

North Branch Area Schools “Person of the Week”

Welcome to our NBAS Person of the Week! Each week, we 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 Krislene Kemp, a Health and PE teacher at North Branch High School.

A successful health and physical education teacher is one who can inspire students to develop a lifelong love of physical activity and healthy living. By combining her passion, education, and skills, Krislene makes a positive impact on her students’ lives.

Krislene is very involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities including assisting with the NBHS Student Council and Garden Club, a member of the Building Leadership Team and coaching Middle School Basketball. She also spends a lot of extra time planning and organizing activities such as the Spring PTC events at the High School. It's clear she cares deeply about her students and colleagues.



How long have you worked for NBAS?

Like anything good worth waiting for, it took me 7 years of working in other districts to finally pave a path here, but it’s awesome to have been here in North Branch now for my 4th school year.

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

I teach at the high school for our students in Health and the Physical Education electives, Seasonal Activities as well as my absolute favorite class - Lifetime Fitness for Females. Additionally, I get to work within a variety of different roles by coaching middle school basketball, working in the high school garden club, serving on the building leadership team, and helping assist the student council.

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

Though I’m not personally a Bronco alumnus, I did marry into a Bronco family! I graduated from Brown City High School in ‘08, then attended Central Michigan University. After marrying my husband, Eric Kemp (an ‘03 alumni), the goal was to get back to the district - where we wanted to raise our kiddos! My bonus son, Mason Kemp, used to be a North Branch student through elementary. Then surprisingly enough, my other bonus son, Jayden Henly, wanted to transfer into the district for his senior year of ‘24 - which was a fun experience having him in class and seeing him walk for graduation in North Branch colors.

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 is working with SO many wonderful people!! Honestly, when Mark Hiltunen shared with me about being Person of the Week, I was so honored, but asked if we could push mine off to another time because there's just that many awesome people around here that all deserved to be recognized! In student council, I get to work with Shelby Franklin, who's so detail oriented it's the only reason that our school events go off without a hitch!! Then there's our culture club that does so much to support our staff and that club is supported by many, including Katie Wagner who works so hard behind the scenes and never looks for recognition. I have been able to get involved in the garden club and courtyard improvements due to the dreams and hard work of Carrie Wenta and working side by side with Amy Kirk in this club as well. I am able to serve on the Building Leadership Team amongst so many other dedicated teachers. My special education students are all supported with another amazing group of teachers and paraprofessionals. All of this supported by an amazing administration duo, with Doug Lindsay and Brooke Martin. I'm very blessed to have such an amazing group of colleagues throughout the whole district!

The part of my job I find most rewarding is getting the opportunity to help young people be more equipped to live a healthy lifestyle. I absolutely cherish my Female Fitness class! This class is a learning opportunity for students with all sorts of physical fitness knowledge and experience and teaches them how to make fitness fun and work for them as an individual. I just love this class as I get to see so many young women achieve fitness goals that they didn't ever expect to be able to achieve!

What is your favorite NBAS memory?

My favorite NBAS memory came before I even started working here. Prior to being hired at North Branch, maybe back in 2016/2017 for 2 years straight I would go visit Cindy Howe at the middle school to introduce myself and drop off a resume in hopes that a middle school PE position would be opening up. Cindy was great and so welcoming. She'd invite me back to her office to chat and learn about myself as a teacher. The second year, she even remembered me from the year before, pulling down my resume from the top of her desk. I left that year's chat with her telling me, "I know you're going to be a Bronco one day, I just know it!! I just don't have a position yet, but one day!" fast forward to 4 years later and the first staff meeting I attended here at the high school, up walks Cindy Howe, "I knew it!! I knew you were going to be a Bronco!" like I mentioned earlier - all good things take time!

What do you enjoy most about the North Branch community?

There's a lot of things I find wonderful about North Branch! I feel like the people of North Branch are genuine, hardworking individuals who want to instill important values in their children. I love the feeling that we all have each other's back. If one family is going through something difficult others in the community work to bring that family through the tough times. With working in the school system, I get to know so many of the teachers and I am confident that the teachers my children will have will truly care for them, treating them with love and respect.

What's one thing people don't know about you that they would be surprised to find out?

I've traveled a lot. I've been able to travel to or through 49 states in my life so far. Just need to make it out to Hawaii eventually. I've also visited 4 different continents. It would be great to eventually finish those off by traveling to Asia, Antarctica and Australia someday, but I'll just have to wait and see what's in store for my future.

What is a unique hobby or interest you have outside of work?

I thoroughly enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities including hunting, camping/backpacking, kayaking, fishing, and snowmobiling. I love learning about how to hunt, grow and raise as much of our own food as possible.

What's one thing on your bucket list?

Before I leave this earth, I'd love to try and make as big of an impact on as many people as I can - making sure they know there is someone in their corner cheering them on and making sure they know they matter!

What piece of advice would you give to your younger self or others?

Follow your passions - even if it doesn't make sense to others!

Here is what some of her co-workers had to say...

- As a veteran teacher moving into a new subject area, Krislene has been an incredible resource and mentor. No matter the situation, Krislene always manages to show flexibility and teamwork while maintaining a smile and positive attitude. I am extremely grateful to work alongside Krislene to impact our NB Broncos.
- Krislene is a great educator and role model for her students. She is always striving to make her classes relevant to the real world. I love that she has so many speakers coming into her classroom to help make connections. She is also very dedicated to making our school community more inviting to students and parents. She has been an integral part in getting our courtyard and school garden up and running and also was the "mastermind" behind creating an atmosphere that was more inviting to parents attending conferences. Her "get it done" attitude has been a wonderful addition to our high school and I find her positivity very refreshing.
- Krislene is a go getter. She cares about her students and desires for them to succeed. She is creative in her approach to physical education to not only give students the experience they need, but to also help them understand why it is important to establish lifelong positive habits to good health. Recently we began to discuss how to increase parent involvement at the high school. Krislene jumped right in to take the lead in making our upcoming PTC not just conferences, but an event. She has coordinated food and activities to draw families into the evening. She has made promotional materials to get the message out. Her passion and desire for students to succeed are exemplified by

her efforts to connect with families and form a strong partnership. In short, she is a Rock Star.

Thank you Krislene, for being such a vital part of our school community. Please join us in celebrating her well-deserved recognition!