

NBAS Person of the Week: January 23, 2025

Each week, North Branch Area Schools is proud to highlight a member of our incredible team to showcase their unique contributions and share a bit about their journey. This week, we're shining the spotlight on Melinda Goss, a dedicated paraprofessional at North Branch High School who works directly with special needs students. For the past 10 years, Melinda has been helping students achieve their goals and gain independence. She assists students with their general classes, breaks, individual learning plans, and everything in between. In addition to her dedication within the school, Melinda volunteers her time in the community, providing her support at youth football, middle school football, and high school football events. She contributes by announcing games, operating the scoreboard for both middle and high school football, and assisting with rec baseball and varsity softball.



How long have you worked for NBAS?

I have worked for NBAS since October 2015, so going on my 10th year.

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

I was hired in 2015 as a Middle School Special Education Para. Shortly after that I moved to the Elementary School and was there until December 2020. I have been at the High School ever since.

I am currently one of the Class of 2027 Class Sponsors. I have coached 1 season of Middle School girls' basketball and assisted 3 seasons of High School softball. You might find me at a sporting event announcing the game, running clock, filming or doing the books. I truly love being involved in the athletic program and watching all student athletes excel.

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

Yes! I am a 2002 North Branch graduate. I attended the old Elementary (now the Admin building), Ruth Fox, Middle School and High School.

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

My favorite part of working here has been the students. I love being able to see them thrive and learn every day. It truly is rewarding to know that I get to interact with them and hopefully make a positive impact on their lives. Are there challenging times? Absolutely, but I know that it will pass and a new day will come.

What is your favorite NBAS memory?

My favorite NBAS memory is the Peer-to-Peer parties. It is such a special time to see the deep connections made between the Special Ed students and their peers. Seeing my students smile is the most rewarding part of my job.

What do you enjoy most about the North Branch community?

What I enjoy most about the North Branch community is that we are one big family. People truly care about each other and it shows. From the fundraisers to support families battling cancer, youth sports seasons, and school events; this community steps up no matter what. When my husband retired from the Marine Corps, people would ask us where we were going to go...I told them home and there is no place I would rather be! Once a Bronco, Always a Bronco!

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

- Melinda goes above and beyond for our students. She is a go getter, takes initiative, shows up every day with a positive attitude, and is a team player. Melinda has transitioned through new teachers, new support staff, and new students and has never once complained. She is a constant in students' lives and can be counted on. Melinda also does numerous other jobs in the district including helping out with sports programs, helping Al Margrif with clock and scores at sporting events, signing up to be a class sponsor, and more. Melinda is top notch and I couldn't ask for a better coworker and friend.
- With over 10 years of service as a paraprofessional in our district, she consistently goes above and beyond in supporting both students and colleagues. Mrs. Goss is an invaluable member of our team, always willing to lend a helping hand and create a positive impact in the classroom. In addition to her dedication within the school, Mrs. Goss volunteers her time in the community, providing her support at youth football, middle school football, and high school football events. She contributes by announcing games, operating the scoreboard for both middle and high school football, and assisting with rec baseball and varsity softball. Her contributions to these extracurricular activities are immeasurable and provide a sense of community that is vital to our district's success. The district and community would not be the same without Mrs. Goss. Her unwavering dedication, hard work, and willingness to volunteer in various capacities make her more than deserving of this recognition. She is truly an asset to us all.
- Melinda is a valued member of our high school special education team. She consistently puts students first and ensures they receive the academic and social support they need. Her dedication and compassion for students are evident every day, and this does not go unnoticed. Melinda's unwavering commitment and dedication makes her truly irreplaceable. Thank you, Melinda, for being an all-around great person and an invaluable member of our department and staff. We appreciate your friendship, commitment, and hard work!
- Melinda is an incredible selfless individual who consistently goes above and beyond for her students. Despite working with some of the most challenging students she remains positive, compassionate presence. Her dedication not only to students, but to the sports programs volunteering her time proves her truly deserving of the Person of the Week. I'm truly thankful to work alongside her.
- Melinda Goss is an amazing paraprofessional. She provides emotional, academic, and behavioral support to a wide variety of students seamlessly. She knows exactly when and how to encourage students to persevere through challenges as well as when a student truly needs a break to regroup. Melinda is the primary paraprofessional assigned to the most challenging students on my caseload and has supported these students for years. My transition into

teaching at North Branch High School was smooth and the relationships I have been able to build with my students are strong because Melinda provided expert guidance through her natural ability and professionalism.

Thank you, Melinda, for your incredible dedication and support. Your patience and positive attitude make a huge difference in our classrooms and on the playing fields. We truly appreciate all you do for our students. Thank you for being such a valuable part of our team.