

Mock Interviews

Remember your first interview? Remember the butterflies in your stomach and the uncertainty you felt? Well, students in Jackie Kmec's "Living on Your Own" class will be prepared for their first professional interview. Mrs. Kmec and Ms. Jill Larson, Career Specialist, from Cuyahoga Valley Career Center prepared the students for the interview process. This Mock Interview Program has been a part of Mrs. Kmec's class for the past eight years.

The students learned how to fill out an application, how to dress

properly, how to answer the most commonly asked interview questions, and they even learned how to shake someone's hand properly. All this preparation was needed for the annual program. On September 26, 2007, several local employers visited Nordonia to conduct these interviews. Some of the employment fields represented were Health Care, Accounting, Insurance, Career Development, Marketing, Pharmaceutical, and the Arts. The students did an outstanding job, and received high evaluations. When the students were asked if they were nervous,



most answered "Yes!" but they also said they felt ready for the challenge. Way to go "Living on Your Own" students! Good luck in the Career World.



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...

November 1, 2007	Evening Conferences
November 2, 2007	No School – KINDERGARTEN ONLY
November 5, 2007	Board of Education Meeting
November 21, 2007	No School
November 22, 2007	No School
November 23, 2007	No School
November 26, 2007	No School
December 1, 2007	PTA Council – Santa Breakfast
December 10, 2007	Board of Education Meeting
December 20, 2007	No School – Winter Break
Through January 2, 2008	



We're on the WEB...

Please visit our newly upgraded Web site

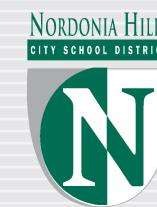
www.nordoniaschools.org

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.

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



NORDONIA NEWS

WHERE EXCELLENCE IS A STANDARD...

Semifinalists Named in the 2008 National Merit® Scholarship Program

Recently, the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 53rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program were announced by officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). We are proud to recognize the following Nordonia High School Seniors - **Brian Gibbons, Eric Madar, and Ray Moore** for being selected as semifinalists. Brian, Eric, and Ray were selected from the more than 1.4 million juniors from the nearly 21,000 high schools who entered the 2008 National Merit Program by taking the 2006 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT®), placing in the top 1 percent.

Brian is actively involved in the Science Olympiad Team, Nordonia Lancer Band, and National Honor Society. Following high school Brian will continue his education in the field of electrical engineer-

ing and is considering attending Rochester Institute of Technology or Cornell University. Eric is currently taking post-secondary courses at the University of Akron



and is a member and captain of the Nordonia High School Swim team. His future plans include pursuing a degree in Bio-Medical Engineering at the University of Akron. Ray is member of the Tennis Team and National Honor

Society. In addition, to being recognized as a National Merit semifinalist – **Ray scored a perfect 36 composite score on the ACT.** He is weighing his college options where he will pursue a degree in chemical engineering and is considering attending; Ohio State University, Princeton or MIT.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 Merit Scholarship® awards, worth \$34 million, that will be offered next spring. "Recognition of these academically talented students and the key role they play in our high school is essential to the pursuit of educational excellence. It is important that we continue the strong tradition of academic excellence and that we recognize and honor these academically talented students," stated Superintendent J. Wayne Blankenship.

Bond Levy Basics

Continued from Page 2

from a **bond levy** can only be spent to reduce the debt. This means there is a very low almost non-existent default risk. There are other ways to issue debt, but a bond levy affords the District the best opportunity to reduce interest expenses, which ultimately benefits our taxpayers.

Proceeds obtained from a **bond levy** cannot be used for the operating purposes of the District. Conversely, operating levy proceeds generally are not stable enough to properly secure a bond issue. Operating levies pay for the personnel, utilities, equipment, supplies and other items and services that support the education of our students on a daily basis.

I hope this article helps resolve some of the questions you may have regarding bond levies. I would be glad to discuss these or other points any time. Please feel free to contact me at 330-467-0589 with any questions or clarifications.

Improved Technology Coming to School Cafeterias

The Nordonia Hills City Schools will soon be incorporating a new point-of-sale system in all school cafeterias in the next few months. We are very excited about the new system and how it will improve the lunch time experience for our students.

The new system will include a patented POSitive ID System using a Sagem-Morpho biometric scanner. We chose finger biometrics because of its accuracy, speed, expandability, and cost effectiveness. Biometrics eliminates lost or forgotten swipe cards, sharing of personal identification numbers, fraudulent ID card use or and the replacement costs associated with lost cards. With the biometric system, the student literally carries their ID with them at all times. Parents and students can rest assured that the biometric images cannot be used by law enforcement or anyone else for identification purposes, only a mathematical algorithm remains in the system after registration...**not fingerprint images.**

The new system has an online component that will allow parents to pre-pay for school lunches as well as monitor their children's food choices. The technology will enable parents to restrict their children's choices to avoid "special diet" conflicts or to prevent them from purchasing certain a la carte items. Parents will be able to view purchases for the last thirty days, day-by-day and item-by-item. We anticipate the "roll out" of the new system in the next few months, at which time additional information will be provided to students and parents.

PRIDE • ATTITUDE • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE



We're Just "Doing Business"

By **Christopher Wright**,
Treasurer/CFO

I recently read a newspaper article which discussed some personnel savings the District was able to achieve. The article stated a savings of about \$200,000 related to the replacement of retiring teachers with newer teachers. It occurred to me that I should write a brief article to mention that cost-saving opportunities are routinely identified by the District.

Does this article mean a bag of \$200,000 in cash is sitting on the Treasurer's desk...of course it does not. It does, however, go toward pushing our next levy request even further into the future. That is how cost savings are applied at our District. They are applied in a manner that helps us avoid additional operating levy requests as much as possible.

We may not advertise these practices and programs as routinely as we should. We should mention more often that we critique each staff member addition. We should talk more about the savings we experience by being a member in several purchasing consortiums - for everything from paper to buses. We should show our excitement that our natural gas and electricity cost-control programs are a tremendous success in every way. We should, but we don't.

It's my opinion the reason we do not mention these things more often is because we consider them to just be a part of "doing business." Cost containment strategies and the practice of identifying areas to achieve financial savings are a part of doing business in the District. I am not here to say we are perfect, because we are not. I just wanted to take a moment to com-

Continued on Page 4

Bond Levy Basics

By **Christopher Wright**, Treasurer/CFO

With the outside facilities bond levy (Issue #12) hitting the news, I thought this would be a prudent time to touch upon the finer points of bond levies. Specifically I would like to discuss what they are and what they aren't, and how they differ from operating levies.

Bond Basics

Have you ever purchased or renovated a new home? If so, chances are most of us need to go to our local bank and enter into a mortgage or loan agreement to raise enough money to cover the costs. This concept is similar to how the School District finances large projects, such as facilities construction.

A homeowner's mortgage is basically a promise to repay the amount the bank allowed them to borrow, plus interest, over a specific period of time. Several different factors can impact the interest rate of a mortgage. If a homeowner has good credit, and a salary which supports their ability to repay the loan, the interest rate will be lower. Mortgage repayment periods can vary in length, depending on the period of time which the homeowner would like to make payments.

A **bond issue** is also a promise to repay an amount borrowed from investors, plus interest, over a specific period of time. Just like a new homeowner, the school district's perceived ability to repay the debt drives the interest rate.

The best way to lower the interest cost is for the schools to show a dedicated stream of revenue with which to repay the debt and to also demonstrate a strong credit rating. The repayment period of a bond issue is determined by the anticipated useful life of the project being financed. For example, Issue #12 has a repayment period of 22 years because legally the overall useful life of the facilities is expected to be 22 years.

A **bond issue** represents District debt. The debt is necessary to obtain the necessary funding "upfront" for large, resource-intensive projects; such as construction or renovation. The debt is repaid via a dedicated revenue stream. This dedicated revenue stream also serves to reduce the risk of the issue to an investor, which results in lower interest costs at the District level.

Bond Levy

A **bond levy** is a property tax. The tax collections are dedicated, by law, to repaying specific bonded debt. In order to decrease the default risk to the lowest possible level, thereby decreasing the interest costs to the District, a repayment mechanism must be guaranteed. In our case, the most reliable and predictable repayment mechanism comes in the form of property taxes. "Reliable and predictable" translates into lower interest costs for the District's taxpayers. Again, tax collections

Continued on Page 5

AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY... It's more than a football stadium!!!

On Tuesday, November 6, 2007, the voters in the Nordonia Hills City School District will be deciding on the Issue 12, a 0.5 mill Bond Issue Levy that will appear on the General Election Ballot.

WHAT IS ISSUE 12?

Issue 12 is 0.5 mill Bond Issue tax levy that will generate funds the District needs to renovate and improve outside facilities. A bond issue is a voted tax, which is assessed on all property within the boundaries of the District.

WHAT IS THIS LEVY GOING TO BE USED FOR?

To upgrade, renovate and build new outside facilities at Nordonia High School. The proposed plan includes; a new stadium, two concession stands, softball fields, baseball fields, soccer fields, track, tennis courts, and 500 additional parking spaces.

Why the need?

- ◆ The current outside facilities were built in the 1960's.
- ◆ What's different today than when these facilities were built?
 - These facilities were built for high school teams of the 60's.
 - Today we have both girls' and boys' teams competing.
 - Additional sports programs such as soccer
 - Increased participation in girls' sports
- ◆ We have over 20 high school teams using the facilities.
- ◆ We have over 1,000 athletes using the facilities throughout the school-year
- ◆ We do not currently have enough practice facilities for all teams.
- ◆ We are not always able to use our facilities
 - Due to poor field conditions - The Nordonia Lancer Band practices in the parking lot
 - Due to poor field conditions - Nordonia Varsity Football Scrimmage was moved and held at Bedford Stadium
 - High School Cross Country Team - Bussed to Longwood Park
- ◆ Greater Use by Outside Youth Groups
- ◆ Increased Use from Outside Adult Groups
- ◆ Use by St. Barnabas
- ◆ Community members use of both the track and tennis courts



What about the money from the proposed Soccer Stadium by the Wolstein Group?

The soccer stadium proposal was brought forth almost two years ago as an economic development venture proposed by the Wolstein Group. This project required the commitment and support from multiple communities and entities - as of this writing the District does **NOT** have an agreement with the developer - Wolstein Group. It is our understanding that neither the City of Macedonia nor Northfield Center has reached an agreement with the developer. The District does not have nor expect to have an agreement with the developer in the near future. The District did have an agreement which expired almost a year ago.

Why not just upgrade the current football stadium?

Over two years ago a task force was established, which included community members, coaches, administrators, and representatives from the Board of Education. Their task was to review and provide recommendation(s) to the Board of Education for a plan that provided the most efficient use of the land available and included the upgrading of **all outside facilities** - not just the stadium at the High School, in addition to being highly cost effective. The committee worked with an architectural firm who helped to layout and design the most efficient plan.

How will this levy benefit students who are not athletes?

The upgraded facilities will benefit students in Physical Education Classes at Nordonia High School, along with members of the Nordonia Lancer Band - who will be able to practice on a turf field instead of using the parking lot.

It will also benefit the many youth and adult leagues, along with community members who will be able to use the fields, when not in use by the High School.

How much will this cost?

- A \$100,000 homeowner will pay - **Less than .04 cents per day** Or \$15.31 **per year**
- A \$200,000 homeowner will pay - **Less than .08 cents per day** Or \$30.62 **per year**
- A \$300,000 homeowner will pay- **Less than .12 cents per day** Or \$45.93 **per year**

Can I take a tour of the current facilities?

The High School Athletic Department is sponsoring facility tours; see first-hand why new outdoor facilities are needed for our students and our community. In addition to the tours, the Nordonia Athletic Boosters will serve hot dogs and refreshments.

- **Saturday, October 20, 2007** - 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.
"Meet and Greet" members of the Nordonia Knights Football Team
- **Saturday, October 27, 2007** - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
A special performance by the Nordonia Lancer Band

Stepping Up to the Plate

By **Susan Petonic**,
Food Service Supervisor

With the USDA mandated District Wellness Policy just beginning its second year, the food manufacturing industry has finally "stepped up to the plate" with more healthy choices for school meals. Baked snack items have replaced those that were traditionally fried, such as potato chips and Doritos. Pizza crusts and other dough-based products, including some pasta products are now being manufactured with whole grain flour. As a result of a new patented milling process, this flour and the food items produced from it retain the traditional "white bread" appearance generally preferred by children. In addition, we have incorporated more entree and side salads, including a daily "mini-salad bar" at the high school. French fry consumption has been offset with baked potatoes, pasta salad, raw vegetables with dressing, and baked chips with salsa. Our "slushies" at Lee Eaton are made with 100 percent fruit juice and we try to incorporate more fresh fruits when in season. Our expectation is that the food manufacturing industry will continue to keep pace with the market's demand for healthier products and that our District's children will be the beneficiaries of that trend.

We're Just "Doing Business"

Continued from Page 2

municate to our community that the District is in a constant mode of fiscal responsibility, and that identifying \$200,000 **savings isn't necessarily an exception...we strive to make it the rule.**