



# Nordonia Knightlines

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2009

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## Athletic Director

Rob Eckenrode

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## Attendance Number

330-908-6160

## Nordonia Band Getting Ready for Spring

The Nordonia Band continues to practice for upcoming events; noteworthy is the upcoming Winter concert in the high school auditorium on Thursday, March 5, 2009, featuring selections played by the Wind Ensemble, Concert Band and Jazz Band. The bands will also be preparing for the OMEA District VI Band Contest on March 13 or 14, 2009.

Some Nordonia band students will be participating at a concert on Sunday, March 29, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. honoring the works of James T. Kirk, a former band director of Nordonia. A piece of music has been commissioned in his memory. This concert will also be held at the high school.

The band is continuing to prepare for its upcoming trip to Disney World during Spring Break. We hope many will be able to join us at the upcoming scheduled concerts.



## Foreign Language Department "Kissing" Kids



This year, the foreign language department will again be giving out "kisses" to students. In an effort to make more students aware of second language opportunities, we will hold a "kisses" day Friday Feb 13. Students can earn extra credit by having three friends or staff members approach their teacher and say a memorized phrase in the target language. For their effort, the friends will receive a chocolate kiss.

Any student needing help with foreign language can contact any of the language teachers. Our teachers tutor before and after school. Please encourage your son or daughter to seek help if needed. Students should study vocabulary and current grammar each night.

Keep Foreign Language in your child's schedule. The United States falls far behind the rest of the world in second language acquisition. With the new reality of globalization, it has become increasingly important for Americans to catch up with our competitors.

Our government departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State have put out appeals for Americans to become proficient in another language. Thousands of staffing positions need to be filled with bilingual workers. We need to stop thinking about taking "just two years" to get into college. Our young people need to continue language study with the goal of becoming proficient. Please consider encouraging your son or daughter to continue language study all through high school.

## AP Tests

Students enrolled in AP courses are required to pay the AP Test Fee of \$83.00 per course no later than March 9, 2009. Checks can be made payable to: Nordonia High School. Call 330-908-6036 with any questions.

## English Department Preparing Student for OGT

The tenth grade English classes have just completed their formal practice tests for the Ohio Graduation Test in the areas of Reading and Writing. Students took the tests seriously, and they will be given the opportunity in their English classes to review their performance. Sophomore students will also be given the opportunity in their English classes to utilize the Study Island OGT review program. Teachers will schedule students in the lab to work on the software during class time. Teachers will track their performance and target any potential problematic areas. The objective is to find their weak areas prior to the real test in March.

All students will be scheduling in their English classes on February 25, 2009. Please, help our English teachers by looking over your student's schedule and signing their schedule form by February 23, 2009.

In addition to our new Study Island software, we have installed a new reading intervention program, Lexia, in our writing lab. As a target group, our freshman having difficulty reading will serve as a pilot group. Our intention is to work closely with our special education department to help students improve their reading ability. This group of pilot students will be pulled out of study hall or APR to receive intervention.

## Nordonia Mosaic Competition in Full Swing

It is time once again for the Nordonia Mosaic Literary Contest. Cash prizes will be awarded. The deadline for entries to any English teacher is February 20, 2009. The essay length should not exceed 700 words.

### Writing Prompts

- Does the election of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America signal a change in race relations in this country? If so, how?
- If it does not signal such a change, what else might generate a meaningful change in race relations? What solutions would you suggest to successfully meet the challenge of race relations in this country?
- Using the Pledge of Allegiance:  
Do you feel differently about those words after the recent election than you did before? What is its relevance in today's world?

### Visual Arts Prompt

- In the Pledge of Allegiance, the words "liberty and justice for all" reflect an American vision that embraces inclusion, respect, and tolerance. Visualize what those words mean to you.

### Inkjet Cartridge Recycling:

Did you know that the average family in our school uses 6 inkjet cartridges per year? Most of us just throw the empties in the trash. We need you to stop throwing those cartridges away! We now have an inkjet recycling program in place which can raise valuable dollars for our school. For every eligible cartridge collected, we will receive a financial reward!

What should I do when I have an empty inkjet cartridge?

1. Most importantly, do not throw it away!
2. Bring it to school and drop in our collection bin inside the main entrance.

Communicate this opportunity to family, friends, co-workers, etc. Have them bring you their empty cartridges, and you can drop them in our collection box.

Do you know of other organizations that would like to participate? Call 1-800-291-0963 for further information.

## Biology Classes to Celebrate DNA Day

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Nordonia High School's  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DNA Day Celebration

Friday, April 24, 2009

All are welcome!

The students of Nordonia High School will be participating in a yearly celebration of the discovery of DNA on Friday, April 24, 2009. All students, parents, and community members are welcome to participate in the day of activities including DNA Extraction and the creation of an NHS Double Helix.

All Biology students will be going to the auditorium during their science class to listen to a variety of guest speakers including a genetic counselor and forensic analyst. Prizes will be awarded to students who participate in a DNA Food or Costume Contest. If you would like to visit for this celebration or would like to donate to the cause, please contact Aaron Coleman at [aaron.coleman@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:aaron.coleman@nordoniaschools.org).

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## Nordonia Students Take Trip to Inauguration

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When asked what kind classes or assignments they like, students typically answer that the best are the ones that “do hands-on, real-life stuff.” That’s what a group of 12 students did in Washington D.C. during the week of the inauguration with Mrs. Diane Velo and Mr. Steve Testa.

Standing in the cold with a million people for seven hours is certainly a real life experience, and one none of us will ever forget because of the historic nature and magnitude of the event. Here is a collection of anecdotes from the students.

Allie, Molly, and Elyse told stories about soldiers they met at Arlington National Cemetery, spoke of how important it will be to tell their grandchildren they were there in the great sea of people, and laughed about ice-skating with the neighborhood kids on the frozen fountain.

Jessica recalls how difficult it was to move through the crowds on the National Mall, and how it took her an hour to travel 50 yards to use the bathroom. She was also struck by the number of National Guardsmen who were in the city to keep us safe. Nowhere at any time did we feel threatened. We were among unfamiliar friends.

Our trip was mostly about the people. People we met on the mall from half a dozen states, of all ages, occupations, and backgrounds. People we met as we toured the nation’s capitol. Jeremy noted that our bus driver shared how he signed a petition when he was a child in the D.C. school system to desegregate. How happy he was for the country to inaugurate the first black president. Melody was moved by the diversity that the inauguration represented. She commented on sharing the moment with black and white, young and old, conservative and liberal.

Rebekah and Matt were also surprised by the open, kind, family atmosphere we felt. No matter what political affiliation, people were generous toward the outgoing administration and hopeful for the new. The peaceful transfer of power that has marked our Democracy for over 200 years was inspirational.

For Hannah, Demi, and Kate the trip was, like most school venues, a chance to be with friends, but the sheer magnitude made this opportunity quickly turn into more. Each have their own stories of losing the group in the crowds and being swept up by the crush of people.

Kyle described how important it was to be a part of the historic moment. She said she will never forget the crowds and the proud people who spoke of their love of being Americans.

We did have a once in a lifetime trip to Washington D.C. for an historic inauguration, also experienced by millions of people, but it will be those people we will always remember. Each had their own unique perspective on the moment, and each had hope for America. To see photos taken by our students while on the trip go to [www.valleyvoyages.smugmug.com](http://www.valleyvoyages.smugmug.com) and click on the appropriate folders.



Nordonia Knight lanyards are on sale for \$5.00. Proceeds will be used to ship care packages to military serving overseas as an ongoing project for Make a Difference Day. Lanyards are available in the high school's main office. For information, call 330-908-6036.



## Yearbook News

**Adviser:** Ms. Annette Lang

**Phone:** 330-908-6039

**E-mail:** [annette.lang@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:annette.lang@nordoniaschools.org)

Production on the yearbook is moving right along, with an anticipated delivery date of August 28, 2009. The theme for the 2008 yearbook is "I am..." I'll bet you can't wait to see it!

### Not Too Late to Order 2009 Yearbooks

Yearbooks are still on sale. Plain yearbooks can be ordered through May 23, 2009. Call Jostens directly to order your yearbook at 1-866-282-1516 or visit the online website. Don't remember if you've ordered a copy of the 2008 yearbook? Check the list on the bulletin board outside room 308 or call or e-mail Mrs. Lang.

Send in your order now to guarantee your book. We do not purchase extra copies to sell in the fall. The 2007 yearbook sold completely out—students and parents were begging to purchase a copy but there were not any to sell. Do not let that happen to you for the 2008 book.

### Last Call for PDA Ads from Senior Parents

There is still space available for parents of seniors to place PDA (Parental Display of Affection) Ads for graduating sons and daughters. Both color and black-and-white ads are available at this time. An informational mailer containing sample ads, and the PDA order form was sent home in December. If you cannot find yours, extra copies are available in room 308. The order form and sample ads have been added to the district's website.

The remaining spaces will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so do not delay. Remember: PDA Ads do not have to be from parents only. They can be from grandparents, friends, brothers and sisters, boy- or girlfriends, and groups of friends!

### Looking for New Staff Members

Nordonia students: Are you creative? Do you enjoy working with people, using computers, taking photographs, and writing clever/witty/interesting captions? Do you like hard work and thrive under the pressure of a deadline? If so, the yearbook needs you! We are looking for 10 to 15 students to make up the staff of the 2008 Yearbook class. See your course handbook for the description and requirements, and then contact Ms. Lang in room 308 for information. An application is required and can be picked up in room 308. On the job training is provided.

Nordonia High School will administer the O.G.T. during the week of March 16-20, 2009. Every student taking the test has access to Study Island, a website designed to prepare students for the O.G.T. Passwords were given out the first week of February. If your student needs help with their username and password, have him or her see their science teacher or check with guidance.

## Adult Roles and Relationships Class Offers Dose of Reality

My name is Mrs. Brock, and I am the Adult Roles and Relationships teacher here at Nordonia High School. I am so excited about how the first semester went and am looking forward to starting the new semester.

In Adult Roles, we look at all aspects of relationships and roles people have in life. We start the semester looking at family foundations, influences and the different types of families. As we move along, we build on these concepts and explore dating, dating issues, sexuality and responsibility and marriage.

We have an excellent guest speaker who comes in and discusses abstinence and other issues. This is also the class where students have the “baby” simulation project. This project gives students the experiences of responsibility and commitment needed to be a parent.

Although the project is only a weekend long, the students do enjoy it and are provided an introduction into parenting. Most of the babies are key-operated, but a few do require more intense care, such as changing diapers and using a simulation feeding tool. At the end of the simulation, students turn in a baby book documenting their experiences through reflection journals, parent evaluations of performance and pictures.

In this class, students are also given an opportunity to wear a pregnancy vest during the school day that lets them experience pregnancy for a day. All the permission slips for these activities will be coming home in February and March. I look forward to working with your students.

## Scholastic Art Awards Come to Nordonia

That's right! Auditions will be held on March 3 and 4, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Nordonia High School auditorium. Please note there will be only two nights of auditions. The Knight of Stars Talent Extravaganza will be Friday, March 27, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Nordonia High School auditorium. Tickets will be sold the week of the show. Dust off those dance shoes or instruments, and start practicing your favorite songs. We are looking for a wide variety of acts of all ages.

This is a closed audition for performers only. No spectators, please. Each act will only be allowed to audition one time and you may not be able to audition the complete number. This will ensure that everyone will be able to audition for the show. We strongly encourage the acts not to wait until the last night to audition. For more information, please call Regina Christy, anytime from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Nordonia High School. All proceeds will benefit Nordonia's Teen Institute.

### Congratulations to all our Scholastic Art Award winners!

#### Gold Key Winners:

Michael Collier	Photography
James Dean	Photography
Andrew Kaczor	Photography
Marissa Matonis	Computer Art

#### Silver Key Winners:

Gustav Ardvinnson	Ceramics
Jordan Jachna	Photography
Andrew Kaczor	Photography
Rose Proctor	Painting
Nicole Tomak	Painting
Nicole Tomak	Painting
Allie Vondriska	Photography

#### Honorable Mention:

Desiree Abbott	Mixed Media
Melissa Aliff	Photography
Gustav Ardvinnson	Ceramics
Michael Collier	Photography
Andrew Kaczor	Photography
Andrew Kaczor	Photography
Jordan Jachna	Photography
Paige Liverpool	Photography
Mackenzie Miller	Photography
Nicole Ostberg	Photography

## Sophomore News from Guidance

What a busy time this is for sophomores! So many decisions are to be made. We have begun scheduling for the 2009-10 school year. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Will your son or daughter be attending the Post-Secondary Options program? If so be sure you are scheduled for the Mandatory meeting on February 12, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium.
- Is your son or daughter on track for meeting requirements for an Honors Diploma or an Award of Merit? Now is the time to schedule the right classes.
- Has your son or daughter scheduled the fine arts and foreign language requirement for admittance to a four-year college?
- Has your son or daughter applied to CVCC? There are many great programs to prepare students with skills needed in the workplace and college.

Choosing the right classes will help your sons and daughters have opportunities to do what they want to do after high school. The time to prepare, though, is right now. Be sure to talk about choices and choose classes wisely.

The application process is now underway for CVCC programs. If your son or daughter is still interested, it is not too late to apply for some programs. He or she will not earn all the points at this late date but may still be able to gain admittance. Please have them talk to me if your student has an interest in any of the programs but have not yet applied.

Students who have completed the application process will be notified of admittance decisions by April 3, 2009. The March 31, 2009, deadline that we posted earlier has been delayed. I will let each student know personally of the admittance decisions.

Do not forget that all grades count. It is early in the semester and there is still time to improve grades. It is very important to pass all required classes and also to get the best grades possible. Stay in contact with teachers and watch Progress Book; it is a very valuable resource.

The OGT tests are coming up in March. We have a wonderful resource to use in Study Island. Your sons and daughters have gotten passwords and information on how to use this resource. Please ask them if they are using it.

Most of our Nordonía sophomores pass this test the first time they take it. It does take intent on their part, though! Help them prepare by doing all the small things, like getting enough sleep the nights before the tests, having a good breakfast the day of the test and coming to school with the intent to do their very best. Their teachers have worked all through the high school classes to prepare them with the skills they need to pass this important test. Good luck to all sophomores!

If I can be of help to you, please call me at 330-908-6022.

Maryellen Feeman

Counselor, Class of 2011

### **Pull for Ronald McDonald House!**

Collecting pull tabs from beverage cans is a fun and easy way to help families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland, a "home away from home."

Tabs can be collected at home, work, or school. Proceeds from the collection of pull tabs go directly into our family fund, which provides families with extra perks, like hosting a birthday party for a child staying at the House, providing cab fare to the airport, and offering extra spending money for families in need.

The mission of the Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland is to support families whose children are receiving treatment at area medical centers by providing a home-like environment and essential resources and services.

The Nordonía District, in conjunction with Make a Difference Day Ohio, continues to collect pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House throughout the year. Ledgeview Elementary recently collected and donated approximately 200,000 tabs. Many thanks to students and staff for participating.

Donations of tabs may be dropped off at the high school c/o Mrs. Opatka, 330-908-6036. Place tabs in gallon Ziploc bags. No need to count the tabs. Brentwood Health Care Center counts, records and delivers the tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. Recently \$230.00 was realized from the district collection along with donations from family members and the staff of Brentwood. For further information, please contact:

The Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland  
 10415 Euclid Avenue  
 Cleveland, OH 44016  
 Phone: 216-229-5757  
 Fax: 216-229-0556  
 Website: [www.clevelandrmh.org](http://www.clevelandrmh.org)

## Junior News from Guidance

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We have now begun the last half of your junior year of high school! It is hard to believe that the year has gone so fast, but I know that things will only go faster between now and the time you graduate. This month we will begin planning for your senior year schedule at school. If you use this time to plan ahead in other areas as well, it will help to ensure not only that your senior year is less stressful, but also that you have every opportunity open to you after graduation.

On, Monday, February 9, 2009, all students participated in a scheduling assembly where they received all of the materials to register for their classes for senior year. Students should have shared this information with you. Please be sure to sit down with your son or daughter to choose his or her classes together. Consider plans after high school and courses that must be completed for college applications as well as elective courses that would be beneficial to potential career paths. Colleges like to see students continuing to challenge themselves through the courses that they take during their senior year. Also, be mindful of any remaining graduation requirements. If you are unsure which courses your son or daughter still needs to complete, feel free to contact me by phone, e-mail, or have students come to see me during school. I would be happy to go over this information with you.

Now is also the time to register for college entrance exams if you are planning on applying to a four-year college next year. I recommend that students take the ACT/SAT during the spring of their junior year, so they still have time to retake the test should they need to. The next ACT will take place on April 4, 2009, and the registration deadline is February 27, 2009. You can register for this test at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) and get any other information you may need such as testing locations and cost. When taking the ACT, it is a good idea to sign up for the optional writing section at least once. If you need to register for accommodations, please be sure to contact me for information as soon as possible. You can still register for the May 2, 2009, SAT test until March 31, 2009, at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Remember, students can find free practice tests on both of the registration websites and they can also take advantage of no-cost test prep programs at [www.mystudentedge.com](http://www.mystudentedge.com). If you are eligible for free/reduced lunches at the high school, you may be able to take advantage of fee waiver from ACT and College Board for the costs of the exams. Be sure to contact me as soon as possible for more information.

For those of you interested in applying to college at the beginning of next year, be sure to continue the research you have begun. Continue to use the materials that you were given in the junior packets last fall. Also, take advantage of the school/career visitation days that you are excused from school for. We allow up to four days off during your junior and senior years to complete school visitation or job shadowing activities. You must submit the visitation form to the guidance office at least one week prior to your visit and turn in documentation of the visit to the attendance office upon your return the next day. To help you in your college search, the Cleveland National College Fair will take place on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Look for more information in the next newsletter or visit [www.nationalcollegefairs.org](http://www.nationalcollegefairs.org).

Students that still have to pass one or more sections of the OGT should be working hard online with the Study Island program. Your log-in information was sent home in December with your recent scores. Students will take the test again in March so now is the time to prepare. It is important that you work hard now so that you do not have to worry about these tests during your senior year.

Finally, enjoy the rest of your junior year. Work hard so that your final transcript grades reflect your true ability. Get involved, have fun, but stay focused! In a few months you will get a much deserved break from all of your hard work. Be sure to pass your classes this year so you are able to celebrate a timely graduation with your classmates. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any assistance by emailing me at [staci.ross@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:staci.ross@nordoniaschools.org) or calling me at 330-908-6003. I look forward to a wonderful spring with all of you!

Staci Ross

Counselor, Class of 2010



**An Abitibi paper bin is located near the Tennis Court parking lot. In order to receive the cash incentive, the dumpster must be full! Please support Nordonias High School's paper recycling program.**

