

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 Kerry Rose, an Instructional Coach supporting teachers at North Branch High School.

The role of an instructional coach is to support teachers in their pursuit of student learning. We all know teachers make instructional decisions ALL day, EVERY day. Kerry is there to support the analysis of these decisions and their impact on student learning.

Kerry has a relentless belief that everyone can learn and grow. She never gives up on finding ways to positively impact student learning. The teachers at NBHS have a true cheerleader, confidant, and partner in Kerry. We all could use an advocate like Kerry, who understands and will take risks with us.

Kerry’s Story:



I am truly humbled and honored to be selected as the NBAS Person of the Week. My journey in North Branch began at the age of 2 when my family bought a house here, so I proudly consider myself born and raised in this wonderful community.

The birth of my younger brother, Christopher, when I was 10 years old, sparked my passion for education. Being a part of his growth and development ignited my desire to become a teacher, and I knew then that I wanted to make a difference in the lives of students. All of my siblings attended North Branch Schools: my sister Kelly graduated in 1989, my brother Mike in 1990, and my brother Christopher in 2003. I graduated as Valedictorian in 1992 and went on to pursue my Degree in Elementary Education with a triple minor in Early Childhood

Education, Language Arts, and Social Studies at the University of Michigan - Flint, followed by a Master’s Degree in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College, along with additional graduate coursework including Reading Recovery Teacher Training.

I began my teaching career in Imlay City as an MSRP Preschool teacher, before spending two years in the Oxford School District as a Media Specialist for K-6th grade students, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, and K-2 Multiage teacher. The moment I returned to North Branch in 1998 as an MSRP Preschool Teacher alongside Fran VanHaaften, I truly felt at home.

Throughout my time in North Branch, I have had the privilege of teaching Preschool, 2nd grade, Computers (BK-5th grade), Health, Art, and Gym (BK-4th grade), 5th/6th grade Compass looping, 7th and 8th grade English, Reading Recovery, and serving as a Literacy Coach. I have

also worked as Class Sponsor for the 7th and 8th grade classes and PBIS Chairman, which allowed me the opportunity to travel with students to Detroit, Cedar Point, and Washington D.C. for many years. This year marks my 29th year of teaching, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to work full-time at the high school, allowing me to say that I have taught every grade from Preschool through 8th grade and have worked with students in every grade from Preschool through 12th grade.

In my role as a Literacy Coach, I have had the unique opportunity to work in all three buildings alongside the dedicated staff of NBAS. I have also had the privilege of collaborating with an incredible group of Instructional Coaches, led by our exceptional Curriculum Director, as well as devoted teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators. I can genuinely say that our educators are the friendliest, most welcoming, and caring individuals, and I feel fortunate to be part of the NB family. As someone who has grown up in this community, I take great pride in being able to give back to the district that has helped to shape me into the person I am today.

I have been happily married to my wonderful husband, Todd, for nearly 29 years. He is a proud 1995 NB graduate, and together we have three boys—Gabe (2016), Grant (2019), and Garet (2021)—who all graduated from North Branch as well. I am also blessed with a beautiful daughter-in-law from Mexico, Lizzeth, who is teaching me Spanish, a beautiful soon-to-be daughter-in-law, Cora, who also graduated from NB in 2019, and a precious grandbaby named Noah, who holds a special place in my heart and has me wrapped around his little finger!

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a huge fan of the Wizard of Oz/Wicked, Stephen King, along with all the BLING, and I also enjoy singing. I recorded a music video in Nashville in my younger years, and I still love performing at various community events, especially singing the National Anthem at the NB Track Meets each year.

My advice for new teachers is to continue to grow in your profession and challenge yourself with any opportunity that comes your way. Always remember why you became an educator—doing what is best for the kids is what truly matters.

Thank you once again for this incredible honor. I look forward to continuing my Coaching work before transitioning into retirement soon, where I'll cherish the time spent with my grandbaby and the rest of my family. We are all die-hard Broncos, and we will always bleed blue!

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

- Kerry has been an exceptional resource at the high school. She is always willing to jump in and assist a colleague or students ensuring their success. It is her kindness and caring that shine through time and time again
- Personally and professionally, Kerry is a gifted, compassionate and unique individual. She is extremely creative, crafty, sings like an angel, enjoys spooky books, could answer any trivia question about The Wizard of Oz & is quite the fashionista (everyone knows Kerry adores cheetah print & bedazzling gems).

As an education professional, Kerry does a phenomenal job building relationships with students. She has devoted a significant portion of her career here at NBAS in various roles and grades. She has high standards and can be counted on. Throughout her career, she has built an extended family here at NBAS as a result of her willingness to do what she can to support and help others. She is very deserving of this recognition!

- Kerry has been a phenomenal boon to the English department and to myself. As a first year teacher, there are so many unknowns and difficulties. I have made a million mistakes, and I am sure I'll make many more. Despite the difficulties, Kerry has always been there to support me as I learn and grow. I bother her daily for questions, advice, or just to rant about a particular student or interaction (sometimes for good reasons, but usually to express my grievances). Every time I walk over to her door, I am greeted with a smile and a willingness to help me. She truly is the best mentor that I could have asked for. She's patient with me and puts in a ton of effort to keep me sane. I've not had a single negative interaction with her, and as I'm sure you know, working with someone daily is bound to cause some stepped on toes at some point. I suppose that's one of Kerry's greatest strengths; she's an amazingly supportive individual. Aside from myself, she has been instrumental in assisting with the implementation of a resource that was tested and purchased within the blink of an eye. She has advocated for the department to have access to some desperately needed planning time, and she has been the glue that has kept this very uniquely challenging year for our department from crumbling down around us. She has been working with all four ELA courses to assist with implementing HMH into our curriculum, but she has also tried to be patient and understanding of the difficulties that follow implementing a resource like this mid-year. It's been a monstrous undertaking, but she has taken the challenge head on. Kerry also shows unwavering commitment to the students of NBHS. She assists many students who need help in any area of content both through lunch lab and those who just drop by unannounced. She has also been an emotional rock for some students who felt like they had no other place to go. Kerry has never turned a student nor staff member away, and her compassion and positivity are second to none. Lastly, I would like to celebrate her launch of March Reading Month. Kerry has taken it upon herself to create a unique and exciting way to interact with literature through our students. Everything from spirit week style dress up days to innovative events such as having students guess teachers by their childhood pictures and favorite book. This week, she even hosted a book swap which even parents could participate in for conferences. I also loved the door decorating competition (even though I didn't win)... In summation, Kerry is an educator who anyone would be lucky to have. She has a strong will and a dedication to her career that is so inspirational to a first-year teacher like myself. If any educator is deserving of recognition, Kerry Rose would be the obvious choice.

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