



School

Talk

www.nbbroncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

May 2025

NBHS Valedictorian & Salutatorian Announced

North Branch High School would like to announce the class of 2025 **Valedictorian Samantha Wagner** as well as the **Salutatorian Alayna Schmidt**. Principal Doug Lindsay commented that "we are very proud of these academically gifted students that exemplify and represent the best of our student body. Their achievements and leadership both in and out of the classroom are indicative of their bright futures."



SAMANTHA WAGNER is the daughter of Katie and Scott Wagner earned top academic honors with a GPA of 4.175 and an SAT score of 1510. Samantha was an Honor Roll student each semester in she was in high school. While attending North Branch High School she was involved Student Council, where she served as Treasurer. Additionally, Samantha is a member of National Honor Society, Model UN, Pickleball Club and assists with Salmon in the Classroom at NBE. This spring Samantha was named the first National

Merit Finalist at NBHS since 2007. She has also earned the AP Scholar with Distinction and AP Rural Scholar Awards. Beyond the classroom Samantha has been a member of the Lapeer County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee, serving as the committee chair sine 2023. In the fall she will be attending Michigan State University on a full ride scholarship for her NMSC Finalist achievement where she will major in Chemistry.



ALAYNA SCHMIDT is the daughter of Annamarie and the late Michael Schmidt, earned salutatorian honors with a GPA of 4.124 and a SAT score of 1410. During high school Alayna was a member of the Honor Roll each semester. Throughout her high school career, Alayna participated in both Student Council and National Honor Society. Outside of the confines of NBHS, Alayna was a member of the Lapeer County Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee. In the fall, Alayna will be attending the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. While there she will major in Biochemistry.



NBHS Senior Events

SENIORS LAST DAY – Friday, May 16

SENIOR WALK OUT – Friday, May 16 (2:15pm)

Seniors will meet in the Gymnasium at 2:00pm, and release at 2:15pm.

BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY – Sunday, May 18 (7:00pm)

The Baccalaureate ceremony will take place in the High School Auditorium. This is a non-denominational, inspirational service honoring the achievement and future for the graduates. Attendance is optional, and admission is free. This event is not sponsored by the school.

GRADUATION REHEARSAL – Wednesday, May 21 (2:00pm)

The Graduation Rehearsal will take place in the Gymnasium (*required to participate in the commencement ceremony*). Seniors who have met all of the graduation requirements will receive their caps & gowns immediately after rehearsal.

SWING-OUT – Wednesday, May 21 (5:00pm)

Students will line up in their cap & gown at the front of the high school and will march through town. The parade will end at the corner of Main Street and Jefferson. **NOTE:** *If this event is canceled due to weather, it will not be rescheduled.*

SENIOR CLASS NIGHT – Thursday, May 22 (7:00pm)

Students will be honored with local scholarships, awards, NHS stoles, athletic awards, honor cords, etc. Participation is not mandatory but it is nice to see all of the seniors celebrating their accomplishments together. Students should arrive at 6:30pm. Students are encouraged to dress up underneath their caps and gowns.

COMMENCEMENT – Wednesday, May 28 (8:00pm)

Seniors, "MUST" arrive in caps and gowns by 7:30pm to line up in the south wing. Doors to the gymnasium open at 7:15pm if the weather requires an indoor ceremony.

PROJECT GRADUATION – Wednesday, May 28 (*immediately following the graduation ceremony*)

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!



North Branch Schools

Congratulates

our Board of Education, staff, families, students & community for earning both local and national recognition as a

BEST OF THE BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT!















North Branch Area Schools adopted the motto of **"ALL IN"** to reflect the district's commitment for everyone involved to give 100 percent to make the district better for our students, our families and our community.

That commitment includes:

- ★ An extraordinarily dedicated staff that provides excellent learning opportunities for all students
- ★ Kind, caring support staff, including a school nurse
- ★ Safe and modern, air conditioned facilities including new HVAC system at high school
- ★ Technology rich 1:1 classrooms – every student has a learning device
- ★ Gifted & Accelerated Program
- ★ Space Camp Program at U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, Alabama (5th-8th grade)
- ★ Tutoring opportunities
- ★ North Branch Early College
- ★ AP Classes
- ★ Dual Enrollment
- ★ Online Learning
- ★ STEM Academy
- ★ Award Winning Marching & Symphony Bands
- ★ Thriving Theatre Program
- ★ High School Esports program
- ★ New STEM Labs in North Branch Elementary and Ruth Fox Middle School
- ★ State recognized alternative education program
- ★ Wide Variety of Extra Curriculum Offerings
- ★ Lapeer County Educational & Technology Center programs
- ★ No fee athletics program with free admission for all students to athletic events
- ★ Successful Athletic teams at local and state level
- ★ More than 60% of NBAS athletes annually received the Scholar Athlete Award
- ★ District commitment to school safety: Night locks in all buildings, crisis alert emergency badges for all employees, all district employees ALICE trained (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), full-time school resource officer

North Branch Area Schools...
A Learning Community Dedicated to Excellence!

2025-2026 Preschool Offerings

GSRP	LITTLE LEARNERS	FABS CHILD CARE	HEAD START
Location: NB Educational Services Center	Location: NB Educational Services Center	Location: NB Educational Services Center	Location: Off Campus
Cost: FREE state funded	Cost: Tuition-based preschool	Cost: Tuition-based care	Cost: FREE Income-based federally funded program
Age Requirements: Age 4 by Sept. 1, 2025	Age Requirements: Option for 3 & 4 yr. olds	Age Requirements: Ages 3-12 yr. olds	Age Requirements: Ages 3-5 yr. olds
Programming Day: Full days Mon-Thurs	Programming Day: Half days Mon, Wed, Fri or Tues & Thurs	Programming Day: Full or Half day options Mon-Fri	Programming Day: Full days Mon-Thurs
Transportation: Transportation available	Transportation: AM & PM only No mid-day transport	Transportation: AM & PM only No mid-day transport	Transportation: Transportation available
Meals: Breakfast, lunch & snack	Meals: Families supply snacks	Meals: Options for breakfast, lunch & snack	Meals: Breakfast, lunch & snack
Before & After Care: FABS child care available	Before & After Care: FABS child care available	Before & After Care: Child care available 6:00am-6:30pm	Before & After Care: N/A

For more information about preschool offerings, contact Lisa Bazinaw at 810-688-7147 or lbazinaw@nbbroncos.net

Summer Food Service Program

MEET UP and EAT UP! Healthy food to fuel your summer.

North Branch Area Schools announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for children. Free meals will be available to children 18 years of age and under or persons up to age 26 who are enrolled in an educational program for the mentally or physically disabled that is recognized by a State or local public educational agency. The meals will be provided without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability, and there will be no discrimination during the meal service. Meals will be provided at the site(s) listed below:

North Branch Elementary School Cafeteria

4055 Elm Creek Rd.
North Branch, MI 48461

WHEN:

Monday-Friday • June 9-27, 2025
8:00am-9:00am Breakfast
11:00am-12:00pm Lunch

Ruth Fox* Middle School Cafeteria

6570 Brush St.
North Branch, MI 48461

WHEN:

Monday-Wednesday • June 9-11, 2025
8:00am-9:00am Breakfast
10:30am-11:30am Lunch

*Partnering with the Lady Broncos Court Camp to provide free meals.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA

Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. FAX: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Dear North Branch Community,

We are rapidly coming to a close of another extraordinarily successful school year. The publication for this edition of School Talk is scheduled for May 9th meaning our seniors will have 5 days left of classes and all other students will have 18 days left including a half-day of instruction on Friday, June 6th. Please check the front page of this issue for all of the senior events that will happen from May 16-28. These events include Baccalaureate on May 18, Swing-Out on May 21, Senior Class Night on May 22, Graduation on May 28 followed by Project Graduation, and Guest Graduation on May 29. Congratulations to the 2025 Senior Class on an outstanding year at North Branch High School.

Once again, North Branch Area Schools has received recognition as one of the best school districts in Michigan and one of the top districts in the country. Locally, North Branch Area Schools was selected Best of the Best school districts in Lapeer County for the 6th consecutive year. Nationally, North Branch Elementary and Ruth Fox

Message from the Superintendent

Middle School earned recognition as one of the Best Elementary Schools and Best Middle Schools in the country for the second consecutive year from U.S. News & World Report. Our entire staff is focused on offering opportunities for all students to be successful in a learning environment that is committed to excellence. What does this mean?

Our youngest students will have an opportunity next fall to attend preschool for free and receive a high-quality early educational experience. We are excited to open the North Branch Early Learning Center which will be located in the Educational Services Center on Jefferson Street and will be the home for the Great Start Readiness Program, Little Learners Preschool, and FABS Childcare. We will be installing a new playground soon and several other upgrades have been made to prepare for the consolidation of our early learning programs. School Personnel from around the state continue to visit our school district to learn more about our STEM Labs at North Branch Elementary and Ruth Fox Middle School and what we are doing as our children are performing exceptionally well academically. North Branch High School continues to

offer academic and free extracurricular opportunities for all students. We are very proud of Senior Samantha Wagner who was named a National Merit Finalist as one of the top students in the country. Our band, drama, and athletic programs continue to not only excel locally but also at the state level. Yes, there is something for everyone at North Branch Area Schools.

Our administration and staff are also committed to preparing our students for future careers that are being created through the use of Artificial Intelligence. As shared in the column below mine, 25 educators will participate in a four day AI Leadership Institute with Dr. Troy Hicks, a digital literacy expert from Central Michigan University. In addition, North Branch Teacher, Cindy Lewis, will spend at least half of her working time next school year providing professional development opportunities for all staff as an AI Strategist.

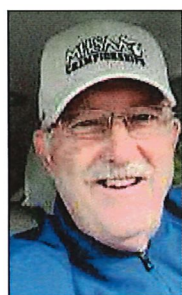
I would like to close this column with a brief update of the district's financial strength. Recently, North Branch Area Schools refinanced its long term debt saving taxpayers approximately 1.7 million dollars which was helped

in part because of the elevated Moody Rating from an A2 to an outstanding A1. Investors in the bonds sold for the refinancing were impressed with our growing steady enrollment especially at the elementary level, strong district reserves, and responsible financial planning. We have a healthy fund equity, a new two-year contract with our teachers, and board approved 5-year plans which will guide the district into the future regarding curriculum, facility, and technology purchases and plans. We will continue to prioritize our students and their needs in the classroom.

It is a great time to join North Branch Area Schools and our School of Choice window is now open through August 21. Please contact Melissa Swoish, Enrollment Coordinator, at 810-688-9362 for more information. Thank you for your continued support of North Branch Area Schools. We will look forward to a great 2025-2026 school year which will begin for all students on Monday, August 18.

Best Wishes for a Restful and Enjoyable Summer Break!

Jim Fish
North Branch Area Schools Superintendent



Friend of Youth Jack Miles

Throughout his lifetime, Jack Miles has been a giver by serving his country with honor, dedicating his time to shaping youth sports through coaching, officiating, and mentoring. Jack's legacy resonates deeply within the community. His passion for fair play, motivation, and mentorship touched the lives of countless student athletes. Here are some of the roles in which Jack impacted youth athletes' lives:

- Middle School Football Coach
- 9th Grade Football Coach
- JV Girls' Basketball Coach
- 9th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach
- 9th Grade Baseball Coach
- JV Baseball Coach
- Volunteer Official at Homecoming & Snowcoming Student Games
- Girls' & Boys' Basketball Starting Lineup Announcer
- MHSAA Official for 25 Years for Baseball, Football & Basketball

Jack officiated several quarterfinals and semifinals in all sports, was selected to officiate 5 state finals over those 25 years. In addition, he also served as President of North Branch Business Association and served as Co-President of the North Branch Planning Commission. Jack Miles, a cherished coach and mentor from North Branch, recently lost his battle with cancer on March 16, 2025.

AI: Powering the Next Generation

Artificial Intelligence is playing an increasingly significant role in everyday life, STEM and jobs of the future. Smarter and smarter machines means career success going forward is likely to evolve and look much different than today. Our students need to be rock climbers with the ability and agility to adjust with the exponential growth in technological advancements.

During the 2025-26 school year, North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education have a shared goal to support professional learning and the teaching and integration of generative Artificial Intelligence. This goal underscores the district's dedication to staying at the forefront of educational advancements and ensuring that both teachers and students are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed for the future.

To further the district's commitment to innovation and excellence in education, Cindy Lewis, NBAS teacher, will be supporting BK-12 staff next school year as an AI Strategist. This role is designed to lead the district's efforts in integrating AI into the educational framework.

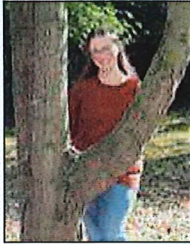
This summer, 25 teachers in the district will participate in a four day AI Leadership Institute with Dr. Troy Hicks, digital literacy expert and Associate Dean in the College of Education at CMU.

Teachers in the AI Institute will engage in sustained inquiry and explore the intentional use of AI for: lesson planning and preparation; modeling discipline-specific and appropriate use of AI during classroom instruction; and employing AI for formative, summative, and authentic assessments. AI participants will become leaders within the district who will be prepared to share their knowledge and expertise with colleagues as well as host a conference for staff in February 2026.



Congratulations Samantha Wagner NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

This spring Samantha Wagner was named just the twelfth student in North Branch High School history to be named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. This prestigious academic accomplishment is merely one of the many accomplishments Samantha has achieved in her high school career. We will be recognizing Samantha and all of the previous Merit Finalist and Semifinalist with a plaque that will go up this May.



Summer School at NBAS

North Branch Area Schools will once again be offering a summer school program for students in grades 7-12th that need to recover lost credit. The online program, Imagine Learning (formerly E2020/Edgenuity), will be used for the credit recovery, with over 50 courses being offered. Orientation will be held approximately one and a half weeks after the last day of school. Please check with your students' counselor or for a link to the application on the NBAS website in early June for definite dates and times for orientation.

Summer school classes will tentatively begin the week of June 16th and will conclude the last week of July. The fee per course is \$80.00. For more information please see your student's counselor or for specific questions, please contact the Summer School Coordinator, Corey Rosser at crosser@nbbrncos.net or by calling (810) 688-7581, ext. 2820.



**Baker
College**



**ROCHESTER
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**



**Macomb
Community College**

Earn up to an Associate's Degree, 60+ Transferable College Credits, or a program certificate while in High School at NO COST to you!

See your NBHS Counselor for more information.

North Branch High School Symphonic Band

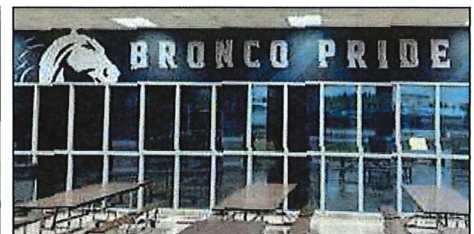


The high school band performed on February 18 in a pre-festival concert. In early March the band went on to perform at District Band Festival, which it hosted on March 7th & 8th.



Cafeteria Renovations

Over spring break the North Branch High School Cafeteria received a face lift. It is not only brighter and more welcoming, but there is greater safety and security provided by the exterior window covering that greatly reduces the ability to see in the school. Thank you everyone that played a role in getting this project completed.





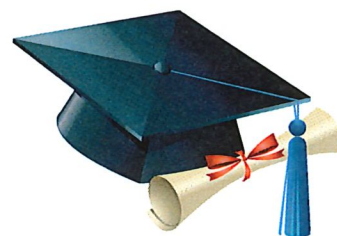
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025 • TOP 25!



**Samantha
Wagner**
Valedictorian



**Alayna
Schmidt**
Salutatorian



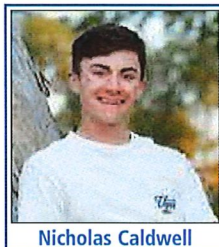
Anthony Adamic



Bryce Barkowska



Rheagan Bower



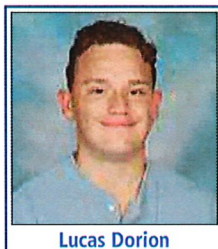
Nicholas Caldwell



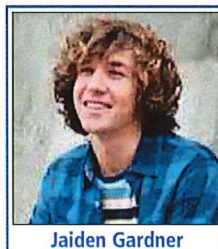
Evan Cook



Hallelujah Czelada



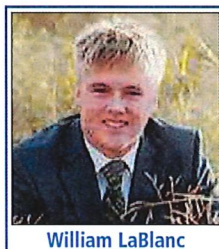
Lucas Dorion



Jaiden Gardner



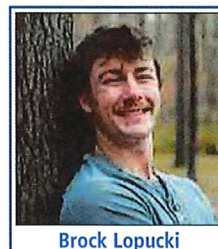
Ava Ide



William LaBlanc



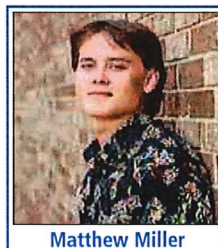
Lauren Leach



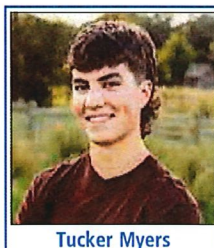
Brock Lopucki



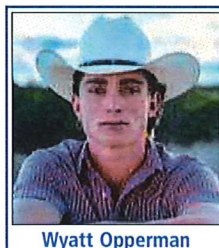
Tracy Ludescher



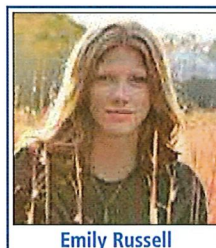
Matthew Miller



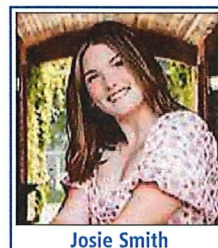
Tucker Myers



Wyatt Opperman



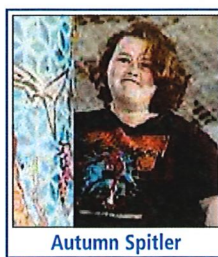
Emily Russell



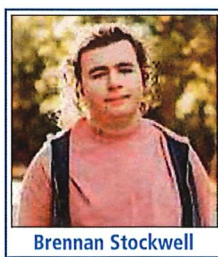
Josie Smith



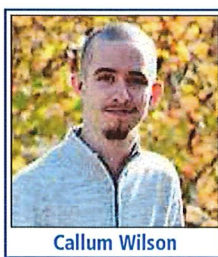
Skylar Spehek



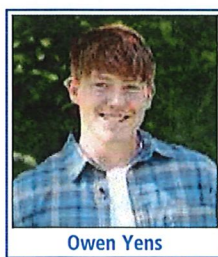
Autumn Spitler



Brennan Stockwell



Callum Wilson

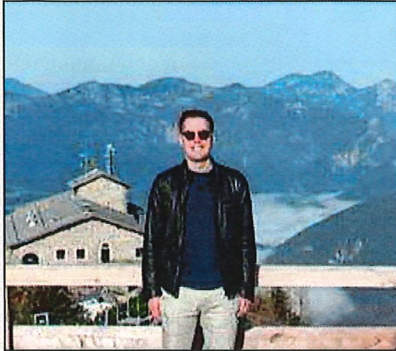


Owen Yens





Donation to Quest



Recently, 2009 NBHS graduate **Nick Bodnar** contacted Quest about making a donation. Quest was incredibly grateful to receive a \$10,000 gift from Nick!

Nick explained his donation and heart for Quest, "I was inspired by the large monetary donation Lou Adams made to the community in 2023 after he passed away and hope this encourages others in similar situations to pass along their success. The Quest program was started when I was in high school and a lot of my friends ended up graduating from the program. It is a wonderful program and I hope this helps the program and community for further success."

Nick Bodnar lives in Chicago and is a partner at Gate City Capital Management and entrepreneur.

Quest Program Coordinator Corey Rosser commented, "The needs of our students often seem endless. We have been so fortunate to have so many community members see our students value and help through opportunities and generous gifts. Nick's donation reminds us of the amazing community that we share and are proud to be a part of!"

Knights of Columbus Meets Quest Students' Needs



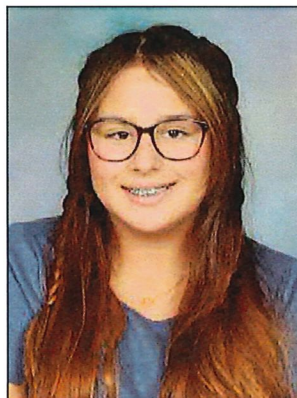
Quest High School would like to thank the North Branch Knights of Columbus for their \$700 donation to meet students' needs! The Knights also donated several hundred dollars with hygiene products to our students!

Thank you Knights of Columbus, and thank you Adam Jacobson for arranging the donation!

We love our community in so many ways, and we are privileged to be loved back in so many more!

Quest Students Win Scholarships!

Congratulations to the 2025 Quest Scholarship Winners!



Emma Whitis

Emma Whitis and **Savannah Heinrich** won the Carolyn and Ron Bower Memorial Quest Merit Scholarship and the Faithful Truck and Auto Repair Scholarship.

Thank you to the late Carolyn & Ron Bower and Bill & Wendy McKnight for their contributions to our graduates!



Savannah Heinrich



Quest Bowling Team Finishes Strong!



Quest performed well at the TASL (Thumb Alternative Sports League) Bowling Championship! Both the boys and girls' teams finished in 2nd place. Individually, **Alanna Reynolds** finished in first place for the ladies. **Donald Mills** finished in 7th for the boys.

Let's See How Far We've Come



Quest has many former graduates come back to speak. 2020 Quest graduate **Ian Kutchey** offered advice to our current students as well as employment opportunities. Ian operates his business, Kutchey's Concrete LLC out of Marlette! *It is great to see how far you've come!*

Enroll Today at Award Winning

Quest High School!

Students interested in enrolling at Quest High School or obtaining more information about the programs offered at Quest can learn more about us on our

Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/

To enroll at Quest, contact Program Coordinator Corey Rosser by email at

crosser@nbbrncos.net

or by phone at 810-688-7581.



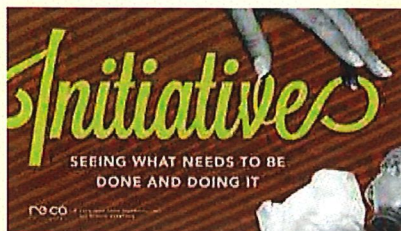
Follow Quest High School on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/>





FOCUSING ON Initiative



This year Ruth Fox Middle School has focused on Core Values, through a program called **Reconnect (Re:Co)**. The value for May is Initiative, "*Seeing what needs to be done and doing it.*"

Throughout this month, there will be reminders about Initiative through the morning announcements, in classroom lessons, and through the building. Parents also get parenting tips for supporting our value of Initiative. As an incentive, students can get "Bronco Busted" by demonstrating Initiative this month, and be entered into our weekly drawing.

AMERICA & ME Essay Contest

Local Students Named Essay Contest Winners

Four students from Ruth Fox Middle School have been named local winners in the **56th annual America & Me Essay Contest**, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

Congratulations to our 2025 America and Me Essay Contest winners! Each year, our 8th grade students are invited to enter this contest sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan.

Their essays were written about their personal Michigan heroes. What a fabulous way to honor those who are special in their lives!

This year's winners are: **1st place – Oliver Baksa**, **2nd place – Paytn Byhl**, **3rd place – Alexis Kelly**. As the first place winner, Oliver's name will be engraved and added to a school plaque, with the names of many previous winners, which is on permanent display at RFMS. His essay now advances to the state level competition from which the top ten essays in Michigan will be selected. Best of luck Oliver, and congratulations again to our winners!



SPACE CAMP CREW #21



Crew #21 has been selected to represent RFMS in Huntsville, Alabama! Congratulations to Jerry Davidson, Sophia McDonald, Kathleen Dinanath, Willow Wildey, and Madelyn Bennett.

LEGO ROBOTICS



The after school Lego Robotics club learned about coding and engineering as they created Lego robots to complete challenges.

COLONIAL GAMES



5th grade students have been learning hands-on about colonial life. One fun aspect of their learning involved playing games that children from colonial times might have enjoyed, such as marbles, tag, hopscotch, and Jacks.

Follow us on  RFMS@ruthfoxmiddle

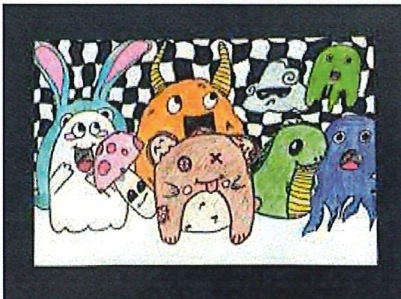
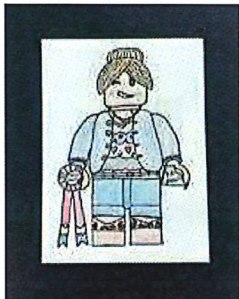


Ruth Fox Artists

Several students from Ruth Fox Middle School had artwork on display, from February 4 through March 15, at Gallery 194 in downtown Lapeer. Every year the gallery hosts the Lapeer County Schools' Art Show, which includes artwork from schools throughout Lapeer County. In addition, the MAEA Region 10 combined with this show, using the upper gallery space to display 5 pieces of work from each teacher's school. It is always difficult to choose artwork for the show, as there are so many amazing pieces created by the Ruth Fox Middle School students each year. It is preferred to have all grade levels represented, as well as a variety of different projects. Twenty students from Ruth Fox Middle School had work on display in the show.

The following students had work on display: **Bristol Sny (5th), Emmie Weingartz (5th), Braelin Friske (5th), Emma Kamyszek (5th), Joslyn Gossett (5th), Kylie Patterson (5th), Haley Davis (6th), Miranda Prutzal (6th), Zoey Rushton (6th), Ashton Jones (7th), Ava Dickenson (7th), Avery Felton (7th), Jayden Fanchier (7th), Blake Willis (7th), Cadence Chene (7th), Alexis Kelly (8th), Madi Beadle (8th), Yosef Diller (8th), Patyn Buhl (8th), and Jersey Chambers (8th).**

Many of these students attended a special "Meet the Artist Reception", hosted by Gallery 194. Student artists brought family and friends to the gallery to view the exhibit and enjoy refreshments. Congratulations to these students on a job well done!



5th Grade Visit to Chatfield

Ruth Fox Middle School Fifth Graders had the privilege of attending their first field trip to Chatfield this past March.

Students experienced different classes including using indigenous tools, fire starting, wood cutting, maple syrup making, using an adle-adle, and orienteering.

They gained a wealth of information through hands-on learning! It was a very positive adventure!

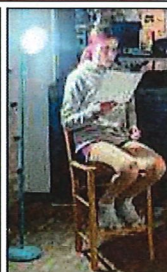
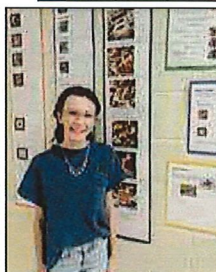


RFMS Student Spotlight

Thank you to all the families and students who came out to the Ruth Fox MS 3rd Annual Student Spotlight night. Over 175 families took advantage of the evening's events. It was a great opportunity for students to showcase their learning throughout the year.

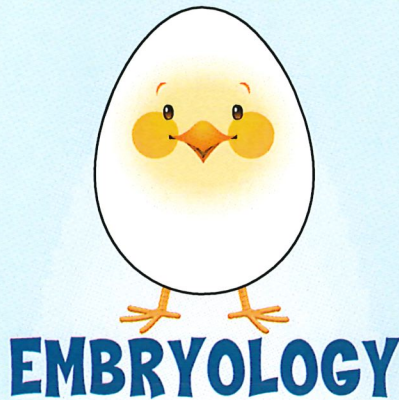
Showcased events included:

- Student works displayed in their classrooms, posted on their lockers, and all throughout the hallways and building
- Poetry performances
- Band performances
- Concessions by our Cool Kids Cafe (Peer to Peer Group)
- Art galleries
- Archery Club demonstrations
- STEAM Lab demonstrations and more



MARCH IS... Reading Month!

North Branch Elementary celebrated March is reading Month this year by embracing the sports theme **"Score Big with Books."** High school athletes from soccer, volleyball and softball teams visited to read aloud to classrooms, along with a few alumni guest readers who are currently playing collegiate sports. The **Pete the Cat** character from the popular children's series made a special visit to each BK-1st grade classroom, and students received their own copy of a **Pete the Cat** book. Individual classrooms throughout the building held their own March Madness book brackets to crown the champion book. To wrap up the month, grade levels participated in large read-ins inside the gym, where students read books with the colorful glow of finger flashlights.



Each year, North Branch Elementary teacher, Jodi Conley, works together with our local Lapeer County Farm Bureau to provide an 'egg-mazing' experience for children.

Through this project, students are introduced and immersed in learning about not only agriculture and where their food comes from, but rich connections to regular content and standards are made as well. For example, instead of just reading about animal life cycles, students are watching a portion of an animal's life cycle and connecting the life cycle of a chicken to the life cycles of all living things.



Students from years prior and current students have also contributed to this project by providing extra eggs to fill the classroom incubators as well.

At the conclusion of the project, students wishing to continue to care for the birds at home, take them home and provide regular updates back to their classmates.



JUMP for Your Heart!

In February, NBE students had a special visit from the **American Heart Association Jump Team from Owosso**. The Kangaroo Kids jump rope demo team consists of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students that put on a jump show to promote movement, eating healthy choices, and present our Kids Heart Challenge Heart Heroes for the 2025 year. Our NBE students were inspired by their jump skills and really enjoyed cheering the students on. Our SRO, Officer Barry, even joined in on the fun!



4TH ANNUAL
NBE Fine Arts Night
 MAY 16, 5:30-8:00PM

PERFORMANCES BY:
 UKULELE CLUB,
 4TH GRADE RECORDER STUDENTS
 HULA CLUB & HS BAND

ALL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WILL
 HAVE ART ON DISPLAY !!

INSTRUMENT MAKING, ZUMBA,
 FACE PAINTING, ART MAKING STATIONS,
 FOOD TRUCKS & MORE!!!

3rd Grade Activities

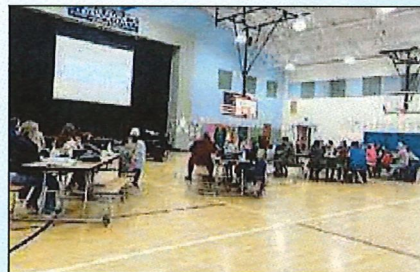
Ms. Curtis's 3rd grade enjoyed many exciting activities for March is Reading month.

From guest athlete readers, reading with flashlights in the gym, a 20 book reading tower challenge, & adopting desk pets upon completion of their challenge.



NBE Parent-Student Workshops

North Branch Elementary hosted two parent-student workshops that provided families with practical strategies and activities to foster essential skills like literacy, mathematics and social-emotional development in their child. Participants learned about kindergarten expectations, received resources to support at-home learning and gain insight for a successful academic future.



2025



NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY IS PARTNERING UP WITH THE MICHIGAN STATE POLICE

TEAM is a school based, law related curriculum that is taught to grades K-12 by TEAM trained police officers. TEAM focuses primarily on a proactive effort to make schools and communities safer, promote responsible citizenship, and build positive character traits among students. TEAM curriculum replaces the DARE Program for grade appropriate content. In addition, it aligns with the Michigan Model for Health Curriculum which is utilized by all schools in the state of Michigan. TEAM has been implemented in over 250 school districts across the state of Michigan.

Our 4th grade students will receive two to three presentations on current topics including but not limited to, bullying, cyber bullying, social media use, and the negative effects of tobacco/vaping use.

We are very excited to have this program in our district and we are looking forward to the positive outcomes it will have in our community. Michigan State Police will give their first presentation to our students on Tuesday, February 18th.

**Trooper Jerry****Trooper Amy****Trooper Steve**

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE
CONTACT MARY WALDECK**

 mwaldeck@nbbrncos.net



**NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY
810-688-3042**

HAPPY RETIREMENT

HAPPY RETIREMENT

MRS. BARROWS HAS DEDICATED 38 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS OF NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY, IMPACTING THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND PASSION!

MRS. CHERYL BARROWS
NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY




HAPPY RETIREMENT

DEANNA BRUSIE HAS DEDICATED 29 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS & STAFF OF RUTH FOX MIDDLE SCHOOL. WE WISH HER THE BEST IN HER RETIREMENT.

DEANNA BRUSIE
RUTH FOX MIDDLE SCHOOL




HAPPY RETIREMENT

DEB FRANKS HAS DEDICATED 26 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS & STAFF OF NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS. WE WISH HER THE BEST IN HER RETIREMENT.

DEB FRANKS
NORTH BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL




HAPPY RETIREMENT

LEANN GWINN HAS DEDICATED 28 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS & STAFF OF NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS. WE WISH HER THE BEST IN HER RETIREMENT.

LEANN GWINN
FABS CHILDCARE PROGRAM





HAPPY RETIREMENT

ROSANNA JOLICOEUR HAS DEDICATED 33 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS & STAFF OF NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS. WE WISH HER THE BEST IN HER RETIREMENT.

ROSANNA JOLICOEUR
NORTH BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL




HAPPY RETIREMENT

MS. PATTI DEDICATED 28 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS OF NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY, BUILDING AN AMAZING ECSE PROGRAM WHERE STUDENTS THRIVED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CREATIVITY AND DEDICATION!

MRS. PATTI MARTIN
NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY




HAPPY RETIREMENT

MRS. SWOISH DEDICATED OVER 22 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS OF NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY, FOSTERING THE LOVE OF READING IN MANY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPASSION AND CARE!

MRS. LINDA SWOISH
NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY




HAPPY RETIREMENT

TRACY SUTTON HAS DEDICATED 27 YEARS TO THE STUDENTS OF RUTH FOX MIDDLE SCHOOL. WE WISH HIM THE BEST IN HIS RETIREMENT.

TRACY SUTTON
RUTH FOX MIDDLE SCHOOL

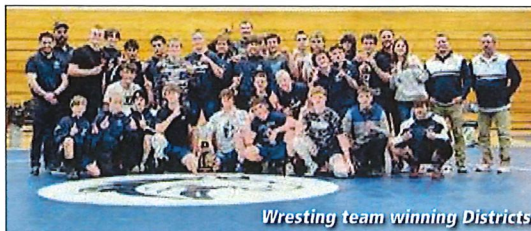



Great Season for Bronco Wrestling Team

We are proud of our Varsity Wrestling Team! They became Team District Champions for the second year in a row! Thank you for a great season!

Our Bronco wrestling team had two athletes qualify for the State Individual Wrestling Tournament that was held at Ford Field. **Tim Hanna** and **Martin Knight** represented our school with amazing sportsmanship and athleticism.

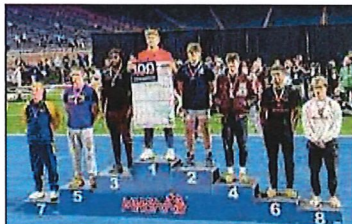
Both athletes had podium finishes in their weight class. **Freshmen Tim Hanna** took fourth place in the 113-weight class. **Junior Martin Knight** was the state runner up in the 190-weight class.



Wrestling team winning Districts



Wrestling Ind Tournament wrestlers with coaches



Martin Knight on podium, 2nd place finish



Tim Hanna on state podium, 4th place finish

State Champs Camp



Our North Branch Volleyball team hosted the annual State Champs Camp in March. This is always a great opportunity for them to share their love of Volleyball while teaching skills to the 134 campers that attended this year!

Coach of the Year!

MIVCA chose our very own head volleyball coach **Jim Fish** as our states coach of the year, and he is also a finalist for the NHSACA volleyball coach of the year! He will be honored at the NHSACA convention in Rapid City South Dakota where the national coach of the year will be announced!



Annual Athletic Boosters Reverse Raffle huge success!

Together as a community we raised over **\$31,000 for Bronco athletes!**

We would like to thank all of the supporters who attended, along with all of the businesses and our own bronco sports teams who donated prizes and cash. A special thank you to our booster members for all of the hard work that they put into this amazing annual event.



NBHS SCHOLAR ATHLETES

71 of our 109 Winter HS Athletes (65%) maintained a GPA of 3.2 or higher. Great Work Athletes!

Our 2024-25 Varsity Girls Basketball team made 2025 BCAM Academic Team All-State, they had averaged a weighted team grade point average of 3.4954!



College Signings

Five amazing athletes have had college signings here at North Branch High School so far this year.



Emma Nichols • Adrian College, Softball



Mason Howe • Siena Heights University, Football



Ella Swoish • Siena Heights University, Volleyball



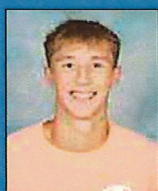
Jaydon Hutchinson • Jackson College, Baseball



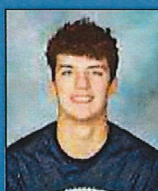
Jiovanni Travis • Michigan Tech University, Football

BWAC League Awards

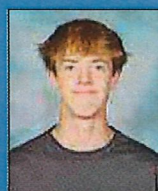
BOYS BASKETBALL



Braydon Robinson
All Defensive



Thomas Kann
Honorable Mention



William Racine
Honorable Mention



Tracy Ludescher
First Team



Ella Swoish
Honorable Mention
& Defensive Team

COMPETITIVE CHEER



Taylor Knox
First Team



Anysa Fielding
Honorable Mention



Ashlynn Pasternak
Honorable Mention



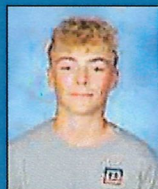
WRESTLING



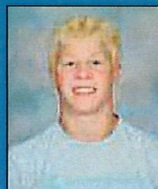
Martin Knight
First Team



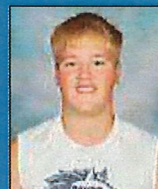
Juan Mata
First Team



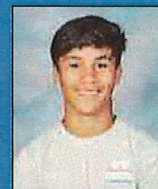
Ayden Felton
Honorable Mention



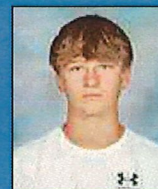
Timothy Hanna
Honorable Mention



William LaBlanc
Honorable Mention



Christian Rodriguez
Honorable Mention



Michael Spisz
Honorable Mention

2025-2026 NBAS Parent School Calendar

DATE EVENT (BOE APPROVED 04/14/2025)

August 18, 2025	1st Day of School
August 22, 2025	No School
August 29, 2025	No School
September 1, 2025	No School – Labor Day
October 1, 2025	Count Day
October 17, 2025	No School
October 24, 2025	End of 1st Marking Period
October 27, 2025	2nd Marking Period Begins
November 10-13, 2025	Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 14, 2025	No School
November 26-28, 2025	Thanksgiving Break
December 1, 2025	School Resumes
December 22-31, 2025	Winter Break
January 1-4, 2026	Winter Break
January 5, 2026	School Resumes
January 16, 2026	Half Day for Students
January 16, 2026	End of 1st Semester
January 19, 2026	No School
January 20, 2026	3rd Marking Period Begins
February 11, 2026	Count Day
February 13, 2026	No School
February 16, 2026	No School (Potential Snow Day Make-Up)
March 9-12, 2026	Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 26, 2026	End of 3rd Marking Period
March 27-31, 2026	Spring Break
April 1-6, 2026	Spring Break
April 7, 2026	School Resumes
April 7, 2026	4th Marking Period Begins
May 22, 2026	No School (Potential Snow Day Make-Up)
May 25, 2026	No School – Memorial Day
June 5, 2026	Last Day of School – ½ Day for Students

AUGUST 2025						
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FEBRUARY 2026						
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SEPTEMBER 2025						
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MARCH 2026						
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OCTOBER 2025						
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APRIL 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2025						
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MAY 2026						
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DECEMBER 2025						
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JUNE 2026						
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JANUARY 2026						
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JULY 2026						
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Green Dates = School Days Red Dates = No School Yellow Dates = Potential Snow Make-up Days