



SchoolTalk

www.nbbrncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

August 2021

North Branch Schools are ALL IN!



The OPPORTUNITIES of a LARGE SCHOOL in a SMALL TOWN ENVIRONMENT!

North Branch Area Schools adopted the motto of “All IN” to reflect the district’s commitment for everyone involved to give 100 percent to make the district better for our students, our families and our community. That commitment includes:

- ★ Options for 2021-2022 Student Learning:
 - In person face-to-face instruction from outstanding BK-12 teaching staff
 - NEW North Branch Virtual Learning Opportunities for those seeking alternative learning options
- ★ Small Class Sizes – BK – 2
- ★ A dedicated teaching staff that provides excellent learning opportunities for all students
- ★ Kind and Caring Support Staff including a School Nurse
- ★ Safe, modern, air conditioned facilities
- ★ Technology rich classrooms
- ★ F.A.B.S. a before & after school program
- ★ Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds
- ★ Gifted & Accelerated Program
- ★ Space Camp Program at US. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL – 5th-8th grade (over 60 students have attended)
- ★ Washington D.C Trip for 8th Graders
- ★ Tutoring opportunities
- ★ AP Classes
- ★ Dual Enrollment
- ★ Online Learning
- ★ STEM Academy
- ★ Award winning Marching & Symphony Bands
- ★ Thriving Theatre Program
- ★ Business Professionals of America Chapter
- ★ Wide Variety of Extra Curriculum Offerings
- ★ State recognized Alternative Education Program
- ★ Lapeer County Educational and Technology Center programs
- ★ NO Fee Athletics Programs
- ★ Successful Athletic teams at local & state level
- ★ Over 60% of NBAS athletes annually received the Scholar Athlete Award
- ★ A community Fitness Center

SCHOOL OF CHOICE

School of Choice window for the 2021-2022 school year will be open through August 27, 2021. Please contact Rhoda Lucia at 810-688-3570 for more information.



Message from the Superintendent



Dear North Branch School District Families and Community,

The North Branch Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and support staff are ready to welcome our students and families to the start of what

will be another great school year. I say another great school year, because even though we were in the midst of a Pandemic for the entire 2020-2021 school year, I could not be more proud of how our school district successfully navigated all of the challenges we faced last year with state mandated closings, quarantines, as well as providing in-person and virtual learning opportunities for our students. We remain committed to delivering the best educational experience possible for all of our students.

The first day of school for all students will be Monday, August 23. By now, you should have received specific information from each building. North Branch Area Schools will not require masks for staff or students; however, the district will respect the choice of those who wish to keep wearing them. As of this publication, we will require students riding buses to wear a mask as this is federally mandated for all public transportation including school buses. Water fountains will be turned on and all students will eat breakfast and lunch in their school's cafeteria. Vaccinations will not be required for attending school or for participating in sports or other extracurricular activities. Students choosing to participate in sports will not be required to be tested. North Branch Area Schools will continue its thorough cleaning practices during and after school in each building as we continue to prioritize staff and student safety.

As we start the school year, I have received many questions relative to how North Branch Area Schools will utilize the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) dollars received from the federal government. ESSER I, also the

Cares Act, was used to purchase PPE supplies, learning platforms, and hire virtual teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. Those funds have been depleted. ESSER II, also the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRFSA Funding) and ESSER III, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA Funding), will be used to update the HVAC system in our almost 30 year old high school.

Annually, the North Branch Board of Education approves five year plans for Curriculum, Facilities, and Technology. During the past five years, we have been able to purchase enough devices and we are now a 1:1 district meaning every student will be issued a mobile device (chromebook) when school starts this year. We have reviewed, purchased, and implemented new textbooks in almost all disciplines in the past five years. In April, the North Branch Board of Education hired a company to review and inspect the high school HVAC system and present a Conceptual Building Analysis to determine immediate upgrades. On July 12, the board reviewed the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing high priority needs and arranged a meeting of the Board of Education Facility Committee to recommend board action. The average life of most HVAC equipment is 20-25 years and the high school is almost 30 years old. Four high priority areas were determined to have less than 5% of useful life left. The Board of Education Facility Committee will unanimously recommend spending the one-time ESSER funds to upgrade those identified high priority areas in lieu of spending general funds dollars that are best used to educate our children.

Many districts are choosing to utilize these funds in the same manner. According to an article in the July 23 DA Daily (District Administration Daily 2-minute update for district leaders) "Grand Rapids Public Schools plans to spend \$12 million on extensive upgrades of their HVAC systems." Why am I using most of my space to share this update with our community? North Branch Area Schools

will spend roughly 80% of its ESSER dollars (close to \$3.2 million) to upgrade the HVAC system in the high school. The identified repairs, replacements, and upgrades will not only improve the ventilation and air flow throughout the high school, but the savings in operation and maintenance are estimated to be 1.7 million dollars over the next 20 years. The other 20% of the ESSER funding has been and will continue to be used to minimize learning loss in our district. For example, this summer we offered several learning opportunities and credit recovery programs for K-12 students.

As I have stated many times, the strength of North Branch Area Schools is its teaching and support staff. Recently, I read a May 21 article in Newsweek titled "Maintaining High Expectations in the Face of Unfinished Learning." The authors state "the best way to address the instructional loss resulting from school closings is not to lower expectations, rather we should challenge students to engage in productive struggle." The article goes on to discuss equity in schools and concludes "that all students, regardless of their race, gender, class, or anything else, should have the support they need to ensure they can learn." The North Branch Board of Education has three shared goals with all employees in our school district. The number one goal at North Branch Area Schools is to "teach, measure, and continuously improve instruction aligned with state standards for increased student achievement and College and Career readiness." North Branch Area Schools will always have high expectations for each child while showing them the love and care they need to be successful.

Our district will continue with its "All In" motto and we are excited to welcome your children back to school on Monday, August 23. Please feel free to contact my office at 810-688-3570 if I can help you in any way during the upcoming school year.

In anticipation of a great school year!

Jim Fish

North Branch Superintendent

NBHS STUDENT HANDBOOKS

The student handbook, which includes the Code of Student Conduct and School Dress Code, may be found on the NBHS website (Go to www.nbbrncos.net and click on "Schools". Next, click on the picture or text of "North Branch High School"). On the NBHS page, click on "NBHS Information" link on the left side of the page. On the NBHS Information page, click on the "School Policies, Information & Forms" link on the bottom of the left side of the page.

It is suggested that both parents and students review this document before the start of the school year. If you do not have access to the internet, please stop by the North Branch High School Main Office or have your student pick up a copy.

NBHS PARENT NEWSLETTERS ONLINE

NBHS produces a monthly Student and Parent Newsletter called the "Bronco Bulletin". These Student and Parent Newsletters will be sent home via email addresses on file in the NBHS main office. The Bronco Bulletin will also be available on-line throughout the school year on the High School Website. Parents are encouraged to regularly check out the "Bronco Bulletin – Monthly Newsletter" section along with other informational sections of our website.



News from the Food Service Department

North Branch Area School's Food Service Department welcomes your family back for the 2021-2022 school year! We would also like to welcome those new families to our school district. We look forward to serving you and your family this coming year. We will do our best to continue delivering healthy, quality meals and services while still maintaining compliance in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

This year we would like to announce **Michigan's Mighty Meals**. Michigan School meals have changed! This year, every student can eat a school meal – a Mighty Meal – at no cost. Mighty Meals provide every student with healthy, delicious food to fuel their day. Mighty Meals can save you time and money this school year. Please note that Mighty Meals include both breakfast and lunch here at North Branch Schools!



So what does this mean to you? The GREAT NEWS is that ALL students enrolled at our school can receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE to your household each day. We still need your household to **fill out and sign the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application**. This information is critical in determining the amount of money that our school receives from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs like Title I A, At-risk (31a), Title II A, E-Rate, etc. Applications **MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED WITHIN THE FIRST 30 DAYS OF THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**. Please complete **ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER HOUSEHOLD** and return as soon as possible.

Special Meals and/or Accommodations

If a doctor has determined that your child has a special food sensitivity/allergy, that would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make ANY SUBSTITUTION PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, **MUST** be submitted to the Food Service Department before any special diet can be given to your child. The Michigan Department of Education's Request for Special Dietary Needs Accommodations Form is available through the Food Service Department and also available online at www.nbbrncos.net, located under the Food Service Documents tab, and needs to be filled out by a licensed physician. This provision is State mandated.

Food Service Standards

North Branch Area Schools participates under the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and has a fiscal responsibility to stay in compliance and meet financial accountability; parents/guardians are responsible for meals purchased by their student(s) from the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. This year North Branch Area Schools will be participating in the Seamless Summer Option for our meal program. This means that first meals are FREE to all students. The financial responsibility is for second meals, milk and any Ala Carte items purchased.

Students are expected to have funds available on their food service account for these purchases. Our system is a pre-paid debit system, therefore when a student makes a purchase, the amount is automatically deducted from the student's food service account. Therefore, it is very important that you check your student's food service account weekly to make sure they have funds available each day. The preferred method of payment is to pay online through PaySchools. Payments may also be sent in with your student (cash/check) or be mailed to North Branch Area Schools, Attn: Food Service, PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461.

NBAS Food Service Policy

- Ala Carte items are CASH ONLY or students MUST have funds on their food service account. Charges are never allowed for Ala Carte items.
- A full lunch consists of 3 of 5 items offered, though 5 items may be taken. Main Entrée, Fruit, Vegetable, Bread and Milk
- Purchasing milk alone is \$0.50 regardless of lunch account type.
- Adults and Staff are encouraged to have funds on their food service accounts, or pay at the point of service. NO CHARGING IS ALLOWED.
- Adjustments will only be made by the Food Service Department.

Thank you for your participation in the Breakfast and Lunch Program at North Branch Area Schools. Please contact North Branch Area School's Food Service Department at (810) 688-2226 to speak with Supervisor, Kierstyn Cooper, or Secretary, Billie Dhooghe, about any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website under "departments" on the District Homepage for more information.

Write On! NB Teachers Involved in



Writing is a symphony for the brain. It is the currency for critical thinking and learning in school and the workplace. Writing helps us solve problems, share and understand ideas, and is essential to communication.

Over the summer the following teachers took part in the Chippewa River Writing Project's (CRWP) intensive two-week Summer Institute:

Val Bader
Holly Berridge
Amy Kirk
Anna Marchese
Lindsay Picarski
Alyssa Welling

The CRWP is a site of the National Writing Project (nwp.org) whose aim is to advance the importance of teaching writing through the "Teachers Teaching Teachers" approach. Writing is at the heart of the Summer Institute. The Institute provides time, direction and support for teachers to become better writers, better teachers of writing and become a valued member of a writing community.

The six teachers above join fellow colleagues – **Sara Hyde, Theresa Rae, Amber White, Kevin Withey, and Lyndsay Young** – in their completion of the National Writing Project Summer Institute. Not only are these teachers eligible to become consultants for the CRWP (leading writing presentations at conferences and conducting PD workshops for other education professionals around the state) but North Branch Area Schools is extremely proud to have these teachers teaching writing to students within the district.
Congratulations to these teachers!



Welcome New Staff Members!



Hello, I am **Emily Parzynski** and I am thrilled to be North Branch High School's newest counselor! I grew up in the Almont area, and just recently moved back home to Michigan after spending seven years living and working in Montana.

This is my eighth year in education; I spent the first part of my career as an English teacher before becoming a counselor. I am an Oakland University graduate, and received my master's degree in counseling from Montana State University Northern. My favorite part of being a school counselor is connecting with students, getting to know what makes them unique, and encouraging them to pursue their goals.

In my spare time, you can find me exploring the great outdoors with my husband and our two Irish Setters, or whipping up some yummy baked goods in the kitchen! I love what I do, and I am so excited to meet and work with the students, families, and staff of North Branch High School.



Hi Bronco Nation! My name is **Krislene Kemp** and I'm very excited to be coming to North Branch schools. I will be teaching Health at the High School as well as the Ruth Fox Middle School. After graduating from Central Michigan University in

2013, this will be my 8th year teaching a variety of Physical Education and Health classes at a wide range of grade levels. I'm a Brown City graduate that now calls North Branch home.

I'm married and have 2 bonus teenage sons, a 2 year old son and another on the way in November. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and look forward to digging in at North Branch Schools. If you see me in the hallways don't hesitate to stop me and say hello!



Jenni Jackson joins the English department at North Branch High School this fall. Jenni switched to teaching after a long career in media and management. She has her undergrad from CMU, Master's from Spring Arbor and teaching credentials from SVSU.

Jenni is excited to finally be able work in her hometown. She lives in North Branch with her twin daughters, Hosanna and Hallelujah and two foreign exchange students. Jenni's mission as a teacher is to help students to become better writers, readers, thinkers, speakers AND better PEOPLE!

NBHS Student Orientation

All 9th – 12th grade students are required to come to the NBHS cafeteria during one of the scheduled sessions (below). Students can drop in any time during their scheduled orientation time. Orientations should take no longer than 30- 60 minutes, depending on each student's needs.

9th – 12th Grades: Monday, August 16th • 9:00am–11:00am or 1:00pm–3:00pm

New Students & Parents Meeting In HS Auditorium 3:00pm

The counseling department will be holding a new student and parent meeting at 3:00 pm in the HS auditorium. Although this meeting is optional, it will be very informative, especially for those parents who will have children attending the high school for the first time.

Make-Up Day, 9th – 12th Grades: Wednesday, August 18th • 3:00pm–5:00pm

All orientations will address the following:

- 2021-22 Student Schedules
- School Pictures and Photo IDs (required of ALL students) *Order Forms from the Photo Factory will be mailed home but will also be available at orientations*
- Emergency contact information updates
- Bus #'s with pick-up/drop-off times
- Class Voting
- Classroom numbers and map
- Free and Reduced Lunch Forms
- Locker numbers and combinations
- Student Vehicle Registration (\$5 reg. fee required)
- Senior Class Graduation Requirements
- Yearbook sales for 2021-22 (Early Bird Special)
- Senior Class Fees (and past years fines)
- Sports schedules
- Acceptable Use Policy forms (AUPs) for computer usage

Please note: Student schedules will not be mailed. They will be available for pick up during the scheduled orientations. The orientations are designed to minimize time out of classes, reduce expenses, and expedite access to student information. If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 810-688-3001 beginning August 12th.



North Branch Early College



North Branch's early middle college program, formally known as the STEMM Academy, has a new name: the **"North Branch Early College" (NBEC)**. Our Early College is no longer focused only on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The program provides students with college courses in general education that can be transferred to any college belonging to the Michigan Transfer Agreement (the vast majority of colleges and universities in the state). The program is now partnered with Baker College, Mott Community College and Rochester University.

What is an Early College? Early college high schools enable students entering their junior year to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and either an associate's degree, the Michigan Early/Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certification or up to 60 transferable college credits at the same time, tuition free. The NBEC has two different models in place:

• **Traditional Model:** Students in their junior year would take 6 college courses at the Education and Technology Center in a two hour block. In their

senior year, students would take an additional 7 college courses at the Education and Technology Center in a three-hour block. In their 13 year, students would take a minimum of 12 college credits per semester at a Baker College Campus, a Mott Community College Campus or Rochester University Campus.

• **CTE Blend Model:** Students in their junior year would take 1 college course at the Education and Technology Center in a one-hour block after their Ed-Tech program. In their senior year, they would take 3 college courses at the Education and Technology Center in a one-hour block after their Ed-Tech program. In their 13th year, students would take a minimum of 12 college credits per semester at a Baker College Campus or a Mott Community College Campus and receive additional college credit for their CTE successful completion.

The North Branch Early College is a unique and great way for your son or daughter to get a jump start on earning their college credentials, with little to no cost to their family.



**Don't Break the Bank
paying for College!**

Talk with our Counselors about NBHS's Early College Option known as the North Branch Early College.



**Attention
Ed-Tech Students**

Both AM and PM ED-TECH Classes will be held at NBHS on Monday, August 23rd instead of the Ed-Tech Center. Attendance is **REQUIRED**.



Quest recognized by Michigan Alternative Education Organization

Quest High School was recognized as having the “Best Program Component” by the Michigan Alternative Education Organization for their “All S.E.T.” program! All S.E.T. stands for Service, Employment, and Training. Quest partners with the Family Literacy Center and their Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JMG) Program it offers its seniors!

JMG has helped Quest ensure that all Quest graduates are not only job ready when they graduate, but career ready! Through the program students learn tangible skills that will help them career search, nail the interview process, and skills that will help them advance in their careers. In addition to hosting career fairs, JMG teacher Ashley Fanson also books members of the community from various career fields to discuss future options for our students. Those careers range from auto body, to landscaping, to reality.



Quest Student Earns Multiple Scholarships



The **Faithful Truck & Auto Scholarship** is new to Quest this school year! After employing a former

Quest graduate, last winter, owner Bill McKnight approached Quest to see what he could do to help “hands-on” students get a “hand up” in starting their post-secondary training.

The scholarship is primarily geared students that are entering the automotive field, however, any Quest graduate can apply. This year’s scholarship winner was **Ryver Kotzke**. Thank you to owners Bill and Wendy McKnight for supporting our graduates!



Quest would like to congratulate 2021 graduate **Ryver Kotzke** on earning her many scholarships. In total, Ryver earned 7 scholarships, including: the Michigan Alternative Education Organization Scholarship, Quest High School’s Carolyn Bower Memorial Scholarship, the Faithful Truck & Auto Scholarship, the Siegler Dairy Farm Agricultural Scholarship, Lapeer Lodge Oddfellow Scholarship, Cooperative Elevator Co. Scholarship, and the Michigan Association of Retired School Personal Scholarship.



Ryver has been accepted at Michigan State University and plans to pursue Veterinary Sciences. Ryver is a shining example of a student that took advantage of every opportunity that Quest High School has to offer. Best wishes in your studies at Michigan State! GO SPARTY!

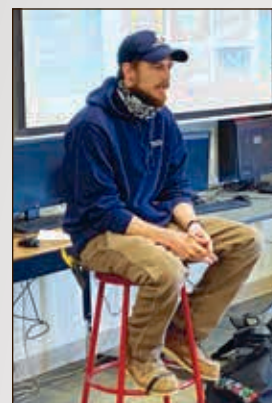
Summer School Success!

Overall 41 North Branch and Quest High School students attended summer school to recover credit.

The program consisted of using on-line courseware with Mr. Rosser, as well as a hybrid program for Math and English where students received direct instruction from Mr. Bechtel and Mrs. Howe respectively.



Let’s See How Far We’ve Come



Quest High School had the pleasure of having 2006 graduate **Zach Lucia** in as a career speaker. Zach is a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, currently working for Bluestone Communications. Zach works as a

technician doing wiring for projects that range from school to Ford Field and Little Caesars Arena.

New Disc Golf Club & Course Expansion

Recently North Branch Area Schools expanded the Quest Disc Golf Course from 12 to a full 18 holes. With



the recent expansion of the Quest Disc Golf Course comes a new opportunity for all North Branch students! **Youth Pastor Jake Webster** is starting a disc golf club, with a focus on learning the sport of disc golf, as well as social and interpersonal skills.

The program will start this fall and will run weekly through the school year. The hope is that eventually students will play local tournaments. Specific information will be sent home early in the fall.

Quest Program Coordinator Corey Rosser had this to say of the disc golf club, “A disc golf club was always part of the original plan when we installed the course in 2016, but we just didn’t have the help to sustain it. Jake’s work with youth makes him the perfect fit. He put a lot of work in promoting the program in the spring. We are excited to see where he takes it!”

For more information, please contact Jake Webster at (989) 714-4320 or jake@countrychristian.com



Follow Quest High School on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/>





2020-21 Ruth Fox MS Principal's Award



The Ruth Fox Principals Award is a yearly award given to one 8th grade student, and is selected on the basis of high level of academic achievement, attendance, work ethic, compassion, citizenship, and leadership.

The 2020-2021 Ruth Fox Principals
Award recipient is
JOSIE SMITH

ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS

- COMPASS Gifted and Accelerated Classes
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra
- Spanish
- Advanced English



Follow RFMS
@ruthfoxmiddle

Summer 2021 Space Camp

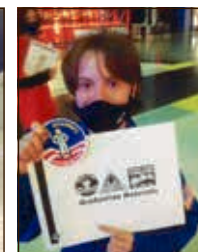
Students just returned from Space Camp, located at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, in Huntsville, Alabama. They spent 6 days running missions, completing challenges, and competing in space related activities.

Crew 17, this year's Ruth Fox Space Camp delegates were: Nick Caldwell, Ethan Dinanath, Leyton Hutchins, Alex Kuran, Elizabeth Naracon, Joe Pittenger, Emma Shoemaker, Te'aira Spitler.

All North Branch students were award winners. Emma attended Space Camp and her team received the Commander's Cup (most total points earned for missions and challenges for the entire week). The Outstanding Team Award for Space Academy went to the team that had Joe, Elizabeth, Leyton, Ethan, Te'aira, Nick and Alex.

Students worked hard during the week building rockets, designing a Mars outpost, running missions, touring the NASA museum, problem solving, and making new friends.

Overall it was another GREAT trip for North Branch students who attended Space Camp.



New Faces at Ruth Fox Middle School



Melanie Card

I've been a special education teacher for the last 16 years. It is with sadness that I leave my previous district, but it is with great joy that I may become a Bronco as it has been my dream to finally come home to be with my family in North Branch.

My husband, Brian, and I have been married for over 21 years with three boys. I graduated high school in Indian River, but consider North Branch to be my home town. I am really excited for the new school year to start and so grateful for this opportunity.



Mathew Titus

I graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University, but originally I am from the thumb area, going to Marlette community schools from first grade to senior year. I have been teaching for four years.

I really enjoy teaching social studies, coaching and the opportunity to help guide the future leaders of tomorrow. I am very excited for the upcoming school year and can't wait to get started.



Stefan Brady

I am lifelong Lapeer County resident. I attended Central Michigan University, and earned my Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education with a Middle Level Specialization. I began teaching in 2010 in private and charter school settings.

I enjoy outdoor sports, spending time with my family and serving in my church. I am excited to join the Bronco family this fall.



Erin Locklear

I graduated from Wayne State with Elementary Education focus on Social Studies and Mathematics and am currently working on Masters in Education Learning and Technology. I've been teaching Middle School for 16 years.

I have been married for 21 years, have two teenage children, and two Great Danes. I enjoy doing outdoor activities such as camping, walking, biking, and sitting around the campfire. I also love crafting, designing and making graphic shirts, sewing, and doing puzzles.



Mrs. Dana Whipple

I am super excited to begin planting my feet in North Branch for good! This will actually be my second year at Ruth Fox Middle School, as I just finished my first year teaching 6th grade. I am on one of the 5th/6th grade looping teams, teaching Science and Social

Studies. I graduated from Ferris State with my teaching degree in Elementary Education in April 2020.

My family, which consists of my husband of almost 13 years, our twins, a dog, a cat, and a barn full of chickens, lives in the North Branch/Lapeer Area and enjoy our spare time camping and playing family games. I am really looking forward to the years ahead as part of the Bronco family!



New Faces at North Branch Elementary School

North Branch Elementary is elated to be welcoming a few new faces to our Bronco Family for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition to these new faces, NBE is also thrilled to be welcoming **Mrs. Kerry Rose** to the elementary as a literacy coach – **WELCOME BACK!**



Mr. Chris Sikora

My family and I recently moved to the North Branch area about a year ago. I have a Master's Degree in the area of Special Education (Learning Disabilities). 2021 begins my 16th year in education with the last 12 years coming from Special Education roles in Oakland County. I have worked as a teacher consultant, Peer to Peer administrator, and behavioral mentor.

Outside the classroom, I enjoy coaching football, traveling, and outdoor recreation. My wife Bailey and I have two beautiful daughters Kinsley (5) and Lillian (3). I have a passion for working with students of all ages and am very excited for the opportunity to join the Bronco educational community.



Ms. Calla McNulty

I am an alumna of North Branch Area Schools. I graduated in 2015 and accepted a scholarship to play volleyball at Oakland Community College for two years. After I received my Associate degree, I transferred to Rochester University, where I played volleyball for two more years, and received a Bachelor's in Behavioral Sciences with a Track in Social Work. Then, I attended Wayne State University and graduated with a Master's in Social Work with a Concentration in Family Systems in May 2021. Over the last few years, I have had internships at Genesee Health Systems, Easterseals Trauma Services, Oakland Schools, and Rochester Community Schools providing social work services to children and youth K-12.

In addition to working with students, I enjoy reading, watching and playing sports, and spending time with my family and friends. I am looking forward to this opportunity to continue working with students and alongside teachers, staff, and parents. I am thrilled to be returning to the community! Once a bronco, always a bronco!



Mrs. Sarah Opperman

Our family has called North Branch home for the past 15 years. I grew up in Imlay City Schools as a Spartan and then continued my education as a Michigan State Spartan! I was able to be part of the varsity women's rowing team at MSU, where my team and I were the 2005 Big Ten Champions. I have a K-12 Art Education degree from MSU, and my MAT in Early Childhood Education from Saginaw Valley.

My husband and I have 6 kids, ages 2-14. Five of our kids attend NB Community Schools, and we love the schools and community so much! In my spare time I love coaching, running, cooking, camping and making artwork. This will be my first year teaching at North Branch Elementary. I previously taught K-12 every day for 9 years at Marlette Community Schools. I am so excited to work with the elementary students and teach them about all the different ways that they can create artwork, and I am pumped to be part of the Bronco Family! GO BRNCOS!



Ms. Hannah Marshall

I live in Marlette and attended Marlette schools, K-12. I recently graduated from Bethel University in Mishawaka, IN with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education.

I have grown up in an education family as both my parents are educators and also many other extended family members. My dad is a Social Studies teacher at North Branch High School. I am very excited to begin my teaching career here at North Branch Elementary!



**NBE
IMPORTANT
DATES**

AUGUST 18 - MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

AUGUST 23 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

AUGUST 27 - NO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 3 - NO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 6 - NO SCHOOL (LABOR DAY)

**DON'T MISS A SINGLE
UPDATE, EVENT, OR
ANNOUNCEMENT**

****Skylerts - be sure to sign up for
Skyward Family Access**

****Facebook - @NBEBRNCOS**

****Twitter - @NorthBranchElem**

****Webpage -**
<http://www.nbbrncos.net/schools/nbe>



**NBE
OPEN
HOUSE**

Meet the Teacher Night
August 18 • 4:30-6pm



North Branch Elementary *Summer Camp Fun!*



Ruth Fox Middle School students engaging in STEM activities during summer camp!



Special Classes at North Branch Elementary School

For the 2021-2022 school year North Branch Elementary is thrilled to be offering a variety of enhancement opportunities for every BK-4 student. Students will have the following classes once a week for the entire school year.

Art with Mrs. Opperman

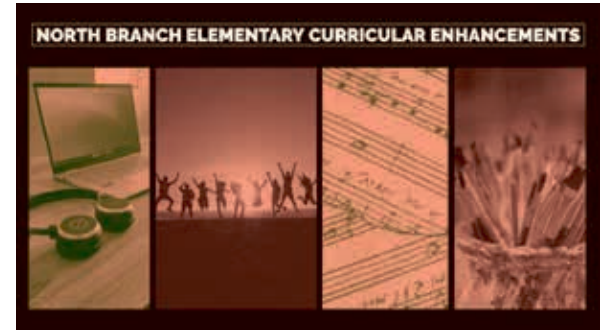
In art class we focus on fine motor skills as well as the develop students' sense of self as an artist. All students are introduced to the work of famous artists, different materials, and the notion that they themselves are also artists. Students are encouraged to be problem solvers and to think about how they want to express themselves as artists and how to think outside of the box to create something new. Exploring all the different types of media is very important, so starting in BK we start investigating clay, painting, drawing, digital art making, and sculpture. We continue using those materials up through 4th grade, and work on adding more difficult skills in the different media as the students get older. The goal of students' elementary art career is to encourage them to continue with their art making, feel confident with what they can create and how they can express their artistic vision.

Creative Movement

Creative Movement was created to give students an extra form of physical activity in their school week. We focus on the Michigan Physical Education (PE) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Standards in our indoor and outdoor learning spaces. Through the standards, students will become physically literate meaning they have the skills to move and play, incorporate those skills into playing games, know how to get fit and stay fit, act fairly and respectfully, and know why it is important to be physically active. Students will learn and practice their physical literacy in isolated individual and partner drills (ex. tossing/catching), team challenges (ex. Minute to Win it), organized sports (ex. soccer) and performance arts skills (ex. cardio drumming). In the end, our goal is to be "creative" with student "movement" to help develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity.

Music with Mrs. Ehardt

In music class, students sing, play a variety of instruments, create music, analyze music, and make connections between music and the world in which we live. Over the course of their elementary music experience, students will learn how to play a variety of percussion instruments, including shakers, maracas, triangles, tambourines, cymbals, hand drums, tom-toms, congas, djembes, hand-



bells, and Boomwhackers. Instruments are not limited to percussion, as 3rd grade students learn how to play the ukulele, and 4th grade students learn how to play the recorder. Musical literacy, the ability to read printed music, is taught starting in Kindergarten, and continues through 4th grade. A variety of musical games are also taught in class, and a focus on cooperative learning is encouraged through these games. Students also work together to create new music and perform vocal music, instrumental music, and/or a combination of both.

Physical Education with Mrs. Terauds

In physical education, we focus on growing students' physical literacy, or their ability to move with competence and confidence. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that our students have the skills and confidence to grow into healthy, well-rounded individuals who love to be physically active! Students begin by learning and developing basic skills that will allow them to participate confidently in a wide range of physical activities. Some of these skills include: locomotor movements, throwing and catching, balancing, jumping, striking an object with the body/with an implement, etc. As the students develop these skills, we begin applying them to fun games, sports and other physical activities. Along the way, students learn valuable lessons about sportsmanship, having a growth mindset, and regulating their emotions.

STEM with Mrs. Hyde

The goal of the STEM class is to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to create original ideas and objects using concepts and skills from math, science, and technology. Each marking period, students will be working on projects specific to their grade level content. Digital literacy will be at the forefront of every project by teaching students the skills needed to use technology safely and appropriately.

These enhancement opportunities will expose our students to many areas of fine arts and physical well-being, as well as allow students to further explore their individual creativity.



2021 Graduates • Athletic Signings



SOFTBALL:
Emily Ludescher & Clare Westfall



BASEBALL:
Ryan Ruhlman



BASEBALL:
Dominic Schierlinger



SOCCER:
Izzy Morse



POWERLIFTING:
Drew Ragatz



POWERLIFTING:
Jackson Schultz



FOOTBALL:
Brandon Martin



FOOTBALL:
Jacob Ranney



FOOTBALL:
Wyatt Howe



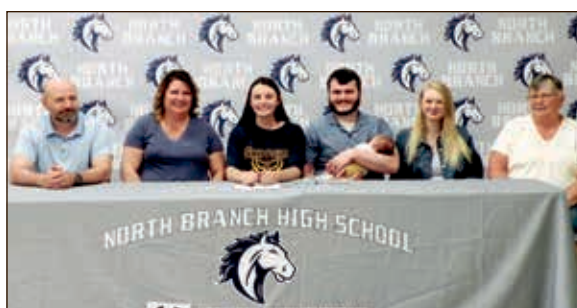
FOOTBALL:
Drake Deshetsky



VOLLEYBALL:
Breann June



VOLLEYBALL:
Hannah Farnsworth



VOLLEYBALL:
Makayla Coutcher

Spring 1st Team All Conference Athletes

SOFTBALL:
Emily Ludescher, Alana Deshetsky, Jasmine Girlish

BASEBALL:
Ryan Ruhlman, Raymond Strzynski

SOCCER:
Alexis Ostrum, Tessa Youngert

TRACK & FIELD:
*Gabe Hutchins (Pole Vault),
Grace Clemens (400M),
Alyssa Bussure (Long Jump)*

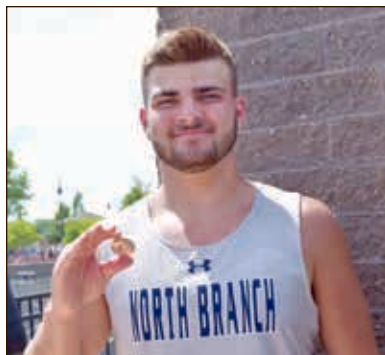
Meet the Teams Community Pep Rally • Saturday, August 14, 2021

7 pm: Tailgate Gathering - NBHS Parking Lot

8 pm: Introduction of HS Fall Sport Teams - NBHS Krepps Field

9 pm: Fall Athletes "Giving Back" Cornhole Event, Under the Lights - NBHS Krepps Field
(more details distributed through HS coaching staff)

All State Spring Track Athletes



DISCUS 4TH PLACE:
Drake Deshetsky



800M (4X200M) RELAY – 3RD PLACE:
Grace Clemens, Jasmine Mauk, Lilly Muxlow, Erin Wadley



1600M (4X400M) RELAY – 5TH PLACE:
Hailey Bissett, Alyssa Bussure, Grace Clemens, Erin Wadley

BWAC CHAMPS!

Both boys and girls junior high track teams finished their regular season undefeated and as BWAC champions! The team's accomplishments were highlighted by several individual performances as well. **Jayden Hutchinson** won the 55 hurdles at the Megastar meet (*widely regarded as the state meet for junior high athletes*), **Mason Howe** placed 2nd in shot put, and **Brock Lopucki** participated as a qualifier.



NEW HS GYM FLOOR!

We look forward to having you back in our gym!





Join us in Commemorating our 2021 North Branch Community HALL of FAME Inductees who will be honored during Homecoming

To read more about each inductee visit northbranch.touchpros.com.
A touch screen hanging in the High School lobby features the same information.

October 15, 2021 INDUCTEE EVENTS:

1:30pm
Homecoming Parade

2:30pm
Doors Open for Dinner in
High School Cafeteria

3:30pm
Meal is Served (RSVP by
Oct. 6th, see below)

4:15pm
Induction Ceremony
in Cafeteria

6:45pm
Inductees Honored Before
Start of Homecoming
Football Game

ABOUT NORTH BRANCH COMMUNITY HALL OF FAME:

The North Branch Community Hall of Fame was founded in 2016 for the purpose of recognizing individuals or teams with significant achievement who have made outstanding contributions to North Branch Area Schools. Hall of Fame inductees could have excelled in academics, arts, athletics, or volunteerism while at North Branch Area Schools either as a student, teacher, coach, team, administrator, parent volunteer, or community member.

This could also include individuals who have distinguished themselves as successful adults in their respective careers, including those who have received honors through meritorious service in selected careers and/or have served as benefactors of mankind.

To discover more, and to download a nomination form for future years, visit:
www.nbbronzos.net/schools/hs/community_hall_of_fame

You **MUST RSVP by October 6th** for the Hall of Fame Dinner on October 15th, 2021 at 3:30pm in the North Branch High School Cafeteria. Please make checks payable to NBAS, and mail or drop-off to:

Kristine Bickel, North Branch High School, P.O. Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461

Adults (13 & older) \$10 each • Children (5-12 years) \$5 each

Any questions, please call the High School Athletic Department at (810) 688-2518.

Congratulations to our 2021 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES:

INDIVIDUALS

Wells Castle
(Graduate/Community Service)

John Church
(Music Director)

Chris Davis
(Graduate/Athlete)

Ralph Deshetsky
(Graduate/School Board Member)

Ed Krepps
(Teacher/Coach/ Community Service)

Molly Machinski
(Graduate/Athlete)

Brian Travis
(Graduate/Athlete)

Jack Vincent
(Teacher/Coach/Administrator)

TEAMS

1966-67 Boys Basketball Team
2006-2007 Volleyball Team



NORTH BRANCH ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2020-2021



The North Branch Athletic Boosters (NBAB) strive to support and enrich all athletic teams and programs through concessions, membership fees, special events, our annual February Reverse Raffle, private donations and other fundraising. We provide Booster Scholarships to select Senior athletes, and those with parents ACTIVELY involved with Boosters receive priority consideration.

As a member of the NBAB, your name (or Business Name if you are a Corporate Sponsor) will appear in all of the athletic programs throughout the year, as well as on the booster website. You are encouraged to attend our meetings, which are usually held at the High School Media Center on the 3rd Monday of each month, unless there is a schedule conflict. We typically email members before upcoming meetings.

Members are also encouraged to participate whatever time they can give to fundraising efforts, serve on committees, and participate in other projects - as an effort to support OUR KIDS! Some projects may include event concessions, 50/50 raffle ticket sales, and retaining community sponsors/advertisers for our sports banners and annual raffle. Our efforts cannot be successful without willing members **LIKE YOU** to spark ideas and lend a hand.

To learn more about us follow, visit or email us at:

 @ NorthBranchHighSchoolAthleticBoosters

 @ http://www.nbbronzos.net/departments/ATHLETICS/athletic_boosters

 @ northbranchathleticboosters@gmail.com

Membership fees may be paid by check to: **North Branch Athletic Boosters** or paid via **Venmo**.

**If paying by check complete the form below and mail your
Annual Membership Fee to:**

North Branch Athletic Boosters
PO Box 3620 • North Branch, MI 48461

Membership Levels:

☐ \$5 Individual ☐ \$10 Family ☐ \$20 Corporate (Business) Sponsor

If paying by venmo @NBathleticBoosters:

Please complete the form below and email to
northbranchathleticboosters@gmail.com

Scan
QR Code
for
payment



Name: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Texting? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Home Phone: _____

Children's Names/Grades/Sports: _____

VARSITY FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 9	Practice Begins	Home	
August 27	Thurston	Home	7:00pm
September 3	Cros-Lex	Away	7:00pm
September 10	Armada	Home	7:00pm
September 17	Yale	Away	7:00pm
September 24	Almont	Home	7:00pm
October 1	Algonac	Away	7:00pm
October 8	Richmond	Away	7:00pm
October 15	Imlay City	Home	7:00pm
October 22	Linden	Away	7:00pm
October 29	Pre-District 4-32	TBA	TBA
November 5	District 4-32	TBA	TBA

JUNIOR VARSITY FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 9	Practice Begins	Home	
August 27	Thurston	Home	4:00pm
September 1	Cros-Lex	Home	6:00pm
September 9	Armada	Away	6:00pm
September 16	Yale	Home	6:00pm
September 23	Almont	Away	6:00pm
September 30	Algonac	Home	6:00pm
October 7	Richmond	Home	6:00pm
October 14	Imlay City	Away	6:00pm
October 21	Linden	Home	6:00pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 23	Practice Begins	Home	
September 8	Armada	Home	4:30pm
September 15	Yale	Away	4:30pm
September 22	Almont	Home	4:30pm
September 29	Algonac	Away	4:30pm
October 6	Richmond	Away	4:30pm
October 13	Imlay City	Home	4:30pm
October 20	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30pm

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 9	Practice Begins	Home	
August 14	Scrimmage	Home	10:00am
August 21	Mt. Morris	Away	TBA
August 25	Almont	Away	4:30pm
August 28	Mercy Power Series	TBA	TBA
September 1	Richmond	Away	4:30pm
September 9	Yale	Away	6:30pm
September 11	Novi	Away	9:00am
September 16	Cros-Lex	Away	6:30pm
September 18	Mercy Power Series	TBA	TBA
September 23	Armada	Away	4:30pm
September 30	Almont	Home	6:30pm
October 2	Mt. Morris	Away	TBA
October 5	Detroit Country Day Quad	Away	4:30pm

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL, continued

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
October 7	Richmond	Home	6:30pm
October 9	Mercy Power Series	TBA	TBA
October 14	Imlay City	Away	6:30pm
October 21	Yale	Home	4:30pm
October 23	Lowell	Away	TBA
October 28	Armada	Home	6:30pm
November 1	Districts 2-40	Home	TBA
November 3	Districts 2-40	Home	TBA
November 4	Districts 2-40	Home	TBA

JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 9	Practice Begins	Home	
August 14	Scrimmage	Home	10:00am
August 20	Macomb Dakota	Away	8:30am
August 24	Almont	Away	4:30pm
August 31	Richmond	Away	4:30pm
September 9	Yale	Away	5:00pm
September 11	Mt. Morris	Away	9:00am
September 16	Cros-Lex	Away	5:00pm
September 21	Armada	Away	4:30pm
September 30	Almont	Home	5:00pm
October 4	NB Quad	Home	5:30pm
October 7	Richmond	Home	5:00pm
October 9	Mt. Morris	Away	9:00am
October 14	Imlay City	Away	5:00pm
October 19	Yale	Home	4:30pm
October 23	Beast Of East	Away	TBA
October 28	Armada	Home	5:00pm

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 9	Practice Begins	Home	
August 20	Clio	Home	4:30pm
August 23	Richmond	Away	4:30pm
August 25	Almont	Away	4:30pm
August 26	Durand	Home	4:30pm
August 30	Armada	Home	4:30pm
September 1	Lakeville	Home	4:30pm
September 2	Byron	Away	5:30pm
September 8	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30pm
September 9	Carman-Ainsworth	Home	4:30pm
September 10	Unionville Sebewaing	Home	4:30pm
September 13	Imlay City	Home	4:30pm
September 15	Yale	Away	4:30pm
September 20	Richmond	Home	4:30pm
September 22	Almont	Home	4:30pm
September 27	Armada	Away	4:30pm
October 4	Cros-Lex	Home	4:30pm
October 6	Imlay City	Away	4:30pm
October 11	Yale	Home	4:30pm
October 13	Districts 2-23	TBA	TBA
October 23	Districts 2-23	TBA	TBA

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 9	Practice Begins	Home	
August 26	Birch Run Early Invite	Away	4:15pm
September 2	Brown City	Away	5:30pm
September 8	Wildcat Relays	Away	TBA
September 11	Hatchet Invite	Away	TBA
September 14	Richmond	Away	TBA
September 18	Holly Races	Away	1:00pm
September 21	County Press Invite	Home	TBA
September 25	Mid-Season Spectacular	Away	9:00am
September 28	Almont	Away	TBD
October 2	Wagener Park Invite	Away	9:30am
October 7	Marysville Invite	Away	3:50pm
October 13	Ubly Invite	Away	5:20pm
October 16	Dave Patterson Invite	Away	TBA
October 19	Bwac Jamboree #3	Home	TBA
October 23	Thumb Area Championship	Away	10:40am
October 29	Regionals 2-15 (Shepherd)	Away	TBA
October 30	Regionals 2-15 (Shepherd)	Away	TBA

MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 23	Practice Begins	Home	
September 11	Hatchet Invite	Away	TBA
September 14	Richmond	Away	TBA
September 21	County Press Invite	Home	TBA
September 28	Almont	Away	TBA
October 2	Wagener Park Invite	Away	8:30am
October 13	Ubly Invite	Away	4:20pm
October 16	Dave Patterson Invite	Away	TBD
October 19	BWAC Jamboree #3	Home	TBD
October 23	Thumb Area Championship	Away	12:30pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
August 23	Practice Begins	Home	
September 20	Armada	Away	4:30pm
September 22	Algonac	Home	4:30pm
September 27	Richmond	Home	4:30pm
September 29	Yale	Away	4:30pm
October 4	Almont	Home	4:30pm
October 6	Imlay City	Home	4:30pm
October 11	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30pm
October 13	Armada	Home	4:30pm
October 18	Algonac	Away	4:30pm
October 20	Richmond	Away	4:30pm
October 27	Yale	Home	4:30pm

NBAS Fall Sports Passes

All sports \$75
 (Individual) \$135 (Family - immediate household)
 Specific Sports both Individual & Family
 Football \$30/80 • Soccer \$20 • Volleyball \$20/40

