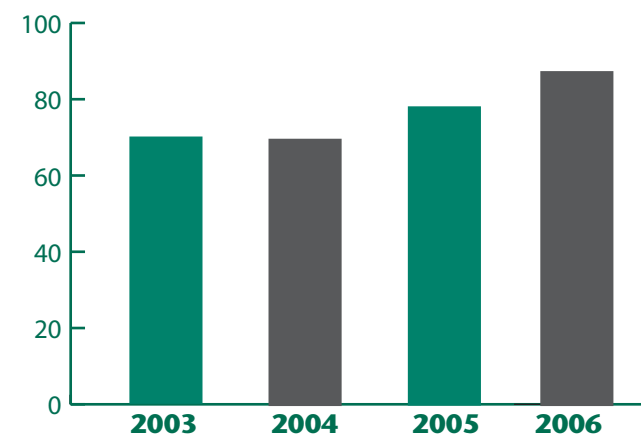


# Achieving Academic Excellence

The goal of our Continuous Improvement Plan is to be rated an excellent district on our state report card, as defined by The Ohio Department of Education. We are pleased that we continue to move closer to that goal...this year, as a District, we were rated **Effective** on the 2006-07 State Report Card; the *High School* and *Rushwood* are rated **Excellent**, and *Northfield*, *Ledgeview*, *Lee Eaton* and the *Middle School* are **Effective**. The Effective rating, alone does not communicate the results of our continued effort to insure the academic success of every child in every school in our district.

## Here are some highlights on this year's report card that demonstrates our growth:

- Our current fourth, sixth and eighth grade students improved in mathematics from their scores last year when they were in the third, fifth and seventh grades. The largest increase was with our current sixth graders. They moved from 64.2% proficient (fifth grade results) to **82.4%** proficient in 2006-2007.
- We continue to demonstrate improvement in the percentage of the state indicators we meet each year. The indicators have increased to thirty which is made up of the 28 Ohio Achievement Ohio Graduation Test results along with attendance and graduation rates. **This year we met 27 out of 30 indicators or 90%**. The chart below shows our growth over the past four years in percentage of indicators met. We went from 72.2% indicators met in the 2003-2004 school year to 90% this year. Last year we met 80% or 20 out of 25 indicators.

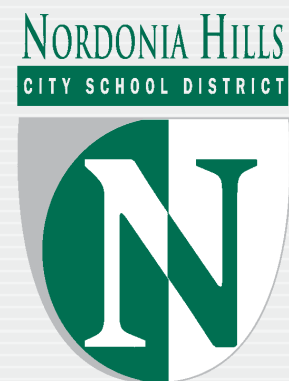


- Our performance index score which is measured on a scale of 0-120 points and is a measure of our student test results based on their level of achievement continues to grow. Our performance index score during the 2003-2004 school year was **92.3**, this year that score is **98**, which shows a steady increase each year.

Our three K-4 building results have shown significant increases in the performance index as indicated in the chart below:

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
<b>Ledgeview</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>99.6</b>
<b>Northfield</b>	<b>88.8</b>	<b>91.4</b>	<b>95.2</b>
<b>Rushwood</b>	<b>89.3</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>102.4</b>

This year the additional social studies tests offset the gains that were made in reading and mathematics. We are analyzing the results in all academic areas; realigning our curriculum where needed, collaborating on instructional strategies and providing appropriate staff development. Although we are pleased with the significant growth and gains that have been made, we clearly recognize our focus is to attain excellence in all buildings.



### How to Reach Us...

**Board Offices**  
330-467-0580

**Superintendent, J. Wayne Blankenship**  
330-467-0586

**Treasurer, Christopher Wright**  
330-467-0589

**Nordonia High School**  
8006 South Bedford Road  
Macedonia, OH 44056  
330-468-4601

**Nordonia Middle School**  
73 Leonard Avenue  
Northfield, OH 44067  
330-467-0584

**Lee Eaton**  
115 Ledge Road  
Northfield, OH 44067  
330-467-0582

**Ledgeview Elementary**  
9130 Shepard Road  
Macedonia, OH 44056  
330-467-0583

**Northfield Elementary**  
9374 Olde Eight Road  
Northfield, OH 44067  
330-467-2010

**Rushwood Elementary**  
8200 Rushwood Lane  
Sagamore Hills, OH 44067  
330-467-0581

**Nordonia Hills Board of Education**  
Carl Ebner, *President*  
330-467-0546  
Doug Masteller, *Vice-President*  
330-468-1036  
Greg Harris  
330-468-3685  
Betty Klingenberg  
330-467-0571  
Mary Sindelar  
330-468-1281

# DATES TO REMEMBER...

October 8, 2007	Board of Education Meeting
October 12, 2007	No School – NEOEA Day
October 15, 2007	No School
October 26, 2007	End of First Grading Period
November 2, 2007	No School – KINDERGARTEN ONLY
November 21, 2007	No School
November 22, 2007	No School
November 23, 2007	No School
November 26, 2007	No School
December 20, 2007 Through January 2, 2008	No School – Winter Break

## “Our Journey for Learning”

*continued from page 1...*

Northfield and the Middle School we saw significant positive progress in student achievement; only missing the excellent rating by a small margin.

We must remember that our children are truly the future of

this unique and wonderful country and the education they receive ensures our nation's continued success. We look forward to another great year in the Nordonia Hills City School District as we work together on our **“Journey for Learning.”**

### Your Feedback is Always Welcome...

“*Nordonia News*” is published by the Nordonia Hills City School District to help keep the community informed about school issues and events. We welcome our readers' letters, comments and input.

**Address information, questions to:**  
**Nordonia Hills City School District**  
Patti Koslo, *Editor*  
E-mail: koslo@nordoniaschools.org  
Phone: 330-468-1134  
9370 Olde Eight Road  
Northfield, OH 44067



**We're on the WEB...**Please visit our Web site

**www.nordoniaschools.org**

*Where you'll find answers to many of your questions about the Nordonia Hills City School District and see how we're shaping tomorrow today.*



# NORDONIA NEWS

WHERE EXCELLENCE IS A STANDARD...

## “OUR JOURNEY FOR LEARNING”

*By J. Wayne Blankenship, Superintendent*



We welcome you to the 2007-08 school year and **“Our Journey for Learning.”** Our schools are growing, we have many new families in our community and we welcome each and every one of you to the District and the community. It is my hope that this has been a fun, safe and restful summer for students, staff, parents, and all who live in our school community.

As I enter my thirty-first year in education, I want you to know that I am as enthusiastic today as I was when I began my teaching career. The start of the new school year brings high expectations for all involved in the education of all students. On the opening day with staff, I encouraged them to make sure that the first day and every day that followed is filled with a high level of energy, enthusiasm and hope. I asked that they remember the significant impact they have on the students in their classrooms and buildings.

On the opening day of school, it was my distinct honor and pleasure to be out in the buildings observing the

energy and excitement our young people bring to school each day. Over the summer months, the buildings were cleaned, the buses inspected, textbooks and instructional materials purchased. I am proud of all of our staff – they are extremely dedicated and look forward to meeting the educational needs of all students, ensuring academic success for everyone. As I toured the buildings, I was reminded... there is no greater institution in the United States than our public school system. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for all the support they provide our schools.

With academic excellence as a major focus of our District's Continuous Improvement Plan, we are proud to announce that both Nordonia High School and Rushwood Elementary received **“Excellent”** ratings on the Local Report Card issued by the Ohio Department of Education. This is the fourth year the High School has received this rating and the second year for Rushwood. At Ledgeview, Lee Eaton,

*continued on page 6...*

PRIDE • ATTITUDE • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE



## Did Someone Say, "Bond Issue?"

By **Christopher Wright**, Treasurer

As you may have read in the newspaper or heard through the grapevine, on August 13, 2007, the Nordonía Hills Board of Education voted to place an outside athletic facilities bond issue on the November ballot. Details regarding the scope of the proposed project will be made available in the near future, possibly through campaign literature or future editions of the District newsletter. This article is intended help to introduce and clarify some of the facts and terms related to the levy proposal.

A **bond levy** is a voted tax, which is assessed on all property within the boundaries of the District. The proceeds of the tax are directed to pay the annual debt obligation of the District, related to the project the vote authorized. In this case, a tax rate of **0.5 mills** will be assessed for 22 years, in order to fund a \$7.5 million outside athletic facilities project.

### How much will it cost a homeowner?

We anticipate this proposed levy would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home approximately \$23 per year. Extending this estimate further, the

*Continued on page 4*

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF CHANGES...

### Familiar Faces in New Places ...

**Jacqueline O'Connor** moved from Nordonía High School to Lee Eaton and will serve as Associate Principal.

**Donna Bambic** moved from Rushwood Elementary to Ledgeview Elementary and will serve as Principal.

**Mary Kelly** moved from Northfield Elementary to Rushwood Elementary and will serve as Principal.

**Dr. Karen Muffley** moved from Ledgeview Elementary to Northfield Elementary and will serve as Principal



## NEW STAFFERS JOIN BUILDING RANKS

The Nordonía Hills City School District welcomed several new faces to its teaching staff for the 2007-08 school year.

### AT NORDONIA HIGH SCHOOL:

**Molly Sawyer** – 11th Grade/English,  
**Jason Hall** – Physical Education,  
**Tony Buckler** – Math,  
**Shaun Phillips** – Math,  
**Pamela Conte** – Spanish,  
**Ryan Edler** – Spanish

### AT NORDONIA MIDDLE SCHOOL:

**Katie Kruse** – 8th Grade/  
 Social Studies

### AT LEE EATON:

**Angela Rapchak** – 5th Grade/  
 Social Studies,



**Dan Boyle** – 5th Grade  
 Math/Language Arts,  
**Renee Foerster** – 6th Grade/  
 Science/Language Arts

### AT LEDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY:

**Michael Griffen** – Intervention  
 Specialist

### AT NORTHFIELD ELEMENTARY:

**Nichole Lechli** -Intervention  
 Specialist

*Please join us as we welcome all of the new staff and as we work together to attain excellence in educating all of Nordonía's students.*

## District Permanent Improvements Summer 2007



## Permanent Improvement Fund ...Protecting School Assets

Over \$672,000 in permanent improvement projects were completed this summer in preparation for the 2007-08 school year. These projects, made possible through the permanent improvement levy renewed by voters in 2006, are generally categorized in three main areas:

*Improvements to extend the useful life of facilities and grounds*

- 29% of the projects

*Upgrades and repairs to district facilities and grounds*

- 36% of the project

*Improvements to facilities to enhance and improve safety*

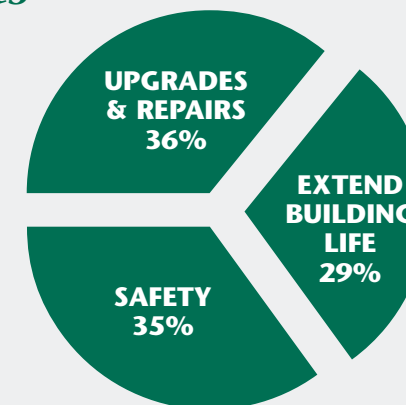
- 35% of the projects

As part of the improvement projects to extend the useful life of District facilities, over 9000 square feet of the roof at the Nordonía Middle School was replaced. Maintenance, renovation and replacement of targeted District roofs are critical projects completed every year to extend the useful life of and protect the taxpayer investment in our facilities.

Another major project completed this summer was the partial replacement of the cafeteria wall at Lee Eaton Elementary. Part of the structure was beginning to deteriorate due to age and moisture issues. The lower half of the wall was replaced, new sidewalk installed and roof drainage replaced and improved. The structure now has a great new look from the outside and will greatly extend the useful life of the facility.

### Other improvement projects completed this summer included the following:

- Replacement of old classroom furniture & addition of classroom furniture due to increased enrollment



- Replacement of worn, damaged sidewalks
- Technology replacement and additions
- Addition of door security systems (access control) at Lee Eaton and Northfield Elementaries and security cameras at the High School
- Addition of digital cameras for selected school buses
- Musical instrument replacement for the Middle School & High School
- Classroom amplification
- Safety repairs to athletic fields, tennis courts and bleachers
- Second phase of hallway tile replacement at Ledgeview Elementary

## We are proud to introduce our new administrative staff...

### Casey Wright Nordonía High School Associate Principal



### • What attracted to you to Nordonía Hills City Schools?

*Nordonía Hills is one of the premier school districts in the state. When I heard that there may be a position available as an Associate Principal at the high school, I became immediately interested. I felt that it would be a great opportunity to learn from some proven leaders and share some of the knowledge I learned as an Assistant Principal in the Maple Heights City Schools*

### • Tell us a little bit about your education and background....

*I completed my undergraduate degree in education from Ashland University. There I majored in History and Political Science. After obtaining my degree, I began working as a history teacher at Maple Heights High School.*

*I completed my graduate degree from Baldwin Wallace College. After which I began working as an Assistant Principal at Milkovich Middle School in Maple Heights.*

### • Where did you work prior to working in Nordonía?

*Maple Heights High School - 9th, 10th, 11th grade History teacher  
 Milkovich Middle School – Assistant Principal*

### • As you begin the new school year what are you looking forward to?

*I am excited about the opportunity to work with a District that has achieved so much. I look forward to helping our students achieve their goals and continue the rich tradition Nordonía has started in excellence in education*

## Did Someone Say, "Bond Issue?"

*Continued from page 2*

Owner of a \$200,000 would pay about \$31 per year, and the owner of a \$300,000 home would pay about \$46 per year.

### What will the money be used for?

The money raised from this levy would be legally earmarked to construct, reconstruct, renovate, furnish, equip, and otherwise improve the outdoor athletic facilities. It cannot be used to fund regular building operations, or to pay salaries and wages.

### Didn't we just pass a bond levy in 2000?

The bond levy passed in 2000 only addressed school buildings and grounds, and did not improve the outside athletic facilities in a comprehensive fashion. Some small-scale athletic upgrades occurred, but consisted of gym improvements and the like. This levy would fund "outside" athletic facilities.

### What are the details of the proposed project, and why is it necessary?

This information will be forthcoming in campaign literature, or via other District publications, as appropriate.