



---

**For Immediate Release: April 22, 2024**

Johnstown-Monroe Local School District is proud to announce Johnstown Elementary has been recognized with a “Purple Star Award” for making “a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation’s military.”

In order to qualify for designation as a Purple Star school, a number of special conditions must first be met, including supporting military career pathways and military recruiters.

The Johnstown-Monroe Local School District is committed to three structured, post-high school pathways for its graduating high school students called, “The Three E’s.” These include enrollment in another Educational institution, Employment, or Enlistment in the U.S. military forces.



Supporting Military Families

Each Veterans Day, Johnstown Elementary and J-M’s other three school buildings open their doors to the Johnstown community, offering extensive recognition of our local veterans and their families. These programs include musical and spoken-word tributes, as well time to interact and enjoy one another’s company. These gatherings allow J-M students the rich opportunity of learning directly from veterans about personal military service experiences, and their historical impacts.

Additionally, Johnstown-Monroe’s Frank H. Chambers Stadium serves as the community’s gathering point for Johnstown’s annual Fourth of July celebrations.

Johnstown-Monroe is also engaged in a determined effort through attorneys and community stakeholders to settle the long-unexecuted last wishes of Johnstown “Hometown Hero” Brig. General Perry L. Miles. Perry Miles was a distinguished veteran and West Point graduate who proudly commanded an all-African American regiment in the trenches of France during World War I, and who worked closely with various U.S. Presidents and other noted military leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, including General Douglas MacArthur.

To commemorate Brig. General Mile’s last will and testament after more than 60 years, Johnstown-Monroe has dedicated a room within Johnstown Intermediate School to serve as a museum honoring Miles and our military forces.

Superintendent Dr. Philip H. Wagner welcomed the distinction Johnstown Elementary School has been granted in recognition of the school and the District’s passionate commitment to our U.S. military forces and its families.

“The Purple Star designation is a great honor for Johnstown Elementary School and the entire school district,” Dr. Wagner said. “This designation is also a celebration and recognition of the community, which has a strong legacy of military service, including our local American Legion Post 254. Next, the Johnstown-Monroe School District is exploring Purple Star applications for our other three school buildings.”

Johnstown Elementary is the first Johnstown-Monroe school in the J-M District’s history to receive this honor.

More about Johnstown-Monroe’s commitment to our military families can be found on the District’s official website at <https://www.johnstown.k12.oh.us/MilitaryFamilyResources.aspx>