



SchoolTalk

NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS
(810) 688-3570 • www.nbbrncos.net

AUGUST
2026

School of Choice

— WINDOW IS OPEN THROUGH AUGUST 21, 2026 —

Dear Future Bronco Families,

Are you looking for an educational environment where your child is known, supported, and inspired to reach their full potential? The School of Choice application window is officially open for all grade levels through August 21, 2026. We warmly invite out-of-district families living within the Lapeer County ISD and all neighboring counties to join the Bronco family and experience firsthand why North Branch Area Schools remains the most chosen

district in Lapeer County.

Being a part of North Branch Area Schools means having a whole community in your corner. We take pride in our local roots and our “Small town environment, Big school opportunities” approach to education.

At NBAS, we understand that every student has unique talents and needs. Our district stands out by providing high-quality programming, individual pathways to success, and an unwavering commitment to personal growth.

HERE ARE THE CORE ADVANTAGES THAT MAKE NBAS THE PREMIER CHOICE FOR EDUCATION:

- **Small Class Sizes:** NBE [BK-4] (Ave class size is 22.6 students), RFMS [5-8] (Ave class size is 25 students) and NBHS [9-12] (Ave class size is 25 students).
- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Strong elementary enrichments**
- **Outstanding Fine Arts, Robotics, STEM, Athletics & Extracurriculars**
- **Career & Technical Education**
- **Advance Placement, Dual Enrollment & Early College Program**

Join the “District Most Chosen” and experience the distinct difference that small class sizes, specialized care, and a community dedicated to excellence can make for your child’s future! Don’t delay—the deadline to apply for the 2026-27 school year is August 21, 2026. We cannot wait to meet our newest students.



How to Apply:

Scan to get started



or follow this link:
<https://www.nbbrncos.net/about-nbas/school-of-choice>

For personalized assistance or to answer any questions about the application process, please reach out to our team:

STUDENT SERVICES

Coordinator: Melissa Swoish
Phone: (810) 322-0371
Email: mswoish@nbbrncos.net
Fax Number: (810) 688-7010



**JIM FISH**

Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Branch School District Families and Community,

The North Branch Board of Education, administrators, teachers, and support staff are thrilled to welcome our students and families back for what promises to be an extraordinary 2026–2027 school year!

The first day of school for all students is Monday, August 24th. By now, you should have received back-to-school information from your child's respective building to ensure a smooth, confident start. If you need to reference school supply lists, building schedules, or the full 2026–2027 district calendar, please visit our website at www.nbbrncos.net.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering partnership and support of North Branch Area Schools. As I

begin my 26th year with NBAS and my 11th year serving as your superintendent, I can confidently share that our district's foundation, culture, and community spirit have never been stronger.

A TRADITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our collective commitment to high achievement continues to earn elite recognition locally and nationwide:

Top 40% in the Nation: Nationally, U.S. News & World Report has officially ranked North Branch Elementary, Ruth Fox Middle School, and North Branch High School in the top 40% of public schools in the country, honoring them as "Best Public Schools."

Best of the Best: Locally, our community's trust remains unmatched. North Branch Area Schools has been voted the "Best of the Best" school district in Lapeere County for seven consecutive years.

Historic National Merit Streak: Our academic results showcase that we provide our students with the tools to excel at the highest level. Over a 66-year period (1958–2023), our district saw a total of 14 National Merit recognitions. In just the past two years (24-25 and 25-26), we have celebrated three National Merit Finalists, a testament to our accelerating academic rigor.

National recognition from Education Magazine recognizing North Branch Area Schools in a feature article as one of the

most influential school districts of 2026. This article will most likely go to print in September and we will share the article on our social media platforms.

STAFF EXCELLENCE & FUTURE-READY CLASSROOM INNOVATION

The driving force behind these achievements remains our incredible staff. Following the launch of our generative AI initiatives, our classrooms spent the last school year leading the state in future-ready learning. Under the direction of our AI Strategist, Cindy Lewis, and our building-level AI Leadership teams, our educators are thoughtfully integrating emerging technologies. We are ensuring our students don't just use technology, but graduate with the competitive digital literacy and critical thinking skills required for tomorrow's world.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

Our unified Early Childhood Learning Center at the Administration Services Center and Quest Building has officially completed its first full year. Uniting the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), Little Learners Preschool, and FABS (Fun After & Before School) program has proven to be an incredible academic success, providing a vibrant, modern space where our youngest Broncos build strong foundational literacy and math skills. For 2026–2027 enrollment openings, please contact our

Early Childhood Coordinator, Lisa Bazinaw, at (810) 688-7147.

SUMMER FACILITIES & UPGRADES

Our dedicated maintenance and custodial crews worked tirelessly over the summer months. In addition to deep-cleaning every campus building to guarantee safe, welcoming learning environments, we finalized several key facility enhancements. These include new asphalt drop-offs at the high school and elementary schools to improve morning safety and traffic flow.

LOOKING AHEAD

We are incredibly excited to introduce several talented new staff members to the NBAS family this year, all of whom are highlighted in this publication. As we begin this new school year, we continue to lean heavily into our district's defining "All In" motto. Together, as a unified community, we look forward to another exciting school year of growth, academic triumph, and Bronco pride.

We cannot wait to see our hallways buzzing with energy and school spirit on Monday, August 24th! If you have any questions or require assistance as the school year gets underway, please feel free to reach out to my office at (810) 688-3570.

In anticipation of an amazing school year, **Jim Fish, Superintendent,**
North Branch Area Schools

Quest High School News

Enroll at award winning Quest High School today!!!

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 e-mail at crosser@nbbrncos.net or by phone at (810) 688-7581.



ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

Quest would like to invite all and any community members to our annual benefit dinner on October 22nd from 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.

The cost is \$10 adults, \$5 kids, 4 under free.

Follow Quest High School on Facebook

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



Find us on
Facebook



Food Service Department

NBAS Food Service Department welcomes your family back for the 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 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.nbbrnccos.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.nbbrnccos.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.



GRAB YOUR BREAKFAST
AND LUNCH TODAY
AND EVERY DAY
FREE
FOR ALL STUDENTS.

We kindly ask
that all families take a few
moments to complete the annual

EDUCATION BENEFIT FORM

While all students already receive free meals, completing this form directly determines our eligibility for state and federal funding that supports vital district programs.

Please submit yours today by
going to www.nbbrnccos.net/departments/food-service
or scanning the QR code below:



Elementary School News

Fine Arts Night



North Branch Elementary students, families, and staff enjoyed Fine Arts Night, which was held Friday, May 15, 2026. Students attending the event were both artists and performers! Opening the festival was a concert that included performances from 4th grade recorder students, Ukulele Club, and select members from the North Branch High School band program, led by Jeffery Ehardt. Students in the Ukulele Club rehearsed after

school on Wednesdays to improve their skills and get ready for this performance for eight weeks. Both Ukulele Clubs and 4th grade students were led by Mrs. Jane Ehardt. At the festival, family and friends could also view student artwork, as Mrs. Opperman made sure that all students in grades begin-a-garten through 4th grade had their beautiful artwork on display. All students in attendance were able to create, perform, and move intentionally through

various indoor stations that included instrument creation, giant keyboard, Boomwhacker play- along, clothespin butterflies, ribbon dancing, and origami. Delicious food and refreshments provided by Kona Ice and On the Run, along with face painting and temporary tattoos helped to make the Fine Arts Night an evening to remember. Thank you to all the administration, custodians, staff, parents, and student volunteers for making Fine Arts Night possible!



Elementary School News

Thank you, LEAF360!

Thanks to an innovative project grant, K-5 students who attended an NB summer camp focusing on movement, money, or mindfulness will receive **\$50** in their LEAF account.



SUMMER CAMP

North Branch Elementary has been buzzing with activity all summer long! Students have been participating in a variety of engaging summer camps and enrichment opportunities, exploring new sports, learning hands-on gardening skills, discovering exciting activities, and tapping into their creativity through projects, crafts, and artistic experiences. It has been wonderful to see our students learning, growing, and having fun while staying connected to NBE throughout the summer months. We are grateful to the staff and community members who have helped make these opportunities possible for our students!



Core Essential Values



This year, all North Branch Elementary students participated in learning about our Core Essential Values throughout the school year. Each month, students focused on a specific character trait and explored what it looks like in their daily lives, both in and out of the classroom. Our monthly values included courage, knowledge, commitment, joy, trust, respect, humility, honor, and perseverance. Through classroom discussions, activities, and real-life examples, students developed a deeper understanding of these important qualities and how they contribute to building a positive school community and strong personal character.

Handprint Traditions

One of our favorite North Branch Elementary traditions is having our fourth graders leave their mark before heading to middle school. Each student adds their handprint to our wall, creating a lasting reminder that they'll always be part of the NBE family. Years later, when they return as graduating seniors to walk our halls one last time, it's always fun to watch them search for their tiny fourth-grade handprint and reflect on how much they've grown since their elementary days.





OPEN HOUSE

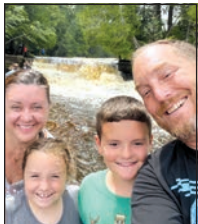
IS AUGUST 19TH

... 4:30-6:00PM ...

- MEET TEACHERS**
- SEE THE BUILDING**
- BRING SCHOOL SUPPLIES**
- GET READY FOR A GREAT START TO THE 26/27 SCHOOL YEAR**

Elementary School News

Welcome NEW TEACHERS!



Kristen Cagle

Hello Bronco Families! My name is Kristen Cagle and I am thrilled to be joining North Branch Elementary as your STEAM teacher. I have taught second and third grade, so this is a new opportunity for me. I love teaching and believe learning should be joyful. When I'm not at school, you can find me spending time with my family; my husband, Mike, and

two kids, Colton (13) and Addie (10). We camp a LOT and spend as much time as we can either outdoors or swimming. I think my kids are part fish! In my spare time, I relax with coffee and a good book. I've always enjoyed being a 'maker' and recently started dabbling in restoring old furniture. In addition to these things, I'll be spending this summer planning exciting opportunities for the classroom so that we can all be 'makers' together. I can't wait to meet everyone in the fall!



Hayley Jordan

Hi! I'm Hayley Jordan, and I am so excited to join the Bronco Community this upcoming fall. I recently graduated from Oakland University and am thrilled to be starting my teaching career. I can't wait to get to know each of my students and their families. When I'm not in the classroom, you'll usually find me spending time with my family outdoors or going on spontaneous adventures. I have a husband

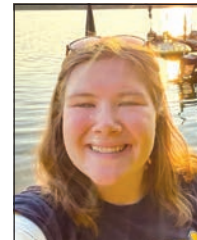
and two beautiful children, Aspen (3) and Brock (1). I believe the best learning happens when students feel safe, supported, and excited to come to school. My goal is to create a classroom where everyone feels welcome, works hard, has fun, and isn't afraid to make mistakes along the way. I'm looking forward to partnering with families and making this an amazing year together!

Michelle Orzel

Mrs. Michelle Orzel is excited to join the North Branch community as a 3rd grade teacher at North Branch Elementary and begin her 20th year in education! She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Language Arts from Baker College, a Reading Recovery certification from Oakland University, and a Master of Science in Education with a concentration in Literacy and Reading from Walden



University. Throughout her career, Mrs. Orzel has taught kindergarten, first, second, and third grades and has also served as a reading and math intervention teacher. She has been recognized as a literacy leader in her previous districts and is passionate about helping students grow into confident readers, writers, and mathematicians. Students describe Mrs. Orzel as "funny and kind" and say, "she is good at teaching math." She has a special knack for building meaningful connections with students by creating a safe, supportive classroom where children feel comfortable taking learning risks. By the end of the year, her students often discover a genuine love of reading and writing. Outside of school, Mrs. Orzel enjoys spending time with her family whenever she can, walking her dog, and being outdoors. She looks forward to partnering with students and families for an exciting year of learning and growth!



Arianna Toth

Hello! My name is Arianna Toth, and I will be a 4th grade teacher at North Branch Elementary for the upcoming school year. In May, I graduated with my Bachelor's in Elementary Education from Central Michigan University. Throughout my college career, I worked with elementary-aged kids in a summer camp environment as a camp counselor and in a

school environment as a student teacher. When I am not at school, I typically spend time with my family playing board games or watching sports. I also absolutely love reading and crocheting in my free time. I am originally from Midland, Michigan, but as of last year, I became a member of the North Branch community. From my short time living in North Branch, I have been able to participate in community events such as parades and sporting events. I am excited to begin my teaching career in North Branch, and I cannot wait for what the next school year has to hold!



Jessica Wilkinson

Jessica Wilkinson joins North Branch Elementary as the new Early Childhood Special Education Teacher for the 2026–2027 school year. Jessica earned her Bachelor of Education degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education from Central Michigan University. She brings valuable classroom experience to the district, having previously served as both a lead

and assistant teacher in preschool and Great Start Readiness Programs (GSRP). Known for her vibrant energy, exceptional organizational skills, and deep passion for teaching, Jessica is a dedicated educator committed to fostering a supportive, growth-oriented, and effective learning environment for our youngest learners.



Summer Garden Club

NBE's Summer Garden Club is in full swing. The garden is slowly transforming into a vegetable jungle! Students continue to care for our plants by weeding and watering. Mathematicians calculated the perfect layout for pumpkins and watermelons in our newest space and gardeners continued to fill spaces in with more popcorn seeds and flowers to attract pollinators. Students harvested various items from the garden – most recently sugar snap peas, strawberries, and radishes.



Secret Escape Tunnel

With summer just around the corner, Camp MAC students were dreaming about a secret escape tunnel that leads right out of school and into summer vacation! In this fun imaginary adventure, the tunnel begins in the school and winds its way to sunshine, ice cream, swimming pools, and endless summer fun. As students make their way through the tunnel, they leave behind homework and schedules and head toward days filled with relaxation and adventure. While the tunnel may be make-believe, the excitement for summer is very real!



Ruth Fox Middle School News



Ruth Fox Space Camp Crew 22 having fun this summer at Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. Crew 22: Gemerie Stratton, Zoey Suszko, Delaney McFalls, Rowan Hopp, Silas Opperman



RFMS Bands Spring Fling outdoor concert.



5th graders practicing STEM skills at the Challenger Learning Camp.



Local Students Named ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Four students from Ruth Fox Middle School have been named local winners in the 57th annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

Congratulations to our 2026 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 – Hailey Curtis, 2nd place – Aubrey McDowell, 3rd place - Harper McKinzie-Werner, 4th place – Travis Opperman. As the first-place winner, Hailey'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. Her essay now advances to the state level competition from which the top ten essays in Michigan will be selected. Best of luck Hailey, and congratulations again to our winners!

Picture Caption - Mr. Austin Smith (Farm Bureau), 4th place: Travis Opperman, 3rd place: Harper McKinzie-Werner, 2nd place: Aubrey McDowell, and 1st place: Hailey Curtis.



7th Grade students visiting Greenfield Village on their class trip to Detroit.



Students creating a beautiful hallway mural.

8th Grade Washington DC Trip

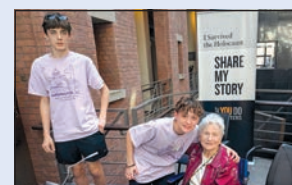
The North Branch Class of 2030 (8th grade) recently traveled to Washington, D.C., exploring iconic landmarks like the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery, alongside regional stops in Mount Vernon and Gettysburg.

The educational journey offered unforgettable, hands-on history lessons. At the National Archives, students viewed the original Consti-

tution, Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights. Students also toured the Capitol Building and learned about the democratic process. The most profound moment of the trip occurred at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, where the eighth graders were granted a rare opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor and hear her powerful story firsthand.

Throughout the trip, the Broncos stood out from the crowd. While

other schools rushed through exhibits or detoured to gift shops, North Branch students showed exceptional maturity—attentively listening to the survivor's testimony, asking thoughtful questions at Arlington, and honoring many service members they encountered. The school and community are incredibly proud of the respect, curiosity, and exemplary behavior displayed by the Class of 2030 on the trip.



Ruth Fox Middle School News

RFMS School Hours
7:15-2:20

Bell schedule will be based on grade level



Follow RFMS
@ruthfoxmiddle

ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS

- COMPASS Gifted and Accelerated Classes
- Pre-Algebra
- Algebra
- STEAM Lab
- Advanced English (8th)



Ruth Fox Middle School

OPEN HOUSE

JOIN US!!!

- Wed., August 19th
- 5:00-6:30pm
- Come and meet your teachers!

MEET THE NEW PRINCIPAL!

Shaun Brewer

Hello North Branch Families,

I am honored and excited to introduce myself as the new Principal of Ruth Fox Middle School and to become a part of the North Branch School community. My family and I are proud to call North Branch home. My wife, Sarah, and I have two children, Sydney, who will be entering 6th grade, and Logan, who will be entering 5th grade.

I bring nearly 20 years of experience in education, having served in a variety of roles throughout my career. These experiences have strengthened my passion for supporting students and partnering with families to help every child succeed.

I am thrilled to join the talented staff, students, and supportive families at Ruth Fox Middle School. I look forward to building relationships, celebrating successes, and working together to create outstanding opportunities for our students.



When I'm not at school, I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family and cheering on our local sports teams. Being involved in the community is important to me, and I look forward to getting to know many of you in the months ahead.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as our middle school principal and can't wait to begin this journey together.

Go Broncos!

Shaun Brewer, Principal
Ruth Fox Middle School

MEET THE NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL!

Heather Hundt

I am very honored and excited to return to Ruth Fox Middle School as Assistant Principal, where I began my teaching career more than two decades ago. I have been in education for 27 years. I taught music and band at the elementary and middle school levels for 23 years before moving into educational leadership. I previously served as Dean of Students at Hahn Intermediate in Davison and most recently spent three years as Assistant Principal at Dye Elementary in Carman Ainsworth. I live in North Branch with my husband, Daniel and we have four children: Joshua (25), Hannah (23), Jonathon (22), and Brayden (20). Outside of school, I enjoy reading, camping, spending time with family, hanging out with



our dogs, and serving as Director of the Lapeer County Concert Choir. Returning to North Branch Schools feels like coming home, and I am looking forward to serving the school and the community that helped to shape me as an educator. It's going to be a great year. Go Broncos!

Welcome NEW TEACHERS!

Dawn Devereaux

Hi my name is Dawn Devereaux and I am very excited to join the North Branch community as a middle school ELA teacher! I have over 10 years of teaching experience in elementary and middle school positions. I look forward to building relationships with students and partnering with families to support all my students. Outside of the classroom I enjoy watching my 4 children enjoy the sports and activities they love, reading, and traveling. I am looking forward to an amazing school year!



Alisa Fielding

My name is Alisa Fielding, and I am excited to join Ruth Fox! I earned my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, with a minor in Reading and certification in Cognitive Impairments, from Central Michigan University in 2016. In 2021, I completed my master's degree and earned certification in Emotional Impairments through Oakland University. Over the past 10 years, I have worked for Oxford Community Schools in special education, serving as a 3rd - 5th grade resource room teacher for seven years before helping build the K-5 Emotional Impairment program where I have worked since the 2023-2024 school year. My husband, Patrick, and I are proud parents to our two sons, Nolan (4) and Dean (1). Our family also includes two dogs, Hank and Ace, and our cat Miller. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, spending time outdoors, boating, fishing, and making memories with my family. I am looking forward to getting to know the students, families, and staff of North Branch and becoming part of this wonderful community!



Ruth Fox Middle School 2025-26 Ruth Fox MS Principal's Award



Ruth Fox Middle School Principal Dane Terauds congratulates 2025-2026 Principal's Award winner Addison Lawson.



High School News

MEET THE NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL!

Kevin Wenzel

I am incredibly excited to join the North Branch High School community as your new Assistant Principal this fall. Over my 16 years in education, I have served as a teacher, coach, and administrator. Most recently, I spent seven years as an assistant principal at both the middle and high school levels in Lapeer, which included a year as a middle school athletic director. Prior to transitioning into administration, I spent nearly a decade in the classroom teaching social studies at Lapeer West, Zemmer Middle School, and Lapeer High School, concluding my teaching tenure as the Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History teacher. During those years, I also enjoyed coaching football and track.

On a personal note, my wife, Kayla, and I have been



married for 12 years and have two children, Luke (3) and Ava (1). Most of our free time is happily spent chasing our kids around, playing outside, and visiting local playgrounds. When I do get a spare moment, I love running and golfing—in fact, I just crossed the finish line of the Traverse City Bayshore Half Marathon this past May.

I am eager to partner with the wonderful staff, families, and community of North Branch to support our students and strive for excellence every single day. Go Broncos!

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.

ORIENTATION DAY Monday, August 17, 2026

Noon – 2:00 PM
& 3:00 – 5:00 PM

ORIENTATION MAKE-UP DAY

Thursday, August 20, 2026
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 17th 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:

- 2026-27 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 2026-27 (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 3, 2026.

Summer Learning at NBHS

Ink & Industry is an immersive writing lab designed to ignite creativity and expand the voices of young writers. In this camp, students dive into powerful short stories by authors they may not typically encounter in the classroom exploring diverse styles, perspectives, and storytelling techniques that challenge the way they think about writing.

Through guided workshops, collaborative discussions, and hands-on writing exercises, students are encouraged to experiment with their own voices. Each session pushes them to step outside their comfort zones crafting original stories inspired by the authors they study while developing confidence in their ideas and expression.

By the end of the camp, students don't just leave with new skills they leave as published authors. Each participant's work is compiled into



a professionally bound collection, celebrating their growth, creativity, and unique voice.

Ink & Industry is more than a writing camp; it's a space where creativity is cultivated, risks are encouraged, and every student's story matters. As Sophia Prince shared "I actually really enjoy it. I like that it's not graded, and sometimes we get off topic, but it's really fun."



NBHS extends sincere gratitude to the Board of Education for the successful completion of **PAVEMENT AND SIDEWALK UPGRADES** this summer. These improvements are a wonderful example of their ongoing commitment to our facilities and students.



North Branch Early College

A partnership with



**Baker
College**



**Macomb
Community College**



**MOTT
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



**ROCHESTER
CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

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.

What is an Early College?

Early college high schools enable students entering their junior year to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and either an associate's degree, the Michigan

Early/Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certification or up to 60 transferable college credits at the same time, tuition free. The NBEC has two different models in place:

Traditional Model: Students in their junior year would take 6 college courses at the Education and Technology Center in a two hour block. In their senior year, students would take an additional 7 college courses at the Education and Technology Center in a three-hour block. In their 13 year, students would take a minimum of 12 college credits per semester at a Baker College Campus, a Mott Community College Campus or Rochester University Campus.

CTE Blend Model: Students in their junior year would take 1 college course at the Education and Technology Center in a one-hour block after their Ed-Tech program. In their senior year, they would take 3 college courses at the Education and Technology Center in a one-hour block after their Ed-Tech program. In their 13th year, students would take a minimum of 12 college credits per semester at a Baker College Campus or a Mott Community College Campus and receive additional college credit for their CTE successful completion.

The North Branch Early College is a unique and great way for your son or daughter to get a jump start on earning their college credentials, with NO cost to their family.



A LOOK AT HOW OUR 2025 ATHLETIC SIGNINGS ARE IN THEIR COLLEGE SPORT

Last year North Branch Athletics hosted 10 college signings for their athletes! We were curious how our Broncos have been doing in their Freshmen year of Collegiate Sports. Here are some updates we have received! (See picture #48)

JIOVANNI TRAVIS signed on with Michigan Tech for Football. According to the Michigan Tech website, Giovanni was listed as their Defensive Scout Team Player of the Year Award Winner! Photo

Mason Howe signed with Siena Heights University, but Mason faced an unexpected hurdle when the school announced its closure just a month before he reported. He played out the season there, then transferred during Christmas break to Taylor University an IAIA school in Indiana, where he will play this fall.

BRYCE BARKOWSKA had signed with SC4 to compete in Boys Track. He competed with amazing times and personal bests throughout both the indoor and outdoor seasons, being listed on multiple articles on the SC4 website!

TRACY LUDESCHER played her Freshmen year with Oakland Community College. As a Freshmen, Tracy has played in 26 games, starting in 17 of them! Her points per game average is an impressive 11.9!

ROWAN CONLEY also signed on with SC4 but for their Women's Cross Country Team. She had a great year and the team even placed 11th at the NJCAA DII National Championships! She earned All Conference and All-Freshmen Honors in their Eastern Conference, where they took 2nd place!

JAYDON HUTCHINSON has spent his Freshmen year playing for the Jackson College Jets. He played 32 games and pitched for 26.1 innings

EMMA NICHOLS was on the Softball team for Adrian College her freshmen year. No stats were available however.

ELLA SWOISH had signed with Siena Heights University to play Volleyball. She played in 30 games during her Freshmen year, 20 of which she started on! She performed with great stats published and is in quite a few articles on the Siena Heights Website!



Sports News

Congratulations

to the 6 individuals/teams elected to the
North Branch Community Hall of Fame Induction Class of 2026!

★ Jordan Fish ★ Jason Hopkins ★ Chad Finkbeiner ★
★ Daniel Deshetsky ★ Sandy (Nellenbach) Chambers ★
★ The 2016 Volleyball Team ★

THESE TEAMS & INDIVIDUALS WILL BE CELEBRATED
AT THE INDUCTION CEREMONY COINCIDING WITH OUR NBAS HOMECOMING.

Friday, September 25, 2026

1:30 pm – HOMECOMING PARADE
Hall of Fame Banner Representation

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

Sunday, September 27, 2026

INDUCTION CEREMONY
in the NBHS Cafeteria: (RSVP needed)

• 1:00 pm Doors Open • 1:30 pm Meal Served
• 2:15 pm Ceremony Begins

FALL MEET THE TEAM NIGHT

This will take place on August 14th at 7 PM 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, or Middle School) of the particular sport for which the pass is purchased. Passes will not include admission to Tournaments. A "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. You can sign up by reaching out to a booster member, or see their table at the fall meet the team night on August 14th at the football field.

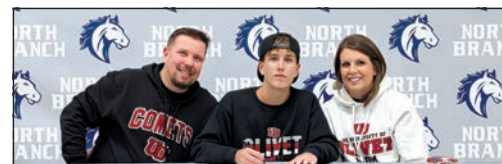
• \$5 Individuals • \$10 Family • \$20 Corporate Sponsor



College Signings CLASS OF 2026



Eli Bickel, Football,
Michigan State University



Joel Bruman, Soccer,
University of Olivet



Aubree Deshetsky, Volleyball,
Indiana Wesleyan University



Kayleigh Kaake, Basketball,
Spring Arbor University



Martin Knight, Wrestling,
Lake Erie College



Madison Matic, Softball,
University of Olivet



Eli Mitchell, Baseball,
Mid Michigan College

BWAC League Awards

BWAC INDIVIDUAL HONORS FOR THE SPRING SEASON – 32 ATHLETES RECEIVE BWAC HONORS!

BWAC 1ST TEAM

BOYS TRACK & FIELD



Henry
Myers

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD



Sydney
Bailey



Aubree
Deshetsky



Lily
Hurd



Penelope
McNutt



Aubrey
Sutter



Sophia
Wilson

BASEBALL



Andrew
Jerome



Elijah
Mitchell

SOFTBALL



Addison
Cobb



Allysse
Deshetsky

GIRLS SOCCER



Aubrey
Mikinka

BOYS GOLF



Jacob
Gohsman

BWAC 2ND TEAM

BOYS TRACK & FIELD



Isaac
Armstrong



Colbin
Boucher



Sawyer
Cullin



Charlie
Fields



Liam
McIntyre



Levi
Oppernamn

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD



Sydney
Bailey



Katie
Gill



Aubrey
Sutter

BOYS GOLF



Dylan
Snoblen

BWAC HONORABLE MENTION

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD



Madison
Beadle



Aubree
Deshetsky



Rylin
Fritz



Lily
Hurd



Emersyn
Tedford



Natalie
Valentine



Sophia
Wilson

BASEBALL



Kyler
Goss



Sawyer
Myers

SOCCER



Brookelynn
Looney



Ariana
Mikinka

SOFTBALL



Addison
Franklin



Brayley
Saltzman

BWAC AND REGIONAL CHAMPIONS!

Varsity Girls Track earned the honor of being the Blue Water Area Conference Champions this year! The ladies then went on to win Regionals for the first time in school history! Their season came to an end after an amazing performance at Team States earning them a 12th place finish. Great job Broncos!



MHSAA DIVISION 2 TRACK & FIELD STATE QUALIFIERS

We had 6 Track and Field Athletes qualify for states this year! Aubree Deshetsky, Lily Hurd, Penelope McNutt, Sydney Bailey, and Allysse Deshetsky. All of our athletes performed well at States. Aubree Deshetsky became the State Champion for Discus with a throw of 148'10" and was state runner up for shot put with a throw of 43". The 200m relay team took 7th place with runners Penelope McNutt, Lily Hurd, Sydney Bailey, and Aubree Deshetsky. Penelope McNutt also got to stand on the podium for her 5th place win in the 100m Dash.





2026 Fall Sports Schedules

GO BRONCOS!

VARSITY FOOTBALL

9/27	GAYLORD	HOME	7:00 PM
9/3	YALE	HOME	7:00 PM
9/11	ARMADA	AWAY	7:00 PM
9/18	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	7:00 PM
9/25	MACOMB LUTHERAN NORTH	HOME	7:00 PM
10/2	ALMONT	AWAY	7:00 PM
10/9	CROS-LEX	HOME	7:00 PM
10/16	RICHMOND	HOME	7:00 PM
10/23	FENTON	AWAY	7:00 PM

JV BLUE FOOTBALL- 6:15 PM IS APROX. (DOUBLE HEADER FORMAT).

8/26	GAYLORD	AWAY	6:00 PM
9/2	YALE	AWAY	6:15 PM
9/10	ARMADA	HOME	6:15 PM
9/17	IMLAY CITY	HOME	6:15 PM
9/24	MACOMB LUTHERAN NORTH	AWAY	6:00 PM
10/1	ALMONT	HOME	6:15 PM
10/8	CROS-LEX	AWAY	6:15 PM
10/15	RICHMOND	AWAY	6:15 PM
10/22	FENTON	HOME	6:00 PM

MS FOOTBALL

9/2	YALE	AWAY	4:30 PM
9/10	ARMADA	HOME	4:30 PM
9/17	IMLAY CITY	HOME	4:30 PM
10/1	ALMONT	HOME	4:30 PM
10/8	CROS-LEX	AWAY	4:30 PM
10/15	RICHMOND	AWAY	4:30 PM

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

8/19	USA	AWAY	5:00 PM
8/24	YALE	HOME	5:00 PM
8/26	ARMADA	AWAY	4:30 PM
8/31	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	5:00 PM
9/2	LUTHERAN NORTH	HOME	5:00 PM
9/9	ALMONT	AWAY	4:30 PM
9/14	CROS-LEX	HOME	5:00 PM
9/16	RICHMOND	HOME	5:00 PM
9/21	YALE	AWAY	5:00 PM
9/23	ARMADA	HOME	5:00 PM
9/24	NOTRE DAME PREP	HAWAY	7:30 PM
9/28	IMLAY CITY	HOME	5:00 PM
10/1	BAY CITY JOHN GLENN	HOME	5:00 PM
10/2	LUTHERAN NORTH	AWAY	4:00 PM
10/5	ALMONT	HOME	5:00 PM
10/7	CROS-LEX	AWAY	5:00 PM
10/8	SWARTZ CREEK	HOME	5:00 PM
10/12	RICHMOND	AWAY	5:00 PM

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

8/13	NB SCRIMMAGE	HOME	5:00 PM
8/15	MARIAN SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	10:00 AM
8/18	MERCY SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	TBA
8/20	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	8:30 AM
8/22	LAKE ORION TOURNAMENT	AWAY	8:30 AM
8/29	NOTRE DAME TOURNAMENT	AWAY	9:00 AM
9/10	MACOMB LUTHERAN NORTH	AWAY	6:00 PM
9/12	MERCY POWER SERIES	AWAY	8:00 AM
9/15	CROS-LEX	AWAY	6:00 pm
9/19	GARBER INVITE	AWAY	9:00 AM
9/22	ALMONT	AWAY	6:00 PM
9/29	YALE	HOME	6:00 PM
10/2	ASICS CHALLENGE	AWAY	TBA
10/3	ASICS CHALLENGE	AWAY	TBA
10/6	ARMADA	HOME	6:00 PM
10/10	MERCY POWER SERIES CHMP	AWAY	8:00 AM
10/13	RICHMOND	HOME	6:00 PM
10/17	BEAST OF THE EAST	AWAY	TBA
10/20	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	6:00 PM
10/24	BWAC LEAGUE TOURNAMENT	AWAY	9:00 AM
10/31	MT MORRIS	AWAY	8:30 AM
11/2-11/7	DISTRICTS	HOME	TBA
11/10	REGIONALS	AWAY	TBA
11/12	REGIONAL FINAL	AWAY	TBA
11/17	QUARTERFINALS	AWAY	TBA
11/21	SEMI FINALS	AWAY	12/2 PM
11/22	STATE FINALS	AWAY	2:30 PM

JV VOLLEYBALL

8/14	NB SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	5:00 PM
8/22	MT MORRIS INVITATIONAL	AWAY	8:320 AM
8/26	MT MORRIS QUAD	AWAY	5:00 PM
8/29	BROWN CITY INVITATIONAL	AWAY	8:30 AM
9/2	CROS-LEX QUAD	AWAY	4:30 PM
9/10	MACOMB LUTHERAN NORTH	AWAY	5:00 PM
9/15	CROS-LEX	AWAY	5:00 PM
9/19	YALE INVITATIONAL	AWAY	8:30 AM
9/22	ALMONT	AWAY	5:00 PM
9/29	YALE	HOME	5:00 PM
10/3	MARLETTE INVITATIONAL	AWAY	8:30 AM
10/6	ARMADA	HOME	5:00 PM
10/10	NB JV TOURNAMENT	HOME	8:30 AM
10/13	RICHMOND	HOME	5:00 PM
10/20	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	5:00 PM
10/24	BWAC LEAGUE TOURNAMENT	AWAY	9:00 AM

GIRLS GOLF

8/21	LUTHERAN NORTH WEST	AWAY	7:30 AM
8/24	RICHMOND	AWAY	3:30 PM
8/28	BWAC 18 HOLE	AWAY	9:00 AM
8/31	YALE	AWAY	2:00 PM
9/8	ARMADA	AWAY	3:30 PM
9/14	NORTH BRANCH	HOME	2:00 PM
9/15	ALMONT	AWAY	3:30 PM
9/21	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	2:00 PM
9/23	YALE	AWAY	2:00 PM
9/28	BWAC 18 HOLE	AWAY	9:00 AM

MS VOLLEYBALL

9/2	IMLAY CITY	HOME	4:30 PM
9/9	ALMONT	AWAY	4:30 PM
9/16	ARMADA	HOME	4:30 PM
9/21	RICHMOND	AWAY	4:30 PM
9/23	CROS-LEX	AWAY	4:30 PM
9/28	YALE	HOME	4:30 PM
9/30	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	4:30 PM
10/5	ALMONT	HOME	4:30 PM
10/12	ARMADA	AWAY	4:30 PM
10/14	RICHMOND	HOME	4:30 PM
10/19	CROS-LEX	HOME	4:30 PM
10/21	YALE	AWAY	4:30 PM

CROSS COUNTRY

8/20	BIRCH RUN EARLY INVITATIONAL	AWAY	4:30 PM
8/21	HATCHET UNDER THE LIGHTS CLASSIC	AWAY	9:30 PM
9/8	WILDCAT RELAYS	AWAY	TBA
9/11	SPARTAN INVITATIONAL	AWAY	TBA
9/12	HATCHET INVITATIONAL	AWAY	TBA
9/15	BWAC JAMBOREE	HOME	4:45 PM
9/22	COUNTY PRESS/NB MEET	HOME	4:00 PM
9/29	BWAC JAMBOREE	AWAY	4:45 PM
10/6	BIRCH RUN FALL INVITE	AWAY	4:30 PM
10/14	BWAC JAMBOREE	AWAY	4:45 PM
10/17	DAVE PATTERSON INVITE	AWAY	TBA
10/24	THUMB AREA CHAMPIONSHIP	AWAY	10:30 AM
10/31	MHSAA REGIONAL	AWAY	TBA

MS CROSS COUNTRY

9/12	HATCHET INVITATIONAL	AWAY	TBA
9/15	BWAC JAMBOREE	HOME	3:45 PM
9/22	COUNTY PRESS NORTH BRANCH MEET	HOME	5:30 PM
9/29	BWAC JAMBOREE	AWAY	3:45 PM
10/6	GREEN DEVIL INVITE	AWAY	5:30 PM
10/14	BWAC JAMBOREE	AWAY	3:45 PM



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