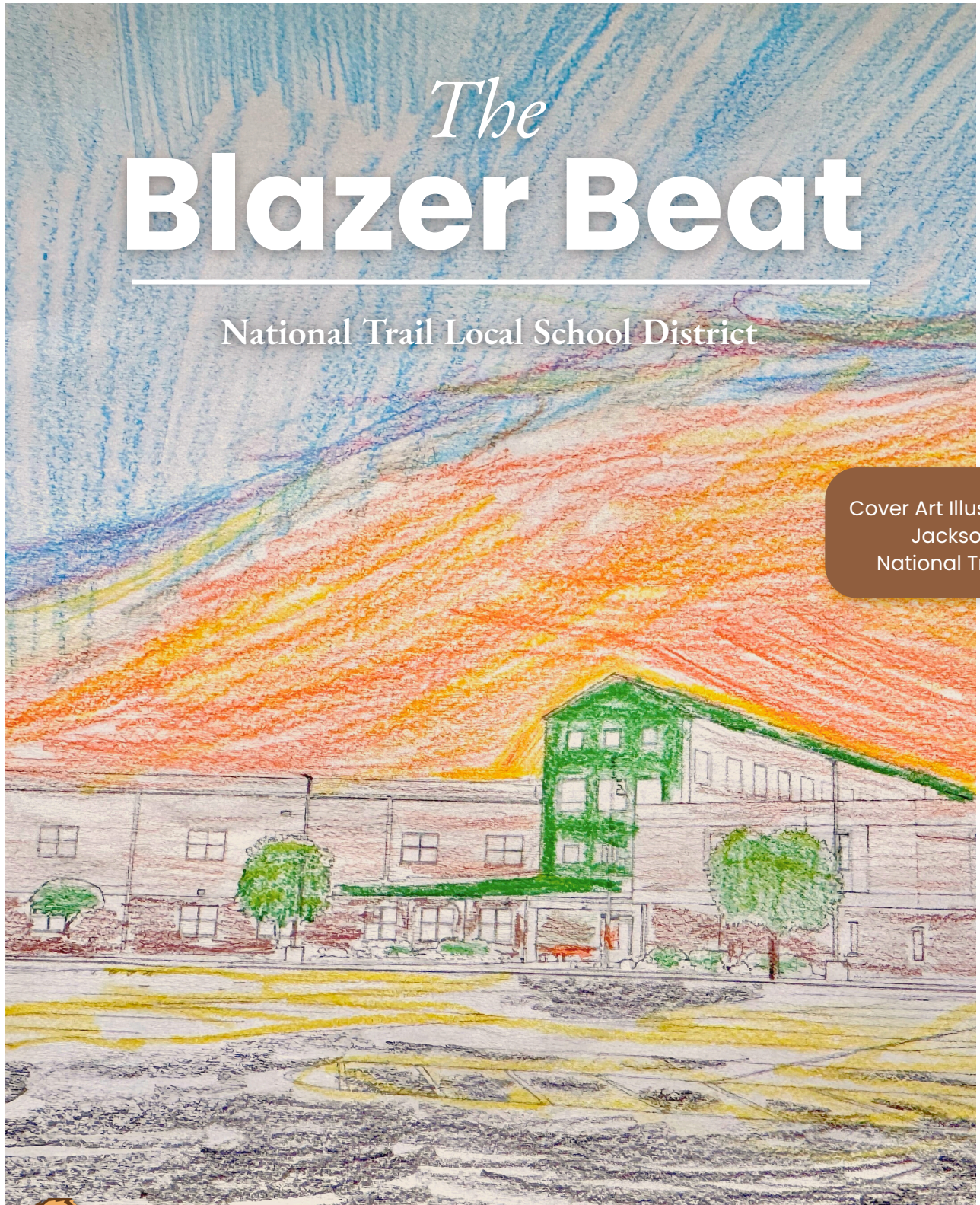


# *The* **Blazer Beat**

National Trail Local School District

Cover Art Illustrated by  
Jackson U.  
National Trail M.S.



Keeping our  
**NT family connected.**





## NT School Board

### *President*

David Harris

### *Vice President*

Mindy Ward

### *Members*

Cindy Lee  
Greg McWhinney  
Gary Moore

## Mission Statement

The mission of **National Trail Local School District** is to provide educational opportunities that encourage individuals to achieve their maximum potential, promote lifelong learning, and develop responsible and productive citizens in an ever-changing global society.

## 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 move through November and December and prepare for winter break, I want to pause and share how truly grateful I am for our staff and students.

First, I am incredibly thankful for our staff and the many ways they pour into our students every day—both inside and outside of the classroom. Their care, dedication, and commitment make a difference that extends far beyond academics, and our school community is better because of them.

I am also so proud of our students. Over the past weeks, they have shown resilience and responsibility, especially when handling unexpected emergencies that took us outside in the rain or cold. They have spoken up when they see or hear something and say something, demonstrating care for one another and our school. I am proud of those who have been brave enough to try something new—whether participating in spelling bees, quiz team, or stepping outside their comfort zone in other ways.

Our students continue to impress us as they balance their schoolwork with involvement in athletics, music programs, and our FFA program. They have access to so many opportunities to explore their interests, discover possible career paths, use their talents, and grow as individuals. Watching them engage, learn, and challenge themselves is a true joy.

I cannot wait to see where their journeys take them. Thank you to our families for your continued support, and I wish everyone a restful, safe, and joyful winter break.

*Jen*



*"Watching our students engage, learn, and challenge themselves is a true joy."*

**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](mailto:kalldred@nationaltrail.us)

*Elementary School Principal*

It's a busy and exciting time in our elementary school! In November, our teachers hosted a fun and engaging Family Reading Night for our community. Our PTO also sponsored wonderful events, including Mother-Son Bowling and Donuts with Grownups. Our 3rd-grade music students performed at the New Paris Tree Lighting, and our 4th graders honored Veterans during a special program led by Mrs. Toschlog. December promises to be just as festive, with many activities underway. Our 1st and 2nd graders recently put on an amazing Christmas music program, and our Kindergarteners will be singing at the Santa Breakfast on December 13th. We will also host our second Discovery Day for students as we wrap up the second quarter!



## ***Thank You!***

Congratulations to our retiring board members.  
Thank you for your guidance and years of service!

**Cindy Lee - 17 years**

**Gary Moore - 12 years**

Thank you for *leaving your mark* on our school!

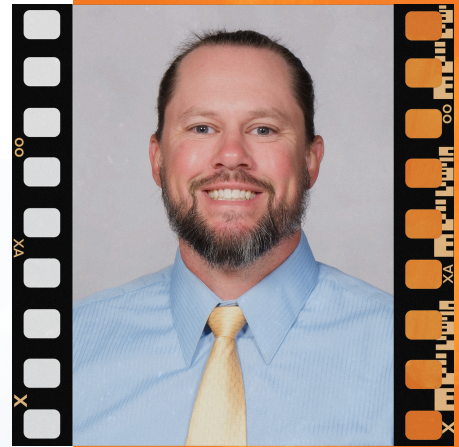


## **Mr. Chas Boggs**

cboggs@nationaltrail.us

*Middle School Principal*

National Trail Middle School has had an awesome end to 2025. In November, we held our Veterans Day Program, 7th and 8th graders attended the Career Fair, they were rewarded with ice cream bars during lunch for winning the “Walk It, Talk It” challenge, and some students assisted with the elementary’s “Donuts with Grown-Ups” event. December is flying by, and the students and staff are staying focused on finishing the year strong! This month has brought us, or will bring us, our annual Ice, Ice, Cookie event, the Middle School Spelling Bee, “Hall”idays festivities, and the Middle School Music Concert! Our winter sports teams are also off to a great start! If you get a chance, come support the wrestling teams, basketball teams, choir/band, and cheerleaders!



## **Mr. David Herring**

dherring@nationaltrail.us

*High School Principal*

National Trail High School has had a vibrant and rewarding second quarter filled with community connection, student celebration, and meaningful learning experiences. Students explored future opportunities during the November Career and College Fair, engaging with regional colleges and businesses thanks to the thoughtful coordination of Mr. and Mrs. Kennel! Academic and personal growth were highlighted through an ice cream reward day on November 6 for students earning positive behavior incentives, as well as the December 2 National Honor Society Induction organized by Mrs. Osswald, which brought together families, staff, and students to honor exceptional scholars. That same day, high school students visited National Trail Elementary to read with Kindergarten and 1st grade learners, nurturing literacy and building supportive cross-grade relationships. The quarter wrapped with joyful school spirit on December 3 as students celebrated the 67th day of school with “6-7 Day,” enjoying activities that reflected their interests and strengthened our positive, inclusive school culture.





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...”



“...showing kindness to my friends and to others.”

*Harper,  
Grade 5*

### National Trail Local School District

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## December

12/13 Santa Breakfast

12/22-1/5 Winter Break

## January

1/6 Classes Resume

1/9 Law Enforcement Day

## February

2/23-2/27 FFA Week

2/24 High School ACT

2/26 Blood Drive

## March

3/6-3/7 Footloose! The Musical

3/10 Band-O-Mania

3/14 School Carnival

3/19 Shoes for the Shoeless

3/20 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Formal

3/27 Senior Citizen Luncheon

3/27 Father Daughter Dance

3/30-4/3 Spring Break

**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](http://ntblazers.org)







# NATIONAL TRAIL School Foundation

[ntschoolfoundation.org](https://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](mailto:info@ntschoolfoundation.org)



**"...encouraging kids to do the right thing while also doing what they believe in."**

*Olivia,  
Grade 8*



**"...making sure I leave a positive impact on all of the students I work with at school every day."**

*Ms. Oldham*

*Everybody Cut...*

# Footloose!

*Youth Edition*

**March 6 and 7**

Showtime 7:00

National Trail Drama Club proudly presents the smash-hit musical, *Footloose!* Mark your calendar for an event that is sure to make you jump out of your seat and cut *Footloose!*



*Blazing the Trail, Reliving the Moments*

# Blazer Highlights



Veterans Day Program Reception

Our school was proud to honor our local servicemembers on Veterans Day with our annual program led by our 8th-grade students. Our middle school students also showcased their hard work and word power in the annual Spelling Bee. We kicked off the holiday season with our “Ice, Ice, Cookie” event, preparing cookies and sharing joy with local nursing homes and public safety departments. In addition, our elementary families came together for a warm and welcoming Family Reading Night, celebrating the love of stories and time spent learning together.



Mr. Pool helps decorate cookies at “Ice, Ice, Cookie.”



College and Career Day





"Ice, Ice, Cookie" Decorating Night



Elementary Family Reading Night



8<sup>th</sup> Grade Leads at the Veterans Day Program



NTMS Spelling Bee Winners: Kya Ferguson, Champion Brooklyn Olivera & Vincent Andrews, Runners-up



Elementary Family Reading Night



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?

## Steve Behringer

### *Social Studies Educator*

1. I have been a teacher for 39 years. All of them at National Trail, although when I started, the school was called C.R. Coblenz Middle School. I started in a fifth-grade classroom with 34 students. The classroom was self-contained, meaning they stayed with me all day, and I taught all the subjects to them. Once we became departmentalized, I taught Math for a while, then Science for a while, but I have taught Social Studies the longest. Besides fifth grade, I have taught sixth grade for a while, and I was a High School Athletic Director for a few years. I have also enjoyed coaching basketball, football, and track at National Trail over the years.
2. When I was in High School, I had an Art teacher who did all kinds of things. We had a dark room for photography, potter's wheel, and we even sandblasted glass. His class was fun, and he was very inspiring. I thought I wanted to be an Art teacher like him. Later, that changed to Elementary Education, although I do have a minor in Art.
3. One time we were having a classroom party, and I had a habit of sitting on the corner of desks. I sat down on a cupcake that had one of those giant cones of icing on the top. The students laughed about it all year.
4. I have always tried to inspire students and to make learning fun. I have tried to get them to love learning and strive for knowledge. I hope that over the years that some of my students look back and say Mr. B helped me to enjoy school and want to learn so that I could accomplish my goals in life.

## Kay Swihart

### *Media Center Specialist*

1. I have enjoyed working at NT for 29 years—18 years in food service and 11 in the HS Media Center.
2. Mr. David Mowrey was my HS band teacher. We did many new things for that time.
3. I enjoyed my HS years and have too many fun memories to share. Some of you already know that Mr. Hoffman and I have been good friends since we were in Kindergarten, 60+ years ago!
4. I believe "leaving your mark" is being proud to be a Blazer and always showing that pride by being honest and respectful as a student and future adult.