



September

Newsletter



**Welcome to the
2023-24 school year!**

I am Michael Gourley and I am proud to be the principal of North Ridge Middle School. I am excited to be here working with our highly dedicated staff to serve the students and families of District 118. This year marks my 29th year in public education. I began my career as a social studies teacher in Normal, and I have served as an assistant principal, associate principal, and principal in several different school districts throughout my career. Most recently I have been serving as the principal at Morris Community High School in Morris, Illinois. My wife and I are both natives of Danville and we still have family in the area. We have two adult children who live out of state, so we like to spend our free time visiting them. I also enjoy going fishing and cheering on the Cubs and the Fighting Illini. I hope every student has an outstanding school year, and I look forward to partnering with their families to support them throughout this year. Please feel free to reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Gourley
Principal NRMS



Meet Your Assistant Principals

Mr. Thompson

A graduate of both Illinois State and Eastern Illinois Universities. Mr. Thompson came to North Ridge with 23 years of classroom teaching experience, with 16 of those years at Mark Denman Elementary. Mr. Thompson is also a parent and grandparent.



Mr. Henderson

A Danville native and product of the public school system as a 2002 graduate of Danville High School. He began his career in education as a secondary English teacher, including the last ten years in Danville. He is excited and honored to continue his role in education as Assistant Principal at North Ridge Middle School.



Ownership in Education Handbook



Important

School Counselor's Corner

The North Ridge Guidance Counselors are here for your students. Our primary goal is for all students to have a safe and prosperous school year. We help with academic support such as organization and grades, but we can also support your student with social/emotional needs and mental health such as anxiety, depression, bullying, communication, friendships, and problems at home. The beginning of the school year has been spent working out scheduling issues and checking in with as many students as possible to start making those connections. We also work with families and teachers to create or maintain a 504 plan when necessary. If you have any questions regarding your student's needs, please reach out to one of us.

Mr. Ferber is primarily 7th grade this year and can be reached at 217-444-3421 or ferbert@danville118.org and Ms. Helferich is primarily 8th grade and can be reached at 217-444-3418 or helferichc@danville118.org.

We look forward to connecting with the students and helping them to have a successful year at North Ridge. Let us know how we can make your student's time at North Ridge.



2:45

9/13

9/27

9/30

Attendance

Our mission in District 118 is to promote school success and nurture lifelong learners. We hope to see all our students attend daily. Please remember if a student is absent an adult needs to call 217-444-3404 with a reason within 48 hours to excuse student or it will be counted as an unexcused absence. When a student has accumulated six total absences (excused or unexcused,) a doctor's note will be required for every absence thereafter. By law, nine or more unexcused absences requires the school to refer this case to the truancy officer and to an appropriate child welfare agency in order to correct this situation.

Perfect Attendance Bulletin Board: Location wall by Attendance Office.

Each month the students' names with perfect attendance will be posted.

Initiatives: Students on truancy list monitoring attendance with zero unexcused absences each month will receive free gift for improving attendance.

Please make every effort to see that your child attends school regularly. School hours are 9:00 AM to 3:45 PM for our students. Your cooperation is appreciated.

If you need assistance, please call the school office at 217-444-3400.

Home Liaisons

Home Interventionists are liaisons to building administrators, teachers, and community service agencies. The Home Interventionists also conduct several activities such as behavioral interventions, small groups, mediations, monitoring attendance, student support, and connecting families to needed resources. Be sure to check out the Family Resource Center on District 118 website (www.danville118.org) under the Students & Parents tab.

Ms. Jo'Brea Mason 217-444-3482 masonj@danville118.org

Mr. Chris Hightower 217-444-3474 hightowerc@danville118.org

Mr. D'Andre Day 217-444-3468 dayd2@danville118.org



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Planning to attend a home sporting event?

Here is what you need to know!

Everyone attending a sporting event at North Ridge will enter by the gymnasium doors. There will be weapons detectors and a police officer present to keep everyone safe. During the games, it is expected that fans behave with good sportsmanship. We understand that close games can increase intensity in both athletes as well as fans, but fans are attending to CHEER on the players. Fans should refrain from coaching players and yelling at officials/coaches. Please be good examples for the student athletes and others in attendance.

All middle school students MUST have a parent/guardian in attendance with them in order to attend (unless with a staff sponsored group).

Admission Prices:

Adults - \$3.00

Students - \$2.00

Seniors & Babies - FREE



INDOOR HOME GAMES FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Girls Basketball
9/13 @ 4:15
9/19 @ 4:15
9/21 @ 4:30
9/23 @ 10 AM
9/26 @ 4:30
10/10 @ 4:30
10/24 @ 4:30



If your child has any special health needs or problems, this should be communicated to me. This information is kept confidential, and it can be very important to a successful experience in school.

Examples of such needs are:

1. Food Allergy
2. Bee sting allergy
3. Allergy to any other substance
4. Difficulty with vision, hearing or speech
5. Need for medication during the school day
6. Need for special aids such as crutches, walkers, or wheelchairs, either on a temporary or permanent basis.

Gabi Ingold, RN 217-444-3408 or email ingoldg@danville118.org

Also, it is not too early to get your 8th graders scheduled for their freshman physical

North Ridge Theatre Company



North Ridge Theatre Company is in active rehearsals for the upcoming production of

Directors are Ms. Helferich and Mr. Hightower. Practices are being held every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday when school is in session but WILL NOT be held on early dismissal days.

Alice in Wonderland.



Students in the play will just stay after school to prepare for performances. There is a cast and crew of 25 students that would love to see the audience filled for their performances!

Our performances are scheduled for Thursday, December 7 and Friday December 8 at 7pm in the North Ridge Cafetorium.

Builders Club

The Builders Club is a community service club that is open to all 7th and 8th graders here at North Ridge Middle School. The Builders Club advisors are Mrs. Delzell and Mrs. Leemon-Crabbtree. Tentatively, we will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 8:15 A.M. in room 709. . Our first meeting was on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 8:15 A.M. .

The completed membership form is due back to Mrs. Delzell or Mrs. Leemon no later than September 20, 2023.

AVID

This year, AVID will be focusing on schoolwide strategies for all students at Northridge Middle School. One of our schoolwide goals is organization. All students are expected to be organized by having their supplies daily for each class. Supplies include binders, chrome books, and agendas! Organization is key to being a successful student!

AVID will also be hosting AVID nights at our home sporting events, concerts and other extracurricular activities! We want all of our students to know that AVID supports everything you are involved in!

Students are encouraged to wear shirts that represent college, careers, or the military on Wednesday, Sept. 13th and Sept. 27th.

Be on the lookout for Our AVID All-Stars! Each month a student and faculty member will be featured on our AVID bulletin board. Make sure to keep your eyes open for who the lucky winners are.



Show Choir

We are so excited to begin show choir rehearsals for the 2023-2024 North Ridge Redcoats! The Redcoats will rehearse every Thursday after school until 6:15pm. Be on the lookout for fundraisers, concerts, competitions, and other event dates coming soon!



From Administrators to Teachers

Introducing 24/7 Free Educational Support Tool for Students & Teachers

Raise your hand if you could use a TA! How about 1,000?

We are thrilled to announce that Danville District #118 has partnered with Paper to provide **free 24/7 access to academic support** for all 5-12 students. There's a lot to be excited about with Paper's Educational Support System, including:

- 1:1 live-chat tutoring sessions with subject-matter experts in over 200 subjects and four different languages,
- Engaging educational videos and games to expand student learning in and out of the classroom, Expert re-view on any written work (essays, creative writing, poetry, lab reports, etc.), Reading fluency and comprehension practice, Career exploration and CCR planning, And so much more!

Find out more



app.paper.co

Congratulations to our very first winners of the year for our weekly PBIS Red Rewards drawing!

Students earn Red Rewards for following our schoolwide PBIS expectations. They have the option of turning their tickets in for the weekly drawing or saving them for our upcoming school store! Winners of the weekly drawing get a homework pass that can be used in any class and a treat of their choice! We have many Ridgerunners who already follow the expectations every day and are off to a great start!

