

North Branch Area Schools

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James D. Fish
Superintendent

Good afternoon North Branch Families, Parents, Staff, Students, and Community Members:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the community and families in Uvalde, Texas, who are going through a very difficult time due to the unimaginable tragedy that took place at an elementary school just west of San Antonio. Students deserve a safe and secure learning environment and every family should be confident their child will return home after a day at school.

The purpose of this communication is to share with our stakeholders what North Branch Area Schools has been doing since the Oxford tragedy to improve and enhance security measures in the district. North Branch reinstated a safety committee comprised of administrators, teachers, law enforcement, and parents. This committee began to meet monthly in January. Several recommendations have come from this committee and have been adopted by the North Branch Board of Education including the following:

1. North Branch Area Schools, in partnership with the Village of North Branch, has employed a School Resource Officer for the past 3 years. We have shared the services of this officer with the village. However, we have expanded that partnership and now have a full-time School Resource Officer who started in April and is 100% dedicated to North Branch Area Schools;
2. Alice Training for all district employees will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, as part of the district provided professional development for all staff. All students will be educated at the age-appropriate level once all staff has been fully trained. ***ALICE Training is the #1 active shooter training solution and preparedness education program for school districts;***
3. The North Branch Board of Education approved a contract to provide security badges beginning this fall for all North Branch employees including substitutes. North Branch is the first school in Michigan to utilize this technology that is widely used in Florida and Georgia. All employees will wear a badge that in seconds can alert the entire district to an incident and put the school on a lockdown;
5. Night locks to secure all district classroom doors will be installed over the summer.

Those are a few of the major safety initiatives North Branch Area Schools has in place for next year. We take the safety of our staff and students very seriously and it will always be our first priority.

Sincerely,

James D. Fish, Superintendent
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