



SCHOOL TALK



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CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL September 4, 2012

It will be a 1/2 day for all students
ECSE students will begin September 5th

2012-2013 Building Schedules

High School (grades 9 – 12) – 7:25 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.
Middle School (grades 7 – 8) – 7:25 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.
Ruth Fox Elementary (grades 5 & 6) – 7:25 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.
North Branch Elementary (grades K– 4) – 8:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

1/2 DAY SCHEDULES:

Elementary ends 12:20 p.m.
Secondary ends 11:05 a.m.

Superintendent's Corner



As the summer draws to an end and final preparations for the coming school year are finalized, take a moment to pause and reflect on the many good things life has to offer. Whether you are a parent shopping for school clothes and supplies, a student eager to discover the challenges of the next grade, a community member gearing up for the rumble of yellow school busses or even a staff member putting the finishing touches to their classroom to make it the most inviting place for students, North Branch Area Schools has a lot to be proud of.

Student achievement is the number one priority. We are a learning community dedicated to excellence and *believe* our children come first. The entire staff of NBAS is committed to *insuring* all students are college and career ready when they graduate. This summer, teachers have been busy pouring over curriculum to align it with the Common Core State Standards. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.

The transportation department has been industriously preparing the busses for another year, custodians have the buildings in beautiful condition and the food service group has wrapped up the summer breakfast and lunch program and is ready to feed the student's breakfast and lunch throughout the school year with no increase in lunch prices. Our child care program, FABS (Fun After and Before School) operated all summer at full capacity. Many coaches have already begun practices for fall sports and the Bronco Marching Band completed their annual week-long Marching camp the first week of August. Let's not forget about the Band Boosters and Athletic Boosters. These are groups that provide tremendous support for our student programs and are a significant reason why North Branch Area Schools is one of the few left which does not charge participation fees for student athletes.

The Board of Education has established a Strategic Plan to guide the district through the next five years. One of the goals is to "Use the district's financial resources to provide the best educational services possible for students while maintaining financial stability." The Board of Education, in cooperation with all employee groups, was able to align revenues and expenses for the first time since 2006. The balanced budget maintains all programs and services for our students. In some cases such as full-day kindergarten, the Board has actually expanded programs for kids while still tightening the budget.

The first half-day of school for students is September 4. All student programs and services are fully operational and Bronco Pride is abundant! I want to express my thanks for your continued support of our schools. Working together, we can continue providing the high level of educational opportunities for our children. North Branch Area Schools is proud to be a part of a caring community that believes "kids come first." Feel free to reach out to any staff member with questions or concerns. The administrative team is ready to address any issues prior to the start to school. Further, consider checking out the district's updated website to discover specific information as it relates to your child. Have a great rest of the summer. I'll see the students bright and early September 4!

NBHS graduates will be entering the Military via Officer Training programs

2012 graduate, Matthew Haney was selected into the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps based on his ACT scores. The highly selective application process involves an extensive written application and an interview with a Navy representative.



Matthew Haney

Applicants must also pass an entrance medical examination process. Matt will be studying at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor pursuing a degree in Naval Architecture. He has a trial first year with the NROTC program after which he may elect to commit to the Navy or not. Should he decide to continue, Matt would serve as a reservist for the duration of college and then serve the Navy as an officer full time for five years after college. When his active duty has been completed, Matt plans to go into the private sector designing ships for the Navy (they no longer build their own but use civilian contractors).

Eli Parsch is graduating for the second time this summer, recently from NBHS and the other will be from basic training at U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado the 1st of September. He and his platoon are currently in the wilds of Colorado doing the physical part of boot camp. Although not allowed contact from his family and friends during this time, he told his mother (Cathy Parsch) previously that the Academy is the "hardest thing" he's ever done, but "this is where he is meant to be." He is one of a very small percentage that is accepted into the Air Force Academy. More than 15,000 people apply each year and only 1000 get accepted, Mrs. Parsch said.

"Usually 1500 are accepted, but because of budget cuts, the selection process is even tighter this year," she said.

"Eli has been in preparation for the past four years for this training. He started talking about it in the 8th grade. In 9th grade he spoke to a friend of ours, Steve, who went through the training and is retired," she said. "In 10th grade, he made the decision and they have been watching him ever since."

Acceptance is based on 60% academic,



Eli Parsch

not only his grades but also his ACT and SAT scores; 20 % community service such as his church and National Honor Society and 20 % leadership. Eli was the vice president of his class for his junior and senior year and a member of Student Council all four years.

"Steve gave him some advice about his high school sports, too. Eli had always loved track, but Steve suggested that he joined a team sport because the Air Force wants to know you can train and function with a team. So in 10th grade, Eli went out for football," she said. "When the coach talked to the team about eligibility, Eli volunteered to help tutor, not only that year, but for future years, too."

Mrs. Parsch said that the best part about that experience for Eli was getting to know classmates that he might not have ever known. Coach Jacobson told Eli he was a great teammate, not necessarily because of his athletic ability, but because of his willingness to do whatever it took to help the team, she said. He filmed for the team his senior year, she said.

Congresswoman Candice Miller could only nominate two candidates from the State of Michigan. She told Eli her panel of interviewers was "blown away" by Eli's maturity and demeanor in personal panel interviews, Mrs. Parsch explained. "Sometimes he had as many as six people interviewing him."

"They were also impressed not only by his academics and service, but also that he has been working since he was 13 years old, milking cows for the Sohn's," she said. "It shows his work ethic."

The end result of this training is that Eli will be "doing something for his country," Mrs. Parsch said. He hopes to become a pilot.

Eli is the only son of Cathy and John Parsch of North Branch and the only brother of Madalyn Parsch, a 2007 graduate of North Branch High School. His first trip home will hopefully be at Christmas, Mrs. Parsch said.

NEW TEACHERS

Megan Hopp

My name is Megan Hopp and I am joining Ruth Fox Elementary as a sixth grade teacher. I am very excited and eager to work with the people and students of Ruth Fox and everyone who is a part of North Branch Area Schools. This is an awesome community and I am thankful I get to be a part of it.

I graduated from Mayville where I was an active participant in various sports and extracurricular activities. I played basketball, softball, and volleyball, and was involved in student council, ecology club, and national honors society. These activities helped shape me into the person I am today. Being involved is one of the reasons why I pursued teaching, as I want to help impact students’ lives as other teachers and coaches have impacted mine. After high school and much decision-making I went to the University of Michigan - Dearborn (UMD) where I majored in language arts and minored in mathematics. I also participated on the women’s basketball team. Throughout my college career I had several volunteer opportunities that ranged from basketball camps in the UMD field house to a camp for at-risk kids in New Jersey. All of these experiences were rewarding in their own way.

Some of my hobbies and interests include spending time with family and friends, learning to play new sports, watching movies, reading, cooking, baking, and enjoying the outdoors. Last May I married my high school sweetheart, Nikolas. I am very lucky to say I have some bronco blood in me because my grandparents and parents graduated from North Branch.

I am thrilled and ecstatic to get this new school year underway! I am eager to share my knowledge as well as gain valuable knowledge from other staff here at North Branch Area Schools.



Samantha McCarty

Hello!! My name is Samantha McCarty. I recently graduated from Saginaw Valley State University where I obtained a Bachelor of the Arts degree with a major in Elementary Education and minors in Mathematics, English, and Early Childhood Education. I am thrilled to begin my career as a 5th/6th Grade Mathematics Teacher at Ruth Fox Elementary School. I am looking forward to getting to know all of the students, my fellow co-workers, and the members of this wonderful community!

I grew up in Carsonville and graduated from Carsonville-Port Sanilac High School. I come from a very close-knit family, so I feel fortunate to have found a job close to my hometown. Horses have always been a huge part of my life. I grew up riding and showing horses competitively. While studying at Saginaw Valley, I participated on the SVSU Equestrian Team. In addition to horseback riding, I enjoy softball, volleyball, cardio-kickboxing, Zumba, and long-distance running. I am currently training for my first half-marathon in the fall.

Becoming a teacher has been a dream of mine for as long as I can remember. My experiences range from working as a childcare provider, tutoring, student teaching in a first grade and a young 4’s classroom, and substitute teaching in the local school districts. In addition, I was a preschool teacher at Geiger Early Childhood Center in Croswell-Lexington School District. All of my past experiences have strengthened my teaching skills and prepared me for a successful career as an educator. Words cannot express how excited I am to join the Ruth Fox team and become a North Branch Bronco!



Matthew Sweeney

I am extremely excited to become a member of North Branch Area Schools!

I am a graduate of Caro High School so I am very familiar with North Branch and its strive for excellence in academics and athletics. I graduated form Saginaw Valley State University with a degree in Elementary Education with minors in Middle Grades Language Arts and Science.

Shortly after graduation I moved to North Carolina to start my career as an Educator. My wife and I have been residing in North Carolina as teachers for the past eight years. We have a 2 1/2 year old son named Blake, and a three month old daughter named Lillian. With our family complete, we decided it was time to make our move back to the great state of Michigan to be closer to family.

During my tenure as a teacher in North Carolina I taught Sixth Grade Language Arts for four years, Sixth Grade Science for two years, Seventh Grade Language Arts for one year, and Seventh Grade Science for one year. I take much pride in becoming an active member within the school and the community. I coached six years of middle school baseball and one year of football. I also was elected to chair the Junior BETA Club, as well as the PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support) Team. I had the privilege in becoming a member of the SLT (School Leadership Team), and the SIT (School Improvement Team). In 2010-2011, I became a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Fellow for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District.

I feel blessed that I was given the opportunity to become a 5/6 Grade Looping Teacher at Ruth Fox Elementary where I will be teaching Language Arts and Science. I believe in strong classroom management, and creating a safe and conducive learning environment for my students. I will work to the best of my abilities to make sure that every student that I come in contact with receives the best quality education that can be provided.

I am very much looking forward to working with the staff at Ruth Fox Elementary. I am also excited to meet, and communicate, with parents and other members of the community. I hope to one day make North Branch Area Schools the school system in which I send my children. Thank you again for the chance to teach your children.



Sarah Sieradzki

Hi families, I am so excited to meet all of you and to join the wonderful community of North Branch! I have begun planning many activities for next year already, and can't wait for all of the fun, engaging, and educational adventures.

Although I am new to North Branch, I am not new to teaching fourth grade. I taught fourth grade last year at Maple Valley Elementary in Sandusky Community Schools. When this position came available here at North Branch however, I had to try for it, as I have wanted to teach at North Branch since I moved up here!

I graduated from Oakland University in Rochester Hills back in April 2011, and grew up an hour south of here in Macomb. Before college I went to school at Chippewa Valley Schools, and graduated from Dakota High School. I currently reside right outside of Marlette, where I live with my husband Joe and our two dogs.

I love to sing, act, fish, read, and of course teach! I have been in about six musicals throughout high school and with Community Theater, and was in choir from 6th grade- freshman year of college. I have sung the National Anthem at many different events, including for the truck pulls at the Sanilac County Fair. I have also sung with a group of eight along with Josh Groban at DTE Theater!

I love to come to class every day, and hopefully my students will too! They will know that our room is a place where they can feel comfortable and respected. They will know that I am a very fair teacher, and that fair does not mean that everyone gets the same thing, but that they get what they need! I always try to go the extra mile to make sure that my students are learning the most they possibly can, and are trying their absolute hardest!

Once again, I am so excited to meet all of you, and if you see me in the halls or on the streets don't hesitate to say hello!



QUESTIONS or COMMENTS? NEED HELP SOLVING A PROBLEM?

You are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals to assist you in answering your school-related questions, or to assist you in resolving problems. We are always open to your suggestions and ideas for improving North Branch Area Schools.

Thomas A. English, *Superintendent*810-688-3570

Nancy Robertson, *Special Education Coordinator*.....810-688-3570

Cheryl Bruff, *Director of Finance & Business*810-688-3570

Mark Britton, *Transportation Supervisor*810-688-3660

Louise Nellenbach, *Food Services*810-688-2226

Leann Gwinn, *FABS Child Care*810-688-4634

District Websitewww.nbbrncos.net

HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, *Principal*810-688-3001

John Sherman, *Asst. Principal*810-688-3001

Jim Fish, *Asst. Principal/Athletic Director*810-688-2518

Susan Strump, *Counselor*810-688-3564

Brenda Weingartz, *Counselor*

Mark Hiltunen, *Quest High School*810-688-7581

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Merideth Collins, *Principal*810-688-4431

Tammy Siegler, *Counselor*.....810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, *Principal*810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

Greg Matheson, *Principal*810-688-3041

Angela Martin, *Asst. Principal*810-688-3042

2 School Talk

Family Access Login & Password Information

Do we have your correct email address?
Parents/Guardians will receive confidential login and password information via email on August 20th. Reminders can always be requested using the "Forgot Password?" link on the FA login page. Paper copies will be sent on request only. Contact a building secretary for further assistance. Skyward Family Access allows guardians the ability to view important, confidential student information via the Family Access link at www.nbbrncos.net. Protect that information by using the following guidelines when choosing a password;

- Don't share passwords with others
- Make passwords hard to guess
- Use an 8 character password that includes letters and numbers
- Change passwords frequently
- Use different passwords for different accounts
- Store passwords securely
- Don't leave passwords where others can find them

Virtual Learning Academy

North Branch Area Schools, in partnership with Calvert Education Services, is offering a Virtual Learning Academy Consortium for students in K-8 in Lapeer County whose parents have chosen to guide their education in a home-based learning environment.

Parents are invited to learn about the world-renowned Calvert curriculum, how the Virtual Learning Academy Consortium program works and the enrollment process by visiting: www.virtuallearningacademyconsortium.org.

Virtual Learning Academy Consortium (VLAC) will bring a high-quality, home-based virtual learning option to parents of students in grades Kindergarten through eighth (K-8). This program is an option for parents (or other caregivers) preferring a flexible, home-based environment and who are willing to guide their child's learning.

Students who enroll in VLAC will be provided, at no cost, the equipment (including computer and internet access) and materials needed to participate in virtual learning using the Calvert curriculum. Each student will also receive a tailored program of learning designed to meet their specific educational needs and goals, and will receive instructional oversight by highly qualified Michigan teachers.

Calvert Education Service is a non-profit, international agency that provides accredited and time-tested curriculum. Calvert's world-renowned curriculum combines virtual and direct instruction with 21st Century innovations to deliver a blended virtual education program.

For information, please visit www.virtuallearningacademyconsortium.org. Questions? Call 888.638.8949 or email info@vlao.org.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

ACADEMY Consortium

A quality option for home-based learning.

Serving students in Genesee, Lapeer County, Livingston, Oakland, Washtenaw and Wayne Counties

School Pictures

Dress your best, smile and say cheese! Pictures will be taken by photographers from The Photo Factory. Each student will have his/her picture taken, regardless of package purchase, for the student identification card and their school yearbook (grades 7-12). Watch for more information to come home after the first day of school.


- The school pictures schedule:
- North Branch High School – August 21st & 22nd (during orientation)
 - North Branch Middle School – Tuesday, September 18th
 - Ruth Fox Elementary – Tuesday, September 18th
 - North Branch Elementary – Monday, September 17th


F.A.B.S. - Fun After & Before School

The North Branch Area Schools operates a child care program called F.A.B.S. This is a licensed program funded by user fees. The year round program is located in the North Branch Elementary School and is open week-days from 6:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (closed for Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks, Memorial Day and 4th of July).

Registration packets for the 2012-2013 school year will be available at the center beginning August 13, 2012. There is a registration fee of \$15 per student and an hourly rate of \$2.50.

For additional details contact Leann Gwinn at 810-688-4634 or visit our website at www.nbbrncos.net.





North Branch Instrumental Music Department Calendar of Events 2012 - 2013

Date	Event	Location	Time
Sat., Oct. 13th	M.S.B.O.A. Marching Band Festival	Goodrich H.S.	All Day.
Fri., Oct. 19th	Last 4 Steps (Marching Band, 7th and 8th)	M.S. Gym	5:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 1st	M.S.B.O.A. Middle School Solo Ensemble	Hosting	T.B.A.
Tue., Dec. 11th	Ruth Fox Bands Christmas Concert	H.S. Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Thur., Dec. 13th	Middle School Bands Christmas Concert	H.S. Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Tue., Dec. 18th	High School Christmas Concert	H.S. Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 26th	District III M.S.B.O.A. Honors Band (Middle School/High School)	Ortonville/Brandon	All Day
Sat., Feb. 9th	M.S.B.O.A. High School District Solo Ensemble	Imlay City H.S.	All Day
Tues., Feb. 12th	M. S. Pre-Festival Concert	H.S. Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Thur., Feb.14th	H. S. Pre-Festival Concert	H.S. Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Fri. & Sat, Feb. 22nd & 23rd	M.S.B.O.A. High School District Festival	North Branch	T.B.A.
Sat., March 2nd	M.S.B.O.A. Middle School District Festival	Davison High School	T.B.A.
Sat., March 23rd	M.S.B.O.A. High School State Solo Ensemble Festival	Lapeer East High School	Individual times T.B.A.
Thurs./Fri., April 25th or 26th	M.S.B.O.A. State Band Festival	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Thurs./Fri., May 2nd or 3rd	M.S.B.O.A. State Band Festival	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
Thurs., May 16th	High School Collage Concert	H.S. Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Mon., May 20th	High School Band Banquet	H.S. Cafeteria	6:00 p.m.
Wed., May 22nd	Swing Out Marching Broncos	H.S. Band Room	4:30 p.m.
Mon., May 27th	Memorial Day Marching Broncos	Clifford / North Branch	9:00 a.m.
Mon., June 3rd	Grand Collage Band Concert (5 – 11)	H.S. Gym	7:00 p.m.

Transportation News

Greetings from the Transportation Department!

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mark Britton and I am the new Transportation Director for North Branch Area Schools. I represent Dean Transportation, the company which is managing the district's bus fleet. Dean Transportation brings to North Branch several years of excellence in fleet management throughout Michigan. Dean Transportation is based out of Lansing Michigan and manages several school districts across the state. I started with Dean Transportation this summer and assure the North Branch community that we have the utmost concern for the safety and well being of each and every student in North Branch.

You should receive a post card with bus route information for your child very soon. For the most part, procedures will remain the same; however, safety issues concerning picking up and dropping off students at certain locations will be reviewed as well as the routing of buses. Efficiency is important but maintaining safety in transporting your students to and from home is our top priority. To insure the safety for your students Dean Transportation will be adding eight new buses to the fleet this school year.

We are fortunate to have many of the same office and driving staff that have driven for North Branch for several years. The team brings the experience and the security of knowing who will be transporting your students. I would like to welcome a few new drivers who will also be wonderful additions to our team.

Jami Archer	Andrea Fike	Pam Peel	Richard Evans
Luanne Bruman	Charlie Hancock	Kathy Sauk	Lindy Helm
Sharlene Langley	Fred Pasternak	Charlene Gibney	Alice Pringle
Roxanne Gobbi	Clark Arnold	Sue Fosdick	Deb Lombardo
Karen Kohler	Dan Zissler	Treda Terry	Amy McIntosh
Sue Carter	Karen Ferkowicz	Gloria Forsys	Stephanie Gombar
Everlyn Haight	Rosemary Terenzi	Andrea Pelowski	Renea Bader
Richard Calkins	Constance Hummel	Scott Ramey	

We look forward to a great fall start and encourage you to call 810-688-3660 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank You !

Mark Britton – Transportation Director

Access to Student Directory Information

Under the General Provisions (Section 9528) of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, student directory information (names, addresses, and telephone listing) must be made available to military recruiters in every branch of the U.S. Military and institutions of higher education, upon their formal request. In order to receive funding under No Child Left Behind, districts must comply with this request. Failure to comply in a timely manner could lead to the withholding of Federal funds.

A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student's name, address and telephone listing, not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency shall comply with this request. If you would like to exercise this option, please contact the High School Office in writing.

Parents can also find more information regarding No Child Left Behind by going to the following website:

<http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/nclbguide/parents-guide.pdf>

New High School Schedule

Beginning this fall, North Branch High School students will follow a 3 by 6 schedule. This means that students will attend six classes per day for each of the three trimesters. Each class period will last 60 minutes. All core classes (English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies), will meet all year long (3 trimesters) which will allow for more time for student learning. In addition to more time in the classroom, there will also be fewer scheduled gaps between courses as sometimes happened in the 3 by 5 trimester schedule that we have been using.

The Leadership Team at North Branch High School, as part of our School Improvement Process, reviewed the current 3 by 5 high school schedule and evaluated alternatives to assure optimal student learning. The committee used the following criteria in making their recommendation.

- Maintains or exceeds the amount of learning time per course
- Decreases the amount of gap time between courses.
- Meets the Michigan Core Curriculum standards and is aligned to the National Common Core Standards as well as the College and Career Readiness standards as developed by ACT.
- Ensures a comprehensive program of study that also allows for student choice
- Schedule is programmatically and fiscally sustainable over time.

The committee researched several different High School Models. The schedule that makes the most sense and best meets the criteria above is the 3 X 6 Trimester Schedule. This new schedule will have the following benefits:

- More emphasis on core courses
- Provides opportunity for year-long courses in all core academic areas
- Reduces the gaps between core courses
- Maintains comprehensive high school program and allows students to take electives
- A continuation of current junior high schedule
- Cost effective schedule

2012-13 NBHS Daily Bell Schedule

7:25 am	AM Ed-Tech Busses leave for Ed-Tech	
7:45 am	AM Ed-Tech Busses arrive at Ed-Tech	
Period One	7:25-8:25	(60 minutes)
Passing Time		(6 minutes)
Period Two	8:31-9:31	(60 minutes)
Passing Time		(6 minutes)
Period Three	9:37-10:37	(60 minutes)
Channel One	10:37 -10:47	(10 minutes)
Passing Time		(6 minutes)
10:15 am	AM Ed-Tech Busses Depart Ed-Tech	
10:35 am	AM Ed-Tech Busses arrive at NBHS	
Period Four	10:53-12:23	(60 minutes)
• A Lunch	10:53-11:23	
• B Lunch	11:23-11:53	
• C Lunch	11:53-12:23	
Passing Time		(6 minutes)
11:20 am	PM Ed-Tech Busses leave for Ed-Tech	
11:40 am	PM Ed-Tech Busses arrive at Ed-Tech	
Period Five	12:29-1:29	(60 minutes)
Passing Time		(6 minutes)
Period Six	1:35-2:35	(60 minutes)
2:10 pm	PM Ed-Tech Busses Depart Ed-Tech	
2:30 pm	PM Ed-Tech Busses arrive at NBHS	

August Student Registration For 2012-13

PLEASE NOTE: Student schedules will NOT be mailed home. Students must pick them up during orientation.

To minimize time out of classes, reduce expenses, and expedite access to student information, North Branch High School students will go through orientation on August 21st and 22nd and 29th. Students are REQUIRED to come to the NBHS Cafeteria according to the following schedule:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| • 11th / 12th Grades | Tuesday, August 21st | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM |
| • 9th Grade | Tuesday, August 21st | 5:00 pm – 8:00 PM |
| • 10th Grade | Wednesday, August 22nd | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM |
| • Make-Up Day (9th – 12th) | Wednesday, August 29th | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM |

Staff Retirement

After 33 years of teaching English at North Branch High School, Nancy LeTourneau announced her retirement at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Nancy has been an exceptional teacher to thousands of students over the years. She was truly a credit to North Branch Area Schools and will be missed by all students and staff at North Branch High School. Congratulations Nancy and best wishes in your retirement.

Student Handbooks

The student handbook, which includes the Code of Student Conduct, may be found on the NBHS website (Go to www.nbbrncos.net and click on “Schools”. Next, click on the picture or text of “North Branch High School”). It is suggested that both parents and students review this document before the start of the school year. If you do not have access to the internet, please stop by the North Branch High School Main Office.

Student Dress Code

It is the responsibility of parents and students to see that school dress is appropriate and not disruptive to the educational process. We want all students to take pride in their appearance, pride in their education, and pride in their school. We ask that Students’ and Parents’ take care in their selection of apparel for school. A copy of the Dress code can be found in the Student Handbook and under the “School Policies” section on the NBHS website.

Parent Newsletters Online

Parent Newsletters will be available on-line throughout the school year on the High School Website. Parents are encouraged to regularly check out the “Parents Newsletters” section along with other informational sections of our website. Paper copies will not be mailed home this school year but can be picked up in the High School office as they become available.

High School Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences Set

The annual Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences have been set for Wednesday, October 10th, from 3 – 6 p.m. and Thursday, October 11th, from 5 – 8 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend one of these sessions to meet with their student’s teachers and discuss their students’ academic needs. A College Planning Seminar will be presented by the Counseling Department during conferences. Parents of seniors should attend to find out more about what is required to begin college entrance plans.

Fall Act Sign Up Deadline Nears

North Branch will once again be a testing site for the ACT. The fall test will be held on Saturday, October 27th. The deadline to sign up for the fall test is Friday, September 21st, 2012.

Attention Seniors And Parents Class Of 2013 Senior Picture / Class Composite Requirements

1. ABSOLUTE DEADLINE OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2012 with a digital photo on CD or e-mailed (digital e-mailed preferred. E-mail to rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net) or TWO hardcopy photos (one for yearbook, one for composite)
 2. Overall size: 1 1/2” wide by 2” long
 3. Head Size: 1 1/4” (chin to top of head)
 4. Medium: JPEG preferred (300 dpi or greater) or Color Glossy (2)
 5. Composition: No props, hands, canes, hats, purses, gestures, etc.
 6. Plain Background: subdued blues, grays, etc. – NO OUTDOOR SHOTS.
 7. Your school ID picture will be used if no photo is submitted. Student responsibility to check the list of photos received on the yearbook bulletin board.
 8. Questions may be referred to Ms. Stover-Lange, (810) 688-3001 x 2156 or rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net.
 9. You may order a yearbook on-line with credit or debit card by using www.yearbookordercenter.com. NBHS #12285
- Photos not submitted in the above format May be assessed \$20 to be included in 2013 yearbook.

Class of 2013 Parents

Last chance to be involved in your student's high school career. A variety of talents and skills are needed by the senior class.

- Concession stand help
 - Float building
 - Float construction dinners/snacks
 - Dance chaperons
 - Fundraising
 - Photography
 - Other senior activities
- Please contact advisors Mrs. Anderson at canderson@nbbrncos.net (810-688-3001 x 2120) or Ms. Stover-Lange rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net (810-688-3001 x 2154). Looking forward to your help!



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

NBHS Forensics Team Finishes Season Strong

8 students from North Branch High School's Forensics Team competed in the Michigan Interscholastic Forensics Association's State forensics tournament held at Western Michigan University this past May. Marius Gdaniec placed 10th in Sales Speaking and Lee Stevens placed 7th in the Original Oratory category. The North Branch team proudly claimed 12th place in the team sweepstakes out of 67 schools competing.

Some of the team traveled two weeks later to Mackinac Island to compete in the Michigan Speech Coaches Incorporated tournament held at the Grand Hotel. Lee Stevens placed third in After Dinner Speaking category.



Team members attending the state competition are: [front row left to right] Ashley Johnson, Kayla Haegan, Dani Archer, Lee Stevens, Marius Gdaniec [back row] Rayne Johnson, Jade Topper, Elizabeth Jones

Set, Ready, Go.....

Two North Branch Seniors; Dani Archer, and Lee Stevens, both 3 year state qualifiers recently traveled to Athens, Ohio to attend an intensive Forensic Institute. Thanks to the grant awarded by the Lapeer County Community Foundation, both students spent 8 hours a day for nine days writing, researching, memorizing and preparing this season's competitive presentations. Dani and Lee were among 68 high school students around the United States that attended this Institute. Forensics is a competitive and academic high school speaking team. A member will write a speech on various topics or interpret and present selections of literature. North Branch High School will be including Legislative Debate, along with Model United Nations and Individual events to their season this year. Students in grades 6 thru 12 may join this team. The Coaches, Cindy and Rick Stevens are now beginning to get their rehearsal schedule together. If you are interested in joining this team, please e-mail Mrs. Stevens at cstevens@nbbrncos.net to indicate your intention for this season.

NBHS Celebrates Earth Week

The country celebrated Earth Day this year on April 22, 2012. What a great idea and a great way to give thought and thanks to a world that provides us with literally everything we need to sustain our lives. From food to clothes and technology (yes, all those phones, computers, and televisions are made for natural resources provided by the Earth!) to the basic needs like clean air and water.

Here at NBHS, we too celebrated the Earth with our own "Earth Week" activities. Each day of the week during our lunches we provided students with an environmental trivia question and the person(s) with the correct answers won a small prize. Prizes were eco-friendly and included biodegradable pens, reusable mugs, pens and paper made from recycled materials, and even a reusable bag. We also held a recycled container contest for the 3rd hour classes and the class that collected the greatest number of containers (Styrofoam, metal, plastic, etc) won a free day to watch an environmental movie and popcorn. As a finale our environmental science club completed another highway clean up, working for two hours and filling up 12 bags of trash.

A huge thank you to Mrs. Wenta's small, but mighty, environmental science club, made up of Autumn Zender, Katie Curell, Amanda Morrison, Maddy Ekstrom, Lee Stevens, Ashley Gray, and Jade McKinney. They helped sort, clean, and count the 2,448 recyclable containers we collected, then spent another two-hours cleaning the highway of waste. And last, but not least, congratulations to our winning classes: Mrs. Filkins, with 351 containers; Mrs. Carl, with 279 containers; and Mrs. Saelens with 253 containers. Many other participated and helped alleviate some of the 2.5 million plastic containers that are normally thrown in the trash by Americans every hour of the day!

Remember, Earth Day can be celebrated every day with just a little effort... turn off lights not needed, recycle and do not throw away non-returnable containers, use reusable bags and much more.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

7th Grade Orientation

All incoming 7th grade students are invited and encouraged to attend orientation on Tuesday August 21, 2012. Please see below for the times based on the first letter of the student's last name.

- 10:00 am – 11:30 am A-G
- 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm H-Q
- 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm R-Z

If a student is unable to attend during their scheduled session, feel free to join us at one of the other sessions.

Each session will begin in the North Branch Middle School gymnasium and will include: schedule pick up, brief presentations by Ms. Collins (Principal) and Mrs. Siegler (Counselor), and will wrap up with a tour of the building.

We Want You

If you like to speak and want to be part of a unique speech team, then this program is for you. North Branch Area schools are the only schools in the county that offers a competitive, academic program like this. The North Branch Middle School will begin their Forensic season with an informational meeting on Thursday evening August 23, 2011 in the High School Media Center at 6:30 for the parents and interested students. Students who are interested in joining this team should plan on meeting with the coaches and high school team champions. The meeting will inform parents of expectations and student performance and practice dates. The North Branch Forensic Team has a very strong background of performance, and has had many State qualifiers and performs in tournaments throughout the year. The middle school forensic team does perform in two state tournaments and an occasional invitational. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Stevens @ cstevens@nbbrncos.net

8th Grade Washington DC Trip May 7, 2013 – May 11, 2013

Mark your calendars now for the 2013 8th grade Washington DC trip! We have room for 133 8th grade students and are in need of a minimum of 18 adult chaperones. Brightspark travel will again be conducting the trip. There will be an informational meeting for all 8th grade students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) interested in additional information regarding the trip on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. (meeting begins at 5:00 p.m.) in the North Branch Middle School gymnasium. This is certain to be an amazing trip and historical experience for anyone whom participates.

Fundraising

Students will have the opportunity to participate in several fundraisers throughout the course of the school year. The money raised from fundraisers goes into the class account and is credited towards each student whom participates to offset the cost of the annual end of the year 7th grade field trip and the 8th grade Washington DC trip. Money earned via fundraising is unable to be refunded to a student for any reason.

The first fundraiser, Great Lakes, will kick off on Wednesday September 12, 2012. Students will have two weeks to sell product and earn money towards their class trips. All fundraising money and orders for this event are due on Wednesday September 26, 2012.

Please remember that participating in fundraising is optional, but can help to offset the cost of two awesome experiences for the middle school students. Stay tuned and check the website for additional fundraising opportunities and information.

Student Council Monthly Collections

Each month the student council members at North Branch Middle School work to collect items from students and staff to support the local thrift shop. This year's monthly collection items are as follows:

- September 2012 – Peanut Butter and Jelly
- October – Toilet Paper
- November – Hats, Gloves, and Mittens
- December – Toys
- January 2013 – Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- February – Macaroni & Cheese and Soup
- March – Cereal
- April – Personal Hygiene Products

We do ask that all items mentioned above be new when brought in by the students. Each month student council members will tally up the collected items and drop them off at the thrift shop. This is a great way for our middle school students to give back to the community.

Important Events on August 28

There are several events scheduled for the evening of Tuesday August 28, 2012 at North Branch Middle School.

To start the evening off, once again, the Community House of Hope will be offering a dinner in the Middle School/Ruth Fox cafeteria. No need to rush home from work and cook dinner, just load the family in the car and come enjoy! The dinner will run from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm.

The annual North Branch Middle School open house is scheduled from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm on Tuesday August 28, 2012. Students will have schedules in hand in order to drop in and meet their teachers. This is a great way to begin establishing relationships here at the middle school and ease some of the first day anxieties.

Dance, dance, dance! The evening will end with the traditional "Welcome Back" dance. The dance will be held in the middle school gymnasium from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Only current North Branch Middle School students will be permitted to attend the dance. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.00. Concessions will also be available for purchase. Students should make arrangements to be picked up promptly at 9:00 pm in the front parking lot of the middle school. Students without prompt rides are in jeopardy of being able to attend future dances.



North Branch Broncos Sports News

2011-2012 Recap

The North Branch Athletic Department is looking forward to a great 2012-2013 athletic year, but let's first look back at the accomplishments of last year. In the fall, the volleyball team lost its first league match in eight years and finished second in the TVC East Division. However, the team won its 5th consecutive TVC Conference Tournament Championship and its seventh consecutive District Title. The Lady Broncos advanced to the Regional Finals before losing a heart-breaking match to league rival Frankenmuth in five sets. North Branch finished the season ranked #7 in Class B and 54-17-1 overall. In addition, the team received Academic All-State recognition for the sixth consecutive year with an overall team grade point average of 3.61 while Sam Garza and Taylor Cheney earned Individual Academic All-State honors. The varsity football team finished in a third place tie in the very tough TVC East Division while dressing only 14 seniors this past season. North Branch finished 9th in Division Four with the highest team academic grade point average for its top 11 players (3.81) and Eli Parsch earned Honorable Mention Individual Academic All-State. The following individuals received first team all-conference recognition in the fall: Ryan Garza (Cross Country), Garrett Washington (Boys' Soccer), Trevor Marceau at defensive back and at wide receiver (Football), and Rachel Fish and Sam Garza (Volleyball). In addition, Sam Garza earned second team All-State recognition and Rachel Fish received Honorable Mention All-State Honors. Also during the fall season, North Branch had 112 out of 182 student-athletes (61.54%) receive scholar-athlete awards for a 3.2 or higher grade point average.

During the winter season, the wrestling program had great success finishing 24-10 for its second consecutive winning season. North Branch finished in third place in the TVC East Division and will return 21 of its 24 wrestlers next year. The competitive cheer team finished in second place in the TVC West Division for the second consecutive season. The varsity boys' basketball team advanced to the District Championship game after a thrilling upset over Croswell-Lexington in the District Finals. The following individuals received first team all-conference recognition: Jessica Laur and Victoria Seaman (Competitive Cheer), Candace Sutter (Girls' Bowling), Brandon Berlin (Boys' Bowling), and Ben Fowler (Wrestling). Also, the Broncos advanced four wrestlers to the Individual Regional Tournament in Lawrence Abbey, Ryan

Garza, Zeke Shifflett, and Ruben Thomas with Ryan Garza advancing to the Individual State Finals. During the winter season, North Branch had 74 out of 130 student-athletes (56.92%) receive scholar-athlete awards for a 3.2 or higher grade point average.

In the spring season, the girls' soccer team finished 13-8-2 for its ninth consecutive winning season and 7-6-1 in the TVC good for a third place tie. The team defeated Flint Northwestern and Flint Kearsley to advance to the District Finals. Also, varsity baseball team finished 18-17 on the season with just two seniors on its team. Both the baseball and softball teams finished 6-6 in the TVC East Division good for third place finishes while the boys' track team also finished in third place in the TVC East Division. The following individuals received first team all-conference recognition: Mike Berlin and Garrett Washington (Baseball), Megan Shaw and Kalee Sevon (Softball), Karisma Leon (Girls' Soccer), Aaron Fielder (Boys' Track). Finally, during the spring season, a very impressive 112 out of 162 student-athletes (69.1%) received the scholar-athlete award for a 3.2 grade point average or higher.



Track & Field Donates Proceeds
Jason Castle(left), Head Girls' Track Coach, presents a check in the amount of \$933.00 to former North Branch High School graduate Jeremy LaValley, Cornerpieces LLP. The monies raised were the proceeds of shirt sales for the 2012 Lapeer County Track Meet. Cornerpieces provides autism awareness to the public and also provides iPads and iPods to autistic children and Michigan special needs classrooms.



2012 Female & Male Athlete of the Year
Sam Garza & Trevor Marceau



All Conference Baseball
Front Row (l-r): Jakab Bonner, Honorable Mention Catcher; Jesse Choate, Honorable Mention Outfield; Ryan Ormiston, Honorable Mention Infield. Back Row (l-r): Garrett Washington, 1st Team at Large/Utility; Mike Berlin, 1st Team Pitcher and All district Pitcher; Dylan Bates, 2nd Team Infield & All District Infield



All Conference Girls' Soccer
(l-r): Eva Kasperowicz, 2nd Team, All District Team; Brittney Turner, Honorable Mention; Melissa Elliot, Honorable Mention; Anna Skelton, Honorable Mention, All District Team; Karisma Leon, 1st Team, All District Team.



All Conference Girls' Track
Front Row (l-r): Destiny Keesling, Honorable Mention 3200 Relay, Honorable Mention Pole Vault; Laci Schafsnitz, Honor Mention 1600M Relay. Middle Row (l-r): Hanna Cheney, Honor Mention 800M Relay, Honor Mention 400M Relay; Haley Vandecar, Honor Mention Shotput; Ashlynn Law; Honor Mention 400M Relay; Brianna McKenna, Honor Mention High Jump; Stephanie Schlaud, Honorable Mention 800M Relay. Back Row (l-r): Jessica Laur, Honorable Mention 800M Relay, Honor Mention 1600M Relay; Morgan Coulter, Honor Mention 100M Dash, Honor Mention 800M Relay, Honor Mention 400M Relay, Honor Mention 1600M Relay; Hannah Gordon, Honor Mention 100M Hurdles, Honor Mention 1600M Relay; Anouck DeCleene, Honor Mention 3200M Relay; Morgan Sawgle, Honor Mention 3200M Relay. Not Pictured Abby Brusie, Honor Mention 3200M Relay



All Conference Boys' Track
Front Row (l-r): Mike Gill, 3rd Team 800M Relay, Honorable Mention Long Jump; Trevor Mindelli, 3rd Team 800M Relay, Honorable Mention Long Jump; Brennan Zimmerman, 4th Team Pole Vault; Tyler Rea, 4th Team High Jump, Honorable Mention 300M Hurdles; Aaron Fielder, 1st Team Pole Vault, 2nd Team High Jump, 3rd Team 800M Relay; Remi Coulon, Honorable Mention 3200M Relay; Kristopher Bennett, Honorable Mention 3200M Relay. Back Row (l-r): Jacob Luke, 2nd Team 110M Hurdles, 2nd Team 300M Hurdles; Chris Wilson, 3rd Team 800M Relay; Lance Chapman, 4th Team High Jump; Marius Gdaniec. Not Pictured: Clayton Raska, 3rd Team Shot Put; Phil Ankley, Honorable Mention 3200M Relay; Ryan Garza, 3200M Relay.



All Conference Softball
(l-r): Madison Morgan, Honorable Mention; Kyle Dutcher, Honorable Mention; Megan Shaw, 1st Team; Alyssa DeMeyers, 2nd Team; Kalee Sevon, 1st Team.



East/West Football Cheerleader
Ashlynn Law



All Conference Golf
Jack Schulte, 2nd Team

NORTH BRANCH FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE 2012

VARSITY FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 24	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	7:00
Aug. 30	GARBER	HOME	7:00
Sep. 07	CARO	AWAY	7:00
Sep. 14	MILLINGTON	AWAY	7:00
Sep. 21	BIRCH RUN (Lights Out)	HOME	7:00
Sep. 28	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	7:00
Oct. 05	HOLLY (Homecoming)	HOME	7:00
Oct. 12	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	7:00
Oct. 19	YALE (Senior/Band Night)	HOME	7:00

J. V. FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 23	IMLAY CITY	HOME	6:30
Aug. 29	GARBER	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 06	CARO	HOME	6:30
Sep. 13	MILLINGTON	HOME	6:30
Sep. 20	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 27	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	6:30
Oct. 04	HOLLY	AWAY	6:30
Oct. 11	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	6:30
Oct. 18	YALE	AWAY	6:30

FRESHMAN FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 23	IMLAY CITY	HOME	4:30
Aug. 29	GARBER	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 06	OPEN	HOME	4:30
Sep. 13	MILLINGTON	HOME	4:30
Sep. 20	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 27	OPEN	HOME	4:30
Oct. 04	HOLLY	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 11	MT. MORRIS	HOME	4:30
Oct. 18	YALE	AWAY	4:30

8TH GRADE FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 11	SCRIMMAGE/MILLINGTON	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 18	CARROLLTON	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 25	GARBER	HOME	5:00
Oct. 02	CARO	AWAY	5:00
Oct. 09	BIRCH RUN	HOME	5:00
Oct. 16	STANDISH	HOME	5:00
Oct. 23	MILLINGTON	AWAY	5:00

7TH GRADE FOOTBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 19	ARMADA	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 26	ALMONT	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 03	CAPAC	HOME	5:00
Oct. 10	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 17	CROS-LEX	HOME	5:00
Oct. 24	ALMONT	AWAY	5:30

VARSITY GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 18	HARTLAND INVITE	AWAY	TBA
Aug. 23	NORTH BRANCH INV	HOME	8:30
Aug. 28	NORTH BRANCH QUAD	HOME	5:00
Aug. 31	MARIAN INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 08	LAKELAND INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 12	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	6:30
Sep. 15	FLUSHING INVITE	AWAY	TBD
Sep. 19	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 22	MT. MORRIS	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 26	CARO	HOME	6:30
Sep. 29	MARIAN INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 03	GARBER	HOME	6:30
Oct. 10	NORTH BRANCH QUAD	HOME	5:00
Oct. 13	BEAST OF THE EAST TOURN	AWAY	TBA
Oct. 17	MILLINGTON	AWAY	6:30
Oct. 20	NORTH BRANCH INV	HOME	8:30
Oct. 24	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	6:30
Oct. 27	TVC TOURN @ ALMA	AWAY	9:00
Oct. 29 - Nov. 6 & 8	39 DISTRICTS REGIONALS	HOME	TBD
Nov. 13	QUARTERFINALS	TBD	TBD

JV GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 25	FLUSHING INVITE	AWAY	TBA
Aug. 28	OXFORD QUAD	AWAY	5:00
Aug. 30	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 08	GOODRICH INVITE	AWAY	TBA
Sep. 12	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	5:30
Sep. 15	IMLAY CITY INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 19	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 24	LAKEVILLE	HOME	6:00
Sep. 26	CARO	HOME	5:30
Sep. 29	CROS-LEX INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 03	GARBER	HOME	5:30
Oct. 10	LAPEER WEST QUAD	AWAY	5:30
Oct. 13	NORTH BRANCH INV	HOME	8:30
Oct. 17	MILLINGTON	AWAY	5:30
Oct. 18	BROWN CITY	HOME	6:00
Oct. 24	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	5:30

FRESHMAN VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 22	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Aug. 28	CLARKSTON QUAD	AWAY	5:00
Aug. 30	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 8	FRANKENMUTH INV	HOME	TBD
Sep. 12	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	5:30
Sep. 15	CROS-LEX INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 19	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 24	LAKEVILLE	HOME	6:00
Sep. 26	CARO	HOME	5:30
Oct. 03	GARBER	HOME	5:30
Oct. 13	NORTH BRANCH INV	HOME	8:30
Oct. 17	MILLINGTON	AWAY	5:30
Oct. 18	BROWN CITY	HOME	6:00
Oct. 24	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	5:30

VARSITY BOYS' SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 17	ARMADA	HOME	4:30
Aug. 20	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	4:30
Aug. 22	LAKEVILLE	AWAY	4:30
Aug. 29	FLINT KEARSLEY	HOME	4:30
Sep. 05	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 06	LAPEER WEST	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 08	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 10	FARNKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Sep. 12	GARBER	HOME	4:30
Sep. 13	MARLETTE	HOME	4:30
Sep. 17	MILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 19	CARO	HOME	4:30
Sep. 24	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Sep. 26	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 01	GARBER	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 03	MILLINGTON	HOME	4:30
Oct. 08	CARO	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 10	BROWN CITY	HOME	4:30
Oct. 15 -20	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBD

J.V. BOYS' SOCCER

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 20	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	6:00
Aug. 29	FLINT KEARSLEY	HOME	6:00
Sep. 04	VALLEY LUTHERAN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 06	LAPEER WEST	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 10	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	6:00
Sep. 12	DURAND	HOME	6:00
Sep. 18	GOODRICH	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 26	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	6:00
Oct. 03	VALLEY LUTHERAN	HOME	6:00
Oct. 04	GOODRICH	HOME	5:00
Oct. 10	DURAND	AWAY	4:30

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 23	CROS-LEX	AWAY	9:00
Aug. 30	BROWN CITY INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 08	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	10:00
Sep. 11	TVC #1 AT CARO	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 18	LAPEER COUNTY MEET	HOME	4:00
Sep. 25	TVC #2 AT GARBER	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 04	MARYSVILLE	AWAY	3:30
Oct. 09	TVC #3 AT N. BRANCH	HOME	4:30
Oct. 17	TVC CONF AT ALMA	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 20	THUMB MEET AT CARO	AWAY	11:00

MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 08	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	11:15
Sep. 11	TVC #1 AT CARO	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 18	LAPEER COUNTY MEET	HOME	5:00
Sep. 25	TVC #2 AT GARBER	AWAY	5:30
Oct. 01	BROWN CITY INVITE	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 09	TVC #3	HOME	5:30
Oct. 20	THUMB MEET AT CARO	AWAY	12:45

7TH + 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 10	MILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 12	BRIDGEPORT "B" Teams	HOME	4:30
Sep. 17	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 24	CRAMER "A" Teams	HOME	4:30
Sep. 26	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Sep. 29	BAD AXE INV. "A" TEAMS	AWAY	9:00
Oct. 01	CARO	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 03	MILLINGTON	HOME	4:30
Oct. 08	BRIDGEPORT "B" Teams	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 10	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Oct. 17	CRAMER "A" Teams	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 22	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 24	CARO	HOME	4:30



North Branch Broncos Sports News

2012 Fall Preview

It has been a very busy summer at the high school as the vast majority of the teams and athletes have been working hard to prepare for the 2012-2013 year. Many of our athletes have participated in strength training, camps, and scrimmages. The football team has participated in several 7-7 scrimmages and hosted two camps. The boys' and girls' soccer teams held camps and participated in leagues during the summer. The girls' basketball team hosted several scrimmages with various schools. The boys' basketball team played in a summer league, traveled to a team camp, and hosted a skills camp. The cheerleading teams practiced throughout the summer and utilized the fitness center. The volleyball program hosted a camp and participated in a summer tournament. Many wrestlers traveled to camps or participated in open gyms. The cross country runners have been training 2-3 times a week all summer. Many of our baseball and softball players haven been playing on travel teams since early June. The coaches and athletes are very excited for what could be an outstanding athletic year at North Branch as the Broncos will be in contention for several league and district titles.

Football: The 2011 season finished with the Broncos going 4-5 overall for the second consecutive season. Coach Pat Forster will enter his fourth season as the varsity coach with a 14-14 overall record and one playoff appearance. The Broncos return 18 letter winners from last year's team as well as some talented athletes from the 5-4 JV team. The season opener will be on Friday, August 24 at Imlay City with kickoff at 7:00 p.m. with the home opener on Thursday, August 30 vs. Garber. The Broncos will play 3 other home games this year including Birch Run on September 21 Wounded Warriors Game and Light's Out Band Performance), Holly on October 5 (Homecoming), and Yale on October 19 (Senior Night and Band Parent Night). Season passes for all home football games will be on sale in the athletic office during regular school hours and at all home football games.

Boys' and Girls' Cross Country: Wayne Haney will take over the reins of the boys' and girls' cross country teams. Both squads have been running all summer and are optimistic about fielding two competitive teams. The boys' team could have 6 returning runners while the girls' team will have 3 returning letter winners. Both teams finished in 5th place in the TVC East Division last year and are hopeful of finishing in the upper half of the TVC this season. North Branch will host the Lapeer County Meet on Tuesday, September 18 with races beginning at 4:00 p.m. and the final TVC East Jamboree on Tuesday, October 9 with races starting at 4:30 p.m.

Cheerleading: Kelli Lovasz will take over the fall sideline cheer program. Coach Lovasz is an experienced coach and could be looking at returning 15 letter winners from last year's squad. The team had an outstanding summer and is extremely important in creating a spirited atmosphere at our athletic events. Look for news about the cheerleading program on its web-page which has a link on the North Branch Athletic home page.

Boys' Soccer: Rick Skelton has returned to take over the boys' soccer program. Last year's team finished with an 8-12-1 overall record and 4-8-1 conference record earning the team a fifth place finish in the TVC East Division. The squad graduated 6 players with varsity experience and will return 10 letter winners. North Branch will open up at home on Friday, August 17 vs. Armada at 4:30 p.m. Staring September 10 against league rival Frankenmuth, North Branch will play 5 out of 6 games at home. With beautiful fall weather anticipated, this would be a great time to take in a few Bronco soccer matches.

Volleyball: The Lady Broncos only lose 3 seniors from last year's 54-17-1 Regional Runner-Up team and return 10 players with varsity experience. Coach Jim Fish returns for his 13th season with an overall record of 672-118-36. The varsity team will host two tournaments this year with the first one on Thursday, August 23 and the second one on Saturday, October 20. The Lady Broncos will also host Quads on August 28 and October 10. League rival Frankenmuth will visit North Branch on Wednesday, September 12. North Branch will host the Class B District Tournament the week of October 29.

NOTES OF INTEREST:

The first booster meeting of the year was held on Monday, August 6th in the high school media center. The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school media center. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings. The booster club is interested in all ideas and welcomes input from everyone. Meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month in the high school media center. Any changes to the schedule will be published in the local papers and on the athletic web-site. Please contact any of the elected officers or the athletic office if you have any questions about athletic booster activities. The sole purpose of the booster club is to support the North Branch athletic programs. Individuals or businesses may become booster members with registration forms available in the athletic office or at the first varsity football game. All businesses or individuals that join the booster club will be recognized in our fall and winter athletic programs.

- The ninth annual Community Pep Rally will be held on Tuesday, August 21 at the football field beginning at 8:00 p.m. We will be introducing all fall sport teams and coaches. In addition, the marching band will be recognized and will be performing throughout the evening. Please come out to support our student-athletes and band members.

- Please take time to check out the new and up-dated athletic web-site. Athletic Announcements are posted weekly, up-to-date schedules are available, and any cancellations will be posted as soon as the event has been canceled. Please click the Athletic link on the North Branch District home page (www.nbbronzos.net) for the most up-to-date athletic news. Also, the student-athlete handbook and physical form is now available on-line.

- A major change this year is that North Branch will no longer use the web-based program Schedule Star meaning that you may not be able to access game schedules on highschoolsports.net. North Branch has switched to the ArbiterGame program that will be interfaced with mhsaa.com. Starting in late August, parents will be able to sign up for notifications from the school that will send instant alerts about game and practice changes. **All schedules will continue to be available on our athletic web-site. Please contact the athletic office at 810-688-2518 if you have any questions.**



North Branch Walking Trails now open to the public

2012-2013 Ticket Information:

Family and individual passes are now on sale for the 2012-2013 school year. An individual ticket to all North Branch varsity contests will be \$5.00 for adults and students. Freshman/JV football games will be \$4.00 and includes admission to both games. Freshman or JV only contests will be \$3.00 with all Middle School games priced at \$3.00 for adults and students. The best way to see your favorite North Branch team at a significant savings is by purchasing season passes for individuals or families. Again, passes may be purchased during school hours in the athletic office or at all home games.

Football: Individual Pass for \$30.00 includes admission to 4 varsity games, 5 fr/jv games, and 3 middle school games (savings of \$19.00 on single ticket purchases) **Family Pass for \$80.00** is a savings of \$116.00 for a family of four!

Basketball: Individual Pass for \$50.00 includes admission to all boys' and girls' Varsity, JV, Freshman, and Middle School games. Passes are good for both boys' and girls' events even if they are played on separate nights. (Savings of over a \$100) **Family Pass for \$80.00** is a significant savings for a family of four)

Boys' Soccer: Individual or Family Pass for \$20.00 includes admission to all boys' JV and Varsity soccer games. (Savings of \$25.00 for individual and \$160 for family of 4)

Volleyball and Wrestling: Individual Pass for \$20.00 includes admission to all volleyball and wrestling games. The **Family Pass for \$40.00** includes admission to all volleyball and wrestling games.

ALL SPORTS PASS: Individual (\$75.00).....a huge savings! Family (\$135.00).....a major savings for any family

Purchasing the All Sports Pass includes admission to all home events for all sports with the exception of MHSAA Tournaments. This pass is a terrific bargain even if you attend less than half of the home events. The Family All Sports Pass covers parents and all children still in school. Graduated family members will have to purchase their own passes. Our teams will be highly competitive and very entertaining this year. High school sports are still the best bargain for quality and exciting family evenings. If you need more information or have questions or concerns, please contact the Athletic Office at 688-2518 during normal school hours. Please make plans to get involved and support our student-athletes as they continue to strive for excellence both academically and athletically.



Mike Berlin signs with Delta College for Baseball Scholarship

NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

North Branch Area Schools...
a learning community dedicated to excellence.

BELIEFS

- Children come first
- Each child can learn
- Collaboration among parents, children, staff, and the community is essential to school success
- Learning is a life-long experience
- A safe and caring environment is essential to quality learning
- High expectations lead to an individual's highest achievement
- In creating educational opportunities to meet individual needs
- Successful schools continually evaluate and adapt to changing needs
- The responsibility for our children's overall success rests with the entire community

Ruth Fox Schedules Open House/Orientation

Ruth Fox will be holding their annual Open House and Orientation on August 28, 2012. All parents and students are invited and encouraged to attend!!! There will be a brief orientation from 6:00 – 6:30pm in the gymnasium. Following that, from 6:30 – 7:30pm, students will be able to visit their classrooms and meet their teachers! Parents and students will be receiving a lot of important information from teachers during the evening. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Summer Book Checkout for Ruth Fox Students!

Students at Ruth Fox Elementary School were invited to participate in three opportunities to checkout books during the summer from the Ruth Fox Library. Research (Kim 2004) suggests that summer reading loss can be prevented if students read 4 to 5 appropriately challenging books over the summer. In order to make certain that students had enough books to keep them busy, staff members at Ruth Fox Elementary School volunteered to host three different evenings where students could come and checkout a book as well as have a little fun! Students also had the opportunity to earn some prizes for their book logs as well. The staff is hoping that even if students were not able to attend the book checkout events, they were able to read at least four or five books during the course of the summer!!!!

Take-Off for Crew #9!

Crew #9, under the leadership of Mrs. Cindy Mitchell and sponsored by the Space Camp Committee at Ruth Fox Elementary School, attended Space Camp this summer in Huntsville, Alabama. The program, in its ninth year, has provided an all-expense paid trip for four students each year since its inception. The students are escorted to camp by Mrs. Mitchell. The funding for the trip comes from individual donations and the Old-Fashioned Family Christmas fundraiser held each year at Ruth Fox! This year, the Space Camp committee plans on hosting the Old-Fashioned Family Christmas on December 14th, so mark your calendars for this exciting event! If you would like to make a donation or have any questions regarding this great opportunity for kids, please contact Mrs. Mitchell at 688-4431 or at cmitchell@nbbrncos.net. The students attending Space Camp this year were Julia Hagopian, Adam Barrows, Michael Gormley, and Stephanie Howard.



Ruth Fox Elementary Receives Foundations Literacy Project Grant

Ruth Fox Elementary is the proud recipient of a generous literacy grant from the Foundations Literacy Project (a HIS Life Foundation and Stebbins Family Foundation partnership). This grant focuses on “tweens”, with the aim of closing the achievement gap in literacy skills through innovative summer learning experiences. Ruth Fox Elementary received a total of \$11,568.00. A significant portion of this grant was used to purchase eleven iPads, a synching tray, protective casing and keyboards. Research suggests summer reading loss can be prevented if students read 4 to 5 appropriately challenging books over the summer (Kim 2004), so remaining monies were used to boost summer literacy skills by purchasing books to build forty at-home student libraries (students were selected using a random number generator) and to put on a four week Summer Institute. Students attending the Institute participated in numerous interactive literacy and math lessons connected to the theme of “Fitness”. Students had several guest speakers, participated in a cardio fitness class at Dragon Karate with Master Cousineau, made purchases at a bookstore, and Skyped with tween author, Ellen Potter, and two Junior Michigan Olympians, Bethany and Laya Hartman. Throughout the Institute, students gained proficiency in various digital tools and resources—Diigo, Evernote, GoogleDocs, ScreenChomp, Popplet Lite, and more—while learning fundamental skills and concepts along the way. In the upcoming school year, students involved in the Institute will have opportunities to share their digital creations and knowledge with peers, Ruth Fox staff members, and on the World Wide Web. Ruth Fox Elementary is grateful to the Stebbins Family Foundation and HIS Life Foundation for their substantial literacy contribution. Staff would also like to recognize some talented minds from Michigan State University, Doug Hartman, Michelle Schira-Hagerman, and Paul Morsink, for their voluntary support and guidance with curricular planning and assessment for the Institute. For more information about HIS Life Foundation and Ruth Fox Elementary’s collaborative partnership with MSU, please scan the QR codes on this page.



Dates To Remember

- August 20 - Class lists are posted for grade 1-4. BK/K class notification letters mailed home
- August 21 - 6:30-8:00 p.m. – Media Center - PTO Organizational Meeting - All parents are invited!
- August 22 - 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Summer Registration Day - Any New Students
- August 29 - 5:00-6:00 p.m. – House of Hope Dinner / 6:00-7:30 - Open House - Meet the Teacher Night

Class Lists Posted

This year at North Branch Elementary School, students will be able to come up to the school and find out who their teacher will be as well as see the class list! Class lists for grades 1-4 will be posted on the windows of the school on August 20th. For students in Kindergarten or Begin-a-garten, teacher information will be mailed home the week of the 20th. Also, we will have teacher supply lists available at that time for students and parents to pick up. If you happen to stop by after office hours, supply lists are available on the North Branch Elementary School website as well!

Parent Teacher Organization Meeting

We are thrilled to announce that we will be reinstating the Parent Teacher Organization this year at North Branch Elementary! We believe that parent involvement and input is vital to school success and want to make it a priority. We would love to see all parents attend our first meeting of the 2012-2013 school year on Tuesday August 21st at 6:30 pm. Please come help us plan for a wonderful new school year!

Calling All New Families

If you have recently moved to North Branch and are wondering how to register your Pre-K through 4th grade child in school, please stop by the elementary office on August 22nd. We will be having our Summer Registration Day where any new family can stop by and register their child for school. The office will be open from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm. Please stop by, we’d love to meet you!

NBE’s Meet the Teacher Night

Come join us for our annual Meet the Teacher Night on Wednesday August 29th from 6:00-7:30 pm. Our teachers are eager to welcome their new students as well as give out important information to parents about the upcoming school year. Please stop by the office if you need help finding your child’s classroom! Also that night, you can come early and enjoy dinner in our cafeteria between 5:00-6:00 pm. The dinner is free and is being provided by The House of Hope. We look forward to seeing you!

Presidential Physical Fitness Awards

Students in 3rd and 4th grades participated in 5 events to qualify for the Presidential Fitness Award. The events cover a range of areas, from strength and flexibility to speed and endurance. Students that met all requirements are:
3rd Grade- Abby White, Brandon Martin, Drake Deshetsky, Kyle Nelson and Erin Wadley
4th Grade- Tyler Elliot and Nick Butterfield
Congratulations on this well deserved recognition!



Miss Berridge’s Third Graders Research Michigan Animals

Third graders in Miss Berridge’s class have been studying animals in science. This unit of study provided cross curriculum content expectations to be interwoven with Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum. Students read non-fiction texts, used technology resources, and applied note taking skills in researching their Michigan animal. Students wrote a multiple paragraph research report on their Michigan animal. In addition, students were required to create a replica of their animal’s habitat and share an oral presentation to the class. The students did an outstanding job with their unit on Michigan Animals.



North Branch junior makes U.S. Achievement Academy

By: Abigail Wise

Allison Schneider, a junior at North Branch high school, will appear in this year’s United States Achievement Academy’s Official Yearbook. In order to appear in the yearbook, students must be nominated by a teacher, coach, etc. in one of 22 achievement categories.

Schneider was nominated by North Branch microbiology teacher Brent Baksa in the science merit category. “She (Allison) was just an excellent, excellent student,” said Baksa. “I thought that was a great opportunity for her to possibly get some college money.”

By accepting her nomination, Allison will not only appear in the academy’s yearbook but also have the opportunity to apply for several scholarships available only to U.S. Achievement Academy nominees.

Allison hopes to pursue a degree in education with a science major and math minor; though she has not made a final decision on what branch of science to focus on in college, Allison said she is leaning towards biology.

Allison and her parents were both surprised by her nomination to the achievement academy. “We were excited,” said Allison’s mother, Sue Schneider. “She’s (Allison) glad that somebody is being recognized for academics.”

Allison agreed, saying it was nice that someone was awarded an honor for academics rather than sports. “You definitely feel like all your hard work has paid off,” she said.

Allison has applied for several U.S. Achievement Academy scholarships but has not yet found out if she has been awarded any college money.



Allison Schneider

Insurance

The school district does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school.

As a service to students and their families, our school is making available a student accident insurance plan for your child at a very nominal cost. The district offers this program because of trends in rising family health and dental insurance costs, increased deductibles, co-payments, lack of health or dental insurance coverage.

REASONS TO PURCHASE THIS COVERAGE:

1. Deductible and co-pays in your health plan. Many health plans have increased the amount of out-of-pocket expenses.
2. No insurance

This plan will provide benefits for medical expenses incurred because of an accident. If you have other insurance, benefits can be applied to your deductible or co-pays.

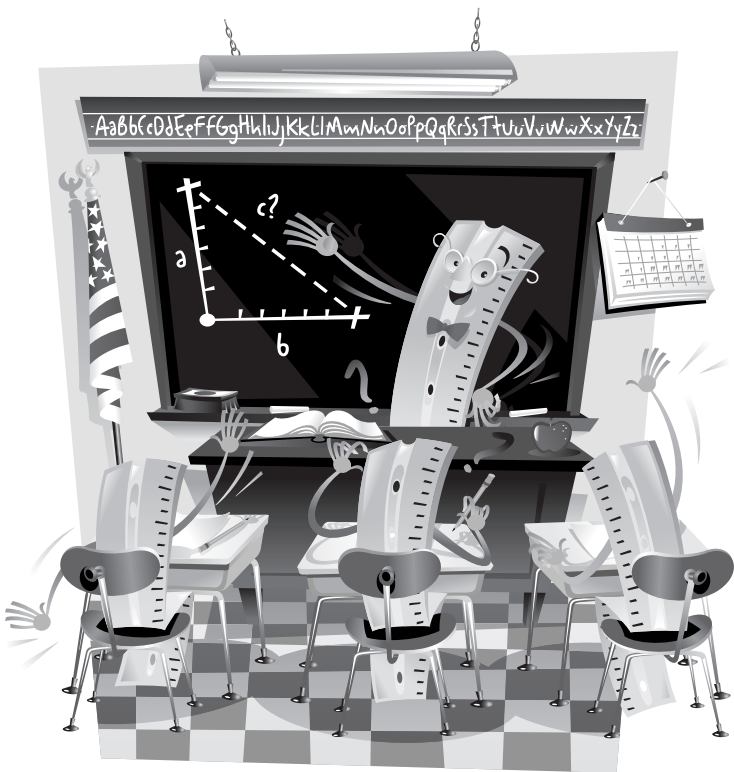
If you have no other insurance this will become your primary accident plan.

PURCHASE COVERAGE ON-LINE (with Visa or MasterCard) at www.1stagency.com and follow directions by choosing STATE and SCHOOL DISTRICT.

All questions regarding this coverage should be directed to First Agency, Inc. @ (269) 381-6630 or toll free @ (800) 243-6298.

Acceptable Use Policy

Students are to comply with the district computer acceptable use policy. Each student will receive and sign a copy of the policy prior to being given access to district computers. Students should be aware that no expectations of privacy exist for users of such equipment. An electronic copy of the Acceptable Use Policy can be found on the district website at www.nbbronzcos.net. As part of our internet program here at North Branch Area Schools, we occasionally publish pictures of school events on our district website. Please request a Parent Permission Form for World Wide Web Publishing if you do **NOT** grant permission to publish your student’s photo, artwork or writing on our district website. You must indicate if this applies to other forms of publications.



Lapeer County Community Foundation

Mission Statement

“The Lapeer County Community Foundation builds and manages permanent endowment funds from a wide variety of donors to provide grants that enhance the quality of life in Lapeer County, now and for future generations.”

North Branch Area Schools Endowment Fund Established 2004

The Lapeer County Community Foundation endowment fund supports the annual Maynard DeGrow Scholarship, Ostosh Engineering Scholarship, the Ostosh Nursing Scholarship and related expenses that are not part of the annual school operating budget.

Your donation is “tax-deductable”!

For more information visit the Lapeer County Community Foundation website: www.lapeercountycommunityfoundation.org

The North Branch Marching Broncos’ Summer Marching Camp 2012

The traditional week of marching band camp began July 30th at 7:00 AM sharp in the high school band room. All the vets from the previous year and the rookies (freshmen and transfer students new to the program) met with the anticipation of learning new things, meeting with friends, and making new friends.

Each day thereafter began at 7:30 AM on the marching field with stretches, calisthenics, and basic marching technique practice. The week started with unusually mild temps and humidity, unlike the 90’s that we had experienced earlier! On Thursday, Mother Nature was good to the Broncos with less humidity, temps in the mid 70’s and overcast skies in the morning. At about 10:30 AM she unleashed some much needed rain! After lunch, which was around 11:30 AM, the students had music rehearsals and sectionals. The days ended at 3:30 PM, and uniform fittings lasted until 5:30 PM. Even though camp ended at 3:30 PM, several sections continued on with individual sectionals lasting some days until 6:00 PM.

This year’s show is titled “Motown in Review” and features the cool feel of soul, rhythm, and blues! The music and drill are creative and exciting!

Friday’s 3:00 PM Parent Show brought the week to a close. There were a few awards announced at this performance. “Most Improved Section” was awarded to the Color Guard, “Best Section” was awarded to the Clarinet and Flute sections, and the “Rookie of the Year” went to Zane Howe! Congratulations!

The week was excellent! With the hard work of all our volunteers, camp staff, and our awesome students, we look forward to another exciting school year!



Bullying And Other Aggressive Behavior Toward Students

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior. Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.

Notification: Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

Implementation: The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy. This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

Procedure: Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit and should be completed within three (3) school days after a report or complaint is made.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall

submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

Non-Retaliation/False Reports: Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Definitions: The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

"Aggressive behavior" is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.

"At School" is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.

"Bullying" is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand held device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:

- A. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
- B. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
- C. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or
- D. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:

- A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
- B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
- C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.

"Harassment" includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion), cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).

"Intimidation/Menacing" includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.

"Staff" includes all school employees and Board members.

"Third parties" include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.



5th Annual
Buck Pole
Nov. 15, 2012

Presented by
North Branch Area Business Association

North Branch Food Center / Self Serve Lumber Parking Lot
3816 Huron St., North Branch

BUCK POLE FEVER!! GREAT PRIZES FOR HUNTERS!!

FOR HUNTERS ONLY!!

Hang your buck on the pole all day and enter into a \$100 lottery. Drawing held at dusk.

Free Coffee and Donuts in the tent! Everyone welcome!

Food & Beverages

CHILI COOK OFF PARTY
4-6 PM
Vote for your favorite chili - Local Businesses Competing!

Hot Dogs & Brats at the concession stand!

LARGEST BUCK: Shoulder Mount
(Measured by width and points) Sponsored by: Hampton Taxidermy & NBABA

\$50 CASH PRIZE for 1st Buck, Youngest Hunter, Oldest Hunter, 1st Woman Hunter

Enter to win at our Business Expo inside the heated tent! All Prizes and Drawings Sponsored by Your Local Businesses!

Pole Opens at Daybreak - Bucks must be registered by 7:30 PM

Deer must be shot November 15. Only one prize per hunter. The speed will be measured by a combination of width, mass and points. Deer must be completely field dressed, hunter must furnish general location and time shot.

Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines

North Branch Area Schools policy for free and reduced price school meals for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program. The following household size and income criteria will be used for determining eligibility:

Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk

TOTAL FAMILY SIZE	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	\$14,521	\$1,211	\$606	\$559	\$280
2	\$19,669	\$1,640	\$820	\$757	\$379
3	\$24,817	\$2,069	\$1,035	\$955	\$478
4	\$29,965	\$2,498	\$1,249	\$1,153	\$577
5	\$35,113	\$2,927	\$1,464	\$1,351	\$676
6	\$40,261	\$2,356	\$1,678	\$1,549	\$775
7	\$45,409	\$3,785	\$1,893	\$1,747	\$874
8	\$50,557	\$4,214	\$2,107	\$1,945	\$973
	\$5,148*	\$429*	\$215*	\$198*	\$99*

Scale for Reduced Priced Meals

TOTAL FAMILY SIZE	Annual	Monthly	Twice per month	Every two weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,665	\$1,723	\$862	\$795	\$398
2	\$27,991	\$2,333	\$1,167	\$1,077	\$539
3	\$35,317	\$2,944	\$1,472	\$1,359	\$680
4	\$42,643	\$3,554	\$1,777	\$1,641	\$821
5	\$49,969	\$4,165	\$2,083	\$1,922	\$961
6	\$57,295	\$4,775	\$2,338	\$2,204	\$1,102
7	\$64,621	\$5,386	\$2,693	\$2,486	\$1,243
8	\$71,947	\$5,996	\$2,998	\$2,768	\$1,384
	\$7,326*	\$537*	\$306*	\$282*	\$141*

* For each additional family member add:

Children from households whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free and reduced price school meals.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents or guardians. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households should fill out the form and return it to the school. Additional copies of the application form are available at the principal’s office in each school. Households should answer all questions on the form.

NON FOOD STAMP HOUSEHOLDS: An application which does not contain all of the following information cannot be processed by the school: (1) the total income by source for each household member (such as wages, child support, etc.); (2) names of all household members; (3) social security number of the adult household member who signs the application; and (4) the signature of a household member.

FOOD STAMP/FIP/FDPIR HOUSEHOLDS: If you currently receive Food Stamps, Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR) benefits for your child, you only have to list your child’s name and Food Stamp or FIP /FDPIR case number and sign the application.

The information provided by the household is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility, verifying data, or qualifying children for other federal and state programs, as authorized by the United States Department of Agriculture. The school or other officials may verify applications at any time during the school year.

Households may apply for benefits at any time during the school year. If a household is not currently eligible but has a decrease in household income, an increase in household size or if a household member becomes unemployed, the household should fill out an application at that time.

In most cases, FOSTER CHILDREN are eligible for these benefits regardless of the household’s income. If a household has foster children living with them and they wish to apply for free or reduced price meals for them, the household should contact the school for more information. Under the provisions of the policy, a designated administrator will review applications and determine eligibility.

Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. The household also has the right to a fair hearing. This can be done by calling or writing the superintendent of the respective district. This can be done by contacting Alan Piwinski, 6600 Brush St., PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461 (810)688-3570. Each school and the central office have a complete policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

REAPPLY: You may apply for meal benefits at any time during the school year. If you lose your job, if your income decreases, if your family size increases, if you begin Food Stamps or FIP /FDPIR, fill out an application at that time.

“In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

You will be informed of application approval or denial.

North Branch Area Schools 2012-2013 School Year Calendar

Sept 4 - Nov 21 Sept 3 Sept 4 Oct 8 – 12 Oct 15 – 19 Oct 22 – 26 Nov 9 Nov 21 Nov 22 & 23 Nov 26 - Mar 8 Nov 26 Dec 24 – 28 Dec 31 – Jan 4 Jan 7 Jan 21 Feb 15 Feb 18 Mar 5 – 7 Mar 8 Mar 11 - Jun 7 Mar 11 Mar 19 - 21 Mar 29 Apr 1 – 5 Apr 8 May 27 Jun 7	1st Trimester No School for Students - Labor Day First Day for Student -1/2 day MEAP Testing MEAP Testing MEAP MAKE UP No School for Students No School for Students - End of Trimester One No School for Students - Thanksgiving Break 2nd Trimester Trimester Two begins No School for Students - Winter Break No School for Students - Winter Break School Resumes No School for Students No School for Students No School for Students - President's Day ACT/MME TESTING No School for Students - End of Trimester Two 3rd Trimester Trimester 3 begins ACT/MME MAKE-UP No School No School for Students - Spring Break School Resumes No school for Students - Memorial Day Last Day of School* - 1/2 day for Students
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**In the event of inclement weather or other reasons necessitating the cancellation of scheduled school days, the school year may need to be extended to provide the State-required number of student days of instruction or the State-required minimum hours of annual student instruction.*

Annual Pesticide Notification

As part of the North Branch Area School District’s pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and building. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application if you need prior notification, please complete the information below and submit to: Operations Department, North Branch Area Schools, 6655 Jefferson Rd., P.O. Box 3620, North Branch 48461. (810) 688-4625

Pesticide prior notification request should include:

- Parent/Guardian Name
- Student’s Name
- Home Address
- Telephone Numbers (Daytime & Evening)
- School Building or Site
- Please indicate whether prior notification is requested for treatment inside the building, on outside grounds or both
- Please sign and date the request
- Requests must be filed annually

A.H.E.R.A. Notification

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires that schools be inspected for asbestos at least once every three years. The inspection must identify, catalog, and provide directions for maintaining asbestos found in any school buildings. The inspection reports are on file in the principal’s office at each building. Mr. Lou Dominick, the Facility Supervisor is the designated person responsible for maintaining these records and insuring that any necessary maintenance is properly completed. All of the school district’s maintenance and custodial staff have received the required training in understanding and handling issues relating to asbestos containing materials. Questions concerning North Branch Area School’s asbestos management plan should be directed to Mr. Lou Dominick at (810) 688-4625.

Family Access to Student Information

Nothing is more critical than the communication link between teachers and parents. All parents and guardians will receive a login and password for our Skyward Family Access software which will provide the following information for your student. Only authorized guardians can be granted access.

Attendance

- View attendance entries, including reasons for absence
- Identify missed courses for make-up work & assignments

GradeBook

- Real-time progress reports to determine current grade
- Immediate access to assignment and term grades as they are released by the teacher

Food Service

- Make online payments to your student’s lunch account
- Shows current balance and past payments
- Display daily purchases by student

Subscribe to Automatic email notifications

- Receive daily attendance information
- Receive notifications regarding student grades (low/missing assignments)
- Receive notification when Food Service Balance is below \$5

Check our website for the Family Access link at www.nbbrncos.net