New School Year Sparks Kindness

North Allegheny welcomed a record-breaking 8,559 students back to school on Tuesday, August 27, 2019. The energy and anticipation of endless possibilities and opportunities with the new school year could be felt throughout the District.

Prior to the arrival of students, North Allegheny celebrated all staff members on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at the annual Back to School In-Service at North Allegheny Senior High (NASH). The in-service was centered around Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, with Superintendent Dr. Robert Scherrer portraying Pittsburgh’s beloved Fred Rogers. During the in-service, Dr. Scherrer encouraged all staff members to keep three key objectives in mind this school year: be kind, embrace change, and be the difference. Guest speaker and North Allegheny alumni Gregg Behr of the Grable Foundation provided ideas and resources on how staff members can remake learning for students and be the difference in the lives of others.

Three staff members also shared testimonies about how they strive to Be The Difference at North Allegheny and highlighted teachers who have made impacts on their lives, which can be viewed on the District’s website. Students from the Kindness Committees spoke about the #BeTheKindKid movement and shared what kindness means to them. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.
The District continues to see the overall theme of kindness spread throughout all buildings and became the key message of each school community. The #BeTheKindKid movement was initially founded in 2016 in Avonworth School District and has quickly spread throughout the Pittsburgh region and beyond. Mr. Jeremy Sabo at Marshall Middle School (MMS) has been a driving force behind bringing the movement to North Allegheny. MMS was one of the first NASD buildings to designate Wednesdays as the day for staff to don their #BeTheKindKid shirts. Now, staff members and students at each building can be found each Wednesday sporting #BeTheKindKid apparel to help spread the message of kindness. As of November 2, 2019, North Allegheny has sold 1,532 t-shirts within the NA community alone.

Student groups striving to promote kindness are also beginning to pop up throughout the District, with Kindness Committees being formed at all three middle schools. Within these organizations, staff members and students go above and beyond to spread kindness in their buildings. “I am thankful to work in a school district that places a great emphasis on how important it is to be kind to one another on a daily basis. We could not accomplish this without our amazing teachers, administrators, and most importantly our students,” shared Mr. Sabo.

Ingomar Elementary School set the theme for the new school year as “Where Kindness Flows.” Each grade level attended an assembly to learn what kindness looks like at school and within the community. Examples of kindness were shown to students and modeled by staff, and students spoke about how acts of kindness make them feel. Throughout the school year, school assemblies and activities will reinforce the kindness message with students.

Peebles Elementary School kicked off the PES “ROCK” initiative in October. “ROCK” stands for Respecting Others Choosing Kindness and will be reinforced throughout the school year. Weekly meetings will be held during the school year focusing on kindness and respect, with rewards given to those students who are “caught” showing kindness toward others.

North Allegheny is proud of all students and staff members for promoting kindness. Further stories of kindness will be shared with the community through the North Allegheny social media accounts.
Franklin Elementary Students Spread Positivity

As a kick-off to the school-wide positive behavior program, Franklin Elementary School once again held the “Chalk the Walk” event in early September. During this event, the entire school came together to create chalk designs that spread positivity through the school environment. Each grade level is provided a unique trait/characteristic to depict in their displays, which are then hung throughout the hallways of the school for all to see as they travel through the building.

Hosack Alumni Leave PAWSitive Mark on School

During the 2018-2019 school year, several fifth-grade students participated in a “Shark Tank” challenge, where they identified potential ideas to address improvements to Hosack Elementary School. Two groups of students focused their efforts on friendship and kindness, and presented an opportunity for their classmates to promote inclusiveness. The “Paws-itivity Bench” was created by a group of students, who are now sixth graders at Carson Middle School, to provide a space for students who would like to make new friends. A special ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, October 2, to unveil this special bench on the Hosack playground. The original members of the Shark Tank group, Lauren Capozzi, Casey Richey, Allison Reinhart, Mia Charrie, Audrey Maxwell, Elaine Erskine, Lauren Williams, and Annika Enwright, returned to see their class project come to life and see the everlasting mark they made on their elementary school.

Marshall Elementary Welcomes Breakfast Buddies

Marshall Elementary School (MES) held its annual breakfast buddy event on October 10 and 11. This is the sixth year MES has hosted the event for students to bring someone special to school and enjoy breakfast with the school community. Whether its mom, dad, aunt, uncle, or any important buddy, students can bring a special person to school to start their day and share with friends. Breakfast Buddies is just one of the many events that Marshall Elementary hosts during the year to create a warm and welcoming school community.
Redistricting Plans Approved for 2020-2021

At the October 23, 2019, Combined School Board meeting, the School Board approved the final redistricting scenario for the 2020-2021 school year. The plan can be viewed on the North Allegheny website.

WHAT’S NEXT?

• Transition information, including the continuation option for students currently in grades 4, 6, and 7, will be sent to all families later in November
• A meeting for parents/guardians regarding transition activities and the continuation option will occur in January
• Transition activities for students will begin in February 2020

The redistricting webpage on the North Allegheny website contains transition tips for families who will be redistricted, an overview of previous communications from the District, and additional FAQs.

North Allegheny appreciates the input and involvement of the community throughout the process.

Speech & Debate Receives National Recognition

“Speech and debate is the best activity we can offer to kids. The program teaches students skills they won’t get elsewhere,” said Ms. Sharon Volpe, AP Calculus teacher and Speech and Debate coach at NASH. Because of Ms. Volpe’s philosophy and hard work, she recently earned a Distinguished Service Bronze Plaque from the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA). Service is one of NSDA’s tenets of their Code of Honor and coaches, such as Ms. Volpe, receive service citations that contribute to the Distinguished Service Awards.

Additionally, students earn points and degrees in NSDA’s Honor Society based on competitions and service-related activities. NA’s chapter achieved 600 or more points last year thus earning them membership in NSDA’s prestigious 600 Club. NSDA also hosts the National Speech & Debate Tournament for students, which is the largest academic competition in the world.

In 2019, 15 students from NA’s chapter attended this competition where only the best of the best have the opportunity to compete. Qualifying for this competition is a testament to the hard work and commitment our students portray, and the dedication of Ms. Volpe and all North Allegheny staff members.

NA Project Water, BWE Collect Coats for Local Non-Profit

NA Project Water (NAPW) partnered with North Hills Community Outreach to conduct a school-wide coat drive at North Allegheny Intermediate High from October 7 through October 22. Together, the NAI community collected over 500 coats and clothing items to help keep local families warm throughout the winter season. Volunteers from NAPW, NA Cheer, and Key Club worked alongside North Hills Community Outreach to distribute donated items in late October.

Since 2015, NAPW has raised over $90,000 for the construction of water harvesting systems, deep wells, a septic tank for a school dormitory, a four-bedroom house for village families and a surgery center. NAPW was created to support the identified needs of African villages, and is now working to help those in our own community fight poverty. Keep an eye out for a major announcement regarding an upcoming NAPW project later in the school year.

Bradford Woods Elementary also collected 120 items through a separate coat drive for North Hills Community Outreach in early October. Great job to everyone who helped make a difference!
NASD German Program Receives National Recognition from the American Association of Teachers of German

Herzliche Glückwünsche to the World Language Department, specifically the German teachers, for earning the prestigious distinction of being a German Center of Excellence from the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Jurors from the AATG found NA’s programming to be excellent in every category, stating that they were impressed that the program is so well established and growing and that the curriculum is a clear, articulated sequence of instructional programming that is standards-based and reflects current methodologies.

NA’s German program will be honored during the AATG Awards Presentation at the ACTFL Convention and World Languages Expo on Saturday, November 23, 2019, at the Goethe-Institute Washington in Washington, DC. Congratulations on this esteemed award on a program that goes above and beyond to meet the needs of NA students.

Steel City Codes Presents at Pittsburgh Technology Event

This past summer Steel City Codes, a high school-lead 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to creating education opportunities in computer science, held three sessions for their summer camp teaching 380 students between fourth and fifth grades, all from 24 different school districts across the Greater Pittsburgh region. The effort is led by seniors Akshana Dassanaike-Perera, Josh Zhou, and junior Claire Shao. Currently, Steel City Codes is continuing their efforts during the school year and implementing free after-school programs in other schools across the state!

Through a partnership with AT&T’s Believe the Burgh Program, Steel City Codes was invited to present at the Pittsburgh Technology Council’s Tech 50 awards event. This event gave students the opportunity to network with the most innovative companies in Pittsburgh! The program also awarded Steel City Codes with a $5,000 donation which they plan to use to support underfunded computer science programs within other public high schools.

NASH Senior Attends FBI Pittsburgh Teen Academy

October 23, 2019, wasn't just any ordinary Wednesday for NASH senior Carsyn Nash (pictured right). As a selected participant in the 2019 FBI Pittsburgh Teen Academy, Carsyn had the opportunity to report to the academy and learn about a variety of topics and specialties, including the importance of making good choices when using online communication platforms, federal law violations the FBI investigates, requirements of all FBI applications, and the FBI’s domestic and international role. This is the first program of its kind in Pittsburgh, and North Allegheny is excited that Carsyn is part of the inaugural class!

Peebles Elementary Alum Gives Back to School

NASH junior Vincent Raitt (pictured left), a Peebles Elementary alum, returned to Peebles to complete an Eagle Scout project and give back to the school he once attended.

Vincent and his fellow troop members installed a new accessible exit to the trail at Peebles, as well as a small addition to the trail to allow true one-way traffic. The group also improved landscaping and enhanced drainage on the trail. “It was my pleasure to come back and help a school that did so much for me,” shared Vincent.
In early October, Mrs. Brandy Newell’s Modern American History and Politics classes at NASH had the opportunity to speak with School Resource Officer Todd Ray about search and seizure rights, and common questions about traffic violations. Students observed as Officer Ray walked through the procedures of a traffic stop. Not only do the School Resource Officers at NASH and NAI provide an additional layer of security to the District’s comprehensive safety plan, but they also serve as in-house resources for students and teachers alike.

Garbage Bag Gala Challenges Fashion Designers’ Creativity

Students with the North Allegheny Fashion Club showcased their designs at the 18th Annual Garbage Bag Gala and Fashion Show: Giving and Glamour on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at the Sheraton Station Square. The event challenges participants to use recyclable items to create unique and inspirational designs, all while benefiting a local cause. Students who participated in the Gala include Parastoo Aramesh, Aditi Sharma, Pim Yanwisaduk, and Christina Zhou. NASH’s Fashion Arts and Fashion Merchandising Class also created a design that was showcased during the Gala.

Project LIT Receives Grant from Grable Foundation

Project LIT is gaining traction not just at NA, but with other schools in the Greater Pittsburgh Region. With the help of a grant from the Grable Foundation, Project LIT MMS is partnering with CAPA middle school students in downtown Pittsburgh, and seventh grade students at Prospect Charter School in Troy Hill to create Project LIT-sburgh. This new club is a joint effort to help students see Pittsburgh as a larger community and support one another in creating a united, student-led literacy movement. Students will have the chance to build a read-aloud library for NA elementary and Pittsburgh Public elementary schools. Project LIT-sburgh hopes to spread to other schools in the District and throughout Western PA.

Project LIT held its first meeting at MMS in October and has already held two book club meetings that included a video chat with author Jasmine Warga of Other Worlds for Home. All three middle school clubs are currently reading this book. NASH and NAI are reading Internment by Samira Ahmed. “We wanted to have all of our secondary schools talking about refugees and immigration this Fall,” shared Project LIT advisor Ms. Melissa Castner. Project LIT NA and Global Minds NAI hosted a refugee panel discussion, “Welcome, Neighbor” as a complement to their readings. The refugees on this panel all live in the Pittsburgh area and spoke about their experiences at the event on Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at Marshall Middle School. Winter hats, scarves, mittens/gloves, and new and gently used books of all types were also collected at the event to benefit refugee groups throughout the Pittsburgh region.
IMS Celebrates School Spirit with Proud to be Ingomar Day

On Friday, September 6, 2019, Ingomar Middle School kicked off the beginning of the school year with the annual Proud to Be Ingomar Day.

The festivities included a pep rally with student-teacher competitions, student-centered activities, and two keynote speakers. The day created a sense of overwhelming pride within the building, allowed students to meet new classmates and work on team building, and set the overall tone for a fun and productive school year.

Carson Middle Shows Compassion through Fundraisers

Students and staff at Carson Middle School hosted two fundraisers at the beginning of the school year to help others in need. A fundraiser was held for the victims of Hurricane Dorian, which devastated the Bahamas in mid-September. Carson was able to raise $700 for the Red Cross through their efforts. The Carson community continued its philanthropic spirit by holding a “Caps for Cancer” fundraiser in early October, raising $225 for a national organization that provides support to those impacted by cancer.

Franklin and McKnight Elementary Schools Begin Year with Renovated Spaces

The summer months were extremely busy at Franklin and McKnight Elementary Schools! Both buildings are undergoing addition and renovation projects and saw many changes at the beginning of the school year as the eighteen-month project began to transform both buildings.

Several classrooms at Franklin were renovated to include new floor and ceiling tiles, cabinets, lights, unit ventilators, and ActivInspire boards. The gymnasium received a fresh coat of paint with new paw prints on the walls to showcase Franklin’s tiger pride. The entrance driveway and front parking lot was reconfigured to accommodate a new drop-off area and expanded parking lot. Crews continue to work on the cafeteria and music room addition in the rear of the building, along with a two-story classroom addition.

Students at McKnight Elementary returned to a renovated library, a new emotional support classroom, and a new second-grade wing. Construction continues on additional classroom renovations and the addition of an art room in the rear of the building.

The project will continue throughout the school year and throughout the summer of 2020. Monthly renovation updates will be posted to the North Allegheny website for both Franklin and McKnight Elementary. NASD appreciates the ongoing support and flexibility of all families during this project!
During the summer break, NAI School Resource Officer Mike Metzger and teacher Mr. Bill Howell rebuilt and revitalized the pond in the NAI courtyard.

Officer Metzger and Mr. Howell began the project in June and worked through the summer in order to have the pond finished for the start of the new school year. Plants were added around the pond, and a heater was installed for the fish to stay warm in the winter months. Upon return to school in August, students in Ms. Lori Murphy and Ms. Jen Mitz’s class helped release the fish into their new home. These students will feed and take care of the fish during the school year.

2019 School Bus Safety Poster Contest Winners

North Allegheny recognized the 2019 School Bus Safety Poster contest winners at a special luncheon at the Baierl Center on Tuesday, October 22, 2019. Congratulations to the students who participated in the contest!

Bradford Woods Elementary Hosts Fall Family Night

Bradford Woods Elementary welcomed students and families back to school with a Fall Family Night on Friday, September 13, 2019.

During this fun-filled evening, students had the opportunity to visit with teachers and staff, enjoy lots of fun activities including face painting, check out the Bradford Woods Fire Department fire truck, and enjoy entertainment from Coach Dave Gray Sports.
Celebrating 25 Years at North Allegheny

The following North Allegheny staff members are celebrating 25 years with the District during the 2019-2020 school year. Congratulations and thank you for your many years of dedicated service to North Allegheny!

Amy Alexander  
Ingomar Middle

Jim Bradley, Ed.D.  
Central Administration

Barbara DeAugustino  
Marshall Elementary

Rob Gaertner, P.E.  
Facilities

Greg Geibel  
NAI

Natalie Gottron  
Carson Middle

Janet Lewandowski  
McKnight Elementary

Dennis Morton  
McKnight Elementary

Shannon Perry  
NASH

Marta Vollmer  
Peebles Elementary

Kathy Ward  
Central Administration

North Allegheny School District is a 2019 Top Workplace

North Allegheny School District was named a Top Workplace by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette for the fourth consecutive year. Additionally, North Allegheny received the Meaningfulness Award and finished #3 overall for large companies (400 employees or more) in the Pittsburgh region!
NA Foundation Grants for 2019-2020

North Allegheny Foundation's mission is to enhance and enrich the educational experience of North Allegheny, create vital connections with the wider community in supporting North Allegheny Schools, and provide scholarship monies to graduating seniors. The following grants were awarded by the NA Foundation for the 2019-2020 school year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Health and PE Bikes</td>
<td>$12,300</td>
<td>Bradford Woods, Franklin, Ingomar, Hosack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cellos</td>
<td>$8,010</td>
<td>All Middle Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Instruments</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Senior High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling Art Gallery</td>
<td>$4,700</td>
<td>All Elementary Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Support Programming</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Intermediate High, Ingomar Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem-Based Learning</td>
<td>$2,400</td>
<td>Ingomar Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project LIT Community</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>Carson Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukulele Club</td>
<td>$1,250</td>
<td>Franklin Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Maker Carts</td>
<td>$1,230</td>
<td>McKnight Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAEye Newspaper</td>
<td>$1,170</td>
<td>Intermediate High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism Support Programming</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>Hosack Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAEye TV</td>
<td>$587</td>
<td>Intermediate High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lending Library for MTSS Support</td>
<td>$425</td>
<td>Ingomar Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Recreation during lunch</td>
<td>$236</td>
<td>Marshall Middle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $45,958 for North Allegheny students

Donations to the Grants Fund can be made at www.northallegheny.org/donate

Community Members Pledge to Fund NASH Helping Pantry

At the June 26, 2019, School Board Meeting, the Board of School Directors accepted a donation of $5,000 from Paul Heckman and Marcia Caliendo to fund a Helping Pantry at NASH, a resource that will be available to students who are classified as homeless and/or face significant financial challenges. Paul and Marcia made the generous donation in honor of Marcia's parents, Fay P. and Raymond J. Caliedo, Sr.

As North Allegheny's student population continues to increase, so does the number of homeless students. During the 2018-2019 school year, 18 students were classified as homeless. While some of these students reside with friends or family, some students are forced to live in local shelters. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law which governs how homeless children and youths are supported. It is most often in the best interest of the student to continue to attend school in their school of origin, even if their homeless situation has them residing outside of the District's borders.

School counselors and teachers are the first to realize when a student needs assistance with personal grooming, school supplies, or winter clothes. During the past school year, it became clear that students would be better supported by a constant supply of basic necessities that are easily accessible. The Helping Pantry at NASH will keep and organize basic supplies that students living in non-traditional and or temporary conditions struggle to access, such as clean socks, backpacks, snacks, winter coats, gloves, undergarments, feminine hygiene products, and school supplies. Organizers of the Helping Pantry look forward to implementing this new resource this Winter.

In order to help with educational expenses, NA Foundation also administers an Angel Fund program. Through this fund, the Foundation receives requests for aid to cover testing fees, uniforms for vocational programs, Summer Academy tuition, and field trip costs. Donations to support the Angel Fund and ongoing support of the Helping Pantry can be made at www.northallegheny.org/donate.
Now Hiring Bus Drivers

Join our team and Be The Difference in the lives of over 8,500 North Allegheny students!

North Allegheny’s Transportation Department offers:

- Flexible Schedule
- Free CDL Training - no experience needed!
- Competitive Compensation
- Comprehensive Benefits Packages
- Paid Personal & Sick Days
- PA State Employee Pension Plan
- Annual Wage Increases
- Recertification & Safe Driving Incentives

Apply today at www.northallegheny.org/careers.

Ingomar Middle Staff Member Publishes Children’s Book

Congratulations to Ingomar Middle School Health and Physical Education teacher Ms. Margo “Coach” Hinton!

Coach Hinton recently published a children’s book titled JoJo's Dream: You Can Do Anything! She will be holding a book signing at Riverstone Books in McCandless Crossing on Saturday, December 21, at 10 a.m.