



# NORTH JUDSON-SAN PIERRE

## SCHOOL CORPORATION

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There is something special about the first home football game of the year. There is energy, excitement, and optimism. It gives me hope every time I attend the season's first game. Friday night's home opener against Culver offered me the same feelings, and much, much more. So many features contributed to the invigorating atmosphere at Liberty Field on Friday night. Bluejay fans, young and old, sported their "construction" attire. Elementary students and teachers participated in the spirit theme during the day on Friday. NJ-SP High School students spoke on WKVI early Friday morning to describe the student initiatives this football season to promote Bluejay spirit. Bluejay pride was ever-present on Friday.

Bluejay pride can be found even beyond the football field. Our tennis team is now practicing and playing matches on its brand-new courts. Cross-country runners are hard at work logging miles and miles in order to represent their school in the best way they can. Our Volleyball team hosted a very competitive tournament over the weekend, knowing that it must compete against the best to be the best. The golf team is already well underway in its season and has found success. Our music program continues to grow and grow and setting goals of creating a marching band.

The community's ownership in our local public school is becoming even more apparent. This is so encouraging—there is power in people. There is vitality and strength in being unified and finding a common purpose. We have all heard "It takes a village to raise a child;" I also have read that it takes a community to raise a school. I love this. We need to work as a group to support our schools for our particular community needs. Over the last several years, we have had our challenges. During challenging times, a strong, positive community will take the broken and flawed issues and keep trying to make things work. Even with all of the differing philosophies and experiences, we can all come together to make something special happen. Think of the work the Town of North Judson is doing to create a better town in which to live. Think of the North Judson Police Department providing activities for our youth in order to build strong, positive relationships. Think of our local businesses supporting our school and community projects.

While the challenges associated with public schools in rural towns and communities won't disappear, I believe the solutions and answers to these challenges is in genuine community connections and actions. When families, businesses, and schools come together to support learning, our young people achieve more in school, stay in school longer, and enjoy the offerings of their hometown.

To our NJ-SP students, teachers, staff, parents, community members, and business leaders: keep up the good fight in our quest for the best school environment and experience we can offer. Go Bluejays!