

A Perfect Score on the ACT!

National Civics Bee State Champ

Eagle Scout project

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OCTOBER 2023

# POLAR BEAR PRIDE

Your Connection to the Jackson Local School District



COMMUNITY • COLLABORATION • PARTNERSHIP



## Collaboration with community makes success possible



Chris DiLoreto,  
Superintendent

**Dear Jackson Local School Parents and Township Community Members,**

The Jackson Local School District is well into the 2023-2024 school year, and we always look forward to telling you the story of the Jackson Polar Bears. Our story is one of collaboration and partnership with our students, parents, staff, you – our stakeholders and community members – and our business community. We look forward to sharing our stories with you because they are tremendously positive and certainly ones we cannot attain without you. We have about 650 employees, 6,000 students, 10,000 parents, and 43,000 residents who are integral to what is the very core of what we do: educating students to achieve their highest potential, inspired by teachers who are making a difference, encouraged by parents who are providing support, and empowered to action by a community working together so that every child realizes his/her dreams.

We have many great stories to share with you:

- U.S. News & World Report updated its rankings for the 2023-2024 school year and ranked Jackson High School among the top 50 high schools in Ohio and the No. 1 high school in Stark County.
- Niche.com has Jackson Local ranked among the top 5% of school districts in Ohio and

named Jackson High School the No. 1 school for student-athletes in Ohio.

- Business View Magazine recently recognized our district for the student-centered approach we take with a laser focus on providing an excellent education environment.



- Jackson has 144 AP Scholars, an incredibly high number of students who earned a score of 3 (passing) or higher on Advance Placement tests. Those students earn college credit for those tests.
- Three Jackson Local school buildings (Jackson High School, Sauder, and Lake Cable elementary schools) earned Blue Ribbon designations from the U.S. Department of Education.
- All six Jackson Local School buildings are Purple Star certified by the Ohio Department of Education for the district support of military families.

### Teams, bands, choirs, and clubs off to a great start

Congratulations to our academic and arts clubs that are off to a great start this fall. In addition to the positive energy started by the arts and academics, our athletic teams are performing at a high level. Last school year, Jackson won the Federal League All-Sports Trophy for the 12th straight year. We are grateful to our fellow Federal League schools for creating a great, competitive, and challenging environment for our student-athletes to learn important life lessons outside the classroom.

After one of our football team's early victories, a comment from our head coach, Jay Rohr, to his players struck me. Coach Rohr told the team after the win: "One athlete of character improves your team. One team of character changes your school. And one school of character impacts your community!" Communication and collaboration with our stakeholders and community members are core values in the Jackson Local School District. We are grateful for the partnership with our parents and community.

**Thank you, and Go Bears!**





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
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27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER 2023						
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OCTOBER 2023						
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29	30	31				

NOVEMBER 2023						
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DECEMBER 2023						
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31						

JANUARY 2024						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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

MAY

- 24 Last Day for Students & Staff  
24 End of 4th Marking Period - 44 Days  
27 Memorial Day

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
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MARCH 2024						
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APRIL 2024						
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MAY 2024						
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JUNE 2024						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

	First and Last Student Day
	Professional Development Day
	No School (K-12)
	K-12 Conference Exchange Day

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 Christopher Goff, Esq., Vice President Tonya Wright, Lia Jones, Esq., Thomas Winkhart, Esq., and Scott Gindlesberger.



**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.



**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.



**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.



**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.

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





## A Show of Gratitude

In a heartwarming display of gratitude and community spirit, students from Jackson Memorial Middle School's JAGS and Little Congress programs took time out of their schedules to show appreciation for some of the unsung heroes of the school district -- our dedicated bus drivers.

Led by student organizers Lilly Caldwell, Delaney Lawson, Jayde Owuor, and Teagan Helsel, this remarkable group of young leaders marched in front of all the buses stationed at Jackson Memorial Middle School. Armed with signs, cheers, and an abundance of gratitude, they showered the drivers with the recognition they so richly deserve. The

drivers responded in kind with a chorus of horns honking.

"Bus drivers don't always get appreciation weeks, and they're dealing with crazy kids, too," said Delaney Lawson, one of the student organizers. The event served as a poignant reminder of the importance of bus drivers in the daily operations of the school district. "You are truly the backbone of our district," read one of the signs held by a student. These drivers ensure the safe transportation of students to and from school, often being the first and last school representatives that students see each day.

As the school year progresses, this event serves as a timely reminder for all of us to appreciate the people who make our daily lives a little easier. Whether it's the bus driver who greets children with a smile every morning or the cafeteria staffers who serve meals with care, every role is essential in creating a nurturing educational environment.

In the spirit of community and gratitude, let's all take a moment to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who contributes to making Jackson Local School District a wonderful place for our children to grow and learn.

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Vivian Janes



# ACT Perfection!

Jackson High School's **Vivian Janes** (daughter of Derek and Tammy Janes) accomplished a rare feat this year when the senior scored a perfect ACT score. ACT tests are administered periodically throughout the school year and are used by many colleges as one of the factors during the admissions process. How rare is a perfect 36?

Vivian joins the ranks of the top one-quarter of 1% of ACT test-takers who have achieved perfection.

Last year, of 1.34 million students who took the ACT, only 3,376 individuals claimed the perfect score. Vivian's achievement is a testament to her commitment to excellence and a bright future.

Jackson is among the best school districts in the county in getting students college-ready.

Janet Godwin, CEO of ACT, said of Vivian's achievement: "Earning a top score on the ACT is remarkable. A student's exceptional score of 36 will provide any college or university with ample evidence of their readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead."

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1-36. A student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. The ACT's optional writing test score is reported separately and is not included within the ACT composite score.

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement exam that measures what students have learned in school. Students who earn a 36 composite score have likely mastered all of the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in first-year college courses in the core subject areas.

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**A Night to Remember:  
Celebrating the History of Jackson's Mascot!**

Friday, Sept. 15th, was not just another homecoming game--it was a night that celebrated our history, our community, and the incredible work of Natalie Morgan.

For her JSA capstone project, Natalie delved into the rich history of Jackson's mascot and brought it to life in the most beautiful way--a reunion celebration at the homecoming game.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended, especially the following individuals who have represented our mascot over the years:

- Sandra Matthews-Schuster '61-'63  
Linda Cameron '67-'68  
Kathy Shaffer-Austin '68-'70  
Patricia Neal-Stanley '70-'71  
Pam Edgar-Goldsworthy '71-'72  
Carol Pedersen-Hann '71-'72  
Jodi Ketter-Castello '75-'76  
Christine Cheyney Boyd '76-'77

Robin Ballinger-Markland '79-'80  
Laura Linn-Wallace '83-'84  
Maria Cotopolis-Graf '95-'96  
Jessica McClellan-Rieder '97-'99  
Teddy Pavlantos '12-'13  
Lauren Martino '14-'17  
Natalie Morgan '20-'23  
Lauren Durr '23-'24

Your presence added a layer of warmth and nostalgia that made the night truly unforgettable.

*Thank you, Natalie, for reminding us that we find our community  
when we dig into our history!*

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# WHAT WE'VE DONE...





# ...SO FAR!







# Civics Bee Champ

The Jackson Local School District is elated to announce that **Aarit Koul**, a standout student in our community, has clinched first place at the state-level National Civics Bee held at Ohio State University. This remarkable achievement comes with a generous \$3,000 prize, adding to the \$500 he previously won for securing second place at the local level.

Aarit's journey to the state-level competition was fueled by an unwavering dedication to understanding the intricacies of our government, the rights afforded to U.S. citizens, and the responsibilities that come with citizenship. His commitment to civic education has made him a champion and a role model for his peers.

With this state-level win, Aarit has qualified for the National Civics Bee, where he will compete against the best and brightest nationwide.

"We couldn't be prouder of Aarit's accomplishments," Jackson Memorial Middle School Principal Kacy Carter said. "His win is not just a personal achievement but a testament to the quality of education and the supportive environment we strive to provide for every student in our district."



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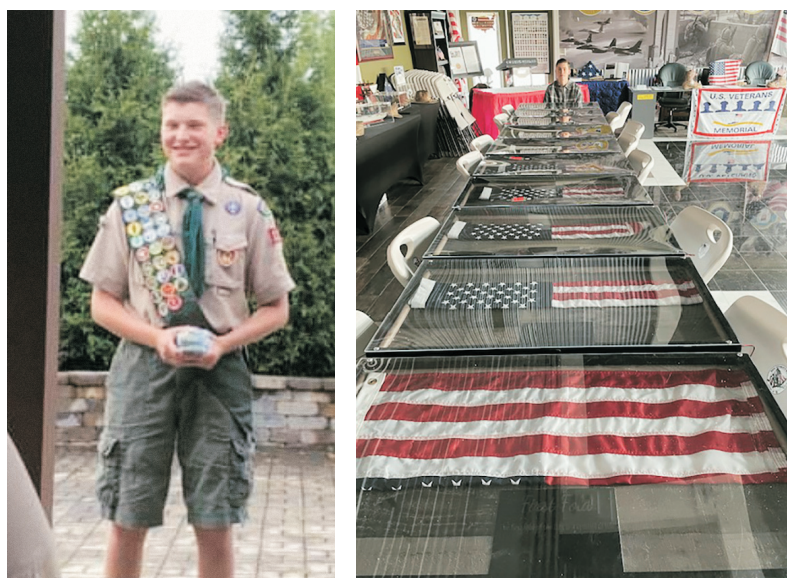
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# Eagle Scout Project



**Tristan Dennis**, a 2023 graduate of Jackson High School, earned his Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout rank. He is a member of BSA Troop 118. His Eagle Scout project “Folds of the Flag” involved constructing 13 shadow boxes containing each flag fold with a plaque explaining what each fold represents. Each Box lights up and is displayed on the gazebo ceiling at the Ohio Veterans Memorial Park in Clinton. Tristan raised \$5,000 to complete this project. He plans on attending Kent State University and will study architecture.



# 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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# Local Students and Alumni Win Gold at International Baton Twirling Championships

A group of seven talented students and alumni from Jackson Local Schools have made their community proud by winning two world gold medals at the International Baton Twirling Federation Championships held in Liverpool, England this past week.

The team, consisting of Brooke McClain, Gabi Resnick, Bailey Mountford, Brooke Thiel, Samantha Silwinski, Savannah Giacomo, and alumni Kylie Cates, competed in the Senior Show Corps and Twirl Corps categories, bringing home gold medals in both.

### Representing Country and Community

The young athletes represented the United States and Jackson Local with exceptional skill, tenacity, and grace under pressure. Their performances were a testament to the high level of training and dedication that they have committed to their sport.



## Seal of Biliteracy awarded

The Ohio Department of Education recently recognized the World Languages teachers at Jackson High School for a No. 7-ranking in the state for students who have earned the prestigious Seal of Biliteracy.

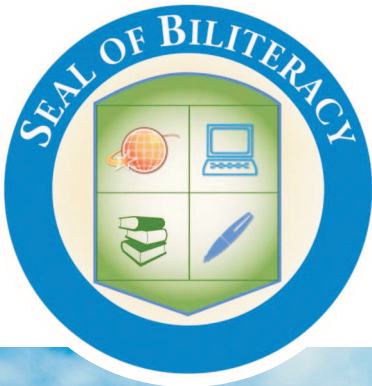
The Seal of Biliteracy is conferred upon graduating seniors who can demonstrate high levels of proficiency in English and at least one other language, an accolade that ensures students’ biliteracy skills are easily identifiable by colleges, universities, military recruiters and future employers.

Since 2018, Jackson has been awarded 146 Seals in Spanish, French and Chinese. In addition, 23 graduating seniors from the class of 2023 have already earned the seal, while others await their qualifying scores.

World Languages course offerings at the middle school level make it possible for Jackson Local students to study French or Chinese for up to 5 years and Spanish for up to 6 years. A dedicated, passionate team of educators across two schools closely coordinate instruction so that students can acquire cultural and linguistic competence.

The World Languages teachers and supervising principal are: (front) Lindsay Krulock, Allison Dennison, Kelli Repphun, Aimee Dria, Jeni Campbell, Yuanrui Beltowski, Heather Browne (back) Humphrey Fradl, Christine Adolph (supervising principal), Roxanne King, Stella Munoz and Paula Steiner.

*Congratulations to all involved!*





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## Congratulations to our 2023 grant recipients!



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