



SchoolTalk

www.nbbrncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

August 2025



Congratulations to Corey Rosser: Michigan Teacher of the Year!

North Branch Area Schools is proud to celebrate an incredible honor for one of our very own – Mr. Corey Rosser, Quest High School Program Coordinator and Social Studies teacher, has been named Michigan Teacher of the Year!

Rosser, who has been a cornerstone of Quest since 2004, teaches Social Studies and Imagine Learning to high school students in grades 11–12. His innovative, relationship-driven approach has supported roughly 580 graduates from the alternative program he helped build.

State Superintendent Dr. Michael F. Rice personally surprised him in a visiting assembly—initially announcing him as a Regional Teacher of the Year, only to reveal he'd won the statewide honor.

In his acceptance, Rosser deflected praise, stating, "You could throw a pebble down our hallway and probably find a teacher more deserving than me... Really, to me this is all about a culmination of what our students have been working toward."

Quest's Principal Doug Lindsay praised Rosser's deep connections with students: "His approach of truly getting to know them on an individual basis... is crucial to the program."

Superintendent Jim Fish echoed the sentiment, calling Rosser a "strong advocate for the award-winning Quest Program" and highlighting his impact on students who thrived outside traditional classrooms.

The entire North Branch community joins in congratulating Mr. Rosser on this outstanding achievement. We are incredibly proud to have him represent our district and the state of Michigan.

Thank you, Mr. Rosser, for your tireless dedication, your heart for teaching, and your unwavering belief in the potential of every student.



NORTH BRANCH Area Schools

*Congratulations to our Board of Education, staff, families, students,
and community for earning 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
- ★ F.A.B.S. – a before and after school program
- ★ Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds
- ★ Great Start Readiness Program
- ★ 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
- ★ Award Winning Marching & Symphony Bands
- ★ Thriving Theatre Program
- ★ Business Professionals of America Chapter
- ★ 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 student to athletic events
- ★ Successful Athletic teams at local and state level
- ★ More than 60% of NBAS athletes annual received the Scholar Athlete Award
- ★ District commitment to school safety: Night locks in all buildings, crisis alert emergency badges for all employees (only school in Michigan), all district employees ALICE trained (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), full-time school resource officer

North Branch
Elementary School



Ruth Fox
Middle School



North Branch
High School



North Branch
Elementary School



Ruth Fox
Middle School





Dear NB School District Families and Community,

The North Branch Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and support staff are excited to welcome our students and families to what promises to be another fantastic school year.

The first day of school for all students is MONDAY, AUGUST 18th.

By now, you should have received information from your child's school to ensure a smooth and successful start. If not, please visit our website at www.nbbroncos.net for the full 2025–2026 school calendar and additional updates.

STRONGER THAN EVER

I want to thank you for your continued support of North Branch Area Schools. I'm beginning my 25th year with NBAS and my 10th year as superintendent—and I can confidently say our district has never been stronger.

This past year:

- **Ruth Fox Middle School** and **North Branch Elementary School** were named among the **Best Public Schools in the Country** by U.S. News & World Report for the second year in a row.
- Locally, we've been voted **Best of the Best in Lapeer County** every year since **2018**.

- Our school staff's continued dedication and hard work are the driving force behind these achievements.

We are especially proud of Corey Rosser, selected by the Michigan Department of Education as the 2025–26 Teacher of the Year. Corey exemplifies the high standard of excellence embraced by all NBAS educators. Congratulations, Corey!

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS & IMPROVEMENTS

Artificial Intelligence & Innovation

In June, we held a week-long AI Summer Institute for 25 educators. These teachers will help lead the way in integrating generative AI into classrooms this fall. This initiative supports our Board of Education's goal to prepare students for the future by ensuring they gain experience with emerging technologies.

Safety Upgrades & Facility Improvements

- New PA systems were installed at the high school, middle school, and elementary school to improve school-wide communication and emergency response.
- An outdated fire alarm system at the high school was replaced.
- Our maintenance team worked hard over the summer completing

extensive repairs and deep cleaning across all buildings to maintain safe, clean, and welcoming learning environments.

Early Childhood Learning Center

We've relocated our Early Childhood Learning Center to the Administration Services Center and Quest Building, uniting our:

- Great Start Readiness Program
- Little Learners Preschool Programs
- FABS (Fun After & Before School) Program

Renovated classrooms, new technology, and a brand-new playground make this a wonderful space for our youngest learners. This move also created much-needed space at the elementary school.

For enrollment information, contact the district's Early Childhood Coordinator, Lisa Bazinaw at (810) 688-7147.

Updated Cell Phone Policy

NBAS has updated its cell phone policy district-wide.

- Elementary and high school policies remain mostly unchanged.
- Middle school policies have been positively revised to reduce distractions and improve learning.

Across the nation, schools with stricter phone guidelines report:

- Fewer disruptions
- Better student engagement
- Improved grades
- Decreased suspensions

Principals have sent out letters from each building informing parents and students of the new cell phone policy. All buildings will reinforce these policies on the first day. We ask parents to support us in maintaining focused and respectful classrooms.

LOOKING AHEAD

We're excited to welcome new staff members to NBAS and to continue our commitment to our district's **"All In"** motto. Together, we look forward to another year of academic success, growth, and community pride.

We can't wait to welcome your children back on **Monday, August 18th!**

If you have any questions or need assistance as the year begins, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (810) 688-3570.

In anticipation of an amazing school year,

Jim Fish
Superintendent
North Branch Area Schools

NBAS 2025-26 AI Leadership Institute

25 teachers participated 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 engaged in sustained inquiry and

explored 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 assess-

ments. 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.





Welcome New Teachers!



Aren Cooper

I'm back!!! After 10 years of helping build a STEM and Industrial Arts program in Brown City I'm excited to return to NBHS where I began my teaching career way back in 2005. I hold a BS in industrial technology and MA in edu-

cational technology both from Western Michigan University. I'm passionate about engaging students in design thinking and developing problem solving skills while incorporating tech into our project-based learning environment. I'm looking forward to firing up the woodshop again to give NB students some hands-on experience and instill a "maker" attitude to help improve the world around them.

Outside of the classroom I enjoy coaching (football & basketball) and will take any opportunity I can to travel with my family Ashley (Mrs. Cooper-counseling) and our sons Connor and Lawson. Lastly, the real reason I'm back is that I just couldn't stay away from the great Mr. Pat Forster and so many other wonderful colleagues. I'm ready, let's go!



Paul Skinner

My name is Paul Skinner. I graduated from Imlay City High School in 2012. I currently reside in Imlay City with my wife, Laura, and our two children, Rowan and Celeste. After high school, I joined the Navy as a Naval Nuclear Electrician's Mate (EMN3) and was stationed in Groton, CT, on the USS San Juan (SSN 751) until 2020. Once my wife and I were ready to start our family, we moved back to Michigan to be close to family.

In 2021, I began using my GI Bill to pursue a degree in education at the U of M - Flint campus. During my time in college, I pursued work as a par-aeducator at Almont Middle School and completed my student teaching at Lapeer High School.

Now that I have graduated, I am happy and thankful to have the opportunity to teach, learn, and grow within my career of choice at North Branch High School.



Becca Schlund

Hello, my name is Becca Schlund, and I am thrilled to join North Branch High School as the Mental Health Specialist. As a proud graduate of North Branch in 2007, I hold a Master's in Social Work from Michigan State University.

After spending 8 years in Traverse City, where I enjoyed the beautiful beaches and scenery, I returned to North Branch in 2024. I am passionate about working in mental health and have previously supported students with mental health needs.

On a personal note, I have a wonderful 4 year-old daughter who attends preschool here at North Branch. We love spending time outdoors—whether swimming in the pool or riding her pink Jeep around the yard. I have a playful Pomsky named Remy.

I look forward to sharing my skills and experiences with the North Branch community and embracing the opportunity to be a Bronco again!

NBHS Student Orientation

Students in all grades 9-12 are expected to come to the NBHS Cafeteria according to the schedule below. Students in all grades can drop in any time during the orientation schedule windows of time. Orientations should take no longer than 30-60 minutes, depending on each student's needs.

Monday, August 11, 2025
Noon – 2:00 PM & 3:00 – 5:00 PM

ORIENTATION MAKE-UP DAY
Thursday, August 14, 2025
9:00 – 11:00 AM

New Student(s) & Parents: We invite all incoming students and their families to join us for an informative tour led by our student leaders. This will take place on **Monday, August 11th at 2:30 PM**. You'll meet our admin and counseling teams, get helpful information about the high school, and have a chance to ask questions. We'd love to see you there!

All orientation sessions will address the following:

- 2025-26 Student Schedules
- School Pictures and Photo IDs (required of ALL students)
- Order Forms from the Photo Factory will be mailed home and will also be available at orientations
- Emergency contact information updates
- Bus #s with pick-up/drop-off times
- Classroom numbers and map
- Free and Reduced Lunch Forms
- Locker numbers and combinations
- Student Vehicle Registration (\$5 registration fee required)
- Senior Class Graduation Requirements
- Yearbook sales for 2025-26 (Early Bird Special)
- Senior Class Fees (and past years' fines)
- Sports schedules
- Athletic and Club Opportunity Information
- Acceptable Use Policy forms (AUPs) for computer usage
- Mental Health Therapist Consent Form

Please note: Student schedules will not be mailed. They will be available for pickup during the scheduled orientations. The orientations are designed to minimize time out of classes, reduce expenses, and expedite access to student information. If you have any questions, please contact the main office at (810) 688-3001 beginning on August 4th.



Attention Ed-Tech Students

**Both AM and PM ED-TECH
Classes will be held at
North Branch High School
August 18th-21st instead of
the Ed-Tech Center.
Attendance is REQUIRED.**

AM ED-TECH students should report to the Cafeteria no later than 7:15 am.

PM ED-TECH students should report to the AUDITORIUM no later than 11:05 am.



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.

Welcome New Teachers!



Brie McGrath

¡Hola! My name is Brie McGrath, and I am very excited to be joining the staff at North Branch High School as a Spanish teacher. I have been teaching for 9 years, all of which have been at Lapeer Community Schools. In addition to teaching various

levels of Spanish, I have also taught English and Publications (yearbook). In my free time, I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. I was able to study abroad in Spain while attending Oakland University for my bachelor's degree, which kindled my love of traveling! Since then, I have traveled to multiple states in the US, as well as the Dominican Republic and Italy.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at North Branch, and can't wait to be involved in the traditions that make North Branch Area Schools unique!



Jenna Pasco

Hi there! My name is Jenna Pasco, and I'm so excited to be joining the Bronco community as a new English Language Arts teacher at North Branch High School.

I recently graduated from Concordia University with a degree in Secondary English Education Studies. Before that, I spent several years studying Journalism and Writing for Publication, coming close to a dual degree before discovering that my true passion lies in the classroom. I'm currently pursuing my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction as I continue to grow and develop as an educator.

Reading and writing have always been close to my heart, and I'm eager to share that love with my students. My goal is to create a welcoming, engaging space where students feel empowered to explore literature, develop their writing voices, and build confidence in their ELA skills.

Outside of school, I live in Brown City with my fiancé, Joshua, and our one-year-old son, Henry. As a family, we love camping, enjoying movie nights, and heading out for breakfast on Sunday mornings. We're excited to be part of such a supportive and close-knit community here in North Branch and look forward to getting involved both in and outside the school setting.

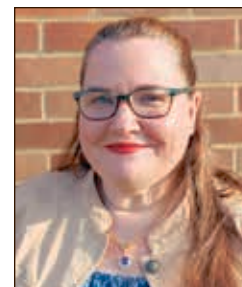


Lydia Oppenheim

My name is Lydia Oppenheim, and as a recent graduate from the University of Michigan, I am beyond excited to be joining the Staff and working with the families at North Branch High School. I had the opportunity to spend my first-year teaching at Lapeer High School, where I worked as an English teacher and interventionist to help students succeed academically and prepare for their futures.

I am a lifelong learner, and as a result, in my free time, I find myself learning new hobbies, as well as traveling and enjoying the outdoors with family. I aim to work towards obtaining my master's in Education and Curriculum Instruction in the near future.

My passion for literacy and learning brought me to North Branch, and I am beyond thankful for the opportunity to become a part of the community!



Elizabeth Kozlowski

I'm Elizabeth Kozlowski, and I'll be teaching 7th Grade Science and 9th Grade Physical Science this year. With 21 years of experience in education, I'm delighted to be returning to Michigan after teaching in Florida.

I'm a proud graduate of Wayne State University, where I earned my Bachelor's degree with honors. I furthered my education with a Master's degree in Education, specializing in technology integration, and an Educational Specialist degree from Walden University, focusing on curriculum, assessment, and professional development. I hold teaching certifications in both Michigan and Florida.

My core belief is that every student has the capacity to learn, and it's my responsibility to adapt my teaching to help each student succeed. I'm dedicated to creating a dynamic and supportive classroom environment where curiosity thrives.

When I'm not teaching, you can find me immersed in a good book, exploring new places, or enjoying time with my family. I can't wait to embark on this scientific journey with your students!



News from the Food Service Department



NBAS Food Service Department welcomes your family back for the 2025-2026 school year! We would also like to welcome those new families to our school district. We look forward

to serving you and your family this coming year. We will do our best to continue delivering healthy, quality meals and services while still maintaining compliance in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

We are happy to announce that, continuing through the 2025-2026 school year, NBAS will offer FREE meals (both breakfast and lunch) to ALL students through a program called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)! CEP is a federal program that allows eligible schools to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students. No sign-up or pre-registration is required, so families no longer have to complete free or reduced-price meal applications, however, we kindly ask that you complete the annual Education Benefit Form for additional funding to other District programs. Meals are nutritious and delicious, so consider having your child eat breakfast and lunch with us.

Special Meals and/or Accommodations

If a doctor has determined that your child has a special food sensitivity/allergy that would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make ANY SUBSTITUTION PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, MUST be submitted to the Food Service Department before any special diet can be given to your child. The Michigan Department of Education's Request for Special Dietary Needs Accommodations Form is available through the Food Service Department and also available online at www.nbbrncos.net, located under the Food Service Documents tab, and needs to be filled out by a licensed physician. This provision is State mandated. NBAS Food Service Department will work with the parent(s) and school staff to create a plan to manage a student's special dietary needs.

Food Service Standards

NBAS participates under the USDA National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs and has

a fiscal responsibility to stay in compliance and meet financial accountability; parents/guardians are responsible for meals purchased by their student(s) from the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Under the CEP program, first meals are FREE to all students. The financial responsibility is for second meals, milk and any Ala Carte items purchased.

Students are expected to have funds available on their food service account for these purchases. Our system is a prepaid debit system, therefore when a student makes a purchase, the amount is automatically deducted from the student's food service account. Therefore, it is very important that you check your student's food service account weekly to make sure they have funds available each day. The preferred method of payment is to pay online through SchoolPay. Payments may also be sent in with your student (cash/check) or be mailed to NBAS, Attn: Food Service, PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461.

NBAS Food Service Policy

NBAS Food Service Policy is available by request or online at www.nbbrncos.net under Departments and Food Service Documents.

Key Points are as follows:

- Ala Carte items are CASH/CHECK ONLY or students MUST have funds on their Food Service Account. Charges are never allowed for Ala Carte items.
- Purchasing milk alone is \$0.75 cents regardless of lunch account type.
- Adults and Staff are encouraged to have funds on their Food Service Accounts or pay at point of service. No charging is allowed.
- A full (reimbursable) lunch consists of 3 of the 5 components offered, (though 5 items may be taken); main entrée, fruit, vegetable, grain and milk.
- Adjustments will only be made by the Food Service Department.

Thank you for your participation in the Breakfast and Lunch Program at NBAS! Please contact NBAS Food Service Department at (810) 688-2226 to speak with Supervisor Kierstyn Cooper about any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website under "departments" on the District Homepage for more information.



Quest would like to invite all and any community members to our Annual Benefit Dinner on

October 22nd • 5-7pm

Please see the Quest Facebook page for details as the time nears. The North Branch Masonic Lodge has been hosting the benefit for Quest since 2005. In that time span they have donated over \$30,000 to Quest students. Funds are used for various student activities, field trips, and to meet students basic personal needs.

Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 kids, 4 & under Free.

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, contact Program Coordinator Corey Rosser by calling **810-688-7581** or email crosser@nbbrncos.net

Follow Quest High School on Facebook



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



Ruth Fox Middle School

OPEN HOUSE

JOIN
US!!!

- Wed., August 13th
- 5:00-6:30pm
- Come and meet your teachers!

Ruth Fox Middle School HOURS

7:15am-2:20pm

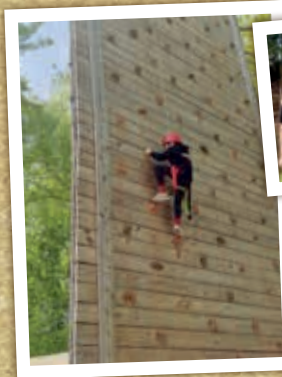
Bell schedule
will be based on
grade level.

RFMS HIGHLIGHTS

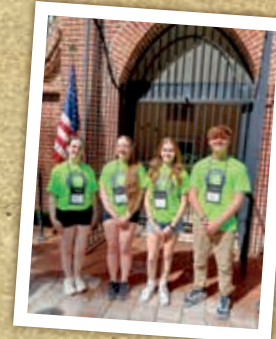
Ruth Fox Space Camp Crew 21 having fun this summer at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.



Crew 21: Jerry Davidson, Sophia McDonald, Willow Wildey, Kathleen Dinanath, Madelyn Bennett.



6th graders test their teamwork skills and courage at the High Ropes course of TREK.



8th graders visiting Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon, while on the Washington DC Trip.



5th graders hooking up their rockets before launch.

7th Grade students visiting Greenfield Village and the Rouge Factory on their class trip to Detroit.



2024-25 Ruth Fox MS Principal's Award

The Ruth Fox Principals Award is a yearly award given to one 7th or 8th grade student, and is selected on the basis of high level of academic achievement, attendance, work ethic, compassion, citizenship, and leadership. The 2024-2025 Ruth Fox Principals Award recipient is **Oliver Baksa**.

Oliver is a genuine leader, exemplifying the traits of being responsible, reliable, and respectful while motivating others to do the same. Oliver works hard in the classroom taking great pride in his work, and is involved outside the classroom in various sports. **Congratulations Oliver!**

Pictured: Oliver Baksa Principal's Award recipient, and Dane Terauds RFMS Principal





Students Visit the International Science Fair

Five eighth grade students from Ruth Fox Middle School: **Ava Scigel, Adam Duda, Alexis Kelly, Pierce Hood, and Graham Stockton**, along with teacher chaperone, **Angela Grusak**, attended the ISEF International Science and Engineering Fair at Columbus, Ohio. Over 1,600 high school students from 60 different countries displayed 1,300 projects!



Students traveled by bus to the Greater Columbus Convention Center and had their own tour guide – Diya, a 10th grader from Saginaw, a finalist in the competition representing the Flint Flamingos. As they toured the convention center, many students eloquently explained their research projects and happily answered questions from the group.

Our North Branch students said it was definitely worth the trip and were thankful to be able to attend. Some of the projects were so in depth it was difficult to fully understand the math and science details displayed on the boards with the short amount of time to hear about the project. The students were impressed that the presenters were just slightly older than themselves! Thanks to the Flint Regional Science committee for making arrangements and providing the opportunity.



The Golden Apple Award

Ruth Fox MS was selected as the 2025 LEAF Golden Apple recipient for having outstanding LEAF building engagement and parent communication during the first year of being involved with LEAF. Ruth Fox is excited to promote the LEAF Education Savings Account for 5th and 6th graders next year, as all Lapeer County students with the graduating class of 2032 and after have their own college savings account through LEAF. The Lapeer County Education Attainment Fund (LEAF) is provided by the Lapeer County Community Foundation in partnership with ELGA Credit Union and the Lapeer County Intermediate School District.



New Faces at Ruth Fox Middle School



Jennifer Betts

I couldn't be more excited to join Fox Ruth Middle School as the new 5th-grade math teacher. After 16 amazing years with Study.com and a rewarding experience as a long-term substitute teacher at Meachum Elementary, I'm thrilled to have a classroom of my own.

With my teaching certificate in upper elementary from Michigan Teachers of Tomorrow, my goal is to create a supportive space where creativity is just as important as calculations, and where mistakes are part of the learning process. I believe education should be a blend of fun, curiosity, and fearless problem-solving.

When I'm not diving into decimals, you'll find me writing or spending time with my husband, two sons, and seven dogs. You might also catch me cheering on my nephew at a football game or two. I'm truly honored to join the warm and welcoming Bronco community!



Kristen Rinehart

I'm excited to start teaching 6th grade at Ruth Fox Middle School. This year will be my twentieth year teaching, and I have taught a variety of grade levels. I am passionate about teaching my students the value of reading and writing, not only in school, but in daily life. Watching them make personal connections to the books we're reading is amazing!

My family and I recently moved from West Michigan, where I taught for twelve years in a small town. However, I am a southern girl at heart, born and raised in North Carolina. I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with my Bachelor's degree and received my Master's degree from Walden University.

I have two daughters, Averie, entering 6th grade, and Callie, entering 3rd grade. My husband, Sean, teaches ELA at North Branch High School. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy cooking, reading, being outdoors, playing pickleball, and walking/biking in my neighborhood. I'm also looking forward to learning how to play disc golf.

I am very grateful that everyone in this community has been so welcoming, and I am happy to call North Branch my home. I can't wait to start my twentieth year teaching as a Bronco!

Follow us at



RFMS@ruthfoxmiddle





New Faces at NB ELC & Elementary



Lisa Bazinaw

Hello North Branch
Broncos!

My name is Lisa Bazinaw. I have been in the early childhood education field professionally for 15 years. I have worn many hats in the field including tuition preschool teacher, Head Start teacher, GSRP teacher, mentor teacher and childcare director. Part of that experience took place in North Branch. I worked at FABS childcare during my high school and college career. I taught at North Branch Head Start from 2015 to 2021.

I am a North Branch graduate, class of 2005. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a major in Child Development from Central Michigan University.

I have two children who keep me and my husband of 10 years very busy with their various activities. I love sunny days, sipping on coffee, and relaxing on a beach. In my free time I enjoy going on adventures in nature with my family; hiking, biking, or fishing.

I look forward to serving the community I grew up in and live in, as I take on the new role of early childhood programming coordinator. I'm sure I will meet many new people and run into some familiar faces as I facilitate programming for FABS childcare, Little Learners Preschool and future GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program) classrooms.



Kelly Brennan

I am a graduate of Milford High School and pursued my Bachelors degree in Elementary Education at Oakland University. I played volleyball all throughout

high school and at the college level. I have always had a passion for teaching and art, in my free time I love to hike, paint, and spend time with friends and family! I am looking forward to working with the North Branch team and community to help each student succeed and grow in their own way!

Go Broncos!

Elementary School News

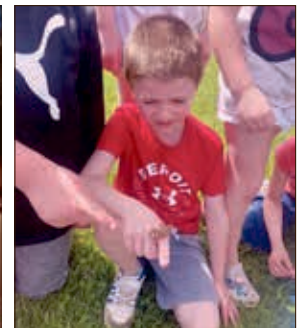
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Mrs. Sieradzki's fourth grade class had some "egg-citing" fun during this past month. Students learned about **CHICKEN EMBRYOLOGY**, and had the opportunity to incubate, hatch, and care for chicks. They completed different labs and research during the 21 days of incubation. On day 21, the students all had the opportunity to watch the 37 chicks hatch and then get moved to the brooder in the classroom. They got to hold them while providing snuggles and even reading books. It was a wonderful experience!



Fourth graders left their mark on the elementary in many ways. Their **HANDPRINTS** on the wall are a great reminder of their time here. We wish them all the best on their journey up to Ruth Fox next year.



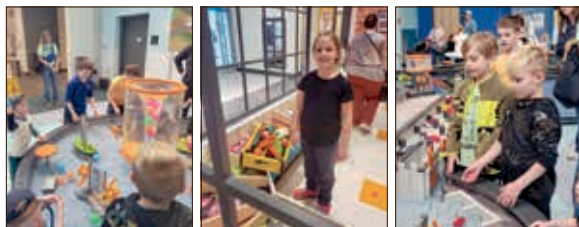
Students in Mrs. Jones' class had the chance to observe the **BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE** this spring. We raised caterpillars and watched them transform from chrysalis to butterfly. Our butterflies then laid eggs that hatched into the tiniest caterpillars!



North Branch Elementary celebrated its **2025 FINE ARTS NIGHT** on May 16 with great weather and a full evening of student performances and art displays. The event featured music from the 4th grade recorder group, Ukulele Club, Hula Club, and North Branch High School Band members. Students had prepared for weeks under the guidance of Mrs. Jane Ehardt, Mrs. Mary Waldeck, and Mrs. Francie Campbell. Families enjoyed student artwork curated by Mrs. Opperman and participated in fun activities like karaoke, Zumba, sand art, and more. Food trucks and face painting added to the festive atmosphere. Thanks to all who made the event a success—we're excited for Fine Arts Night 2026!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



NB Elementary 2nd graders had an exciting and educational adventure at the **SLOAN MUSEUM**, exploring hands-on exhibits and discovering more about history and science!



As an end of the year project, **MRS. THOMPSON'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS** created self-portraits and paired them with positive affirmations about themselves. From curly hair to bright eyes and big smiles, these portraits are full of personality and pride! This project was a joyful celebration of creativity, confidence, and everything that makes each student special!



Our school **WELLNESS CHALLENGE** brought health and wellness to life! Through spirited class competitions, students became more active, families got involved at home, and everyone discovered the joys of becoming a healthier individual.



One lucky NBE student won a special treat at the **PARTY AT THE PLAYGROUND** when he won the opportunity to be a PE Teacher for the afternoon!



Ms. Richardson's 2nd grade class visits the **NORTH BRANCH ORR MUSEUM**. We learned that **"OLD STUFF ROCKS!"**



We would like to thank all the **SAFETY PATROLLERS** for their commitment and the extra time they dedicated to their jobs this year.

NB Early Learning Center Awarded \$10,000 Grant for New Playground

The North Branch Early Learning Center has received a generous \$10,000 grant from the Lapeer Optimist Club to help fund the construction of a new playground for its young learners.

The grant will go directly toward building a safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate play area that supports the physical, social, and emotional growth of preschool-aged children.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Lapeer Optimist Club for their support of our youngest students," said Program Coordinator, Lisa Bazinaw. "This grant brings us closer to creating a space where children can learn, play, and thrive."

The Lapeer Optimist Club, known for its commitment to youth and community service, continues to make a lasting impact by investing in the future of children throughout Lapeer County.



New Faces at NB Elementary



Olivia Simmonds

I'm excited to continue the beginning of my teaching career! I went to Oakland University to pursue a major in Elementary Education. I also completed an endorsement in Early Childhood.

I was given the honor of doing my student teaching at North Branch Elementary dual in 2nd and 3rd grade.

This past year, I had an additionally amazing experience being a long term substitute teacher in the Early Childhood Special Education classroom. This year, I am excited to take the position as head teacher in the ECSE room and continue learning along side NBE students.

I have always had a calling in my heart to connect with kiddos of all ages and not only be someone they can lean on but also laugh and learn with! It is a passion of mine to take on those challenges, make a difference and grow together.



Kathy Conlin

I am so excited to be joining the Bronco family! I absolutely love this community and feel honored to be working with such a wonderful group of educators.

I've been married for 15 years and have two amazing children. In May, I graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Special Education. I completed my student teaching right here in North Branch at the Middle School, and I'm thrilled to now be continuing my journey at the elementary level.

Before earning my degree, I worked as a paraprofessional in a variety of settings, which helped shape my passion for supporting students of all abilities. I'm eager to keep learning and growing alongside our students.

Some of my favorite hobbies include gardening, spending time with my family, camping up north, and church activities. I'm a strong believer that all students can thrive and grow when given the right environment and support.

I'm so excited to begin this new chapter and be part of such a caring and dedicated team!

FALL MEET THE TEAM NIGHT

This will take place on **August 15th at 7:00pm** at Krepps Field. This event is open to everyone, we would love for you to join us as we kickoff our Fall season!

NORTH BRANCH ATHLETIC SEASON PASS

Did you know that you can purchase a season pass to come and enjoy our athletic events all year long! There are options for season passes for specific sports or you can get an all sports pass that is good for the entire school year! The pricing is as follows:

FOOTBALL: Individual - \$30 • Family - \$80

BASKETBALL: Individual - \$50 • Family - \$80

WRESTLING: Individual - \$7 • Family - \$20

VOLLEYBALL: Individual - \$20 • Family - \$40

The above sport passes include admission to home events for individuals and/or families for all levels (Freshman, JV, Varsity, Middle School) of the particular sport for which the pass is purchased. Passes will not include admission to Tournaments. "Family Pass" includes parents and 18 and under children in the same household.

ALL SPORTS: Individual - \$75 • Family - \$135
(all home events with exception of Tournaments)

BOOSTER MEMBERSHIPS

Become a member of our Athletic Boosters and continue to support Sports in North Branch. Our boosters offer lots of monetary support to help our teams and facilities over the year! Your membership helps them raise money to help that cause! They also host an amazing annual fundraiser in February.

• \$5 Individuals • \$10 Family • \$20 Corporate Sponsor



Naming of our Varsity Ballfield

On Saturday, May 17th, the NBHS Varsity Baseball Field was officially named "**Chuck Jacobson Field**" to honor Chuck's 35+ years of service to the North Branch Baseball and Athletic program. Chuck began coaching as a youth coach in the summer rec program, continued on to become a Varsity assistant coach, and in 2006 he became the Varsity Baseball head coach. He continued there for 15 years gaining a school record 32-win season. 30 players signed to play college baseball under his leadership! Chuck is currently serving as an assistant coach to our Varsity Baseball Team. He truly has a legacy here in North Branch.



Congratulations

5 Individuals/Teams Elected to North Branch Community Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2025!

- ★ **Mady Ruhlman** ★
- ★ **Jayne (Burnham) Jenca** ★
- ★ **Derek Schaller** ★
- ★ **1967-68 Boys' Basketball Team** ★
- ★ **1988 Girls' Basketball Team** ★

These teams & individuals will be celebrated at the Induction Ceremony coinciding with our NBAS Homecoming.

Friday, October 10, 2025

1:30 pm – Homecoming Parade (Hall of Fame Banner Representation)

6:30 pm – Introductions prior to the 7:00 pm Game

Sunday, October 12, 2025 ★ Induction Ceremony

NBHS Cafeteria • 1:00 pm – Doors Open

1:30 pm – Brunch Served (RSVP by Friday, September 10, 2025)

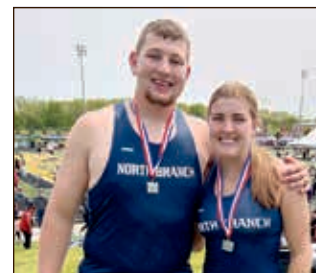
Adults: \$15 • 5-12 Years Old: \$5 • 4 & Under: Free

2:15 pm – Ceremony Begins

MHSAA DIVISION 2 TRACK & FIELD STATE QUALIFIERS



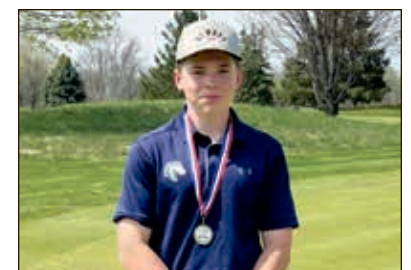
We had 5 Track & Field Athletes qualify for states this year! **Eli Bickel, Aubree Deshetsky, Thomas Kann, Penelope McNutt and Ella Swoish.**



All of our athletes performed well at States, with some personal bests, and great placements.

Two athletes finished with podium honors! **Eli Bickel** placed 2nd in Discus with a throw of 180' 9", and **Aubree Deshetsky** finished 2nd in Shot Put with a distance of 42' and 3rd place in Discus a 132' 8" throw.

MHSAA INDIVIDUAL GOLF STATE QUALIFIER



Freshman **Jacob Gohsman** qualified for the MHSAA State tournament this year! At States Jacob finished 59th out of 120+ golfers. He was 7th place among all freshmen competing at the State level. We are so excited to watch him continue his golf career here at North Branch!

BWAC LEAGUE AWARDS

BWAC INDIVIDUAL HONORS FOR THE SPRING SEASON – 35 ATHLETES RECEIVE BWAC HONORS!

1ST TEAM • BOYS TRACK & FIELD



Thomas Kann



Eli Bickel



Wyatt Muxlow



Liam McIntyre



Bryce
Barkowska



Valentino
Castaneda



Braydon
Robinson

1ST TEAM • GIRLS TRACK & FIELD



Ella Swoish



Aubree
Deshetsy



Rowan Conley



Penelope
McNutt

1ST TEAM • SOFTBALL



Samantha
Osborne



Addison Cobb

1ST TEAM • BASEBALL



Jaydon
Hutchinson



Owen Yens



John Robinson



Andrew Jerome

1ST TEAM GIRLS SOCCER



Aubrey Fritz

1ST TEAM BOYS GOLF



Jacob Gohsman

2ND TEAM • BOYS TRACK & FIELD



Giovanni Travis



Valentino
Castaneda



Thomas Kann



Braydon
Robinson



Bryce
Barkowska



Liam McIntyre



Caleb
Armstrong

2ND TEAM • GIRLS TRACK & FIELD



Ella Swoish



Penelope
McNutt



Tracy Ludescher



Lily Hurd



Rowan Conley



Katie Gill



Aubree
Deshetsy

BWAC CHAMPIONS!

Both **Varsity Baseball** and **Varsity Boys Track & Field** earned the honor of being Blue Water Area Conference Champions this year! This is the first time since 1976 that the Boys Track & Field won the league championship! **Great job Broncos!**

VARSITY BASEBALL



VARSITY BOYS TRACK & FIELD



HONORABLE MENTION

BOYS TRACK & FIELD: Isaac Armstrong, Braydon Robinson, Wyatt Muxlow, Liam McIntyre

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD: Lily Hurd, Rowan Conley, Tracy Ludescher, Mackayla Wheaton, Ella Swoish

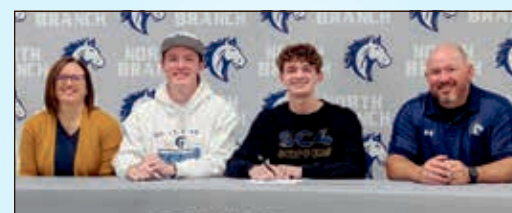
BOY'S GOLF: Carter Schank

BASEBALL: Drake Dörner, Noah Wright

SOCCER: Rylin Fritz, Evelyn Baker

SOFTBALL: Emily Brinker, Kaylee Pasternak

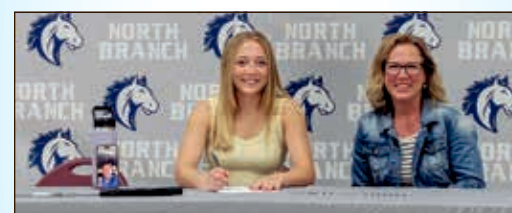
COLLEGE SIGNINGS



Bryce Barkowska • Track & Field, SC4



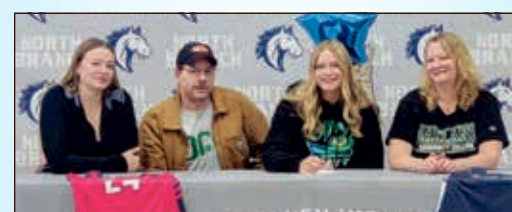
Johnathon Robinson • Baseball, SC4



Rowan Conley • Golf & Cross Country, SC4



Thomas Kann • Track & Field, SC4



**Tracy Ludescher • Basketball,
Oakland Community College**

VARSITY FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 28	Gaylord	Away	7:00pm
Sept 5	Algonac	Away	7:00pm
Sept 12	Imlay City	Home	7:00pm
Sept 19	Cros-Lex	Away	7:00pm
Sept 26	Richmond	Away	7:00pm
Oct 3	Yale	Away	7:00pm
Oct 10	Armada (<i>Homecoming</i>)	Home	7:00pm
Oct 17	Almont	Home	7:00pm
Oct 24	Fenton	Home	7:00pm

JR VARSITY BLUE FOOTBALL

6:00pm Is Aprox. (Double Header Format)

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 27	Gaylord	Home	6:00pm
Sept 4	Algonac	Home	6:00pm
Sept 11	Imlay City	Away	6:00pm
Sept 18	Cros-Lex	Home	6:00pm
Sept 25	Richmond	Home	6:00pm
Oct 2	Yale	Home	6:00pm
Oct 9	Armada	Away	6:00pm
Oct 16	Almont	Away	6:00pm
Oct 23	Fenton	Away	6:00pm

JR VARSITY WHITE FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 27	Gaylord	Home	4:30pm
Sept 3	Harbor Beach	Home	6:00pm
Sept 10	Marysville	Home	6:00pm
Sept 17	TBA	TBA	6:00pm
Sept 24	Birch Run	Away	6:00pm
Oct 1	Marysville	Away	6:00pm
Oct 8	TBA	TBA	6:00pm
Oct 15	TBA	TBA	6:00pm
Oct 23	Fenton	Away	4:30pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sept 4	Algonac (<i>Scrimmage</i>)	Home	4:30pm
Sept 11	Imlay City	Away	4:30pm
Sept 18	Cros-Lex	Home	4:30pm
Sept 25	Richmond	Home	4:30pm
Oct 2	Yale	Home	4:30pm
Oct 9	Armada	Away	4:30pm
Oct 16	Almont	Away	4:30pm

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 14	NB Scrimmage	Home	5:00pm
Aug 16	Marian	Away	10:00am
Aug 21	Novi	Away	4:00pm
Aug 23	Mercy Power Series	Away	8:00am
Sept 6	Notre Dame Tourn.	Away	9:00am
Sept 9	Algonac	Home	6:00pm
Sept 11	NB Quad	Home	5:00pm

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL, *continued*

Sept 13	Mercy Power Series	Away	8:00am
Sept 16	Cros-Lex	Home	6:00pm
Sept 20	East Vs West Challenge	Away	TBA
Sept 23	Almont	Home	6:00pm
Sept 27	Mercy Power Series	Away	8:00am
Sept 30	Yale	Away	6:00pm
Oct 3	Asics Challenge	Away	TBA
Oct 4	Asics Challenge	Away	TBA
Oct 7	Armada	Away	6:00pm
Oct 14	Richmond	Away	6:00pm
Oct 18	Mercy Power Series	Away	8:00am
Oct 21	Imlay City	Home	6:00pm
Oct 25	Bwac League Tourn.	Away	9:00am
Nov 1	Grand Blanc Tourn.	Away	8:00am

JR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 14	NB Scrimmage (MS)	Home	5:00pm
Aug 23	Mt. Morris	Away	8:30am
Sept 8	Garber	Away	5:00pm
Sept 9	Algonac	Home	5:00pm
Sept 13	Mercy Power Series	Away	2:00pm
Sept 16	Cros-Lex	Home	5:00pm
Sept 18	Frankenmuth	Away	5:00pm
Sept 20	Mt. Morris	Away	8:30am
Sept 23	Almont	Home	5:00pm
Sept 27	NB Invite	Home	8:30am
Sept 29	Garber	Away	5:00pm
Sept 30	Yale	Away	5:00pm
Oct 4	Mercy Power Series	Away	2:00pm
Oct 7/25	Armada	Away	5:00pm
Oct 14	Richmond	Away	5:00pm
Oct 18	Mercy Power Series	Away	2:00pm
Oct 21	Imlay City	Home	5:00pm
Oct 25	BWAC League Tourn.	Away	9:00am

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 15	Bad Axe	Away	7:00pm
Aug 18	Yale	Home	5:00pm
Aug 20	Imlay City	Away	7:00pm
Aug 22	Marysville	Home	5:00pm
Aug 25	Cros-Lex	Home	5:00pm
Aug 27	Armada	Home	5:00 pm
Sept 3	Almont	Home	5:00pm
Sept 8	Algonac	Home	5:00pm
Sept 10	Richmond	Home	5:00pm
Sept 11	Kearsley	Home	5:00pm
Sept 15	Yale	Away	5:00pm
Sept 17	Imlay City	Home	5:00pm
Sept 18	Montrose	Away	5:00pm
Sept 22	Cros-Lex	Away	5:00pm
Sept 24	Armada	Away	4:30pm
Sept 29	Almont	Away	4:30pm
Oct 1	Algonac	Away	4:30pm
Oct 6	Richmond	Away	4:30pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sept 8	Imlay City	Away	4:30pm
Sept 10	Cros-Lex	Home	4:30pm
Sept 15	Yale	Home	4:30pm
Sept 17	Almont	Away	4:30pm
Sept 22	Armada	Home	4:30pm
Sept 24	Algonac	Home	4:30pm
Sept 29	Richmond	Away	4:30pm
Oct 1	Imlay City	Home	4:30pm
Oct 6	Cros-Lex	Away	4:30pm
Oct 8	Yale	Away	4:30pm
Oct 13	Almont	Home	4:30pm
Oct 15	Armada	Away	4:30pm

GIRLS GOLF

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 18	Richmond Forest	Away	3:30pm
Aug 22	Hamptons	Away	7:30am
Aug 25	Willow Tree	Away	3:00pm
Sept 8	Washakie	Away	1:30pm
Sept 15	Imlay City	Away	2:00pm
Sept 15	Heather Hills	Away	3:30pm
Sept 22	Armada	Away	3:30pm
Sept 24	Willow Tree	Away	3:30pm
Sept 29	Holly Meadows	Away	9:00am

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug 21	Birch Run Early Inv.	Away	4:30pm
Aug 27	Cass City Inv.	Away	TBA
Sept 2	Wildcat Relays	Away	TBA
Sept 6	Hatchet Inv.	Away	TBA
Sept 9	BWAC @ Almont	Away	TBA
Sept 12	Auto-Owners		
	Spartan Inv.	Away	10:00am
Sept 16	County Press/NB Meet	Home	TBA
Sept 19	Brooks Mid-Season		
	Spectacular	Away	TBA
Sept 23	BWAC @ Imlay City	Away	TBA
Sept 27	Wagener Park Inv.	Away	10:00am
Sept 30	Birch Run Fall Inv.	Away	4:30pm
Oct 8	Ubly Inv.	Away	5:30 Pm
Oct 11	Dave Patterson Inv.	Away	TBA
Oct 14	BWAC @ Richmond	Away	TBA
Oct 18	Thumb Area CC		
	Championship	Away	10:30am
Oct 24	MHSSA LP Region		
	15-2 @ Shepherd	Away	TBA

MIDDLE SCHOOL
CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sept 9	BWAC @ Almont	Away	TBA
Sept 16	County Press/NB Meet	Home	TBA
Sept 23	BWAC @ Imlay City	Away	TBA
Sept 27	Wagener Park	Away	9:00am
Oct 14	BWAC @ Richmond	Away	TBA
Oct 18	Thumb Area CC		
	Championship	Away	12:30pm

TICKET
PRICING

BWAC:

High School & Varsity: \$5
Only Junior Varsity: \$4
Only Middle School: \$3
MS/JV Combo: \$4

NBHS
HOME PASSES:

ALL-SPORTS:
Family \$135; Individual \$75
FOOTBALL:
Family \$80; Individual \$30
VOLLEYBALL:
Family \$40; Individual \$20
BASKETBALL:
Family \$80; Individual \$50
WRESTLING:
Family \$20; Individual \$7

