



BRONCO BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2023

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 2

Hello NBHS Families,

It was a great first two weeks of school, and we are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with your student each day. Our students have been absolutely outstanding and continue to rise above any and all challenges. Our staff continues to work incredibly hard to meet the needs of all students. Hallways and classrooms have been filled with a positive energy, and it has been wonderful to get to know more about each student and their story.

As I begin my 22nd year as the principal of North Branch high school and my 37th year overall in education, I can honestly say that the excitement and energy around the start of a new school year never gets old. To our families who have students at NBHS for the first time, welcome. You are joining a school community that prides itself on a commitment to excellence. Our staff is exceptional, and we work hard to ensure that every student is able to reach their potential in academics, arts, and extra-curriculars.

Our commitment to excellence at NBHS starts with our grounding principles, and these principles guide our work each and every day. It is important that our students, staff, and families know and understand these principles as well.

First, our stories matter. Everyone has a story, and everyone's story matters. One of the greatest parts of being an educator is getting to know our students' stories. We are so fortunate to be a part of your student's story, and we are honored to have that responsibility.

All students can achieve at a high level, and we will do everything we can to continue to support all students in their journey. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is at the forefront of our planning and daily work. We will continue to be diligent in our efforts to ensure all students feel safe, welcome, and represented at NBHS.

Finally, our response matters. This is true in everything we do. We are all surrounded daily with choices and circumstances that require a response. The ability to slow down, listen, and respond productively in those moments is critical.

I am so fortunate to be a Bronco and to be part of a community that cares so much. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have. Thank you for all you do, and I am excited for the year ahead.

With great Bronco Pride,

Mark Hiltunen, M.Ed
Principal



Student News



North Branch High School Celebrates Students Awarded with Academic Honors from College Board National Recognition Programs

Awards recognize high-performing students and help them stand out to colleges

Students at North Branch High School earned academic honors from the [College Board National Recognition Programs](#). These programs celebrate students' hard work in high school and showcase their strong academic performance. The academic honors for rural area, Black, Indigenous, and/or Latino students are an opportunity for students to share their strong academic achievements with colleges and scholarship programs that are seeking to recruit diverse talent.



Seven (7) NBHS students received the academic honor:

Alexander Simpson; Bela Cline; Brendan Barkowska; Jason Link; Logan Pung; Samantha Wagner; and Whisper Shipp

“We’re thrilled to celebrate our students and recognize them for the great work they’ve been doing. We’re proud of their strong academic performance in the classroom and on College Board assessments like the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and AP® exams,” said NBHS principal,

Mark Hiltunen. “There’s so much that makes our students unique, and receiving this honor reinforces this as an asset for their future.”

The criteria for eligible students include:

- GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10 assessment scores that are within the top 10% of assessment takers in each state for each award program or earned a score of 3 or higher on 2 or more AP Exams in 9th and 10th grade.
- Attend school in a rural area or small town, or identify as African American/Black, Hispanic American/Latino, or Indigenous/Native.

Eligible students are invited to apply on [BigFuture](#) during their sophomore or junior year and are awarded at the start of the next school year in time to share their achievements in high school as they plan for the future. At the same time, colleges and organizations using College Board’s [Student Search Service™](#) can connect directly with awardees during the recruitment process. “It’s becoming increasingly hard for students to be ‘seen’ during the college recruitment process. We’re exceptionally proud of the National Recognition Programs for celebrating students who are at times overlooked but have shown their outstanding academic abilities,” said Tarlin Ray, senior vice president of BigFuture® at College Board. “This is a benefit not only for students but also for colleges and universities committed to recruiting diverse and talented students.”

NORTH BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL IS PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE OUR
UPCOMING
PRODUCTION OF
“NIGHT AT THE WAX
MUSEUM.”



School’s out for summer, but not for six unlucky students who don’t know much about history — they have to retake the class in summer school. First year teacher Heather Fairchild has arranged for them to help her two aunts set up a new wax museum as a class project. Though the students’ eyes glaze over with boredom, there’s a twinkle in the wax figures’ eyes when a mysterious incantation from the back of Cleopatra’s bracelet brings them to life! King Henry VIII finds himself smitten with Cleopatra, making his queen, Anne Boleyn, furious. If she can just not lose her head, John Adams is there to serve as her divorce attorney! When Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Blackbeard and a bevy of lady pirates show up, everybody’s out for one thing — treasure! Supposedly, there’s a mighty valuable one hidden in the museum! It’s a wild goose chase to find it, with a greedy museum landlord and her bumbling son joining in the mad search. And why is Lizzie Borden lurking in the shadows, since the aunts say they never had a wax figure of her?! Join the hilarious fun as treasure-hungry outlaws, pirates and royalty mount the greatest siege since Vicksburg!

Performances for “Night At The Wax Museum” will be performed on **October 26th, 27th and 28th** in the North Branch High School auditorium. Doors open at 7:00pm and the show starts at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for seniors, veterans, and children under 12. There

are no advanced ticket sales, you buy your seats at the door. Please support the North Branch Drama department by enjoying our show.

Academic News

English Department

The English Department is very happy to have students back in the classroom collaborating! We continue our work creating opportunities for student voice and choice.



Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

Each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year is required to hold an educational program about the U.S. Constitution for its students. Like we have in the past, our Social Studies department has planned a series of activities/assignments to help our students learn more about the US Constitution. On Friday, September 15th, ask your son or daughter what they learned about the US constitution when they come home that night.



School Picture Retake Day Any student who was absent during Orientation Days or who ordered pictures and is not happy with their order can have their picture retaken on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. All students will be required to get a student picture as this will be used for student ID's (used to purchase items in the cafeteria and check out books stored in the media center, etc). Families are not required to purchase school pictures. The process will start at the beginning of 1st hour and will be completed during 4th hour. Students will be called down by grade level and first letter of their last name.

NORTH BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2024
SENIOR PICTURE REQUIREMENTS



1. Portrait, vertical. *See examples above 3 ½" height, 2 ½" height. (Yes, this is different than it has been the last 4 years.)*
 - a. **File: JPEG preferred (300 dpi or greater)**
2. **2 different photos** The other one will be used for other various reasons like, class night, decision day, etc.
3. Submit BOTH pictures to yearbook@nbbrncos.net Be sure to indicate which one is to be used for yearbook purposes.
 - a. **Note:** When sending an email, please make sure you receive a confirmation email within 3-4 days indicating that the yearbook staff received your picture and that it is acceptable.
 - b. Photo can also be brought to Mr. Sorensen on USB, CD, or DVD
 - c. Senior quote will be handled through an English 12 class; however, begin thinking of a **meaningful** one now.
4. Outdoor photos are acceptable with objects. Caution! Be sure you are the focus of the picture---no animals or hand gestures.
5. Questions may be referred to Mr Sorensen, (810) 688-3001. or at ssorensen@nbbrncos.net.
6. You may order a yearbook online with credit or debit card at: www.yearbookorderce@nnter.com (Use NBHS # 12285)

NEW SENIOR TRADITION: For most people, senior year is all about making memories and having the time of their life. Everyone looks forward to senior year and the final days they will spend with their childhood friends. Many people celebrate these last moments with traditions like football games and school sponsored events. The NBHS Class of 2024 wanted to add a new tradition to celebrate the beginning of their senior year. The event, known as Senior Sunrise, drew approximately 80 NBHS seniors to Krepp's field to celebrate their last "first day" together. Students enjoyed donuts/muffins and juice while sharing memories from the past and talked about the anticipated new year. At sunrise (6:46am), they sent off their balloons with wishes for the year.





2023 North Branch Homecoming

October 6th

"BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE"



FUNDRAISER

\$5 PER RAFFLE TICKET

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE:

- 2 PREMIUM SEATS ON THE FIELD UNDER A TENT
- PREMIUM PARKING SPOT IN THE PARKING LOT
- 2 FREE ADMISSION PASSES TO THE GAME
- \$20 WORTH OF FREE CONCESSIONS
- NORTH BRANCH BRONCO TUMBLER
- NORTH BRANCH BRONCO BLANKET

WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED

ON OCTOBER 5TH





Class of 2024... Are you interested in going to New York City? Join the class of 2024 on a guided tour of NYC, tour Radio City Music Hall, attend Blue Man Group and Broadway plan, have a chance to be on the Today show, and go up in the Empire State Building, and much more. The dates of the trip are March 13-17 and the trip will cost approximately \$1300. The last day to sign up is Sept 6th. Contact Mrs. Franklin with any questions (sfranklin@nbbroncos.net or ext 2134).

Payment Reminder: The next payment (\$200) for the senior trip is due September 14th. Please bring your check (made out to NBAS) or cash to Mrs. Franklin.

Looking for ways to earn money to help pay for the senior trip? Sign up to work concessions at the home varsity football games... <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084CA9AD2EA7F85-concessions#/>





NHS NEWS: The North Branch chapter of the National Honor Society will be holding a Blood drive on Wednesday, Sept 6th in the Media Center. Students can sign up to donate during lunches in the cafeteria. If you are 16, you will need a Parent consent form signed. Verbal permission will not be acceptable. NHS students must sign up in the Counseling Office to help run this important event.

Current NHS members must work one of the Golden Broncos Alumni Days (Sept 9th or 10th). Any 10th, 11th, 12th grader interested in applying for NHS in October has to work at the Alumni Dinner (Sept 10th). See the counseling office for details and signup.



Mrs. Stradinger
Last Names A-K

Mrs. Parzynski
Last Names L-Z

Mrs. Hipes
Secretary

2023 FAFSA Changes: What's New and What Do You Need to Know



Every year, countless students and families embark on the journey of higher education, aspiring to achieve their academic and career goals. One significant step in this pursuit is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which enables students to access financial support for their college education. As we approach the opening of the 2023 FAFSA application window on October 1, it is essential for students and their families to be well-informed about the changes that have been introduced. And, good news, these changes make it significantly easier! These changes reflect a commitment to simplifying the application process, expanding eligibility, and increasing access to higher education opportunities.

Streamlined Process for a Smoother Experience:

In response to feedback from students and families, the 2023 FAFSA application has undergone significant simplifications due to the [FAFSA Simplification Act](#). The application has been redesigned to be more user-friendly and intuitive, making it easier for applicants to provide accurate information. This streamlining process is aimed at reducing confusion and errors, ensuring that financial aid decisions are based on the most accurate and up-to-date information.

As NBHS principal, I want to make sure our students and their families are informed about these improvements and encourage you to take advantage of the simpler application process. The new FAFSA form from the Department of Education will have 46 questions, less than half of the previous 108 questions. In addition to this change, there are several other adjustments, including:

- The Expected Family Contribution will now be known as the Student Aid Index.
- Families with multiple children in college will no longer receive a discounted Student Aid Index.
- Small business owners and family farms will no longer be able to exclude certain assets from the eligibility calculation.
- In the case of divorced parents, the parent who has spent the most money on the child will complete the FAFSA.
- Contributions made by grandparents and others from qualified college savings plans will no longer be taxed as the child's untaxed income.
- The financial aid formula will be more generous to lower-income students.”

Prior-Prior Year (PPY) Income Data:

One key change that has been in place for a few years but remains relevant is the use of Prior-Prior Year (PPY) income data. This means that instead of waiting for current year tax information, applicants can use data from two years prior, which is typically already available. This alteration aims to expedite the application process, allowing students to complete their FAFSA earlier and access financial aid information sooner. Principals should advise their students to gather the necessary financial information from the PPY to ensure a smooth application experience.

Expanded Eligibility for Pell Grants:

The 2023 FAFSA application also introduces changes to the eligibility criteria for Pell Grants, a vital source of financial aid for many low-income students. These changes have expanded the income brackets for Pell Grant eligibility, allowing more students to qualify for this form of assistance. Our counseling department plays a crucial role in identifying students who may now meet the eligibility criteria and will actively encourage them to apply for these grants.

Access to Enhanced Resources:

As the landscape of education evolves, so too does the importance of digital resources. The 2023 FAFSA application emphasizes the availability of online tools, such as mobile-friendly applications and chat support, to assist applicants throughout the process. Again, our counseling department will ensure that students and families are aware of these resources and can access them easily. We plan to host an information workshop that will familiarize our families with the digital tools to alleviate any potential apprehensions.


Deadline Awareness and Community Engagement:

With the FAFSA application window opening in October, it is vital for you to be aware of the importance of submitting the application promptly. Early submission increases the chances of receiving optimal financial aid packages.

The changes to the 2023 FAFSA application underscore a commitment to making higher education more accessible and affordable. By simplifying the process, expanding eligibility, and


providing enhanced resources, the 2023 FAFSA application aims to empower more students to embark on their educational journeys with confidence and financial support.

College Visit!



Alma College

Tuesday September 26th, 8:20am
(2nd hour)
Media Center



Juniors and Seniors are allowed to attend
Follow link to google form to sign up!
If you are not on the list you will not be allowed to leave class!

Go to your class first for attendance before going to media center

College Visit!



Kuyper College

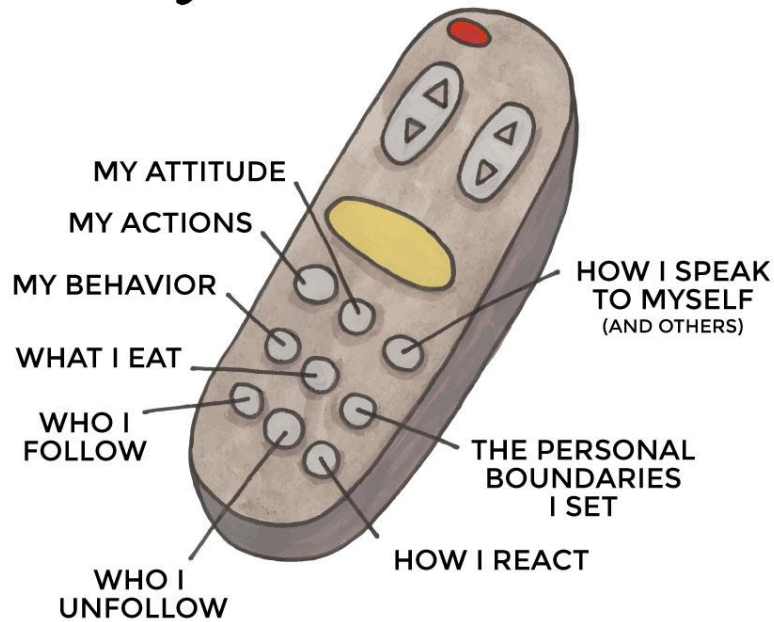
Tuesday September 12th, 8:20am
(2nd hour)
Media Center



Juniors and Seniors are allowed to attend
Follow link to google form to sign up!
If you are not on the list you will not be allowed to leave class!

Go to your class first for attendance before going to media center

Things I can control

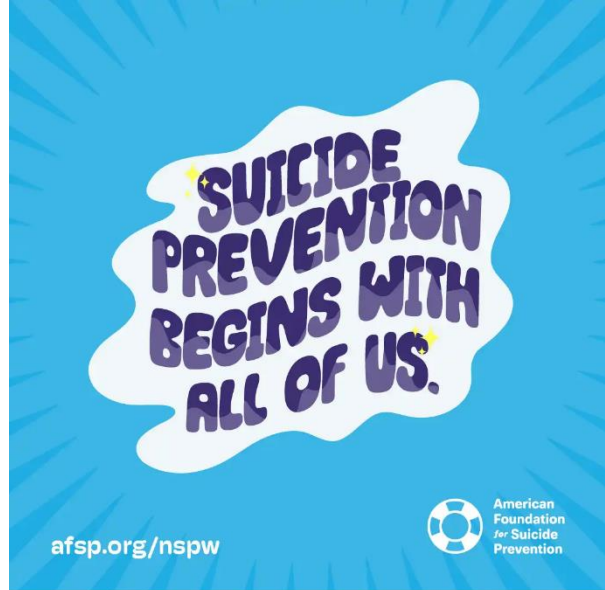


Mayi Carles

September is National Suicide Prevention Month

Visit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website at <https://nspw.afsp.org/#real-stories> to read real people's stories of survival and hope.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please seek help right away. Calling or texting the number "988" will connect you to compassionate care and mental health support. You may also chat via 988lifeline.org. Counseling office staff can also help direct students & families in need of ongoing support to outside counseling resources in the community.



Welcome New Students!

Each year the counseling department, along with Culture Club, hosts a luncheon to welcome newly enrolled students to North Branch High School. This is a great opportunity for new students to meet new people and socialize with other students and staff members. Teachers are encouraged to stop by as well to say hello! New students will be receiving a luncheon invitation with further details in the upcoming weeks. We look forward to seeing all of our new Broncos there!

DEMOGRAPHIC



DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

It is important to notify the high school office at 810-688-3001 of any demographic information changes such as your mailing address, home, work, and cell phone numbers, email, emergency contacts, and other relevant information as soon as possible. Ensuring that your information is accurate will enable us at North Branch High School to communicate with you regularly.



The North Branch Area School District promotes students, staff, and visitor safety in all District facilities, grounds, and buses. In an attempt to ensure a safe and effective learning environment, the Board promotes the use of surveillance cameras when necessary in all District facilities, grounds, and buses. Surveillance cameras will be used in public areas and other non-public areas, except areas such as rest rooms and locker rooms where there is reasonable expectation of privacy. Audio recordings will not be made in conjunction with the use of cameras. Such prohibition does not preclude the use of audio recordings by law enforcement or District personnel when used in accordance with their official duties and as authorized by law.

Parking Permits



Students, if you are driving to school, you must have a parking permit. They are available in the main office for \$5. Unregistered vehicles may be ticketed and/or towed by YAKES TOWING at the owner's expense. Last year's parking permits are not valid. A new one must be purchased every school year.

The student parking lot is closed during the day. Students need permission to be in the parking lot. Those who are granted permission must immediately return to the high school office. Also, North Branch High School is a **closed campus**. Students are expected to be on school property and in their assigned area from the time they arrive in the morning until they are dismissed.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS



Students appearance guidelines are clearly articulated in the student handbook. Dress or appearance cannot be disruptive to the educational program or contain vulgarity, obscenity, or promote excessive violence or illegal activities, such as alcohol, tobacco products, drugs/drug use. Dress code violations will be referred to the Main Office. ***We ask that parents help us by being attentive to these regulations.***



Communication: These days, clean lines of communication are of critical importance. Following are suggestions to help you stay informed of the happenings at North Branch and your student:

- Up-To-Date Information. Are your phone numbers and email addresses up-to-date? Are you receiving Skyward calls and emails? You can go to your Skyward Family Access account and check under Student Information or, as always, you can call the school to double check your contact information. Our mainline is (810) 688-3001
- North Branch High School Webpage. Check www.nbbroncos.net regularly to up-to-date information. We pride ourselves at North Branch with having a current webpage. Take advantage!
- Social Media. Are you a user of Social Media platforms? So are we! Take advantage by following our facebook page: ⇒ Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthBranchHS/ or search for @NorthBranchHS.



REGISTER TODAY!

Free Safe Teen Driving Clinics

Sept. 23-24, 2023

Michigan State Police Academy
7150 Harris Dr., Dimondale, MI

**Morning and afternoon sessions
(choose only one session)**



Scan QR code or visit drivingskillsforlife.com
and click on
"Hands-On Training"



"This was an incredibly memorable event **and life-changing experience!** My daughter started off with an 'attitude' about going and getting up so early, yet she currently won't stop talking about how cool it was! We both learned a lot!"

~Kim Pope, parent participant

Training Teens, Saving Lives

Spend a half day with your teen at the free Ford Driving Skills for Life clinic for newly licensed or permitted drivers.



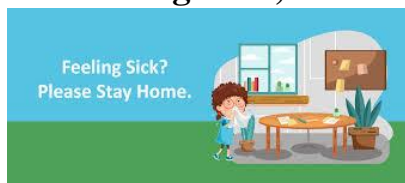
Now in its 20th year, Ford Driving Skills for Life provides skills beyond those taught in traditional drivers education courses and is an important step in keeping everyone on the roads safer. Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford, and the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) are hosting the event, which pairs teen drivers with professional instructors, focusing on mobility issues and important driving skills, including:

- Hazard Recognition
- Vehicle Handling
- Speed and Space Management
- Reaction Time
- Avoiding the Dangers of Distracted and Impaired Driving
- Safe Smart Mobility

The free training program is conducted on a closed course. Vehicles used during the training will be provided.

Questions? Email FordDSFL@Ford.com

Not Feeling Well, Please Stay Home



This year it is critically important that students who do not feel well stay home. Please do not send a symptomatic student to school and risk their possible exposure to other students and staff. Students should return when they are symptom free.

Early Release



To be released from school for any reason, a student must bring a parent's or guardian's note on the day he/she needs to be excused. This excuse should be given to the high school office secretary before first period. A student may not leave the school without prior permission from the high school office and must sign

out at the main office. Students will only be released to their parent, guardian, or some other adult designated by the parent or guardian in Skyward. If students drive, they will be released only with the parent's or guardian's permission. The student still must sign out from the main office. Thank you for your cooperation in assisting us to provide the best education possible for your child, starting with daily attendance.

SEPTEMBER NBHS EVENTS

Friday, September 1, 2023

No School

Monday, September 4, 2023

Happy Labor Day

No School

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Cross Country @ Wildcat Relays [Mayville HS] - Time TBA

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

NHS Blood Drive

Thursday, September 7, 2023

F/JV/V Volleyball @ Armada - 5 /6:30 PM - bus leaves at 3:15 PM

JV Football vs Yale 6 PM

Girls Golf (Varsity Only) @ Swan Valley - 9 AM

Friday, September 8, 2023

Varsity Football @ Yale - 7 PM

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Varsity Volleyball's North Branch Tournament - 8:30 AM

Cross Country @ Bad Axe Hatchet invite [Huron County Fair Grounds] - 8 AM

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Golden Broncos Reunion

Monday, September 11, 2023

Girls Golf Home (varsity only) @ Castle Creek - 3:30 PM

Varsity Boys Soccer vs Cros-lex - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

F/JV/V Volleyball vs Almont 5 & 6:30 PM

Cross Country @ Almont - 4 PM - bus leaves at 2 PM

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Varsity Boys Soccer vs Armada - 4:30 PM

Thursday, September 14, 2023

JV Volleyball- Quad @ Mount Morris - Time TBA

Friday, September 15, 2023

Constitution Day Activities

Varsity Football vs Almont - 7:30 PM

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Varsity Volleyball @ Mercy Powers Series - Time TBA

Cross Country @ Holly Festival of Races - Springfield Oaks County Park - 7:20 AM

Monday, September 18, 2023

Girls Golf @ Armada @ Timberwood Course - 3:30 PM

Varsity Boys Soccer @ Almont - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

F/JV/V Volleyball @ Yale - 5 & 6:30 PM

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

NHS Induction Ceremony [HS Auditorium 7:00 pm]

Thursday, September 21, 2023

JV Football vs Algonac - 6 PM

Friday, September 22, 2023

Varsity football @ Algonac - 7 PM

Varsity Boys Soccer @ Brandon - 5 PM

Saturday, September 23, 2023

JV Volleyball's North Branch Tournament - Time TBA

Cross Country at the Linden Classic - 10:30 AM

Monday, September 25, 2023

Girls Golf vs Imlay City @ Castle Creek Course - 3:30 PM

Varsity Boys Soccer @ Richmond - 4:30 PM

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

PICTURE RETAKE DAY

COLLEGE VISIT: Alma College [2nd Hour Media Center]

F/JV/V Volleyball vs Algonac - 5 & 6:30 PM

Cross Country at Cros-Lex - 4 PM - bus leaves at 1:55 PM

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Varsity Boys Soccer @ Yale - 4:30 PM

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Girls golf @ Holly Meadows for the BWAC Champ - 9 AM

JV Football vs Richmond - 6 PM

Friday, September 29, 2023

Varsity Football @ Richmond - 7 PM - bus leaves at 5:05 PM

Varsity Boys Soccer @ Genesee Christian - 4:30 PM

Varsity Volleyball @ The Asics Challenge in Chicago

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Varsity Volleyball @ The Asics Challenge in Chicago

Cross Country @ Sault Elks Invite [Sault Saint Marie, MI] - Time TBA