

## North Branch Area Schools “Person of the Week”



This week, we’re thrilled to highlight our very first NBAS “Person of the Week”. Meet RFMS secretary, Deanna Brusie. Deanna’s tireless dedication, unwavering passion, and exemplary work set a standard of excellence and create an incredible environment that uplifts our students and enriches our entire school community. Her hard work doesn’t go unnoticed—we are grateful for everything she does to make our schools and community a better place each day.

### **How long have you worked for NBAS?**

I have been busy working at NBAS for the past 29 1/2 years.

### **In a few sentences, briefly describe your role(s) at NBAS.**

I worked for the construction manager who was building the North Branch High School and did the budgeting for the new building. I was in finance meetings with Mr. Gleason and Cheryl Bruff and working with them helped me get a job here. It was a perfect time since Dave and I had three elementary age children and I wanted to work close to home. I have been at Ruth Fox Middle School ever since. It was the best decision I ever made.

### **Did you attend NBAS as a student? If so, which school(s)? If not, where are you from?**

I was in the first 8th grade class that came to the new Ruth Fox Middle School in January of 1971. Someone told me we walked up in the winter and carried our own chairs. I must of blocked that memory out! I was fortunate enough to be part of the first girls high school basketball and volleyball teams and graduated in 1975.

### **What has been your favorite part of working here? What aspect of your job do you find most rewarding?**

Of course, working with kids has been a wonderful part of this job, but the staff that I have met will remain my life-long friends.

### **What is your favorite NBAS memory?**

After working years on the Space Camp fundraisers, it was exciting to attend NASA Space Camp and watch our Ruth Fox kids interact with others from all over the country. Sign me up again!!

### **What do you enjoy most about the North Branch community?**

Everything! My mom believed that participating in and supporting others would be what it takes to keep our small-town thriving. She didn’t need a committee. She had daughters! We worked on the NB history books, volunteered for museum tours, served on many 4th of July committees and I still volunteer at the North Branch Thrift Shop. My love for North Branch comes from being an active part of our beautiful town. There is still a lot to do. Come and join me!

## Here is what her Co-workers have said about her...

- Deanna is the heart and soul of our building. She makes sure that the staff and students are all taken care of. She gives so many hours of her time to extra endeavors like OFFC and our 5/6 activity nights. These things would be impossible to accomplish without her donated time, recruitment of other people in the community, and pure will to make it happen.
- Deanna is the heart and soul of Ruth Fox Middle School. She makes it her personal responsibility to ensure that every teacher and staff member has everything that they need on a daily basis. Deanna goes above and beyond to make Ruth Fox not only an efficient building, but to make sure that the people who work here feel like they belong here. It is hard to count the number of lunches, dinners, and snacks that Deanna has orchestrated in order to show appreciation to the RF staff. Deanna has gone above and beyond to help honor the milestones in teachers' lives. I know, personally, she helped to plan a small wedding "shower" before I got married, and then helped with a baby shower before my daughter was born. These are just two examples on a list of innumerable instances of her making people feel special.  
In the office, she has no equal. Not only does she keep the building running smoothly, but she lends her time and work ethic to fundraisers, building initiatives, extra-curriculars, and assemblies. If a staff member needs something, Deanna has it, and if, for some crazy reason, she doesn't have it, she will get it for you!
- Deanna cares about kids. Often you will see her in the office past 4, waiting for a student to get picked up. One example (again, of many) that I remember clearly, is Deanna jumping in her car one winter afternoon and driving around town for nearly an hour searching for a student whose parent was frantically wondering where they were. This is, in effect, a true display of Deanna's willingness to help anyone at any time. The ways that she is helpful, giving, and kind are too numerous to count, and I could honestly never do justice, with the written word, to how much she truly gives of herself, in order to make the Ruth Fox Middle School a great place to work and go to school.
- Deanna is amazing. She does so much for this school and puts so much time and effort in. We just got the news she will be retiring in January. Last day potentially being Jan 10th. This will be a HUGE loss to our school. She is involved with so many things at our school such as helping with activity nights, OFFC, Veterans Day, lunch for PD days/conferences, and SO MUCH more. She is also involved in our community by running Angels under the Tree and more. On top of her dedication to our school and community, she is also a highlight of my day. She is hilarious and makes me laugh daily. From my first day as an intern, she has made me feel welcome and has supported me in so many ways. I am so sad to see her go but am so happy for her at the same time. She deserves this nomination and so much more.
- Deanna is the definition of "All In". She has been a committed member to this school district and community for many many years. The amount of time, energy and passion she puts into everything she does is unmeasurable. She is the keeper of all things and is like a real life Mary Poppins. If there is something you need she either has it, can make it or knows a person that can do it! She is the most generous, kind hearted person and she truly makes Ruth Fox the best place to work!

- Deanna Brusie has been a vital member of our staff for many years. She tries very hard to make the Ruth Fox teaching staff feel supported, appreciated, and taken care of. We have benefitted from her willingness to make us food during parent teacher conferences, on professional development days, and holidays. She has gone above and beyond the role of secretary, putting in countless hours for activity nights, Old Fashioned Family Christmas, and any other special events going on at the middle school. She has been the smile that greets parents when they walk in the office door. It will be difficult to keep doing all that we do without her. She's irreplaceable. I have been blessed to know and work with her for all these years.

We are so thankful Deanna has been such an integral part of our Bronco Family for so long. Good Luck in retirement Deanna!