



# School Talk

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North Branch Area Schools

August 2017

## NB teachers awarded more than \$66K

By NICHOLAS PUGLIESE

**NORTH BRANCH** – For Lapeer County school districts the future is already here. Today's youth represents tomorrow's leaders, so schools must be on the cutting edge with their content and curriculum to provide the best possible education to young people now so that as adults they'll have all the necessary tools to make a positive impact on the world.

A few months ago, The North Branch Area Schools (NBAS) Board of Education earmarked an amount of money to be partitioned and used as a form of "grant" for educators within its district to utilize in the name of expanding their classroom's technological horizons. The NBAS Teacher Technology Grant Initiative (TTI) was born, and as a result, \$66,838.06 was distributed to over a dozen teachers across North Branch Elementary, Ruth Fox Elementary, North Branch Middle School, North Branch High School and Quest High School.

NBAS Director of Curriculum Amber White pointed out that the TTI grant program would not have been possible without the complete buy-in from the educators. "It's not being done to (the teachers), it's being initiated by them, so you know everything we get (with TTI funds) will get used," she said. "Sometimes you hear about schools buying tech that just ends up collecting dust, but (the TTI program) gives them an opportunity to stand up for something that they're passionate about."

The program was such a success, in fact, that over \$200,000 was requested by district teachers, requiring the formation of a committee that selected the most feasible proposals made by the educators and awarded grant money. Applicants for TTI money were required to submit a written proposal that answered key questions about the need for the technology as well as follow a "learning first, technology second" approach. "You're not going to find a bigger tech enthusiast than me but



our mantra is 'learning first, technology second,'" White said. "The teachers had to demonstrate that the tech was a necessary tool."

"There were sections to describe the scope of your projected projects, including how it ties into learning goals and there was also a section on what technology you were requesting with a break down for cost," said fifth-eighth grade technology teacher Carmen Woodruff. "We were tasked with looking at everything we would need for the project. The project could be fully or partially funded if it was accepted." Woodruff's proposal to purchase Ozobots – "tiny robots that can be used to teach coding" – was accepted, and she received full funding to the tune of \$2648.97. "The Ozobots will provide my students with a hands-on approach to coding – they will be able to see the robot perform what they have coded right in front of them, rather than on the computer," said Woodruff. "They are a fun and engaging little technology."

The committee was required to decide whether to fund or not fund a teacher's TTI grant proposal, a process White said was extremely difficult. Each applicant was notified by personalized email, and applicants that were rejected received a phone call. While several proposals were rejected, White said that they aren't disregarded – if more money is made available, it might be possible that more proposals could receive funding. "It's

not going to be perfect and we know that there will be bumps in the road," said White. "That's just part of the process, and talking and sharing is how we learn."

Among the approved proposals were several requests for upgrades in the way students interact with technology and information. Chromebooks were a central theme among the proposals with educators in second through seventh-grade, as well as at the high school level and in special education, received the cheap and durable laptops. At the elementary level, a proposal was approved to acquire a set of virtual reality goggles along with the Google Expeditions VR system, which White said will allow teachers to take their students on "field trips" to locations across the world without leaving the classroom.

A pair of teachers – Annette Schulte

and Danielle Buchanan – were granted the funds to purchase a Swivl system, along with two iPads with cases and stands. "A Swivl is a relatively new tool that holds a recording device and allows us not only to simply record our classrooms, but it adds the dimension of seamlessly following the speaker as they move throughout the room," said Buchanan. "(It) allows us to review, share, discuss, and learn from both our strengths and areas that may need further development." Buchanan said that by using Swivl, not only will students receive a quality education, but teachers themselves can use the information gleaned from the system to identify strategies to grow as educators. "As educators, we continuously strive to grow and develop with our students," she said.

Buchanan also received a grant for a class set of headphones and microphones to use in conjunction with the iPads the class already uses regularly. "I plan to have my students use the headphones in conjunction with a variety of iPad apps to record, document, and share their mathematical learning," she said. "By encouraging to students to share and reflect on their understanding of a variety of mathematical concepts I hope that they can begin to gain a deeper understanding of what they are learning and how math works." Buchanan said the cost of the request for headphones was between \$150-\$200.

The TTI project was an encouraging step, said White, and it exemplifies a teacher's goal to provide the best education possible for their students. "It really went better than I even expected and there are a lot of great projects," said White. "With (TTI) it gets teachers excited and they'll use the tech all the time – we're excited for the learners and excited for the staff to have had this opportunity."

*This article was previously published in the County Press*



# FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

## August 28, 2017



**August Building Office Hours**  
Tuesdays & Thursday – 9am – Noon

**Office Hours Beginning August 24**  
NB Elementary - 8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
Ruth Fox - 6:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Middle School - 6:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
High School - 6:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### 2016-17 Building Schedules

High School (grades 9 – 12)  
7:15 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.  
Middle School (grades 7 – 8)  
7:15 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.  
Ruth Fox Elementary (grades 5 – 6)  
7:15 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.  
North Branch Elementary (grades K – 4)  
8:37 a.m. – 3:42 p.m.

### ½ Day Schedule

Elementary (K-4) ends at 12:15  
Secondary (5-12) ends at 10:50

**High School Orientation**  
*High school orientation was held  
Wednesday, August 16th.*

**MAKE-UP DAY (9th – 12th)**  
Wednesday, August 23th 1 – 4 p.m.

### Middle School Orientation (Grades 7-8)

**8th Grade**  
Thursday, August 24th, 3:30 – 5 pm  
**7th Grade**  
Tuesday, August 22th, 4:30– 6pm  
*\*\* parents and students must be present for entire  
orientation in order to get the locker assignment and  
schedules. Otherwise, schedules and locker assign-  
ments will be available on the first day of school.*

**DANCE for 7th & 8th Grade**  
Thursday, August 24th, 5 – 7 pm

### Ruth Fox Open House (Grades 5-6)

5th & 6th Grade  
Wednesday, August 23rd, 3:30 – 5 pm

### NB Elementary (Grades K-4)

Meet the Teacher Night  
Wednesday, August 23th, 5:30 – 7:30pm

North Branch Area Schools Presents:

## ★ COMMUNITY ★ ALL-STAR ★ READING NIGHT

**September 26, 2017**  
**5:45pm-8pm**

Please join us on the football field for an evening of reading with North Branch athlete "All- Stars" including the football, volleyball, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, wrestling, track and cheer teams. Students will have the opportunity to visit several reading stations, receive a free book, and hear from a guest STAR author! Families will also be able to read "under the lights" of the football field, sign up for North Branch Library cards and more!

Who: BK-6th grade students and their families  
What: All-Star Reading Night  
Where: North Branch High School Football Field  
When: Tuesday, September 26th, 2017 (6pm-8pm)

## Volunteer mentors show progress in North Branch Area Schools

By NICHOLAS PUGLIESE

**NORTH BRANCH** - An hour each week, for some students, can make a world of difference. And in North Branch's Ruth Fox Elementary School, a new program pairing fifth- and sixth-grade students in need of that hour each week with adult volunteer mentors has already shown remarkable progress.

"We started this school year with seven kids who were always in the office," said Mentorship Program organizer and North Branch Schools director of special education Teresa Upleger. "These kids had constant conflict, incidents with other students or faculty, using excessive profanity." Upleger noticed that she, along with Ruth Fox principal Cindy Howe and dean of students Bill Barkowska, were spending a lot of time counseling these students. "I discussed the situation with (superintendent) Jim Fish, and he suggested volunteers," said Upleger.

Upleger took that suggestion to heart and began to pursue ways in which community volunteers could spend time



with the students in need of it. Upleger approached North Branch area churches and asked if any congregants would be interested in donating their time to the program - and she found some success. Each volunteer undergoes a background check and training module to prepare them with best practices for handling issues like confidentiality, emotional impairment, ADHD, oppositional defiant disorder and PTSD. The training is provided by Lapeer County ISD school social

worker Michelle Etson. "From the beginning of getting some volunteers to our first meeting was about three weeks," said Upleger. "We had our first meeting right before Christmas break."

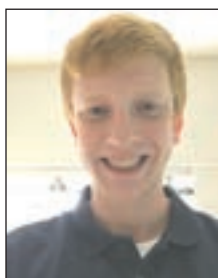
Mentors also benefit from the program in many ways. Some, like Tami Link, are community-minded and wanted to help. "I saw a need in the community, and the kid I meet with weekly is just amazing," said Link, who mentors a fifth-grader. "We play basketball or

just talk about video games, which I don't know much about but I listen." Link said she noticed a positive change in her mentee's behavior since starting the program. Other mentors, like North Branch Wesleyan Church pastor Peter Damaska and his wife Sarah, also see positive changes in the kids' behavior. "(My mentee) is a good guy and he's much more conversive with me," said Peter. "We just enjoy each other's company." Peter, who was part of the program in its early stages, says he saw mentorship as a way to build bridges in the community and plans to continue it "for as long as they let us."

During a typical mentorship, a mentor interacts with his or her mentee in one of two situations - whole group sessions, which occur once a month where all mentors and kids come together for a planned activity and snacks, or a one-on-one session, during which a mentor and child shoot baskets, cook, play games or just talk. "One-on-one time lasts for an hour each week," said Upleger. "And

See **Volunteer** on page 11

# Warm Welcome to NB



My name is John Amboy, and I will be serving as the new College Adviser at North Branch High School!

I'm an AmeriCorps member with the AdviseMI program and the Michigan College Access Network specializing in helping students achieve their postsecondary goals, whether that is a professional/technical certificate

or an academic degree.

I graduated from Lapeer West High School in 2011 and continued my education at Michigan State University. In 2016, I attained a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management. During the 2016-17 school year I worked as a substitute teacher at the Lapeer Education and Technology Center.

My passion with helping people in my local community and interacting with high school students led me to the position of College Adviser.

I'm very excited to be in this position and to make a positive impact for students in the North Branch community.



My name is Alison Reed and I am so excited to be a Bronco! I grew up in Columbiaville and went on to attend Central Michigan University. Last year, I had the opportunity to student teach at the high school and after graduating in December I was able to substitute throughout the district. It is wonderful to be getting my own classroom, where I

will be teaching English 9 and Spanish 1. I look forward to working with younger students to start an elementary Spanish program as well. I am happy to continue working with North Branch's awesome staff and becoming more involved with the community. Go Broncos!



Hello Bronco nation... Jeremy Ferman here. I'm very appreciative and excited for the opportunity to be part of the North Branch community. Entering my 19th year of teaching and 25th year of coaching, I hope to bring my successes, vast experiences, desire, and passion to the educational setting of North Branch High School. I will be teaching

Physical Education, as well as, serving as your head football coach. I truly believe to bring out the physical, social, and cognitive best from any student, they first must know that you truly care. I look forward to building positive and long lasting relationships within the school district and community. Forever Bleed Bronco Blue!!!!



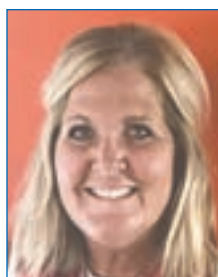
Hi my name is Sherri Distelrath and I am thrilled for the opportunity to get to know the North Branch staff and students this upcoming school year as a special education teacher in the Ruth Fox Middle School building. The North Branch community has always been welcoming and supportive of students in the district. I look forward to

assisting the North Branch staff in helping our students reach their full potential, and I am excited for my three children to all be in school as little broncos in the near future!

My background includes being a 2003 North Branch graduate after moving to the district when I was in middle school. I earned both my Bachelor's and Master's Degree from Saginaw Valley State University with an Elementary Teaching Certificate and a Special Education Endorsement in Autism. This will be my fourth year of teaching. My past teaching experiences include Kindergarten through 5th grade special education and instructing in a Secondary Resource room as a Transition Center Teacher.

I believe that my experience with Elementary and Secondary Special Education students with a range of abilities will be a perfect fit in the Middle School and will only continue to support North Branch School's efforts to help all students reach their goals with superior opportunities.

## Welcome Back



Greetings to our Bronco Family. My name is Shelly Cranick and I am coming back to North Branch after working with Clio Schools for the past 5 1/2 years. I have a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Michigan University in elementary education and a Master's degree in Administration from Central Michigan University.

I started my education journey with North Branch Area Schools in the fall of 1985 working as a 4th grade teacher. I worked as an elementary teacher, a middle school teacher in many areas including math, geography, current events, skills for adolescents, and physical education, then moved onto North Branch High School as the assistant principal. After three years there, I returned to the middle school as the principal for the next two years before moving to Clio.

I've been married to Mike Cranick for 31 years; he worked for North Branch Schools as the transportation supervisor before moving to the Tuscola ISD as the Director of Transportation and Operations. We have two grown children, Nikko and Justin, and a 2 year old granddaughter, Viviana.

I am excited to return to the North Branch Bronco family and providing assistance in supporting students and staff as we start the 2017-18 school year.

## New Roles



I am extremely excited to begin my new position as K-5 Mathematics Coach. I have been here at North Branch for the past 28 years. I am a graduate of North Branch Area Schools as well as a resident for nearly my entire life. I love this school and community and I look forward to serving our students in a new capacity. I am excited to work

with teachers to bring new and innovative ideas into all math classrooms. I will be located in the North Branch Elementary, 2nd grade wing. Please feel free to stop in and visit or inquire about some of the new and exciting things happening with math and technology.



I'm Bill Barkowska and I've been a teacher at North Branch Area Schools since 1999. I've taught both computers and history to literally thousands of North Branch students over those 18 years. Last year I served as Dean of Students for the Ruth Fox and Middle School and thoroughly enjoyed that role. I have a wife (Karen) and two sons

(Brendan and Bryce). When I'm not at school I am usually at a ball game with my boys who both play for the Michigan Young Guns travel baseball teams. We attend University of Michigan football and basketball games in the fall and winter and love to go to the movies. I look forward to the opportunity to reach as many students and families as possible as an Assistant Principal for North Branch Area Schools.



My name is Kerry Rose. North Branch has a special place in my heart as I grew up in this community and attended North Branch Area Schools myself. I was Valedictorian of the North Branch High School class of 1992. I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with a triple minor in Early Childhood, Social Studies,

and Language Arts from the University of Michigan-Flint where I was recognized as a Maize and Blue Distinguished Scholar. Continuing my education, I received my Master's Degree in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College. I have been teaching for 22 years, having the honor of teaching in the North Branch Area School District for the past 18 years. During that time, I have taught preschool, 2nd grade, K-5 computers, and most recently, 7th grade ELA. I am extremely excited to bring my experience, knowledge, and passion for literacy into my new position as the K-5 Literacy Coach. Although I will miss my students dearly, I truly look forward to working with the teachers and touching the lives of the elementary students once again.

## AdviseMI Program Added to NBHS

Since 2015, the AdviseMI program, an innovative initiative through the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN), has embedded well-trained, dedicated, near-peer college advisers in high schools that serve significant numbers of low-income and first generation college-going students.

The goal of the program is to increase the number of high school students who enter and complete postsecondary education. After the intensive training, advisers will be poised to help students navigate the complex college exploration process, retake college admissions tests, apply to colleges that are a good match/fit, complete the FAFSA, secure financial aid, and matriculate to college. These game-changing advisers serve as experts, mentors, champions, and guides to the students they serve in partnership with school counselor(s),

where they exist. They also play a transformative role in the buildings in which they are placed by fostering a college-going culture in partnership with school staff and providing needed supplemental support to overburdened school counselors.

North Branch High School lead counselor Amy Hyrman, applied for an Advise MI grant through the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) in order to hire a college adviser to help our students become better career and college ready. NBHS was awarded the grant and we subsequently interviewed several quality candidates and were fortunate to hire Mr. John Amboy to serve our students. John, one of 56 recent graduates from partner colleges across Michigan, attended an intense four-week training program at Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing this summer.

The training session brought together college access experts from across the state and country to discuss financial aid programs, how to help with the college application process and exploration, how to work with special populations and navigating other obstacles students sometimes find in the path to furthering their education. These experts ranged from high school counselors to financial aid representatives to national organizations such as the College Board and uAspire. In addition to attending the formal sessions, college advisers toured college campuses and met with financial aid and admissions staff.

John will begin working with NBHS students this fall. We welcome him to the community and look forward to working with him as he assists our students to pursue postsecondary education.



Reminder to Potential National Honor Society members- your 10 volunteer hours are due on or before October 6, 2017. Remember to turn them into Rm. 115, the blue NHS envelope. You can use the slips provided to you in your letter OR any signed, dated and contact info slip. If you feel you should have received an invitation, but did not, please document your hours and turn them in. Ms. Stover-Lange, sponsor, will be at Student Orientation, from 9-11 a.m., Wednesday, August 16, 2017 or direct specific questions to [rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net](mailto:rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net).

## Class of 2018

Attention Seniors: Class of 2018 - Senior portraits are due to [yearbook@nbbrncos.net](mailto:yearbook@nbbrncos.net) by 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, 2017. Please remember, send ONLY INDOOR headshots with a plain background or we may be forced to use your school picture ID headshot.

## U.S. News & World Report Announces the 2017 Best High Schools

Last April, U.S. News & World Report, the global authority in education rankings, announced the 2017 Best High Schools. The rankings identify the top-performing public high schools at the national and state level and include published data on more than 22,000 schools.

We are proud to announce that North Branch High School was recognized nationally as a Bronze level school.

The U.S. News rankings highlight public schools that best serve all of

their students, including disadvantaged populations. Overall, the rankings focus on student outcomes with an emphasis on graduation rates and state proficiency tests. Students at the 6,041 schools that receive national recognition from U.S. News graduate at rates that are 15 percent higher, on average, than students at schools nationwide that are not ranked.

"It is critical that students graduate from high school to put them on a successful path to college and a

career," said Anita Narayan, managing editor of Education at U.S. News. "We encourage parents to use the data included in the 2017 Best High Schools rankings to help make informed decisions about their children's education."

Congratulations to the hard working teachers, support staff and NBHS students for their success and achievement.



## Project Lead The Way

Through the combined efforts of our hard working staff, North Branch High School is pleased to announce, we have been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the MiSTEM Advisor Council. The council was created to improve and promote innovation and collaboration in STEM education and prepare students for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The grant will allow NBHS to offer a new elective Course for the 2017-2018 school known as Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) created by a national organization known as Project Lead The Way (PLTW), which is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S.

PLTW empowers students to develop and apply in-demand, transportable

skills by exploring real-world challenges. Through our the biomedical science course, students not only learn technical skills, but also learn to solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate, and collaborate. PLTW also provides teachers with the training, resources, and support they need to engage students in real-world learning.

Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS), an introductory course of the PLTW Biomedical Science program, explores concepts of biology and medicine to determine factors that led to the death of a fictional person. While investigating the case, students examine autopsy reports, investigate medical history, and explore medical treatments that might have prolonged the person's life. The activities and projects introduce students to human physiology, basic biology,



PROJECT LEAD THE WAY  
**PLTW**

medicine, and research processes while allowing them to design their own experiments to solve problems.

We believe the PBS class will provide an engaging classroom environment unlike any other. Interested students should discuss enrolling in the class with their science teacher or counselor.

# 2017 Disc Golf Champs!!!

Quest hosted the 1st annual TASL Disc Golf Championship on a beautiful sunny Friday. The tournament was attended by Quest, Ascent (Bad Axe), and Caro Alternative Ed. The final standings left Quest victorious with a total team score of 231, Caro in 2nd with 245, and Ascent at 259. Quest Junior Devent Smith took the gold disc in individuals placing 1st with a 40, Levi Gilman placed 2nd with a 44, and Adam Back 4th overall with a 46.



Front row -Sennan Nichols, Devent Smith, Levi Gilman, Doug Weeden. Back Row - Dominic Sloan, Jordan Nagy, Brenden Podvin, Noah Mayerle, Alex Gregory, Adam Back, Max Rowden



Superintendent Jim Fish awards Randy Jackson his diploma. Randy will serve our country in the US Army.

## Quest Graduation a Spectacle to Behold!

Quest again delivered a great graduation ceremony triggering an array of emotions from tears to laughter as graduates told of their Quest! Levi Bamford was the first student speaker, ending with a well-deserved standing ovation. William Gomes, Doug Weeden, Julia Sloan and Charlotte Davis also delivered fabulous messages about hardship, perseverance, and facing your future head on! The event was well highlighted on social media by those in attendance, with numerous compliments to the speakers and graduates.

## Quest Teacher Honored by Masons

Quest Program Coordinator/Teacher Corey Rosser was the 2017 North Branch Masonic Lodge Edgar Guest (Citizenship) Award winner. Mr. Rosser credits his students' hard-work and willingness to give to the community through various community service projects for the award. "I'm honored and humbled by the honor. I really feel this award is representative of Quest High School as a whole. I've been very lucky to have worked here with the support our program gets. It is a great time to be a teacher at North Branch!"



## Quest Merit and Other Scholarship Winners

This year's Quest Merit Scholarship winners were William Gomes III, Levi Bamford, and Kelli Worth. The Quest Merit Scholarship was founded in 2006 by community members Ron and Carolyn Bower who saw the need of Quest students and have pledged over \$30,000 to Quest graduates over the past dozen years. Additionally, Levi Bamford won the Lion's Club Scholarship, and Kelli Worth the Baker College Scholarship.



Kelli Worth



Levi Bamford



William Gomes III

## Enroll At Award Winning Quest High School Today!!!

Students interested in enrolling at Quest High School or obtaining more information about the programs offered at Quest can learn more about us on our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/](https://www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/). To enroll at Quest contact Program Coordinator Corey Rosser by e-mail at [crosser@nbbrncos.net](mailto:crosser@nbbrncos.net) or by phone at (810) 688-7581.

## Quest on Social Media

Keep up with the latest Quest news with the following social media.

For social media, search:



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



@nbranchquest



Northbranchbrncos

## Spaghetti Fundraiser moved to the Fall!

The North Branch Masonic Lodge will once again be putting on the annual Quest High School Spaghetti Fundraiser hosted at Quest High School. The event has been moved to the fall of each school year to avoid conflicts with the many activities that come with spring. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for ages 4 to 9, free for 3 and under. The event is tentatively scheduled on Thursday, October 12th from 4:30-7:00. Please check our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/](https://www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/) for a definite date and other information about Quest High School.

The Masons pay for all costs, and give every dollar collected to Quest High School. To date, the Masons have donated over \$18,000 to Quest High School's activity fund. All funds go directly to student needs that range from college applications to participation in the Thumb Alternative Sports League.





2017 SOFTBALL DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

Girls' Soccer Team Academic All-State  
with Team GPA of 3.70

2017 Girls' Track and Field All Conference  
Front Row (l-r): Chanelle Jones-3rd Team 400M Relay, Honorable Mention Pole Vault, State Qualifier 3200M Relay; Caitlyn Rogers-3rd Team 3200M Run, 3200M Relay, State Qualifier 3200M Relay; Sydney Fifield-1st Team Long Jump, 800M relay, 3rd Team 400M Relay, State Qualifier, 800M Relay; Jamie Kirkwood-1st Team 100M Hurdles, 3rd Team 400M Relay; Cloye Schram-3rd Team 3200M Relay, State Qualifier 3200M Relay Middle Row (l-r): Mackenzie Delong-2nd Team Shot Put, Honorable Mention Pole Vault; Heather Czarnecki-1st Team 1600M Run, 2nd Team 800M Run, 3rd Team All Conference 3200M Relay, State Qualifier in 3200M Relay, 1600M Run, 800M Run, All State 5th Place 1600M Run, Individual Academic All State; Delaney Kropp-3rd Team 3200M Relay, State Qualifier 3200M Relay; Jade Andrzejewski-1st Team 300M Hurdles, 800M relay, 2nd Team 1600M Relay, 3rd Team 100M Hurdles, State Qualifier 800M Relay; Kaila Gormley-2nd Team High Jump, State Qualifier High Jump; Victoria Kirkwood-1st Team 400M Dash, 800M Relay, 2nd Team 200M Dash, 1600M Relay, State Qualifier 400M Dash, 200M Dash, 800M Relay Back Row (l-r): Elizabeth Bertram-Honorable Mention High Jump; Olivia Fike-1st Team 800M Relay, 3rd Team 400M Relay, State Qualifier 800M Relay Not Pictured: Jordan Wilson-2nd Team 1600M Relay



2017 Softball Team Academic All-State with Team GPA of 3.57 - All District Sportsmanship Award

Golf All Conference Honors  
Adam Barrows-Honorable Mention; Dylan Friday-Honorable Mention; Brennan Bower- Honorable Mention. Not pictured: Ian Conley-1st Team

Baseball Team Academic All State  
Qualifier with Team GPA of 3.424  
All Conference Athletes: Mitchell Bonner-1st Team Infield, All District 1st Base, Individual Academic All State 4.0 GPA; Carson Kempa-2nd Team Pitcher, All District Pitcher; Reece Dörner-2nd Team Catcher, All District Catcher; Tyler Bowling-2nd Team Infield, All District Infield; Brady Good-2nd Team Infield, All District Infield, Individual Academic All State 4.0 GPA; Jack Millerschinn-Honorable Mention, All District Infield; Collin Helm-Honorable Mention; Kaden Maynard-Honorable Mention; Wylie Swoish-Honorable Mention



2017 Boys' Track and Field All Conference  
Logan Rutledge-1st Team 400M Relay, 3rd Team 100M Dash, 200M Dash; Salvador Suau-Frontera-1st Team 400M Relay; Ryan Beatley-Honorable Mention Shot Put, State Qualifier Shot Put; Kyle Parvin-1st Team 400M Relay; Josh Boyne-1st Team 400M Relay Not Pictured: Luke Rutledge-Honorable Mention 100M Dash



2017 Softball Conference  
Olivia Sweeney-Honorable Mention, All District Center Field; Reese Ruhman-1st Team, All District Shortstop; Lily Raqatz-2nd Team, All District Catcher; Maeson Schlaud-All District Pitcher; Autumn Deshetsy-2nd Team, All District 1st Base Not Pictured: Keyahna Bryant-Honorable Mention



Girls' Soccer All Conference Honors  
Chanelle Jones-All District; Kendall Wilson-Honorable Mention, All District Honorable Mention; Mackenzie McMullen-All District; Savannah Orlando-All Conference, All District; Jacquelyn Ankley-All Conference, All District Honorable Mention; Sam Fifield-All Conference, All District Not pictured: Olivia Duckert-All District Honorable Mention; Carly Warda, All Conference Honorable Mention

# WELCOME NEW COACHES

My name is Beth Stradinger. I am married and have 3 children that attend North Branch Schools. I have been a North Branch teacher for 17 years. This year I will be teaching 7th grade social studies. My coaching experience includes three years of assisting the Middle School Cross Country Team. I also coached Middle School Girls Track for the first time this past spring. It is rewarding to watch young athletes set and reach their personal goals throughout the course of a season. My personal running interests include training for and completing 4 marathons since 2010, a dozen or so half marathons, and numerous 5K events. Three years ago I also started organizing our local Veterans Day 5K Run. I am excited for the opportunity to be coaching the High School Cross Country Team this season.



The North Branch School District and Community is excited to welcome Jeremy Ferman as our new head football coach. He was the varsity football coach in Almont from 2004-2015. During his tenure he led the Raiders to eight Michigan High School Athletic Association playoff appearances, five BWAC titles, three district titles, two regional titles and two appearances in the state semifinals (2011 and 2014). In 2014 he was named Division 5 State Coach of the Year and the Raiders' 12-1 record set an Almont school record for games won in a single season. He's also been named Michigan High School Football Coaches Association (MHSFCA) Coach of the Year four times. Coach Ferman came to North Branch after coaching at Flint Kearsley last year. Ferman is a 1999 graduate of Central Michigan University where he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and health education.



North Branch High School welcomes Mike "Digger" Snoblen as the Head Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach for the upcoming winter season. Coach Snoblen, a North Branch alumni, has coached the JV team for the last couple years and previously coached for North Branch. He was an outstanding athlete in high school and has coached both girls and boys in basketball and has also had AAU coaching experience. Coach Snoblen has been working with the boys all summer and is expecting to have a great season during the 2017-2018 school year.



Carson Kempa signs to play baseball at Alma College



Heather Czarnecki signs with Oakland University to run Cross Country and Track.



Shawna Trombley and Anna Stone sign to competitive cheer at Saginaw Valley State University



Jason Castle MITCA Girls' Track Coach of the Year - Region 19, Division 2



Taylor Kile signs with University of Detroit Mercy to Competitive Cheer



2016-2017 FEMALE AND MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR OLIVIA FIKE AND MITCHELL BONNER



Heather Czarnecki-All State Track & Field. Heather finished 5th in the MHSAA State Track Finals in the 1600M Run with a time of 5:08.31 .



Tom Atkins All District Coach of the Year All District Softball Coach of the Year

## PBIS Reward

North Branch Middle School celebrated a yearlong PBIS reward to Cedar Point on Friday, May 26th, 2017! Students who exhibited exemplary behavior, great attendance, and superior grades all year long were invited to attend this special trip. Fun was certainly had by all!



## Accelerated Math Classes Offered

North Branch Middle School continues to do amazing things for students: including offering a variety of classes to enhance student learning. Just a few years ago the math department, in coordination with the district math committee, and with support from the North Branch Board of Education, adopted a new textbook and started a complete overhaul of the curriculum. As a result of that adoption, the math department was able to continue to offer two accelerated classes to students. 7th grade students may be placed into pre-algebra which compacts all 7th grade curriculum as well as most of the 8th grade curriculum. Those accelerating through pre-algebra may take Algebra I as an 8th grader. This acceleration of mathematics instruction allows students who learn effective-



ly at a faster pace to complete all of their middle school math and Algebra I requirements before they enter the high school. In addition to offering accelerated math classes, NBMS is also offering a variety of electives with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) incorporation so that our students will be prepared to be successful in the future beyond our walls.

## Checkout the Shades of MS Yearbook!

Looking for an elective with hands-on experience? Have a knack for journalism or photography? How about producing and selling an actual product? Last year's NBMS Yearbook students had the opportunity to take an idea from conception through design, layout, editing, production, and finally



to marketing, sales, and celebration! Our team exceeded the previous years' sales, and we're looking forward to another bombshell year in 2017-18!

Thanks to 8th graders Grace Russell, Gabby Jackson, Mallory Mellish, and Cora Ceriotti for spending two days out of their summer break to attend Herff-Jones YBKickstart camp at Oakland Schools. These four young ladies were able to learn the new design platform, and will be helping to train this year's new staff. If you are eager to be a team player, see Mrs. Schulte at this year's orientations August 22nd and 24th. We will also be taking yearbook orders for the 2017-18 school year. See you there!

## 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC



North Branch Middle School 8th graders had an opportunity to travel to Washington DC from May 2nd – May 6th, 2017. On their trip, students were able to visit Arlington National Cemetery and take part in the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Students also visited many memorials and monuments. In addition, students visited the Smithsonian Museums, Twilight Tattoo Military Band Performance, and enjoyed a nighttime dinner cruise on the Potomac River. Memories were definitely made on this trip!

## Young Eagles

Several North Branch Middle School students took to the air with pilot Jack Lewis and other volunteer pilots on Saturday, June 10. It was all part of the Young Eagles program.

Students met the pilots at Lapeer Dupont Airport and received one-on-one instruction from the pilots about flight, airplanes, and anything aviation related.

Students received a certificate of flight, a log book (to officially log hours), and an awesome experience.

When first time flier Brayden Vauter landed and exited the plane I asked him how the flight was. He responded, "I banked over Van Dyke!" I asked him if he knew what that meant before he went flying. He said, "No." That was a truly authentic learning experience!

As students learned about flying, many were able to take over some or all of the controls. Most students wanted



Brayden Vauter is preparing for take off

to fly over their house and their school, which they all got to do.

This program is ongoing. Usually volunteer pilots are available the first Saturday of each month, but arrangements do have to be made to accommodate all students wishing to take part. If interested, contact Cindy Mitchell (cmitchell@nbbrnconcos.net) and she will put you in touch with Jack Lewis.

## SPACE CAMP

Another successful year of Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center is in the books. 8 students from Ruth Fox Elementary and North Branch Middle School (Ian Liebler, Eli Liebler, Karli Schlaud, McKenzie Nowak, Lorie Campbell, Allyson Gipson, Nicholas Bailey, and Rachel Youngert) attended on full scholarship. This included all expenses at camp plus airfare. Noah Manthei returned on a partial scholarship (which paid for airfare) and participated in Mach III, which is Top Gun fighter pilot training.

Students were gone for 6 days learning about the space program. This included: meeting an astronaut, simulations, missions, problem solving challenges, team building skills, rocket building, and much more!



Students attended graduation before heading back to Michigan.

This was the 14th group of students that have represented North Branch at Space Camp.

The single fundraiser to raise money to send kids to camp is the Old Fashioned Family Christmas – held in December each year. If you would like to help during this event in ANY way... contact Cindy Mitchell (cmitchell@nbbrnconcos.net).

# Books and Breakfast Workshops



Ruth Fox Elementary hosted three Books and Breakfast Workshops for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents, students, and student mentors attended these workshops to practice some literacy based skills. While the parents and students engaged in the activities, a light breakfast was provided. This year's workshops included focus points of summarizing, visualization, growth mindset, and ways that board games can foster literacy skills.

## Friday Enrichment

Ruth Fox Elementary students delve into areas of interest every week during Friday Enrichment. Destination Imagination is an Enrichment Choice where students work cooperatively to complete a challenge that is shared with a bit of acting. Arielle and Natalie are using recycled materials to make a marble run to be shared creatively with their classmates.



Gabby, Sarah, and Hailey hold a bat house made at the high school.

In Nature Enrichment students built bat houses with Mr. June's high school woodworking class. They also made jack-o-lanterns using pumpkins grown in the Three Sisters Garden at the school.

## Elementary News

### News from NBE!

#### Follow-Up - Summer Learning

We hope you had the opportunity to take advantage of some learning opportunities for your child this summer utilizing our Summer Learning Passport Program! We want to remind you that students who bring their completed passport to NBE's Meet the Teacher Night on August 23rd will receive a small prize and be entered in for a chance to win an Android Tablet!

#### ABCs of Student Success

A is for Attendance – As we are about to start another school, we want to emphasize the importance of regular school attendance. Children should attend school every day, except in cases of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with just make-up work.

Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and eventually in the work place. This year, please make school attendance a priority in your household. Your child's future depends on it!

#### Upcoming Events:

- August 1st, 3rd & 8th - 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Office is open
- August 9th – Office is open for the school year – 8 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
- August 14th – Class lists are posted – Jefferson Trail Lobby
- August 23rd – 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Meet the Teacher Night
- August 28th – First Day of School – Updated hours coming

## Michigan's New K-3 Reading Law

In the fall of 2016, Michigan legislature adopted House Bill 4822. This reading law has important implications for K-3 students at North Branch Elementary. The most talked about requirement of this new reading law is the 3rd grade retention component that will come into effect in 2019-2020, impacting this year's (2017-18) 1st grade students. Starting in 2019-2020, any child who is one year or more behind on the state's reading assessment would be retained (please see exemptions listed below). The law also has other provisions that schools must implement before retention goes into effect (see table below; adapted from Michigan Education Association).

As a way to be responsive and grow readers at North Branch Elementary, the school has put together a Reading Task Force. This task force is composed of teachers, parents, the K-5 Literacy Coach, as well as district leadership to make sure we are meeting the requirements of the legislation, but also, discussing ways to instill the love of reading with North Branch students.

Please look for future communications on this topic.

#### Provisions in the new reading law

##### Retention:

- begins in 2019-20 school year
- takes place when a student is 1 year or more behind in reading on the state assessment
- Exemptions can be granted for students to bypass retention, who EITHER:**
  - are less than 1 year behind on the state assess-

ment

- perform at grade level on state approved alternative assessment
- demonstrate grade-level proficiency through portfolio work
- were previously retained in K, grade 1, 2, or 3 & received 2 years of remedial support
- have an IEP or 504 plan
- have less than 3 years of instruction in English Language Learning programs
- have been enrolled less than 2 years in the current district & were not provided an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) in previous school
- demonstrate proficiency in all other subject areas OR
- have a parent who requests an exemption "in the best interests of the student" to be approved by the Superintendent

#### Beginning in 2017-18, districts must:

- assess K-3 reading skills 3x's per year, the 1st within 30 days of school starting
- provide written notice to parents of a deficiency
- provide an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) developed by the teacher, principal, parents & other pertinent school personnel for any deficient students within 30 days after identification
- target specific areas of professional development for teachers
- differentiate & intensify professional development for teachers

See **Reading** on page 11

# Food Service News

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE COOKS AND CASHIERS. PLEASE CONTACT (810) 688-2226.

Our food service department welcomes your family for the 2017-2018 school year and those families that are new to our school district. North Branch Area Schools will continue to operate our own food service program and we promise to continue to deliver healthy, good, quality food and services to you and your children. North Branch Area Schools follow the USDA Nutrition Standards, and are complainant in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. We will be offering healthier school lunches with more fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and choice of milk.

### School Meals follow the USDA guidelines:

- Meat/Meat Alternate
- Grains/Breads
- Juice/Fruit/Vegetable
- Fruit/Vegetable
- Milk



Menu items are offered from all 5 components seen above. In order to be compliant with the National School Lunch Program, your child must select at least 3 of the 5 components (for all grades) for their choices to be considered a meal, which is priced as a unit. If they choose less than the minimum required, their account will be charged separately for each item. .

### Applications MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED WITHIN THE FIRST 30 DAYS OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR. Please complete ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER HOUSEHOLD and return it as soon as possible. Those families qualifying at the end of last school year will continue to receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch for the first month of school.

If the school does **NOT** receive a **NEW** application for 2017-2018 school year, the family's Food Service Account will be adjusted to a paid/normal lunch and breakfast. A new application may be filled out at any time during the year if the household income changes. The Eligibility Chart for the 2017-2018 school year is below and also available at the Michigan Department of Education website and it will also be on the Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals.

**QUALIFYING FOR FREE AND REDUCED MEALS**  
Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced Priced school meals if your income falls within the limits on the chart to the right.

### Who can get Free or Reduced Price Meals?

- All children in households receiving benefits from Food Assistance Program (FAP), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Family Independence Program (FIP) are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, run-away, or migrant are eligible for free meals.

### Special Dietary Needs

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.nbbrnconcos.net](http://www.nbbrnconcos.net), located under the Food Service Documents tab, and needs to be filled out by a licensed physician. This provision is State mandated.

### 2017-2018 Meal Prices

|            |                |                |
|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Breakfast: |                |                |
| • Paid     | \$1.60 (EL/RF) | \$1.80 (MS/HS) |
| • Reduced  | \$0.30         |                |
| • Free     | \$0.00         |                |
| • Adult    | \$2.80         |                |
| Lunch:     |                |                |
| • Paid     | \$2.60 (EL/RF) | \$2.90 (MS/HS) |
| • Reduced  | \$0.40         |                |
| • Free     | \$0.00         |                |
| • Adult    | \$3.90         |                |

• Milk is included with all meals; however, if purchased without a meal it is considered Ala Carte and is charged \$0.50.

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; parent/guardians are responsible for meals purchased by their student(s) from the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

Students are expected to have funds available on their Food Service Account for the purchase of meals. Our system is a pre-paid debit system, therefore when a student purchases a lunch or breakfast the amount is automatically deducted from the student's Food Service Account. The preferred method of payment is to pay online through our school's website from the home page by going to the Parent and Student Tab, then sign into Family and Student Access. 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**

**Families are encouraged to prepay for meals, it will help ensure children to have consistent access to healthy, reimbursable meals without accruing unpaid meal charges. Please see the NEW FOOD SERVICE POLICY to the right:**

| Family Size                            | Scale for Free Meals |         | Scale for Reduced Price Meals |         |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|-------------------------------|---------|
|                                        | Annual               | Monthly | Annual                        | Monthly |
| 1                                      | \$15,678             | \$1,307 | \$22,311                      | \$1,860 |
| 2                                      | \$21,112             | \$1,760 | \$30,044                      | \$2,504 |
| 3                                      | \$26,546             | \$2,213 | \$37,777                      | \$3,149 |
| 4                                      | \$31,980             | \$2,665 | \$45,510                      | \$3,793 |
| 5                                      | \$37,414             | \$3,118 | \$53,243                      | \$4,437 |
| 6                                      | \$42,848             | \$3,571 | \$60,976                      | \$5,082 |
| 7                                      | \$48,282             | \$4,024 | \$68,709                      | \$5,726 |
| 8                                      | \$53,716             | \$4,477 | \$76,442                      | \$6,371 |
| For each additional family member add: | \$5,434              | \$453   | \$7,733                       | \$645   |

### POLICY REGARDING FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNTS

- Students are not allowed to charge more than 2 lunches (negative balance of more than \$5.00).
- A peanut butter and jelly sandwich or cheese sandwich with white milk will be offered, and \$0.75 will be charged to the student's Food Service Account each time.
- Ala Carte items are CASH ONLY or students MUST have funds on their Food Service Account. Charges are never allowed for Ala Carte items.
- If a student's balance is negative more than \$5.00, the student may still purchase a lunch with cash.
- A full lunch consists of 3 of the 5 items offered, (though 5 items may be taken); main entrée, fruit, vegetable, bread and milk.
- Purchasing milk alone is \$0.50 cents regardless of lunch account type.
- Adults and Staff are encouraged to have funds on their Food Service Accounts or pay at point of service. No charging is allowed.
- Adjustments will only be made by the Food Service Department.

North Branch Elementary and Ruth Fox Elementary students will have a low balance slip sent home. If a student's Food Service Account goes in the negative \$5.00 or more, they will be offered a PBJ or cheese sandwich and white milk; and \$0.75 will be charged to the student's Food Service Account each time. If a student has a negative balance, payment arrangements must be made.

North Branch Middle School, North Branch High School and Quest students will be told when their Food Service Account balance is low by the cashier or will receive a low balance slip. If their Food Service Account goes in the negative \$5.00 or more, they will be offered a PBJ or cheese sandwich and white milk; and \$0.75 will be charged to the student's Food Service Account each time. If a student has a negative balance, payment arrangements must be made.

If a student has been approved for free meals, they will always be served a meal. If your student is receiving reduced priced meals and owes a balance, they will always be served a meal if they provide the money for the current day's meal and must make payment arrangements for the balance.

If parents have an email address on file, they will receive weekly emails notifying them when their student's account balance becomes low. If an email address is not on file, parents will be notified by phone call or mail from the Food Service Office. If a parent or guardian wishes their child to only purchase a breakfast and/or lunch, they may contact the Food Service Office and controls may be placed on the account to block or limit ala carte purchases. Family and Student Access is a helpful tool to track your student's purchases, balances and payments and can be found under the Parent and Student tab. If you have any questions, please contact the Food Service Department at (810) 688-2226.

Thank you for your participation in the breakfast and lunch program at North Branch Area Schools. Please contact North Branch School's Food Service Department at (810)-688-2226 to speak with Supervisor, Louise Nellenbach, or Secretary, Roxanne Boyle, about any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website under "departments" on the District Home Page ([www.nbbrnconcos.net](http://www.nbbrnconcos.net)) for more information.

## Superintendent's Corner

**Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,**

We are excited to welcome back our students and families for the new academic year. I would like to update you on some of the outstanding improvements made this past year and some major investments in our district for the upcoming year:

**Communication:** Please visit the front page of our website ( [www.nbbrncos.net](http://www.nbbrncos.net) ) as we continually strive to find new ways to communicate and provide relevant information for all community members. We will continue to expand our use of Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and are planning on publishing the Academic and Athletic E-Magazines monthly. Our district is rapidly becoming a "Google School." Beginning this fall, employees will switch to Gmail which will increase our efficiency while creating a savings for our district.

**Safety:** The safety of our staff and students is a top priority. Last year we reviewed our safety procedures which included meetings with Lapeer County officials, Sheriff Scott McKenna and Undersheriff Jeremy Howe. Our local police and fire chief attended these meetings and provided valuable input as we updated our policies and procedures. Every administrator has undergone extensive safety training as well. This will culminate in a district-wide Full Scale Safety Exercise on Friday, October 20, 2017 as orchestrated by Mary Piorunek, Director of Lapeer County Emergency Management.

**Technology/Curriculum:** As part of our five-year technology plan, the Board of Education invested close to a quarter of a million dollars (\$235,000) in new technology for students. This includes 162 new computers to update five computer labs as well as the purchase

of new Chromebooks to be utilized throughout the district. We also updated our backup server and purchased a program for teachers to monitor websites visited by students. As highlighted in this School Talk, the board awarded close to \$67,000 in teacher technology grants. As part of our five-year curriculum plan, the board approved spending a minimum of \$250,000 over a five year period to review, purchase, and implement new curriculum for students. This could take the form of new textbooks, additional technology for our students, or other instructional resources.

**Facilities:** Our community always supports our district and provides a great learning environment for students. As part of our five-year facility plan, the district replaced the Ruth Fox roof (without borrowing funds) and set aside \$50,000 for the eventual replacement of the Middle School roof. Our plan includes updating all facilities with LED lighting which will provide savings in reduced energy costs. To reduce the likelihood of a car/student accident at the Elementary, a new fence will be going in to ensure our younger students and parents are using the crosswalk. If you attend our first home football game on Thursday, August 31, you will notice new fencing around the stadium which replaces the old fencing that was falling down. If you attend the fall play, you will notice the new auditorium curtain that was purchased with a matching grant from the Lapeer County Community Foundation. Over two years, our board will invest close to \$350,000 to maintain and improve facilities.

**Financial:** North Branch Area Schools is financially healthy with the fund balance expected to be over 10% while continuing to enhance opportunities for students. The Board of Education is projecting to have approximately 2.2 million in its savings account. They have been able to invest in maintaining and improving our facilities, technology, and curriculum while executing a budget that prioritizes teaching and learning.

Our district theme of "All In" illustrates the value we place on each and every employee as vital to our goal of teaching, measuring, and improving instruction. The board has multi-year contracts with every employee group that consists of a fair compensation package and provides resources for continued professional development. Our support and instructional staff are highly skilled and do amazing work! Please take time to thank them for investing in your child's future.

**Student Achievement:** The district continues to make great strides as we focus on improving teaching and learning. Our goal is to meet the needs of each and every student. Our increased emphasis on personalized learning is one of the reasons we started a Gifted and Talented program this year. We have approximately 56 students enrolled (grades 2-4) and will eventually expand the program to include grades 2-8. We offer numerous opportunities for 9-12 students including several AP classes, dual enrollment, STEM, and a new bio-medical course. Our alternative school (Quest) is thriving and available for students who are successful in a more intimate learning environment. Our Mentor Program for grades 5-6 students was extremely successful last year and will continue this year. We are committed to making sure every child receives the best education possible in preparation for college and/or a career.

I am blessed to be a part of what is going on in the North Branch School District. I am conscious of the awesome responsibility each of us has in working with the children of our community. We are rapidly approaching August 28 and the first day of school. I absolutely believe great things are happening in our school district and I am grateful and privileged to be able to work with so many talented people in a community that values education.

Sincerely,  
Jim Fish

### Volunteer from page 2

it's always on (the mentor's) own time, it's a very flexible schedule." To mark the end of the school year and beginning of summer, the group is planning a celebration in June. "(The mentors) really developed a strong, tight relationship with their kids," said Upleger. "And the kids have grown to expect and look forward to mentor day." According to Upleger, participation for students in the mentorship program is not based on performance in class or based on behavior - "It's just an hour per week where they get extra attention," she said.

Since its beginning, the mentorship program has grown to 13 mentor/child pairings, and there is a waiting list of children in need of mentors. "I love my mentors, they're amazing," said Upleger. "They just pick up on this and run with it, and it's all time they donate." The program, according to Upleger and the mentors, shows marked results in a child's behavior and social ability. Some kids, before the program, struggled with

social interaction or emotional control, but after spending time with a mentor, improvement in those areas are noticeable. "They're still kids - there are still issues," said Upleger. "But now it's much more manageable and they are much more mature in dealing with problems."

Upleger says that as long as the mentors keep volunteering their time, the program will continue. In fact, Upleger hopes that in the future the program can expand. Currently, she said the intent is to expand the program to seventh-grade next year so current sixth-graders can still enjoy the relationship they've built with their mentor. "Down the road I'd love to see this extended even to third-grade or fourth-grade as well," she said. "I'd love to see this grow so much that I can't do it without more help - but as long as our mentors are willing, we're going to keep going."

*This article was previously published in the Lapeer County Press.*

### Reading from page 9

- utilize a literacy coach from the ISD or in-house

#### Districts will develop a Reading Intervention Program that includes:

- evidence-based core reading instruction
  - intensive development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, & comprehension
  - parent "read at home" plans & other documentation of school's efforts to engage parents
  - documentation of dissenting opinions expressed by school personnel or parents in Individual Reading Plans (IRP)
- #### Grade 3 Reading Intervention Programs must include:
- more intervention time than the previous school year
  - daily small-group and/or one-to-one instruction
  - ongoing progress monitoring assessments
  - intervention by a teacher, tutor, or

volunteer outside the regular English Language Arts classroom time who has specialized reading training

- parent "read at home" plans with training workshops

#### English Language Learners must receive:

- ongoing assessments that provide actionable data
- instruction in academic vocabulary
- instruction using strategies such as modeling, guided practice and comprehensive input

#### Literacy Coach shall support teachers in:

- each of the 5 major reading components
- administering & analyzing assessments
- diagnosing reading deficiencies
- using progress monitoring
- modeling effective teaching strategies
- facilitating study groups
- data analysis
- evidence-based practices

# North Branch Fall Sports Schedule

## VARSITY FOOTBALL

| DATE    | OPPONENT                                 | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|------------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 24 | Yale                                     | Away  | 7:00 |
| Aug. 31 | Frankenmuth                              | Home  | 7:00 |
| Sep. 08 | Caro                                     | Away  | 7:00 |
| Sep. 15 | Millington                               | Home  | 7:00 |
| Sep. 22 | Birch Run                                | Away  | 7:00 |
| Sep. 29 | Montrose (Lights Out)                    | Home  | 7:00 |
| Oct. 06 | Bridgeport (Homecoming and Hall of Fame) | Home  | 7:00 |
| Oct. 13 | Garber                                   | Away  | 7:00 |
| Oct. 20 | Imlay City (Sr/Bandl)                    | Home  | 7:00 |

## J. V. FOOTBALL

| DATE    | OPPONENT    | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|-------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 23 | Yale        | Home  | 6:00 |
| Aug. 30 | Frankenmuth | Away  | 6:00 |
| Sep. 07 | Caro        | Home  | 6:00 |
| Sep. 14 | Millington  | Away  | 6:00 |
| Sep. 21 | Birch Run   | Home  | 6:00 |
| Sep. 28 | Montrose    | Away  | 6:00 |
| Oct. 05 | Bridgeport  | Away  | 6:00 |
| Oct. 12 | Garber      | Home  | 6:00 |
| Oct. 19 | Imlay City  | Away  | 6:00 |

## FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

| DATE    | OPPONENT    | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|-------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 23 | Yale        | Home  | 4:30 |
| Aug. 30 | Frankenmuth | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 07 | Caro        | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 14 | Millington  | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 21 | Birch Run   | Home  | 6:00 |
| Sep. 28 | Montrose    | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 05 | Goodrich    | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 12 | Frankenmuth | Home  | 6:00 |
| Oct. 19 | Imlay City  | Away  | 4:30 |

## 8TH GRADE FOOTBALL

| DATE    | OPPONENT          | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|-------------------|-------|------|
| Sep. 06 | Standish          | Home  | 5:00 |
| Sep. 12 | Birch Run         | Home  | 5:00 |
| Sep. 19 | Carrollton        | Away  | 5:00 |
| Oct. 03 | Caro              | Away  | 5:00 |
| Oct. 10 | Cramer Essexville | Home  | 5:00 |
| Oct. 17 | Bridgeport        | Away  | 5:00 |

## VARSITY GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

| DATE           | OPPONENT                 | PLACE | TIME   |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| Aug. 12        | Novi Scrimmage           | Away  | 9:00   |
| Aug. 19        | Linden Invite            | Away  | TBA    |
| Aug. 22        | North Branch Invite      | Home  | 8:30   |
| Aug. 25        | SC4 Invitational         | Away  | 8:00   |
| Sep. 06        | Oxford Quad              | Away  | 5:00   |
| Sep. 09        | Cros-Lex Invite          | Away  | 9:00   |
| Sep. 13        | Millington               | Home  | 6:30   |
| Sep. 16        | Marysville Invite        | Away  | 9:00   |
| Sep. 20        | Caro                     | Away  | 6:30   |
| Sep. 23        | Goodrich                 | Away  | TBA    |
| Sep. 27        | Birch Run                | Home  | 6:30   |
| Oct. 11        | Frankenmuth              | Away  | 6:30   |
| Oct. 14        | Beast of the East Warren | Away  | 8:30   |
| Oct. 18        | Bridgeport               | Home  | 6:30   |
| Oct. 21        | North Branch Invite      | Home  | 8:30   |
| Oct. 25        | Garber                   | Away  | 6:00   |
| Oct. 26        | Lake Orion Scrimmage     | Away  | 5:00   |
| Oct. 28        | TVC at Alma College      | Away  | 9:00   |
| Oct. 30-Nov. 4 | Districts @ Cros-lex     | Away  | TBA    |
| Nov. 7 & 9     | Regionals                | Home  | 5:30/7 |

## JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

| DATE    | OPPONENT              | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 12 | Oxford Scrimmage      | Away  | TBA  |
| Sep. 05 | Clarkston Quad        | Away  | 5:00 |
| Sep. 09 | Goodrich Tournament   | Away  | TBA  |
| Sep. 13 | Millington            | Home  | 5:30 |
| Sep. 16 | Mt. Morris Invite     | Away  | 9:00 |
| Sep. 20 | Caro                  | Away  | 5:30 |
| Sep. 23 | Birch Run-Subway Slam | Away  | 8:30 |
| Sep. 27 | Birch Run             | Home  | 5:30 |
| Sep. 30 | Mt. Morris Invite     | Away  | 9:00 |
| Oct. 11 | Frankenmuth           | Away  | 5:30 |
| Oct. 14 | North Branch Invite   | Home  | 8:30 |
| Oct. 18 | Bridgeport            | Home  | 5:30 |
| Oct. 25 | Garber                | Away  | 5:30 |

## FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL

| DATE    | OPPONENT               | PLACE | TIME  |
|---------|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Aug. 24 | Bad Axe Hatchet Invite | Away  | 12:00 |
| Aug. 26 | Mt. Morris Invite      | way   | 9:00  |
| Sep. 05 | Flushing Quad          | Away  | 5:00  |
| Sep. 13 | Millington             | Home  | 5:30  |
| Sep. 20 | Caro                   | Away  | 5:30  |
| Sep. 23 | Mt. Morris Invite      | Away  | 9:00  |
| Sep. 27 | Birch Run              | Home  | 5:30  |
| Sep. 30 | North Branch Invite    | Home  | 8:30  |
| Oct. 11 | Frankenmuth            | Away  | 5:30  |
| Oct. 25 | Garber                 | Away  | 5:30  |

## VARSITY BOYS' SOCCER

| DATE       | OPPONENT     | PLACE | TIME |
|------------|--------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 18    | Yale         | Home  | 4:30 |
| Aug. 21    | Cros Lex     | Away  | 4:30 |
| Aug. 24    | Clio         | Home  | 4:30 |
| Aug. 28    | Kearsley     | Away  | 6:00 |
| Aug. 30    | Davison      | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 06    | Lakeville    | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 09    | Bad Axe      | Away  | TBA  |
| Sep. 11    | Caro         | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 13    | Garber       | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 18    | Birch Run    | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 20    | Frankenmuth  | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 25    | Harbor Beach | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 27    | Caro         | Away  | 7:00 |
| Sep. 28    | Goodrich     | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 02    | Garber       | Home  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 04    | Birch Run    | Home  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 09    | Frankenmuth  | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 12    | Imlay City   | Home  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 16-21 | Districts    | TBA   | TBA  |

## J.V. BOYS' SOCCER

| DATE    | OPPONENT              | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|-----------------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 18 | Lutheran North Macomb | Home  | 6:00 |
| Aug. 24 | Clio                  | Home  | 6:00 |
| Aug. 28 | Kearsley              | Home  | 4:30 |
| Aug. 30 | Davison               | Home  | 6:00 |
| Sep. 06 |                       |       |      |
| Sep. 11 | Valley Lutheran       |       | 6:00 |
| Sep. 13 | Imlay City            | Away  | 6:00 |
| Sep. 20 | Frankenmuth           |       | 5:00 |
| Sep. 28 | Goodrich              |       | 6:00 |
| Oct. 02 |                       |       |      |
| Oct. 04 |                       |       |      |
| Oct. 09 | Frankenmuth           |       | 6:00 |
| Oct. 12 | Imlay City            |       | 6:00 |

\*All schedules are subject to change.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember!

**August 14** - First Athletic Booster Meeting in HS Media Center 6 p.m.  
**August 22** - Community Pep Rally  
**September 29** - Lights Out game vs. Montrose  
**October 6** - Homecoming and Hall of Fame Induction  
**October 20** - Senior Night and Band Night

## CROSS COUNTRY

| DATE    | OPPONENT                | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|-------------------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 24 | Birch Run Invite        | Away  | 4:15 |
| Aug. 30 | Lakeville Invite        | Away  | 3:30 |
| Sep. 09 | Bad Axe Hatchet Inv.    | Away  | 9:00 |
| Sep. 12 | Birch Run TVC #1        | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 16 | Reese Invitational?     | Away  | 4:45 |
| Sep. 19 | Lapeer County Meet      | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 26 | Caro TVC #2             | Away  | 4:15 |
| Oct. 02 | Memphis Invite          | Away  | 4:15 |
| Oct. 10 | Garber TVC #3           | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 17 | TVC Meet at Ovid E/lsie | Away  | 4:00 |
| Oct. 21 | Caro Thumb Meet         | Away  | TBA  |
| Oct. 28 | MHSAA Reg at Delta      | Away  | TBA  |

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

| DATE    | OPPONENT             | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|----------------------|-------|------|
| Aug. 30 | Birch Run Invite     | Away  | 5:15 |
| Aug. 30 | Lakeville Invite     | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 09 | Bad Axe Hatchet Inv. | Away  | TBA  |
| Sep. 12 | Birch Run TVC #1     | Away  | 5:30 |
| Sep. 16 | Reese Invite?        | Away  | TBA  |
| Sep. 19 | Lapeer County Meet   | Home  | 5:30 |
| Sep. 26 | Caro TVC #2          | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 02 | Memphis Invite       | Away  | 5:15 |
| Oct. 10 | Garber TVC #3        | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 21 | Caro Thumb Meet      | Away  | TBA  |

## 7TH + 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

| DATE    | OPPONENT    | PLACE | TIME |
|---------|-------------|-------|------|
| Sep. 11 | Caro        | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 13 | Millington  | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 18 | Garber      | Home  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 20 | Birch Run   | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 25 | Frankenmuth | Away  | 4:30 |
| Sep. 27 | Bridgeport  | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 04 | Caro        | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 09 | Millington  | Home  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 11 | Garber      | Away  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 12 | Frankenmuth | Home  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 16 | Birch Run   | Home  | 4:30 |
| Oct. 23 | Bridgeport  | Home  | 4:30 |



The 2017 Varsity Football team is practicing up for the upcoming season! Put August 24 on your calendar as the Broncos head to Yale to take on the Bulldogs at 7 p.m. First home game is August 31 when the Broncos will take on the Frankenmuth Eagles.