject-specific achievements, with seniors honored through a celebratory walk that united the entire school community in acknowledging their accomplishments and contributions.



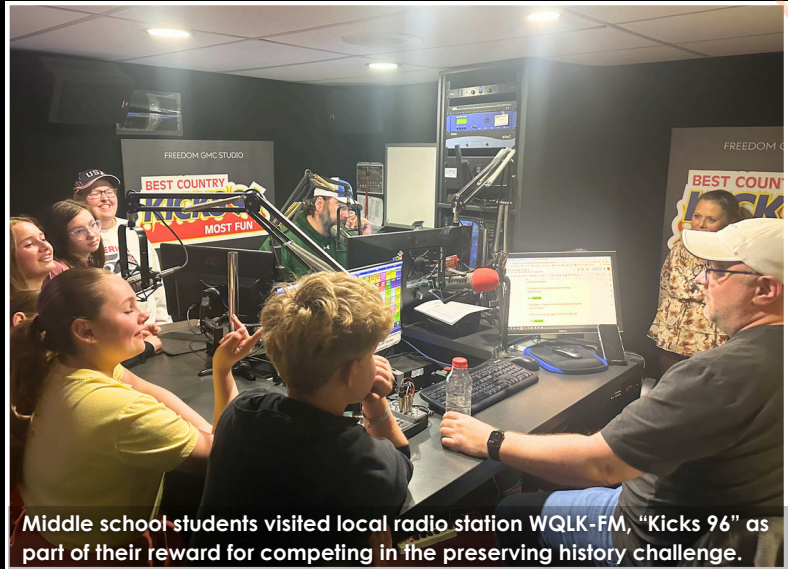
Blazing the Trail, Reliving the Moments

Blazer Highlights

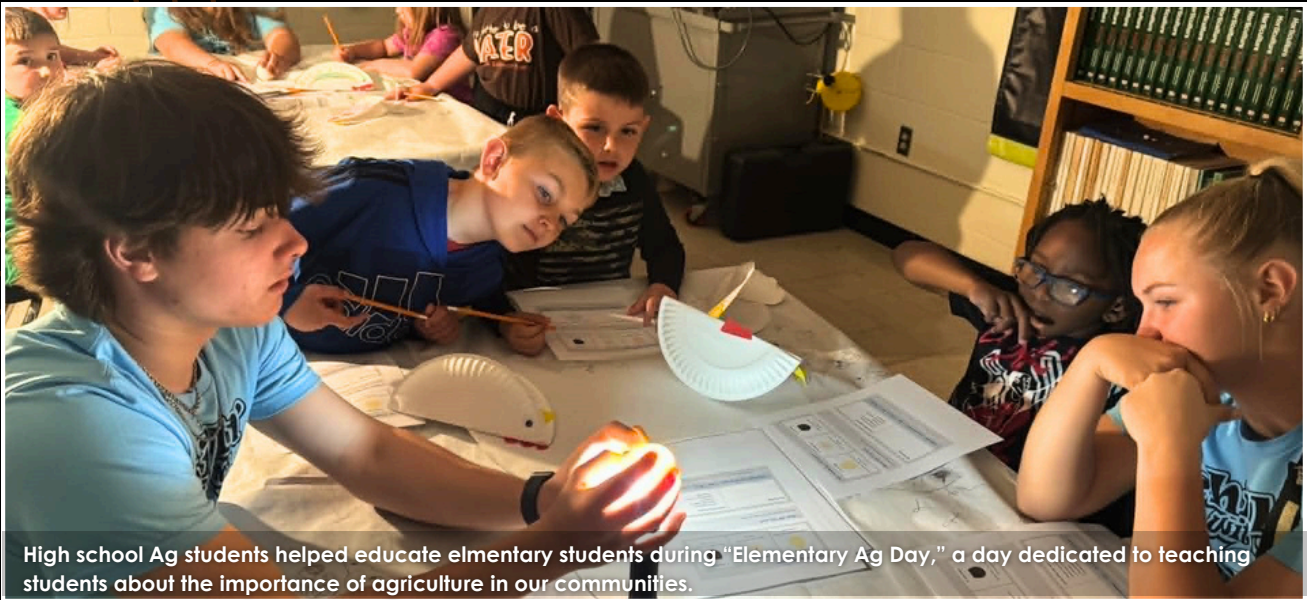
Wrapping up our final quarter of the school year, our Blazer students were busy sharing knowledge, taking advantage of opportunities, exploring new places, and learning about their local roots. We took the time to recognize our incredible staff members who make our school a great place to be. Our NT Hope Squad also hosted a very successful “Hope Fair” for all Preble County students to enjoy. Seniors attended their awards ceremony and earned thousands of dollars in scholarship money. High school agriculture students held their “Elementary Ag Day,” where they served as subject-matter experts, sharing their knowledge with our younger Blazers, teaching about various ag-based topics with hands-on stations. A wonderful year at NT!



High school students volunteered at the Preble County Career Day.



Middle school students visited local radio station WQLK-FM, “Kicks 96” as part of their reward for competing in the preserving history challenge.



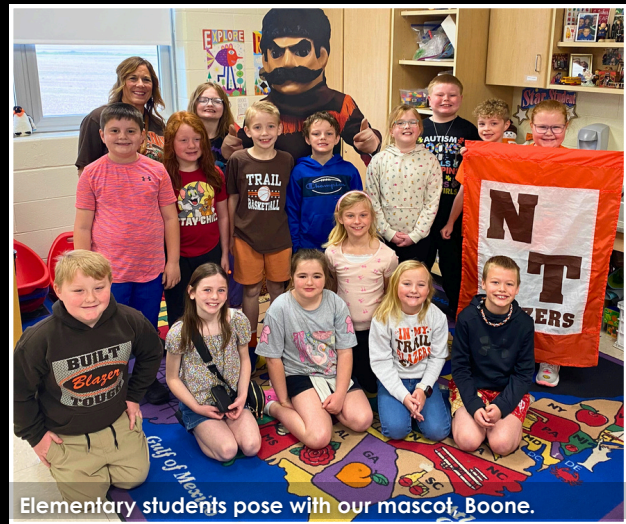
High school Ag students helped educate elementary students during “Elementary Ag Day,” a day dedicated to teaching students about the importance of agriculture in our communities.



Middle school students were inspired by the Preble County Historical Society and conducted interviews of local residents to help capture the history of our county.



Middle school students stop for a picture on the steps of the U.S. Capitol while on their trip to Washington D.C.



Elementary students pose with our mascot, Boone.



On May 5, NT celebrated "Lunch Hero Day" to recognize the hard work of our incredible cafeteria staff.

We are the
CHAMPIONS



Thank you to our *entire community* for your generous contributions to the “Spring Into Giving” Food Drive Challenge, presented by Jacob’s Ladder, a local nonprofit organization, whose mission is “eliminating hunger one child at a time.”

While we were victorious in defeating Eaton Community Schools, we are most proud of working together to collect more than 6,000 pounds of food, which will directly impact our local Preble County students and their families!

As further incentive, our administrators, Mrs. Couch, Mrs. Alldred, Mr. Boggs, and Mr. Herring, held up their end of the challenge and kissed a pig at the school-wide assembly. A special thank you to the Kennel family for bringing your pig to school and making the win all the more memorable!

Additional Information

Jacob’s Ladder provides more than \$20,000 worth of food to the students of Preble County schools each year and is completely funded by private donations. It costs \$15 a month to sponsor a child; that is only \$0.50 per day—less than the cost of a bottle of pop!



Jacob’s Ladder



If you would like to find out more information, contact:

- ✉ jacobsladder.ohio@gmail.com
- 🌐 www.jacobsladder-ohio.org
- ☎ 937-839-2576

Follow Jacob’s Ladder on **Facebook!**





Always remember:
It's better to be a BLAZER!

Leaving Their Mark:
 Class of 2026



**Only displaying available composite photographs. Some students may not be pictured.*

We are proud 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?

Jean Brower

Transportation, Athletics, & Guidance Secretary

1. 10 years.
2. There are so many people who have helped me along this thing called life; however, my daughter Andrea has inspired me the most. My grandchildren also saved me and have shown me that anything is possible.
3. Which one?! There is a story about sending an email to parents instead of the principal, pranking Mr. Pool to fix my monitor when he wasn't in the mood, and my chair dumping me on the floor with an office full of people! I could go on and on.
4. As the news is out that I am retiring, to have students come to me and beg me to stay. To receive "Impactful Educator" certificates from students, when I am not a teacher; that makes me feel I have made a difference in their lives! Hopefully, they will think of me when they need advice or someone to talk to. That is the "mark" I hope I have left at National Trail.



Julie Hobulin

Elementary Teacher

1. I have worked in education for 20.33 years. 😊 I was a kindergarten teacher at New Lebanon Elementary for five years before having my children. This is my 13th year teaching 2nd grade at NT. I also did two long-term positions at NT prior to 2nd grade. One position was for Mrs. Couvutsakis in 1st grade and the other for Mrs. O'Diam in kindergarten.
2. Hard to pick just one! I would have to say my own mother, who was not only my first teacher in the school of life, but also modeled great teaching and nurturing as a preschool teacher and preschool director. I would also say that so many of my co-workers have been inspirations, Mindy Thompson, Sara Hallstein, Jessica Couvutsakis, Kari O'Diam, and Drinda Hesslegesser to name a few!
3. One time, a student dropped a glass jar on the floor that shattered into a million pieces. It contained an embalmed baby shark in a solution of some kind of formaldehyde. This was the last thing I wanted to pick up or clean up. Happy and surprising ending to the story is that having heard about the sorry mishap, Mrs. Mindy Thompson actually had a replacement shark in a jar that she let my student keep. I kindly asked the student to never bring it back to school again!
4. People are what matter most in life. Treat people justly and kindly, always encouraging them. The mark you leave on people's hearts is most important.

