

Two Perfect ACT Scores

What We've Done So Far

A Winter of Athletic Wins

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APRIL 2024

POLAR BEAR PRIDE

Your Connection to the Jackson Local School District



COMMUNITY • COLLABORATION • PARTNERSHIP



A Message from the Superintendent



Having the opportunity to continue to share our story with our community in each edition of Polar Bear Pride is a great pleasure. Counting how our students have a positive effect in our township with classmates and teammates, visiting with patients in nursing homes, welcoming veterans into our

buildings, and any number of opportunities is a daunting task. Since our last issue, let me share just a handful of celebrations from your local school district.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Earlier this school year, one of our senior students, Vivian Janes, was informed by The ACT company of a perfect ACT score. Vivian scored 36, the highest ACT score possible. Then, most recently, Jackson High School found out two of our seniors were National Merit Scholarship finalists. Shiv Nagajothi and Vivian are finalists, opening doors to scholarship offers from universities nationwide, including full-ride scholarships.

What is remarkable is we had another student earn a perfect 36 on the ACT. Isha Nagajothi scored a 36, and she is a junior who was taking the ACT for the first time. According to ACT, just 2,542 out of the 1.39 million students who took the ACT last school year scored 36. This school year, two of those students are from our high school.

This is undoubtedly a celebration of the collaboration and partnership between our teachers, staff, parents, students, and community. Our teachers are caring instructors who meet students where they are and then push our students to their fullest potential.

ARTS CELEBRATION

Last month, the Jackson School for the Arts held its annual Arts Extravaganza, highlighting students' talents in grades K-12. This is a true celebration of all the arts at Jackson, including those in the



performing arts on stage and those in visual arts with the media of their choice.

It truly is impressive to see the talent on display here daily. We have had talent on display in museums from Massillon, Canton, and Columbus, with students being recognized at the Statehouse Student Exhibition.

And that's not to mention our high school jazz bands (Six O'Clock Big Band and Seven-Thirty Big Band) played an incredible performance with the "L'ill" Jazz Heritage Orchestra in February.

ATHLETICS EXCELLENCE

Our athletic department has had two state champions in basketball (2010, 2017) and baseball (2014, 2017), and cross country won the state title, as we highlighted in the last issue this past fall season. The winter sports season has been one to remember!

First, let's start with our cheerleading team. They came home with the OASSA Division I Gameday Large state title. It is our school's first cheerleading state championship. We should thank our Jackson Township Police Department for providing both our state champion cross country and cheerleading teams with an escort back to the school once they were within township limits.

Our boys and girls swimming and diving teams had historic seasons. They both won the Federal League, swept team titles at the sectional meet, and qualified a record 27 student-athletes to the district meet. Head coach Doug Nist was named the boy's district Coach of the Year. The boys won the district meet, and the girls were in a close battle for first place.

Boys' and girls' basketball shared Federal League championships, and our girls' team won its district tournament and advanced to the regional tournament (Sweet 16). Head coach Anthony Butch was named the Federal League Coach of the Year, and senior Megan Campbell was the Player of the Year, the first time in more than 35 years we have had a player of the year in girls' basketball. Our boys' head coach, Tim Debevec, was named the Federal League Coach of the Year as well.

Our student-athletes and coaches work extremely hard in and out of the season. Our school is honored to compete in the Federal League against other area schools. The Federal League is one of the most competitive in Ohio. The Polar Bears have won 13 straight All-Sports Trophies, which account for points based on standings in each league sport. Our winter teams have helped us build a lead going into a very competitive spring sports season.

TWO TREMENDOUS NON-PROFIT PARTNERS

Every year, the district helps to support the Jackson Local Schools Foundation's Polar Bear Plunge, where teams are formed, and funds are raised (and split between a team's charity and the Foundation). It culminates with a breathtaking and refreshing jump in Lake Cable, usually the Saturday before the Super Bowl in February.



Then, the district participates in St. Baldrick's to raise money for pediatric cancer research. This has turned into a friendly and supportive rivalry with our colleagues and friends at North Canton City Schools. Our two districts have helped the Canton-area St. Baldrick's event raise more than \$2.8 million since it began in 2003. Our district will eclipse the \$1 million mark for funds raised. Of course, none of this would be possible without your support and our community's generosity.

Simply, THANK YOU!

Chris DiLoreto, Superintendent

Schools Celebrate at St. Baldrick's "Brave the Shave" Event

It was a day of cheers, smiles, and a whole lot of hair on the floor at the North Canton Racquet Club on March 10, where the community spirit shone as brightly as the freshly shaved heads at St. Baldrick's Foundation's "Brave the Shave" event. The Jackson Local School District, with nine enthusiastic teams, including each of its six schools, turned out in force, showcasing their commitment to a cause close to many hearts: funding pediatric cancer research.

In an impressive show of solidarity and generosity, the Jackson teams raised over \$91,000 this year and celebrated a monumental achievement – surpassing

the \$1 million mark in total contributions since 2007. With a friendly rivalry spurring them on alongside North Canton City Schools, the combined efforts of these two districts pushed the fundraising total for this year above \$170,000.

Lake Cable Elementary led the pack with a staggering \$23,400, while Strausser wasn't far behind, amassing more than \$20,400 and eclipsing the \$300,000 mark in total donations over the years. These numbers aren't just figures; they represent hope, research, and future breakthroughs in pediatric cancer treatment.

Continued on page 3



Sauder Elementary student (and top fundraiser) Hallie Deiters shaves the head of Superintendent Chris DiLoreto during the annual event.

Jackson Local Schools Student Calendar 2023-2024

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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OCTOBER 2023						
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NOVEMBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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JANUARY 2024						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

AUGUST
 9 Gr 6/New Student Orientation, 6-8:00 pm
 9 Gr 9/New Student Orientation A-L, 7-8:00 pm
 10 Gr 9/New Student Orientation M-Z, 7-8:00 pm
 10 Open House - All Elementaries, 4:30-6:30 pm
 16 1st Day for Students (K-12)
 17 Open House - JMMS, Last Name A-M, 6:00-7:00 pm
 Last Name N-Z, 7:00-8:00 pm
 23 Open House - High School, 5:00-7:00 pm

SEPTEMBER
 1 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
 4 Labor Day - No School (K-12)

OCTOBER
 3 Parent Conferences (K-5) 4:00-8:00 pm
 3 Parent Conferences (Gr 6-12) 4:00-7:00 pm
 5 Parent Conferences (K-5) 4:00-8:00 pm
 6 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
 9 Columbus Day - No School (K-12)
 11 Parent Conferences (K-5) 4:00-8:00 pm
 11 Parent Conferences (Gr 6-12) 4:00-7:00 pm
 20 **End of 1st Marking Period - 44 Days**

NOVEMBER
 22 Thanksgiving Break Begins
 28 Classes Resume

DECEMBER
 21 Winter Break Begins

JANUARY
 4 Classes Resume
 11 **End of 2nd Marking Period - 45 Days**
 12 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School (K-12)

FEBRUARY
 15 Parent Conferences (K-12) 4:00-7:00 pm
 16 Professional Development Day - No School (K-12)
 19 Presidents' Day - No School (K-12)
 21 Parent Conferences (K-12) 4:00-7:00 pm

MARCH
 15 **End of 3rd Marking Period - 42 Days**
 25 Spring Break Begins

APRIL
 2 Classes Resume
 8 Solar Eclipse Day - No School (K-12)

MAY
 24 Last Day for Students & Staff
 24 **End of 4th Marking Period - 43 Days**
 27 Memorial Day

FEBRUARY 2024						
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MARCH 2024						
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APRIL 2024						
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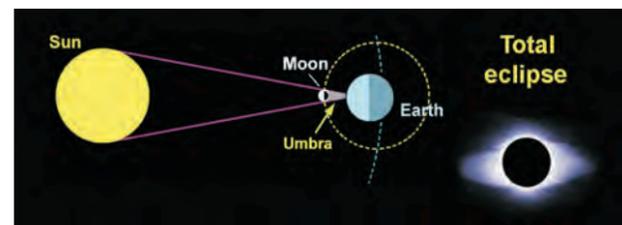
MAY 2024						
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31						

JUNE 2024						
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Jackson will be closed April 8

Based on Guidance from Emergency Management



The Jackson Local School District Board of Education approved the recommendation to take a calamity day on Monday, April 8, 2024. Among the many factors for this recommendation is acting on guidance from local and state Emergency Management Agency experts regarding infrastructure support. Stark County and Ohio Emergency Management reports suggest certain areas of Ohio could see a significant influx of visitors for the Solar Eclipse, and the path of the April 8 solar eclipse in our district will be a total eclipse.

Given the timing of the eclipse in our district (it will begin at approximately 1:58 p.m., maximize in totality at 3:15 p.m., and end at 4:29 p.m. during peak dismissal times), the district has made the decision to minimize our school-related traffic (buses and young drivers) on local infrastructure that day. Another area of concern is the strain that may be placed on cellular communication towers due to the potential influx of visitors. There will be no extra-curricular events in our district that day.

Ohio Emergency Management has identified some of the challenges April 8 may expect include:

- Heavy to gridlocked traffic conditions before and after the eclipse
- Travelers stopped on roadways (heat, water, food, bathroom challenges)
- Limited cell phone service due to heightened network use
- Potentially limited food and gasoline availability on the routes due to an influx of travelers.

Visit ready.gov for more safety tips, and for help creating a family communication plan. For more on how to view the eclipse safely, see NASA.gov.

Jackson Local Board of Education

The 2023-2024 Jackson Local Board of Education members have met two times this school year. The members are: Board President Tonya Wright, Vice President Lia Jones, Esq., Scott Gindlesberger, Christopher Goff, Esq., Thomas Winkhart, Esq.



TONYA WRIGHT was appointed to the Board of Education in June 2020 and was elected to the Board in November 2021. She has a track record dedicated to servant leadership in Jackson and Stark County. Tonya graduated cum laude from the University of Akron with a bachelor of arts degree in business and organizational communications in 1992. She earned her master's degree in business administration from Kent State University in 2000, while working full-time. She has served in various corporate leadership roles, most recently product marketing manager at Diebold-Nixdorf. She also was an adjunct instructor at Stark State College in the business department. Mrs. Wright and her husband, Mark, have two daughters, Anna and Ava, both Jackson Local students.



LIA JONES was elected to the board in 2021. She graduated from Denison University with a bachelor of arts degree in communication. She earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Akron School of Law. Jones is senior vice president and senior fiduciary strategist for the Akron, Canton, and Mahoning Valley region at KeyBank. In addition to her work on the JLSD Board of Education, Jones is a member of the Akron Symphony Board of Directors. She was the 2018 recipient of the 30 for the Future Award, presented by the Greater Akron Chamber. Jones lives in Jackson Township with her husband, Caleb, and their young daughters, Elle and Olivia.



SCOTT GINDLESBERGER was elected to the board in 2004 and has been re-elected four times. Mr. Gindlesberger holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mount Union and a master's degree in finance from the University of Akron. He is a Senior Vice President with Stifel Nicolaus. Mr. Gindlesberger and his wife Susie have four children.



CHRISTOPHER GOFF began his first term in January 2008 and has been re-elected three times. He holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration, with a major in finance from Ohio Northern University, a master's degree in political science from The University of Akron, and a juris doctor from The University of Akron School of Law. He is CEO and General Counsel at Employers Health and is a former adjunct professor of law at The University of Akron School of Law, and currently is an adjunct professor at Northeast Ohio Medical School. Mr. Goff and his wife have three adult children who have graduated from Jackson Local Schools.



TOM WINKHART began his first term on the board in 2002 and has been re-elected to the board five times. He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Toledo and a juris doctor degree from the University of Akron School of Law. He is president of the law firm of Winkhart & Minor and also of Cornerstone Real Estate Title Company. Tom and his wife, Janelle, have five children, who have graduated from Jackson High School.

The Board of Education meets monthly. Regularly scheduled meetings can be found on the district's website.

St. Baldrick's "Brave the Shave" Event

(continued from page 1)



One of the event's most heartfelt moments featured Sauder third-grader Hallie Deiters, who stood out as Jackson's top student fundraiser. Her reward? The unique chance to snip Superintendent Chris DiLoreto's hair and plaster a pie in the face of Sauder's beloved PE teacher and boys basketball coach, Tim Debevec (shown above). It was a fun, memorable way to honor her incredible effort and the community's overall contribution.

This year, the Stark County St. Baldrick's event didn't just make a local impact; it ranked as the No. 2 event worldwide for funds raised, a testament to the passion and dedication of the Jackson Local community and its allies in the fight against pediatric cancer.

The success of this year's event is a reminder of what we can achieve when we come together for a cause that matters. The District, along with every student, teacher, parent, and community member who contributed, has shown that together, we're not just strong – we're unstoppable in our quest to bring an end to childhood cancer.

As we look forward to future events and the continued fight against pediatric cancer, let's carry forward this spirit of unity and generosity. Here's to making even bigger strides in the years to come!

With heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed, the impact of your generosity will be felt far and wide, lighting the way to a brighter future for children battling cancer.

Perfect ACT Scores Twice in One Year!



Isha Nagajothi



Vivian Janes

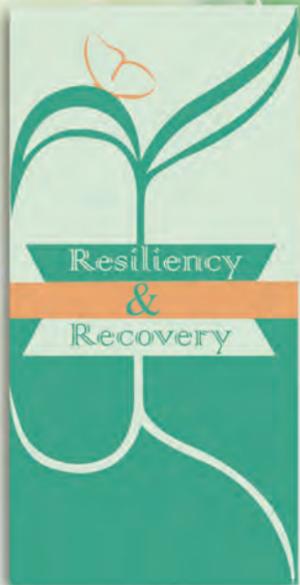
In an outstanding display of academic excellence that's sending waves of excitement throughout the District, Jackson High School celebrated an incredible milestone. For the second time in the 2023-2024 school year, the school is reveling in the news of a student achieving a perfect score on the ACT. Isha Nagajothi, a junior at Jackson High School, has scored a perfect 36 on her first attempt at the ACT, a feat of academic excellence that places her among the nation's most elite students.

This remarkable achievement comes hot on the heels of senior Vivian Janes' perfect score earlier in the school year, marking a historic moment for the school. Together, Nagajothi and Janes have raised the bar for academic excellence within the district, proving that hard work, dedication, and brilliance truly pay off.

To put Nagajothi's and Janes' accomplishments in perspective, only 2,542 students out of approximately 1.39 million test-takers from the class of 2023 managed to achieve a perfect score, making their success even more commendable.

Let's also use this moment to celebrate the hard work and dedication of all our students and educators. It's a clear testament to the outstanding potential within our schools and a reminder of the bright futures that lie ahead for these remarkable students. Janes is a National Merit Finalist, along with Shiv Nagajothi. Janes plans to attend Alabama University on an academic scholarship.

Here's to celebrating excellence, encouraging the pursuit of academic ambitions, and looking forward to the continued success of our students at Jackson High School and beyond.



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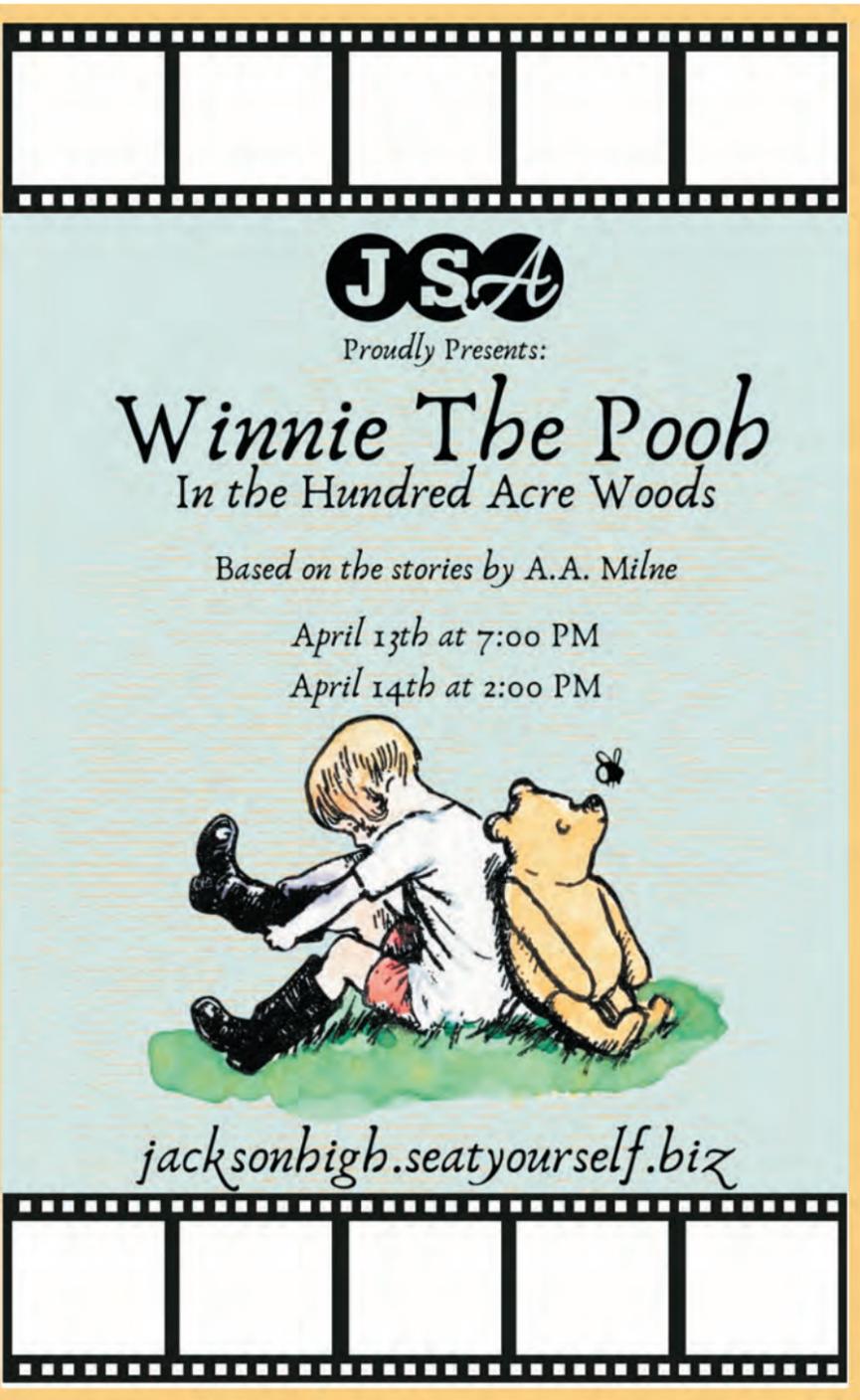
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- Twitter @Alumni_JHS
- LinkedIn Jackson High School Alumni Association

- Isha Nagajothi and Vivian Janes earned perfect scores (36) on the ACT.
- Boys Cross Country won the 2023 State Championship.
- Cheerleaders won the Division 1 Gameday State Championship.
- Boys Swim Team placed 5th in the state. The Girls' Team qualified eight to state.
- Girls' Basketball Team is playing for the Regional Championship.*
- Allison Williams' art was selected for Otterbein University's prestigious high school art show.
- Sarah Henson and Karla Van Eeden will showcase their artwork at the prestigious 2024 Statehouse Student Exhibition.
- Connor Barnes was February's Canton Rep's Kid of Character.
- Cameron Feiber's art was selected to hang in the Ohio House of Representatives Art Exhibition.
- Boys Basketball clinched its 18th Federal League title and is playing for the District Championship.*
- Shiv Nagajothi and Vivian Janes were named National Merit Finalists.
- Band director, Michele Monigold was a finalist for Ohio Music Educator of the Year.

* At the time of this writing.

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ALWAYS A BEAR

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WHAT WE'VE DONE...



...SO FAR!



Registration is Open for 2024-25 School Year



Registration for the 2024-2025 school year, including new kindergarten students, is now open. To be eligible for kindergarten, your child must be 5 ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2024. Please scan the QR code for more information.



After completing the registration forms online, the following support documents are needed to finalize your registration:

- Original Board of Health Birth Certificate
- Current proof of residency within Jackson Local School District (at least three of the following):
 - Lease agreement including signatures of lessee and lessor
 - Purchase/Construction Agreement
 - Current gas bill
 - Current electric bill
 - Ohio Driver's License with Current Address
 - Current Bank Statement
 - W-2
 - Current Pay-Stub
 - Homeowners or Renters Insurance Document
 - Income Statement from Social Security, Child Support, or Government Assistance
 - Another bill with the current address in your name, postmarked within the last 30 days.
- Immunization records (please use the above QR code to find current immunization and TB requirements)
- Custody papers (if applicable)
- Parent/Guardian Photo ID



BELDEN VILLAGE MEDICAL OFFICE FOR SALE



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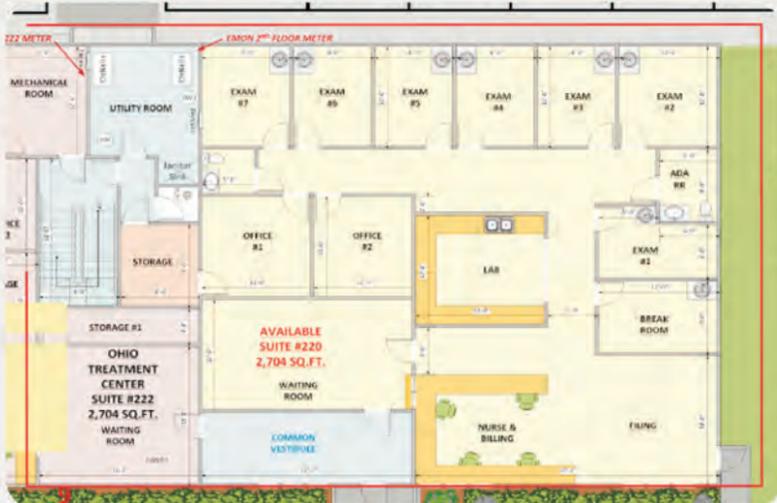
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Wick Hartung
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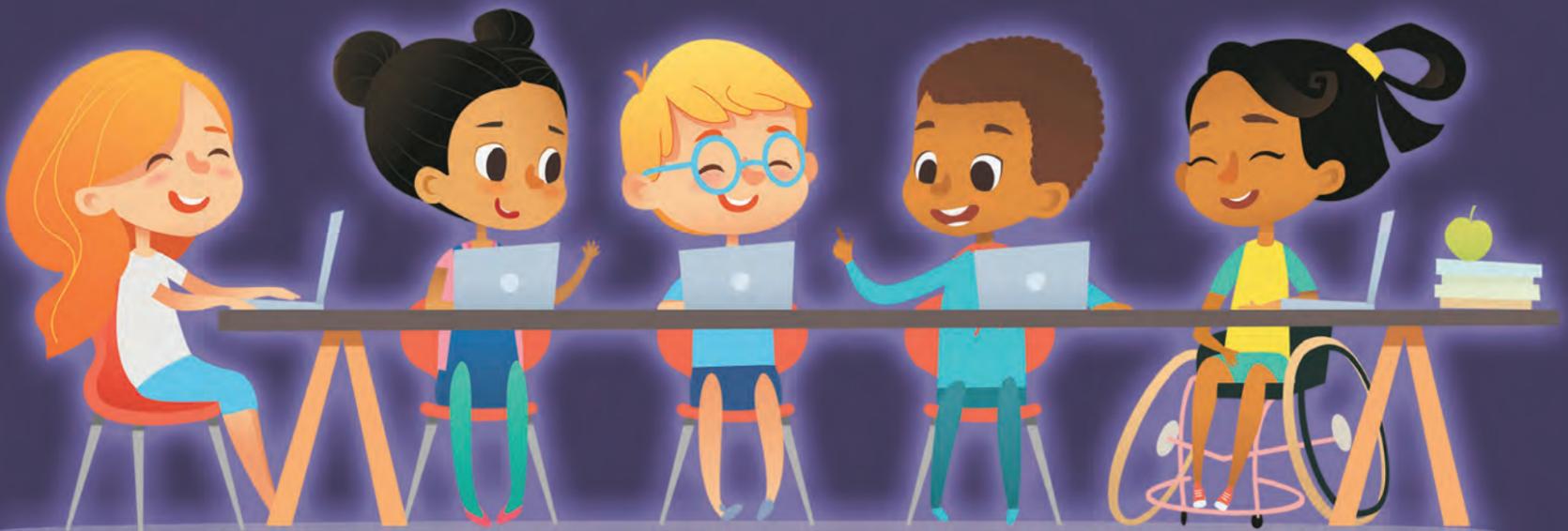
Jackson Local seeks to serve students with disabilities



Within the intent of the federal statutes (Rehabilitation Act of 1973-section 504 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act IDEA-public law 105-17), the Jackson Local School District continues its effort to locate and identify children with disabilities from birth through age 21. Children with disabilities have physical, emotional, and/or mental impairments that may require special education. Public schools provide free and appropriate education regardless of a child's disability. However, before these children can be served, they must be found. Many of these children are not visible because

they may not function in the community's mainstream, and many are preschoolers. Parents may not realize that programs and services are available through their school district or from agencies in their community.

If you are aware of a child who may need a special education program or services, contact Kathy Brand, Jackson Local School District's Special Programs Director, with any questions you may have regarding this notice at 330-830-8006



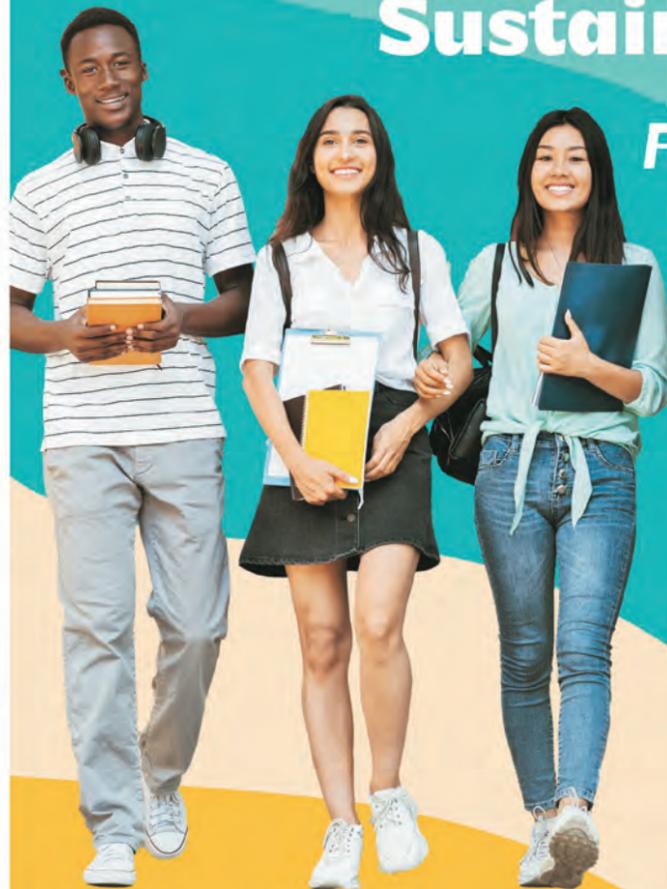
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Celebrating a Winter of Wins: Championships, Awards, and Historic Achievements

This winter sports season at Jackson High School has been nothing short of remarkable, with our athletic teams not only capturing Federal League Championships and District Championships but also earning individual Coach of the Year and Player of the Year honors.

Our boys and girls swimming and diving teams had an unprecedented season, dominating dual meets and clinching both league and sectional championships. The boys' team soared to a district championship victory, while the girls' team fiercely competed for the title. Head Coach Doug Nist was rightly honored as the District Coach of the Year for the boys' team.



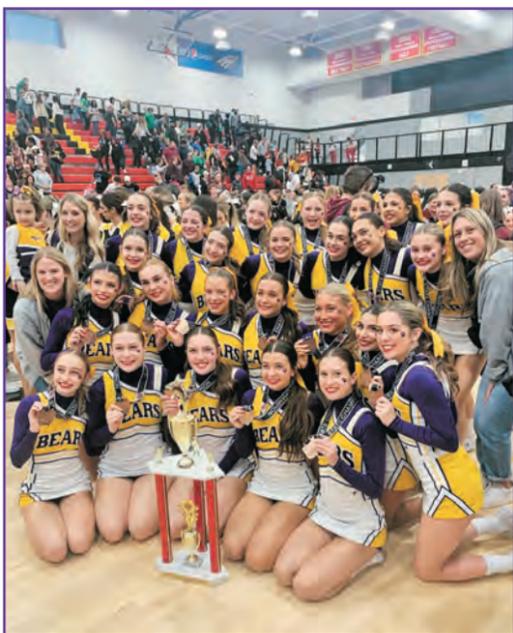
In girls basketball, the team broke several school records, including achieving the most wins in a single season and maintaining an unbeaten streak at home. Their hard work paid off as they won both the league and district championships and advanced to the Elite 8. Head Coach Anthony Butch was named League Coach of the Year, and senior Megan Campbell was celebrated as the Player of the Year.



The boys basketball team also had a thrilling season, winning the Federal League and the district title with an exciting victory over Mentor. Head Coach Tim Debevec was recognized as the Federal League Coach of the Year for his outstanding leadership.

In wrestling, Ethan Dimos made headlines by qualifying for the Division I state tournament, becoming our first state tournament qualifier in six years – a commendable achievement for Ethan and our wrestling program.

Not to be outdone, the Jackson Cheerleading squad achieved a monumental milestone by winning the school's first state title in the Division I Gameday Large category at the OASSA state cheer tournament. Their exceptional performance brought home the glory, marking a historic moment for the team.



Wheelchair basketball coach Blake Dickson was named the Wheelchair Basketball Coach of the Year in Ohio by OIAS and Abby LaPole was named the OIAS Athlete of the Year. The team advanced to the state Final Four.

As we reflect on this winter sports season, it's clear that the dedication, hard work, and spirit of our student-athletes, coaches, and teams have brought immense pride to Jackson High School. Congratulations to all for their achievements and for setting new records and standards of excellence in our sports program. *Here's to many more victories and celebrations in the seasons to come!*

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“

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We would like to thank all of our sponsors, volunteers and jumpers that made the 2024 Polar Bear Plunge a success! We had almost 500 jumpers take the plunge this year and they helped raise over \$17,000 for teacher grants and \$12,000 for their 23 deserving charities!

