

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 Jami Archer, the dispatcher for Dean Transportation and the NBAS transportation department.

We are proud to recognize Jami, our incredible transportation dispatcher, who keeps everything running like clockwork! With sharp coordination, quick problem-solving, and constant communication, she ensures every driver, delivery, and route stays on track. Her dedication and calm under pressure are the backbone of our daily operations — we couldn’t do it without her!

Jami’s Story:



My name is Jami Archer and I work in the transportation department. I grew up in Roseville, Michigan where we lived until I was in 8th Grade. At that time we moved to Almont. We moved to a school that had about 500 kids in our grade to a school that had about 700 kids in the entire school. It was kindergarten through twelfth grade all in one school. We were a little lost at first but it ended up being a wonderful experience.

I am a dispatcher/router/field trip coordinator. I started my North Branch Career back when my youngest child (Who is 30 years old now) started school. I worked in the cafeteria. I always wanted to be a stay at home mom and this was a way to do it, bring a little bit of money, and still be there with my kids. I only worked in the middle of the day when they were at school. When the kids had a day off, so did I. It worked very well for my family.

After a few years I decided to take the secretarial test. After passing the test a position opened in Transportation which I knew nothing about. I accepted the position and learned quickly how to navigate this crazy world. It was an exciting time when I started. My first office was still in the old bus garage (maintenance building now) and the new facility was being built. It was exciting to move into this beautiful new building. In 2012 transportation was outsourced. It was a very stressful transition but everything happens for a reason. We were all scared that it was going to be horrible. Here I am 13 years later still with Dean Transportation and still a part of the North Branch team. Our company has an awesome relationship with North Branch Schools and staff. I have worked under four different supervisors and always felt like the link between North Branch and Dean. We still have six people in Transportation that made the transition from North Branch to Dean.

I have been married for 39 years and have three kids that all attended North Branch Schools. I have three grandkids and one on the way this summer. My two grandsons play hockey and we spend all of our weekends in the winter traveling with them to tournaments. We are those crazy grandparents that

never miss a game. (We drive a lot!) Our eight year old plays on a travel team out of Rochester. They won the state championships last year. They are so fun to watch. We are truly a sports family.

We have a trailer in Port Austin where we spend our weekends all summer. We are so blessed to be able to spend so much time with our kids and grandkids. It is nice to get away and only have an hour drive to get there.

My husband and I play in a cornhole league on Tuesday nights with some good friends and family. We are not the best but we sure have a good time.

Something that people would be surprised to know about me is that in 2023 I got my personal trainer certification. I am currently working on my continuing education credits. I started attending a boot camp type gym a few years ago and loved it. I sometimes fill in as a trainer at the Push Your Limits Fitness and Nutrition gym in town. I had a knee replacement last year and am still getting back into shape but I am working on it.

I am looking forward to retirement in the next few years but will surely miss all of the wonderful people I have had the pleasure to work with at North Branch Area Schools.

In closing I am so honored to be nominated for this award and to be an employee of this wonderful school district.

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

- I think Jami Archer deserves recognition for being a huge asset to the Transportation Department. Her great attitude and beautiful smile brightens up everyone's day. Jami is well liked by all drivers and is always there to answer any questions they might have. She is motivated and positively engaged, serving as a true inspiration.
- Jami embodies the spirit of North Branch Bus Garage, radiating joy and positivity from the moment we arrive. Her infectious smile is the 1st thing we look for in the mornings. The reassuring voice on our 2-way radio we need. Jami's the glue that holds us together and sometime it is scary how well she can multitask.
- In the mist of chaos, it is so reassuring to have Jami's calm voice to help in any and all situations. It is so wonderful to have Jami there to back us up and help. She will make calls, contact parents, and help in any emergency. Jami is so valuable and extremely appreciated! Thanks Jami! You keep our wheels on the road in more ways than one! You are a Rock Star!

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