



School Talk

www.nbbrncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

May 2017

Class of 2017 Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced



The Valedictorian of North Branch High School's Class of 2017 is Jinger Haynes. Jinger is the daughter of Jeffrey and Beth Haynes. Jinger has participated in Varsity Volleyball, where she earned Academic All-State recognition. Jinger is a member of the North Branch Chapter of the National Honor Society where she served as its Vice-President. Jinger also serves as the President of the Class of 2017. During each of her trimesters and semesters in High School, Jinger made the Honor Roll and was selected to the Tri-Valley Conference

Academic All-Conference Team. Next fall, Jinger will be attending University of Michigan – Ann Arbor to study Biochemistry (Pre-Medicine Program).

The Salutatorian for the Class of 2017 is Kyle Beatley. Kyle is the son of Jeffrey and Karen Beatley. Kyle is a member of the NBHS Student Council where he serves as Treasure. He is a member of the National Honor Society, and made the Honor Roll in each of the trimesters and semesters he attend NBHS. Kyle has served as Captain for both the Varsity Cross Country and Varsity Track and Field teams. He also served as the Captain for the NBHS Quiz Bowl team. Kyle earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. In the fall, Kyle will be attending the Michigan State University to study Physics.



Graduation Events

Friday, May 19th, 2017:

Last day for ALL Seniors.

SENIOR EXAMS- Seniors who need to take their exams in order to earn credit or make up for exceeding the attendance absence limit, will still do so on Monday, May 22nd & Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017.

Sunday, May 21st, 2017:

Baccalaureate Ceremony (7:00 p.m.) in the High School Auditorium. This is a non-denominational, inspirational service honoring the achievement and future for the graduates. Attendance is optional and admission is free. This event is not sponsored by the school.

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017:

Graduation Rehearsal (3:00 p.m.) in the Gymnasium (**required to participate in the commencement ceremony**). Seniors who have met all of the graduation requirements will receive their caps & gowns immediately after rehearsal.

Swing-Out (5:00 p.m.) Students will line up at the front of the High School and will march through town. The parade will end at the corner of Main street and Jefferson. **NOTE: If this event is canceled due to weather, it will not be rescheduled.**

Thursday, May 25th, 2017:

Class Night (7:00 p.m.) Students will be honored with local scholarships, awards, NHS stoles, athletic awards and honor cords, etc. Participation is not mandatory but it is nice to see all of the seniors celebrating their accomplishments together. Students should arrive at 6:30 p.m. Students should wear something a bit more dressy (no shorts, tank tops or flip flops).

Wednesday, May 31st, 2017:

COMMENCEMENT (8:00 p.m.) Seniors "MUST" arrive in CAPS & GOWNS by 7:30 p.m. to line up in the south wing. Doors to the Gymnasium open at 7:15 p.m.

Project Graduation: This fun filled, action packed, all you can eat, alcohol-free lock-in has been a tradition in the North Branch community for over 20 years. The celebration will begin immediately following commencement on Wednesday, May 31st and will conclude early Thursday morning, June 1st. All students attending are eligible for door prizes but they must be present to win. Only students participating in commencement will be allowed to attend the post grad celebration. WE ARE LOOKING FOR PARENTS TO BECOME PART OF THE PROJECT GRADUATION PLANNING COMMITTEE. Interested parents should contact Mrs. Wagner at (810) 688-3001 or kwagner@nbbrncos.net. A Senior Class meeting will be held after Spring Break to discuss Project Graduation information.

Superintendent's Corner

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

We are rapidly coming to a close of the 2016-2017 school year which now will conclude on Monday, June 12 for all students. The Board of Education was required to add one day to the calendar due to closing one extra day during the winter because of inclement weather. I am very much looking forward to the last few months of the school year and all of the activities taking place. Highlighted on my calendar are events like College Decision Day, County Track Meet, Prom, Senior Class Night, Grand Collage Band Concert, Baccalaureate, Swing Out, Baseball and Softball Districts hosted by North Branch, and North Branch Commencement Ceremony (May 31) and Quest Graduation (June 1). I invite our community and parents to come and enjoy the year-end activities and celebrate the ending of a great year with our senior students.

While I am very proud of the 2017 senior class and all of its accomplishments this year, I believe our district is positioned to improve and enhance the educational programs for our returning students. Our Board of Education has developed 5 year plans focusing on three goals in partnership with all district employees:

Student Achievement: NBAS will teach, measure, and continuously improve instruction aligned to state standards for increased student achievement and College and Career readiness.

- District-wide committees are actively working on curriculum, instruction, and assessment alignment;
- Our curriculum director has coordinated district-wide professional learning connected to curriculum, instruction, and assessment;
- Assessment data is being used to guide school improvement;
- A major focus has been placed on early childhood initiatives:
 - o Formation of a reading task force at NBE
 - o Expansion of guided reading library (\$20,000 in new books)
 - o Grant funded Reading Recovery program
 - o Addition of math and literacy coach at the elementary for the 17-18 school year
 - o Approval of a Gifted and Talented program for the 17-18 school year. Please visit our web-site for more information.
- North Branch is one of three districts in the state to be awarded a MiSTEM grant of \$15,000 which will be used to implement a Biomedical Science course for the 2017-18 school year. Our teachers (congratulations Katie Wagner) and administration worked very hard to secure this grant.
- Our high school counseling office secured a grant to add an additional counselor for the next three years to focus on post-secondary planning. This person will help our seniors in college and career readiness planning.

See **Superintendent** on page 12

Food Service News

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

North Branch Area Schools continues to operate under the USDA National Lunch & Breakfast Programs. Food Service promises to continue to deliver healthy, good, quality food and services to you and your children.

Breakfast is offered daily in all schools. Students who eat breakfast perform better in school. Research shows that students, who eat a healthy breakfast display increased attention at school, visit the nurse less often and have lower rates of tardiness and absenteeism.

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.nbbbrncos.net, located under the Food Service Documents tab, and needs to be filled out by a licensed physician. This provision is State mandated.

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 with white milk will be offered up to 5 days, at no charge, to the student who has a negative balance of \$5.00 or more.
- Ala Carte items are CASH ONLY or students MUST have funds on their Food Service Account. Charges are never allowed for Ala Carte items.
- Ala Carte items cannot be purchased if there is a negative balance of \$5.00 or more.
- 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.
- Adjustments will only be made by the Food Service Department.

ALL OUTSTANDING BALANCES MUST BE PAID BY JUNE 12, 2017!!! PARENTS: PLEASE CHECK YOUR STUDENT'S FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNTS.

Meals may be paid for with cash/check or online through PaySchools. Payments may also be mailed to **North Branch Area Schools, ATTN: Food Service, PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461**. If you would like more information on how to pay for schools meals, please visit Family Access at www.nbbbrncos.net.

New Menu Items

We're excited to announce that we've added several new menu items! Our new breakfast smoothies at the Ruth Fox, Middle School and High School have been a huge hit with the students!

Also, new lunch items at the High School, such as our Pizza Bar, Potato Bar, Pasta Bar and Taco Bar have

been very well received! We're always continuing to improve on our current menu items and to give your student more delicious choices to choose from!

Applications MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED WITHIN THE FIRST 30 DAYS OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR. Those families qualifying at the end of the 2016-2017 school year will receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch for the first 30 days of school. After the first 30 days 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. Please be advised the Eligibility Chart for the 2017-2018 school year will be issued after July 1, 2017 by the Michigan Department of Education.

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.

2016-2017 Meal Prices

Breakfast:

Paid \$1.50 (EL/RF) • \$1.70 (MS/HS)
Reduced \$0.30 • Free \$0.00 • Adult \$2.75

Lunch:

Paid \$2.45 (EL/RF) • \$2.85 (MS/HS)
Reduced \$0.40 • Free \$0.00 • Adult \$3.75
Milk is included with all meals; however, if purchased without a meal it is considered ala carte and is charged \$0.50.

What is Ala Carte?

Ala carte items are "Cash Only" unless there is money on the child's food service account. These items are not part of the breakfast or lunch reimbursable meal program. Some examples of ala carte items include-single purchase OR extra milk or juice, cookies, chips, an additional entrée, ice cream and other non-menu items. 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.

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.nbbbrncos.net) for more information

College Decision Day

May 1

We are proud to announce that North Branch High School is a host site for Decision Day 2017 (#MIdecisionday). For the fourth year in a row, North Branch High School will be participating in both the State and National campaigns. All NBHS Seniors who have made a commitment to post high school education/training, will be recognized at our Decision Day Ceremony which will take place during 3rd hour (9:23-10:31) on Friday, April 28th in the NBHS Auditorium.

The purpose of Decision Day is to recognize high school seniors for their post-secondary plans and encourage younger students and families to prepare early for postsecondary education. Decision Day is held annually on or around May 1. It is designed to coincide with the date that most seniors must inform a college of their plans to enroll. College and military recruiters will be here to recognize the students that are attending their institutions in the fall. We like to think of Decision Day as a school spirit day, during which we all work together

to build excitement and awareness surrounding the college selection and enrollment process.

We are strongly encouraging our students to get involved with this event on social media! This year The College Board has announced its #Collegiance campaign, which encourages students to announce their college decision on Instagram with creative and fun photos, videos, and Boomerangs. The 10 most creative entries nationwide win cash prizes, up to \$5,000 for more details visit www.collegiance.org. Michigan is also doing a similar campaign. Students must be attending a Michigan high school this spring, and announcing their decision to attend a two or four year higher education institution to be considered. In keeping with the national competition, students will have until May 15th to post and tag their submission on Instagram and tag both #Collegiance AND #MIdecisionday. If you have any questions on the Michigan competition, please contact Connor McLaughlin at connor@micollegeaccess.org.

BPA State Delegates

Congratulations to the Business Professionals of America State Delegates who represented North Branch High School

Steven Nadolski took 8th in the State in the event Fundamentals of Spreadsheets

Alyssa Miner took 14th in the State in the event Integrated Office Applications

Isabella Navarro finished 6th in Section 1 of the Preliminary Round of Entrepreneurship

Michaela Fowler finished 9th in Section 1 of the Preliminary Round for Extemporaneous Speech

Not too bad for our first go around with BPA. We are already gearing up for next year!



BPA State Leadership Conference "Parade of Presidents"



Business Professional of America State competitors supporting North Branch High School BPA President, Isabella Navarro during the Parade of Presidents.

Class Act of Kindness

Mrs. Stevens' Practical English Class takes a break from the classroom work one day each week to volunteer for a cause that helps the needy. Each Friday, 6th hour, Stevens's class makes "plarn balls" for knitting mats for the homeless. Plarn Balls are plastic yarn balls. The students were taught how to fold, cut, tie together, and wrap these plarn balls that will be transported to the Macomb County Feed the Need Shelter where workers at the shelter will crochet Plastic bag mats and pillows for the homeless. The students are also using this project to include in a resume as volunteer work. In May of this year, each Junior Practical English class student will participate in a Mock Interview where they will be presenting a resume. On this resume there will be completed information for volunteer work. Most of all, these students are learning a valuable lesson about helping the less fortunate.



Attention students

You are invited to enter the 2017 AAA Teen Safe Driving for a chance to win a Detroit Tigers Prize Package which could include throwing the first pitch at a Tigers game vs. the Kansas City Royals on Thursday, June 29th during the AAA Teen Safe Driving Day at Comerica Park.

Eligible teens, ages 14-18, can enter now at AAA.com/Baseball. Stop by the HS office more details. The contest ends May 12, 2017.



SENIOR SCHOLARS



Each year, the top 25 students in the senior class, based on a combination of Grade Point Average and ACT test scores receive the title of Senior Scholar. During Class Night, these students will be awarded a gold cord to wear with their graduation gowns on the night of commencement.

This year's Senior Scholars are: Trevor Brandt, Jinger Haynes, Frank Newsome, Kyle Beatley, Laura Osborne, Hannah Hodgkinson, Mitchell Bonner, Aleah Britt, Joseph Swope, Kevin Zender, Emma VanWagoner, Jordan Hodgkinson, Ciera Meier, Lydia Goldthwaite, Joshua Pasek, Marybeth Gormley, Janelle Manthei, Brenden Forster, Joshua Gray, Alexis Schlaud, Austin McIntosh, Adam Wadley, Autumn Fusero, Emily Ruhlman, Austin Smith.

Academic All Conference



Each year, the 24 schools in the Tri-Valley Conference nominate the top three students to be named to the TVC All Academic Team. The students are nominated based upon a combination of their GPA and ACT scores.

On April 26th, the top three students, based on these scores were treated to a banquet in Curtis hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, where they were recognized for their academic accomplishments and received a TVC All Conference medal.

The students earning the right to represent NBHS on this year's TVC All Academic Team are (top to bottom) Frank Newsome, Jinger Haynes and Trevor Brandt.



COLLEGE FAIR



On Monday, March 27th, twenty one NBHS Juniors attended the National College Fair held in Novi. This event was made possible by a grant written by NBHS Counselors, Amy Hyrman and Natalee Rodriguez. While at the fair, our students were able to meet one-on-one with college representatives from across the country who were able to answer student's questions. They were also able to visit the Counseling/Resource Center to talk to a college counselor about

choosing a major, financial aid scholarship information, and more. We want to thank our NBHS counselors for the extra mile they go to provide quality opportunities for our students.



Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS)

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 investi-

gating 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, 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.



North Branch Area Schools will once again be offering a summer school program for students in grades 7-12th that need to recover lost credit. The online program, Edgenuity (Education2020), will be used for the credit recovery, with over 50 courses being offered. Orientation will be held approximately one and a half weeks after the last day of school. Please check with your students' counselor or for a link to the application on the NBAS website in early June for definite dates and times for orientation.

Summer school classes will tentatively begin the week of June 19th and will conclude the last week of July. The fee per course is \$80.00. For more information please see your student's counselor or for specific questions, please contact the Summer School Coordinator, Corey Rosser at crosser@nbbronscos.net or by calling (810) 688-7581, ext. 2820.

Quest Student Volunteers with Kids as Santa

Quest junior Kyle Macksoud recently took courses and is a "Certified Santa Claus"! He used those skills on Monday, December 19th after school to volunteer at the lower elementary to visit classrooms. He would like to thank Mr. Matheson for the opportunity! Assistant Principal Mr. Terrauds commented, "Kyle did a great job! His experience was obvious and it made the kids' day!"



Daughter/Daddy/Dodgeball

Quest High School had 8 students make a positive impact at the "Daughter/Daddy/Dodgeball" event! Students served in a number of ways, including: setting up decorations, tables, posters, recording results, and helping officiate. Jordan Nagy said of his experience, "It was a lot of fun to see the kids have fun with their dads. I was glad to have been a part of it."



INVITING ALL to the Quest/NB Masonic Lodge Spaghetti Fundraiser

The North Branch Masonic Lodge will once again be putting on the annual Quest High School Spaghetti Fundraiser hosted at Quest High School. The cost is \$8 for adults, \$4 for ages 9 and under, free for 3 and under. The event will take place from 4:30-7:00 on Thursday, May 11th.

The Masons pay for all costs, and give every dollar collected to Quest High School. To date, the Masons have donated over \$15,000 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.



Quest Success

★ Quest Graduate Shines at College

Shaina Rowden is a 2016 graduate of Quest High School and the recipient of the Quest Merit Scholarship! The Quest Merit Scholarship was founded by and is fully funded by community members Carolyn and Ron Bower and is available for application to all graduating Quest students. Shaina completed her first two semesters at Baker College with a 3.1 GPA in Diesel Technology. We wish Shaina success as she continues toward her degree.



Quest Grad Meets His Future!!! ★

Congrats to 2016 Quest graduate Jacob Toles! Jacob recently finish a 9-week AIS training course and received numerous certifications in operating heavy equipment. Great job on following through with your post-graduation plan! Thank you to Ed-tech teacher Mr. Bammer for introducing this training to Jacob.



★ Graduate credits Quest for Her Success at College

Olivia Kipp graduated from Quest High School in 2016. She currently attends Kendall College of Art and Design. She had this to say about how Quest helped set her up for success, "This is something that would have never happened if Quest wouldn't have given me a chance. It means so much to know that Quest was able to help me graduate on time, and to get into the college of my dreams." Along with attending Kendall, Olivia is currently working at a non-profit organization that helps individuals in the Grand Rapids community who need extra support.



Quest Hosts TASL Dodgeball Tournament

Quest hosted the 5th annual dodgeball tournament with Bad Axe Ascent, Caro, and Cros-Lex attending. In total, 6 boys and 4 girls teams participated in the tournament. The Boys' Quest Black team performed well all day going 7-3 through pool play, and falling just short in the Championship game, finishing as runner-up. The Quest Red team displayed great sportsmanship and finished a respectable 4th. The Quest Girls' team fought hard and finished 3rd in the girls' division.

Despite not bringing home a championship, the Quest crew has a great deal to be proud of, as numerous opposing coaches commented on their integrity and character!



TASL Bowling Tournament

Quest traveled to Caro for the first annual Thumb Alternative Sports League Bowling championships. Bad Axe, Carsonville-Port Sanilac, and Caro also participated. The boys rolled well finishing in 2nd place. Troy Anderson had the high score for the boys, and the 4th highest individual score overall. Sennan Nichols, Levi Gilman, and Zach Warren rounded out the Quest boys' team that participated in the finals.

The Quest girls dominated the championship. The Quest girls won the tournament by 90 pins. Individual places were also dominated by Quest with CJ Davis finishing 1st, Holly Jidas 2nd, and Searria Dill 3rd. Meranda Griggs bowled in the finals as well. Lexie Camacho, Brooklyn Otto, Julia Sloan, and Lia Thomas also participated.



Quest Boys and Girls win the 1st annual TASL Volleyball Championships

The boys and girls Quest volleyball teams traveled to Cros-Lex schools for the first annual TASL Volleyball tournament. The Quest girls completed pool play in first place 3-1. They were able to continue that momentum into bracket play where they defeated tournament host Cros-Lex 25-22 to bring home the Girls' TASL Cup. The team included CJ Davis, Maddy Hart, Chelsey Hartman, Holly Jidas, Brooklyn Otto, Julia Sloan, Lia Thomas, and Kelli Worth.

Quest fielded 2 boys' teams. Quest Black won pool play by going 4-0. Quest Red performed admirably going 2-2 in pool play, with both losses being by just 2 points. Quest Black continued their dominance through bracket play, defeating Ascent in the championship game 25-22. Quest Black team members consisted of Nick Allen, Troy Anderson, Levi Bamford, Charlie Davis, Brendan Podvin, and Devont Smith.



Quest Joins Social Media

Quest High School now has their own Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter accounts. To get the latest updates, you can find us on social media at:



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



Instagram: Northbranchbronzos



Twitter: Nbranchquest



2016-2017 COMPETITIVE CHEER ALL CONFERENCE
 L-R: Shelby Schlopert, 1st Team and Honorable Mention All District; Taylor Kile, 1st Team & 2nd Team All District; Shawna Trombley, 1st Team & 1st Team All District; Jordan Gregory, 1st Team & 2nd Team All District; Ally Marshall, 1st Team & Honorable Mention All District; Lily Davis, 1st Team; Not pictured: Marissa Wilcox, Honorable Mention



2016-2017 Boys' Basketball Team Academic All State Qualifier
 With Team GPA Of 3.11



2016-2017 Girls' Basketball Team Academic All-State Qualifier
 With Team GPA Of 3.54



2016-2017 Competitive Cheer Team Academic All-State with Team GPA of 3.2992

GET YOUR SPORT PHYSICALS



FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR !
NORTH BRANCH FAMILY HEALTH CARE IS OFFERING SPORT PHYSICALS FOR \$10.00 EACH ON THE FOLLOWING DATES AND TIMES:

Tuesday, June 13 from 9 a.m.—12 noon and from 1 p.m.—3 p.m.
Tuesday, July 18 from 9 a.m.—12 noon and from 1 p.m.—3 p.m.
Tuesday, August 8 from 9 a.m.—12 noon and from 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Obtain a sports physical form from either the school office, on-line or at Dr. Starbird's office. Completed form and fee of \$10.00 payable by cash or check will be required at time of service. \$5.00 of the cost of each physical is donated back to North Branch Area Schools' Athletic Program. Parents must accompany their child or send a "permission to treat" slip with the students. Questions? Call 810-688-3048.



**2016-2017 COMPETITIVE CHEER
 INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC ALL-STATE**
 Page Barnes 4.0, Carlie Walker 3.958,
 Tiffany Stradinger 4.0, Not pictured:
 Cora McLean 3.986, Saidie Soit 3.389



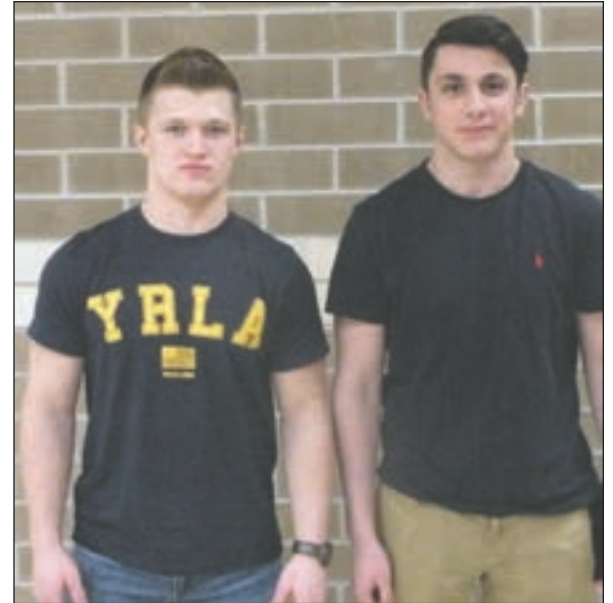
BOYS' BASKETBALL ALL CONFERENCE
 Riley Bugg, Honorable Mention; Chance
 Calvert, 2nd Team



2016-2017 GIRLS' BASKETBALL ALL CONFERENCE
Reese Ruhlman, Honorable Mention; Kendall Wilson, Honorable Mention; Carly Warda, Honorable Mention



HOCKEY ALL CONFERENCE
Max Hubbell, 2nd Team



WRESTLING ALL CONFERENCE
Hunter Murphy, 2nd Team; Donnellon Guzman, Honorable Mention



Jack Millerschinn signs to play baseball at Cleary University



Kaleb Bickel signs with Huntington University to play soccer



Samantha Fifield signs with Indiana Tech to play soccer



Stephaney Fifield signs with Spring Arbor University to play volleyball.



8th Grade Basketball Volunteers

On Tuesday, December 19th, middle school Principal Cindy Howe, along with 7 members of the 8th grade basketball team volunteered to help bring meals to the community. The athletes unloaded food from the Eastern Michigan Food Bank truck at the township hall in North Branch. The 8th grade basketball team would like to thank the community for the opportunity to volunteer!

My Personal Michigan Hero

As part of a long-standing NBMS tradition, three 8th grade students have been named as local winners in the 48th Annual America & Me Essay Contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. The top three essay winners were (1st) Chloe Caringi, (2nd) Mattea Swoish, and (3rd) Emily Ludescher. Our middle school ELA staff also selected a 4th place winner, Isaac Conley, to round out a group of four students who earn the honor of laying a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier while attending our Washington D.C. class trip in May 2017.

All four students received certificates, a monetary gift, and Chloe's name will be engraved on a plaque that is displayed at the Middle School. Chloe's 1st place essay now advances to the state level competition from which the top ten essays in Michigan will be selected. Congratulations to all students who honored



their personal Michigan heroes by writing and sharing such heartfelt essays. You are all winners!

2017 NBMS Spelling Bee is a Success!

This year's Middle School Spelling Bee took place during the school day on Wednesday February 15th with 33 eager spellers who all did a fantastic job! The competition was intense, that's for sure! We went through 182 words total, 27 rounds, and 17 of them were between the last two spellers! The top three students who moved on to the County Spelling Bee on March 21st were:

1st place – Chloe Caringi

2nd place – Johnny Altomare

3rd place – Gabe Smith (not pictured)

4th place (an alternate) – Emily Ludescher

The top three spellers from NBMS represented our school with pride and commitment at the County Bee where the competition, again, was intense! Congratulations for all your hard work. The Bronco community is very proud of you!



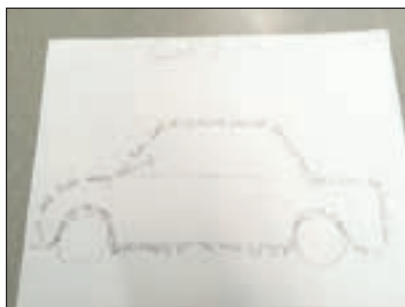
DSO Trip for Young Band Members!

A performance by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra was a great experience for some Ruth Fox Elementary and North Branch MS Band members and their parent chaperones on Friday, March 24. Most of these students and parents had never been to an orchestra concert so they took advantage of the opportunity to see and hear one of the top orchestras in the world. They heard a suite of music selections from Sergei Prokofiev's version of "Romeo and Juliet" as well as a version by Hector Berlioz. Special guest saxophone artist Branford Marsalis also performed a premier of a piece by Prokofiev's grandson with the orchestra.

The band directors would like to thank the parents who went along with us and the bus driver and garage staff for making sure we had a safe and enjoyable ride to and from orchestra hall in Detroit. We hope more of you can join us as we continue our trips to excellent musical venues around the area.

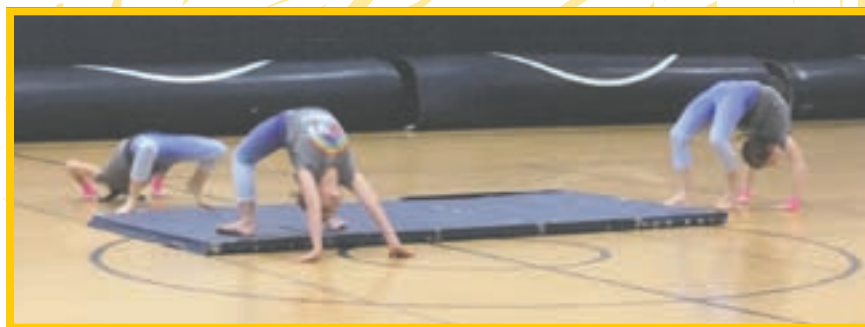
Poetry Rotation Creation

Our English-8 Poetry unit took on a new twist with a "Poetry Rotation Creation" activity. Students enjoyed flowing through six creative stations to try their hand at writing different styles of poetry. Some of their favorites were the Black-out, Book Spine, Concrete, and Paint Chip stations. In the end, students shared a favorite piece with the class, and surprised their teachers and themselves with how easy and fun it was to create poems!



Art and Music Festival

On February 16th Ruth Fox held an all-day Art and Music Festival. Students ended the day by showing off their many talents.



Ruth Fox Spelling Bee February 14, 2017



Spelling Bee Winners
Alana Deshetsky
& Seth Buckner

Books and Breakfast Parent-Student Reading Workshop

Ruth Fox had three Books and Breakfast Workshops this year. While enjoying a light breakfast, parents, mentors, and students came to learn different strategies to help foster literacy skills.



March is Reading Month Activities and Celebrations

Throughout the month of March students celebrated reading by completing various reading activities. Local businesses donated coupons as incentives for students to meet their reading goal. Congratulations to Maverick Ludwig for winning the grand prize!

A celebration was held at the end of the month for those students who read their weekly reading goal.



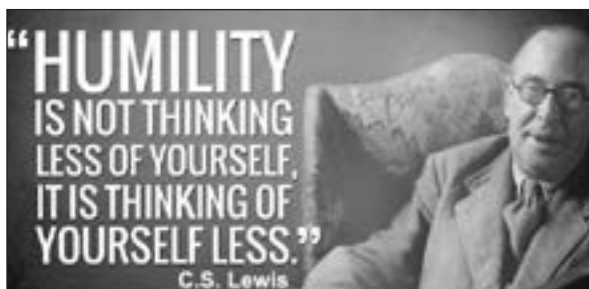
April Core Essentials - Humility

This month's value is Humility. Here are a few suggestions in which this theme can be promoted at home:

Say It: Humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

Know It: Ask a *kid* - Would it be harder to put a sibling or your best friend first? Why do you think so? How do adults in your life put your needs first? Ask a *grown up*: Who inspires you to live out humility? What does it cost to put others first?

See It: Search on YouTube for the scene called "Keep Swimming" in Finding Nemo. How did the fish show humility? What might have happened to them if they didn't work together and listen to Marlin and Nemo?



Be It: Use scrap paper to put each family member's name in a bowl or jar. For the rest of the month, draw a name from the bowl when a decision needs to be made (where to eat out, what to cook for dinner, what movie to watch, what game to play, etc.). When a family member's name is drawn, they give up the chance to make that choice and say the name of a different family member to make the decision.

First graders learn about money

First graders learned about money today with members from Independent Bank. Students went on an adventure with Ruby and Max in the story Bunny Money. Students were able to keep their bunny money and a shiny new quarter!



Pop into Reading



Our March is Reading Month theme was "Pop into Reading"! With a monthly goal of 300,000 minutes, students exceeded it by reading a total of 339,000 minutes! Having met their goal, Mr. T. and Mr. M. agreed to dress up as cans of pop this past Thursday. Plenty of finger pointing and giggles were directed at them, but it was well worth it!

Gifted & Talented Open House

North Branch Area Schools is very excited to announce its Gifted and Talented (GT) program starting in the 2017-2018 school year for 2nd through 4th grade students. This is the first step to launch the GT initiative and expand the program throughout the district. NBAS will be holding an open house on Tuesday, May 9th at 6:30 pm in the NBE Cafeteria to discuss the program's vision, application process, selection process, and will also give an opportunity to meet our Gifted and Talented teachers.

The online application process for upcoming 2nd-4th graders interested in the GT program will be May 9th through May 19th. More information can be found on the district website - www.nbbrncos.net.

If you are unable to attend the open house, and would like more information on the GT program, please visit the district website or contact Dane Terauds by email at dterauds@nbbrncos.net or by phone at (810) 688-3042.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

every student, every day

It is hard to believe that we have just two more months to go! Hopefully, with all the snow days and cold / flu bugs behind us we can wrap up the year with strong building attendance. With that said, we ask that all parents send their children to school, on time, every day to ensure that they receive the optimal learning experience for the remainder of the year.

With the start of the day at 8:37 a.m., it is imperative that students are here to be a part of the morning routines. Unfortunately, we have dozens of students still coming in late on a regular basis. Over time that adds up to a sizable amount of missed instruction.

With the end of the day at 3:42 p.m. it is imperative that students remain in class until the bell rings. When students leave early, they may miss out on receiving classroom/building correspondence, properly completing their homework logs or receiving last minute instruction.

Though we realize there are valid reasons for missing partial or full days, the fact remains that there is a direct correlation between academic success and regular school attendance.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

Together in Learning,
Greg Matheson

UPDATE Begin-a-garten / Kindergarten Registration

If you were not able to attend our kindergarten round-up, a second, more condensed version will be offered in the near future. We will be contacting those affected parents to secure an appointment for that date. The assessment results and recommendations from the March 28th Round-Up will be sent out at the end of April. If you have any questions/concerns regarding the recommendations, please contact Mr. Matheson, (810-688-3042).

Superintendent from page 2

Communication Goal: NBAS and the Board of Education will validate the importance of every staff member as critical to the success of the district and maintain partnerships of integrity and trust within the North Branch Community.

- Our district has adopted a theme of "All In" to create a culture of excellence and improved morale;
- Our relationship with our local print media has been exceptional as they shared with the community articles about our Mentor Program, Special Olympics, School Safety initiatives, Community Hall of Fame, etc.
- The Board of Education has approved 5-year plans for Technology, Facility Improvement, and Curriculum.

Finance Goal: NBAS and the Board of Education will evaluate and enhance opportunities for students by adopting and executing a budget that prioritizes teaching and learning while improving the district's stability.

- The community continues to support the district and

- successfully passed the non-homestead tax renewal;
- The Board of Education entered into three year contracts with our professional and support staff that prioritized teaching and learning while valuing all employees;
- Transportation contract was extended for five years resulting in a \$50,000 savings for the 16-17 school year;
- Capital improvement projects include replacing the Ruth Fox Roof this summer. The board was able to save \$200,000 in the 16-17 budget to replace the roof without having to borrow the funds;
- The Board of Education will spend approximately \$235,000 during the 17-18 school year on updating and purchasing new technology for the district. This includes updating selected computer labs at the Elementary, Ruth Fox, Middle School, and Quest. It also includes chrome books to be utilized in the elementary and language arts classes at the high school;
- The Board of Education will spend approximately \$217,000 in the 16-17 and into the 17-18 budget to improve the facilities in our district. Improvements include new fencing around the stadium complex

and new fencing at the elementary school so students will utilize the cross walk before and after school;

- North Branch Area Schools is projected to finish the school year with a 10% fund equity which is our savings account. The Board of Education is fiscally responsible and has fairly compensated all employees while successfully improving infrastructure and adding conservatively to the school savings fund.

There has been significant progress in improving every aspect of our school district. This does not happen without a supportive community, a strong board of education, outstanding leadership with our administrative team, as well as dedicated and caring professional and support staff. I hope you have enjoyed this progress report and I invite you to contact my office if you have any questions. The first day of school next year for all students will be on Monday, August 28. On behalf of all staff and students, I wish you and your families a restful and memorable summer break.

Respectfully and Sincerely,
Jim Fish

North Branch Spring Sports Schedule

VARSITY BASEBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 01	Carrollton	Away	4:00
May 04	Garber	Away	4:00
May 06	Flint Tourn (Brrom Park)	Away	4:00
May 08	Cass City	Away	4:00
May 10	Birch Run	Home	4:00
May 12	Capac	Home	4:00
May 17	Bridgeport	Away	4:00
May 22	Lakers	Home	4:00
May 24	Caro	Away	4:00
May 29	Flint Tourn (Brrom Park)	Away	5:00
May 30	Lk Fenton Game or Scrim	Away	4:00
June 3	Districts	Home	10:00

VARSITY SOFTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 01	Carrollton	Away	4:00
May 04	Garber	Away	4:00
May 06	Lakeland-White Lk Quad	Away	TBA
May 08	Cass City	Away	4:00
May 10	Birch Run	Home	4:00
May 17	Bridgeport	Away	4:00
May 18	Armada	Home	4:00
May 20	Swartz Creek Invite	Away	TBA
May 22	Lakers	Away	TBA
May 24	Caro	Away	4:00
May 30	Lake Fenton Scrimmage	Away	4:00
June 3	Districts	Home	10:00

J.V. BASEBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 01	Carrollton	Home	4:00
May 04	Garber	Home	4:00
May 08	Cass City	Home	4:00
May 10	Birch Run	Away	4:00
May 12	Capac	Home	4:00
May 17	Bridgeport	Home	4:00
May 22	Lakers	Away	4:00
May 24	Caro	Home	4:00

J.V. SOFTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 01	Carrollton	Home	4:00
May 04	Garber	Home	4:00
May 08	Cass City	Home	4:00
May 10	Birch Run	Away	4:00
May 13	NB Invite	Home	9:00
May 17	Bridgeport	Home	4:00
May 18	Armada	Home	4:00
May 22	Lakers	Away	4:00
May 24	Caro	Home	4:00

FRESHMAN BASEBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 01	Frankenmuth	Away	4:00
May 02	Almont	Home	4:00
May 09	Almont	Away	4:00
May 11	Richmond	Home	4:00
May 17	Clio	Home	4:00

VARSITY GIRLS' SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 03	Lakeville	Away	4:30
May 06	Brandon Tournament	Away	TBA
May 08	Birch Run	Home	4:30
May 09	Caro	Away	7:00
May 11	Goodrich	Away	4:30
May 15	Frankenmuth	Home	4:30
May 17	Millington	Home	4:30
May 22	Garber	Away	4:30
May 30	Districts @ Marysville	Away	TBA

JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS' SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 01	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30
May 08	Birch Run	Home	6:00
May 11	Goodrich	Away	6:00
May 12	Davison	Away	5:00
May 15	Frankenmuth	Home	6:00
May 22	Garber	Away	6:00

VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 03	at Birch Run w/Lakeville	Away	4:00
May 05	Reese Invite	Away	4:00
May 10	at Frankenmuth w/Millington	Away	4:00
May 12	Bad Axe Invite	Away	3:30
May 19/20	Track Regionals- TBA	Away	2:30
May 24	TVC Meet at Caro	Away	2:30
May 26	Blue Water Meet	Away	TBA
May 30	Thumb Meet of Champs	Away	TBA
Jun 03	State Finals at Zeeland HS	Away	TBA

GOLF

DATE	HOST SCHOOL	PLACE	TIME
May 03	Caro-Caro Golf Club	Away	3:00
May 08	Bad Axe w/Caro Verona Hills	Away	4:00
May 10	Millington-Willow Springs	Away	1:00
May 12	Vassar Invite-Vassar CC	Away	TBA
May 16	Capac Quad - Holly Meadows	Away	3:30
May 17	Birch Run - Green Acres	Away	1:00
May 31	Golf Reg @ Cranbrook Kingswood	Away	TBA

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK & FIELDa

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
May 01	Garber//Caro	Home	4:00
May 09	at Bridgeport w/Lakeville	Away	4:00
May 16	Millington/Birch Run	Home	4:00
May 23	TVC Meet - TBA	Away	2:30



*All schedules are subject to change.