



Newark Digital Academy was named **Charter School of the Year** by the Ohio Alliance of Public Charter Schools. Contact us to learn about what makes us unique!

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November 2019

Volume 5 - Issue 2

**“Inspiring individual learning through innovation.”**

## *Newark Digitizer*

[www.nda.k12.oh.us](http://www.nda.k12.oh.us)

### **FROM THE EDITORS**

November is here! We are thankful for our students and their families and our supportive community. Just a reminder, school will be closed Nov. 27-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Editors,

Laura Moore [Immoore@newarkschools.us](mailto:Immoore@newarkschools.us)

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### **VETERANS DAY SPEAKER**

**Who:** Mr. Warren K. Weber (Vietnam Veteran and NCS Board of Education Member)

**When:** Monday, Nov. 11th

**Time:** 10-11am

**Where:** NDA Orientation Room

\*This is a good opportunity for social studies lesson credit

### **FIND US ON OUR NEW SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS!**

**Find us on our school website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!**

Share our social media pages with your friends, family and colleagues. Give us a like, a tweet, a share, or write a review to our page. We are constantly posting resources, events and opportunities for our students and families.

# Upcoming Test Prep Opportunities



Mark your calendar for **FRIENDS-GIVING! Thursday, Nov. 21 from 11-3 for 10-12th graders ONLY**. We will be serving a Thanksgiving-dinner-themed-lunch while we prepare for the AIR graduation test retakes that are coming up in December!

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## **Math and Science AIR Test Prep**

**Wednesday November 6, 13 and 20**

**2:00 – 3:30 pm**

Come to the Newark Digital building for special sessions to review and prepare for the Algebra I, Geometry, and/or Biology AIR exams. Stations will be set up focusing on key concepts for each test and students can rotate through the topics they need to be successful on the end-of-course exams. Tests will be administered in December—starting to prepare early will help reduce anxiety and increase retention of information! We hope to see you!

Not available? Check out our test prep materials online at [www.ndamath.weebly.com](http://www.ndamath.weebly.com)!

**Do something that your future self will thank you for!**

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Want to study for your AIR tests at home? You will now find **Test Prep Links** for your subject areas under the “Student Login” button on our school website. There are lots of great resources there. Check them out!

Also, within the next couple weeks you will be receiving **letters in the mail** with test prep resources for some of your classes. These pages will contain just the **MOST** important things you will need to know for the tests. Make sure you read them and keep them!

# Meet Representative Scott Ryan

By Laura Moore, Editor



On September 26<sup>th</sup>, State Representative Scott Ryan came to Newark Digital Academy to speak to students and staff members about what it is like to be a member of Ohio's General Assembly. Mr. Ryan gave some information about his background in small business and what made him interested in public service. He said one of the most important parts of his job is building relationships with people and one of the most difficult parts is communicating with people who are frustrated.

Some of the legislation Mr. Ryan spoke about supporting included reducing state testing, helping to change the school funding formula, and supporting Medicare expansion. Mr. Ryan said, "I believe the public eventually gets what it wants out of legislation." He encouraged students to be informed and get involved in politics and to call him or email him with their ideas or concerns. Mr. Ryan also gave students some good advice for life including:

- No one got where they are on their own.
- If you don't participate, you can't get what you want.
- Don't limit what you think you can do.

Thank you for coming to speak with us, Representative Scott Ryan! We enjoyed learning from you.

# Student Columns

## Why Politics Should Matter to the Youth Who Cannot Vote Yet

Carli Rettig

As a sophomore in high school, I cannot legally vote yet as I am not eighteen years of age. To many young students under the age of eighteen, politics can be seen as boring and irrelevant toward the lives of those who are not eighteen years of age yet. While political affiliations may not affect you as an individual directly, these politics could be affecting other individuals in a much more drastic manner. Perhaps in the future, these same politics will affect you just as much, so paying attention and keeping up-to-date on the politics of today will matter toward the educational validity of your views in future discussions.

Being educated on these politics is a great way to start getting involved and to start positive, healthy discussions about politics with those around you. Gaining different perspectives in regards to politics is always a healthy way to encourage the growth of an individual's political knowledge. When the time comes that politics will begin to affect you as an individual, you will be able to make an educated decision in matters of voting once you are older than eighteen years of age.

With the ever-changing social climate of the United States, social injustices become more relevant every day. While these matters may seem as if they should only be of relevance to adults, young individuals do have a voice to contribute to the causes of some of these injustices. Social media can be a great platform to spread awareness of political injustices.

**If you are 18 or over, don't forget to vote on  
Tuesday, November 5th!**



# Student Columns

## Troy Balderson Speaks at NDA By Jade Borgersen-Burge



Troy Balderson, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, came to the Newark Digital building to meet students and talk about his job and how he got there. The room was packed full of students from NDA, as well as students from Wilson Middle School. Congressman Balderson started his life working on a farm in Ohio. Balderson didn't enjoy school; he put in low effort and the results showed. By ninth grade, his mother had told him that she wasn't going to interfere with his schoolwork and let him do what he wanted with that. He agreed, but in tenth grade, his geometry teacher called on him to answer a question he didn't know, and encouraged Balderson to work hard after he had asked why his teacher did that.

After high school, Balderson went into college, but didn't finish, and chose to learn other trades. He enjoyed working with his hands and started working on cars. He did so until his friend Jim suggested he should run for State Representative. Balderson had never even thought of going into politics before, but after taking a long, careful consideration, he decided he would run. He worked very hard on his campaign and was eventually appointed to the State Senate, and then Congress. He told the audience at NDA that, unlike what we see in the media, many congressmen actually have good relationships with each other. Balderson was very encouraging towards the students, urging us to work hard for what we wanted.

The audience had the opportunity to ask Congressman Balderson questions. Students asked well-thought-out questions, and Balderson gave excellent replies. He told students what Congress was currently working on and a bit about what life in Congress was like, such as the long hours of meeting times, sleeping in his office, and not getting a lot of down time. This sounds negative, but Balderson enjoys helping out the people of the U.S. and sorting out these issues. He also told us about who his inspirations were to run for office, that he had no regrets about his career choice, and even that he prefers being in Congress over running for president. He has no current desires to run for president, but as Balderson said: "Never say no."

# Student Columns

## Gaming Isn't to Blame

By Collin Queen

Gaming. It's something most teenagers do, and yet most teens are not violent offenders of crimes such as mass shootings. Why then does the media consistently blame video games for such crimes? As an avid gamer, I game non-stop, playing anything from shooters like *Call Of Duty* and *Battlefield* to survival games like *Minecraft* or *Subnautica*. It is because of my experience with many different kinds of games that I find it so infuriating when the media takes the easiest possible explanation and blames games for the violence in a mass shooting, instead of tackling the widely controversial topics that truly cause such horrible events, such as bad parenting and mental health issues.

However, there are those few exceptions in which gaming did play a part. For example, say a five-year-old is given a copy of a game such as *Grand Theft Auto 5*, an extremely violent game, that has a large range of fans in its community, from grown men screaming at each other to the silent, peaceful gamer just trying to have a good time. The point is, this game is not meant for a five-year-old, far from it, and giving that five-year-old said game is an example of bad parenting. That community and game will inevitably cause issues and questions for that child.

The fact is, while gaming can be a factor, it is not the sole cause of violence, and as a gamer, it's extremely offensive to be grouped with people that do commit such crimes, simply because I played the same game as they did. While these games themselves may not cause the violence and other mental health issues in a person, playing in the community of that game can. However, as a gamer myself, I know how cruel the community of a game can be, but on the other side of that coin, I also know how supportive that same community can be. The fact, is gaming is all about how you play and who you play with.

For a complete and comprehensive study into the facts watch this video by game theory on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkVIqB8tw2A> or read one of these articles for more information <https://www.gamedesigning.org/why-video-games-are-good/> , <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1555412015615025>



# Student Columns

## Interview with Mrs. Faith Amore-Reed

By Nevaeh Scott



I asked Mrs. Amore-Reed a series of five questions, asking about her career as a teacher and a few silly questions that will help get to know Mrs. Amore-Reed a little better.

The first question that I asked was, “Why did you choose to become a teacher?” Her response was that she “mainly wanted to make a difference in children's lives.” A few other reasons that she chose to be a PE teacher is she could wear sweatpants every day and she had the summer off.

I then asked her, “What is your favorite part of being a P.E/Health teacher?” She responded by saying she likes to learn how the body functions and she would describe herself as “nerdy” when it came to learning about the body.

The next question I asked her was, “Why did you choose to work at NDA?” Mrs. Amore-Reed said that she needed a new challenge after working 20 years in a regular public school. She said that working in a gym for so long has affected her hearing, so she chose to do something that still challenged her, but was a little easier on her hearing.

The next question that I asked Mrs. Amore-Reed was, “If you were an animal what would you be?” Mrs. Amore-Reed said she would be a sea turtle because she would live a long life, be graceful, and she'd be really cool.

The last question that I asked Mrs. Amore-Reed was, “What is your favorite pair of shoes and why?” Mrs. Amore-Reed stated, “I don't have a favorite pair of shoes” and that she loves all her shoes because “they always fit and they're all cute”.

# Student Columns

## November Runs/Walks

By Vanessa Miller

Get some exercise this month at some of these awesome runs and walks. Most of them are for a cause, so you can get your exercise and help others. Here is a lists of events in Licking County that you and your family could attend!

November 3	Vineyard Community Youth 5K	Join the Vineyard Community Youth as they host a fun run or walk. It benefits Cordle's Kids in Centerburg for Christmas!
November 10	Licking County Coalition for Housing 5K	Join Licking County for their Sixth Annual LCCH Home Run 5K. Featuring chip timing, with instant results and photos; T-shirts; DJ; free lunch; and lots of door prizes. Prizes and medals will be awarded to the top males and females!
November 17	Dawes Arboretum Walk	Enjoy a guided walking tour of some portions of Dawes Arboretum.
November 28	Granville Turkey Trot	The Granville Turkey Trot is a 5K Fun run/walk. It benefits the Food Pantry Network of Licking County.







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-By Zada Hatfield

The illustration is a rendering of clouds made in the digital art program *Krita*. It took approximately 2 hours total.

We are now through the first nine weeks of the 2019 – 2020 school year. If you started at NDA at the beginning of the school year you are through the first 9 lessons of each course. The great thing about having access to schooling on line is that you can determine the *pace* of work that fits you best! If you are on pace, keep up the great work! If you are not, please come see us. We can help you fix it! The staff will gladly sit down and help you create a plan that will get you on course! We know you can do it!

We are nearing an important time in the 19 – 20 school year. Fall 2019 AIR tests will start in a little over a month. We want to help you prepare for the tests you will be taking (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade). Doing your best means getting one step closer to graduation! NDA will be offering multiple opportunities for you to get ready for your AIR tests. Keep an eye on our calendar, website, and postings around the building for a schedule of activities.

When we all work together, great things can happen!

Be safe online and everywhere,

John Lutz – Coordinator of Alternative Education