



School Talk

www.nbbroncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

December 2017

MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK 60% 2025



Students attend the Promoting Your Future event



Students visit Oakland University



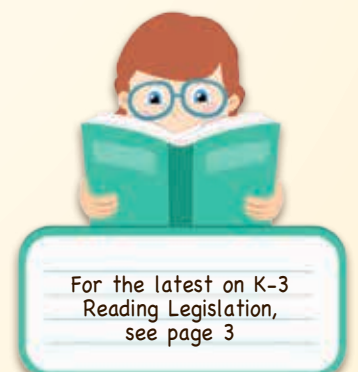
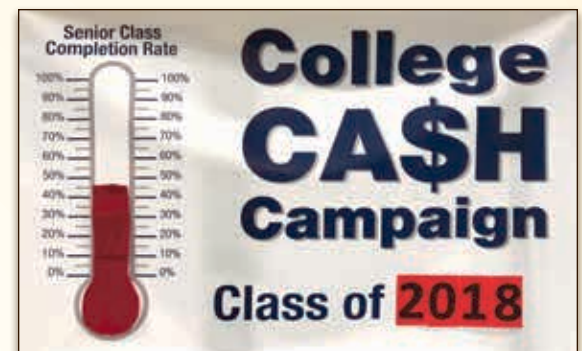
Reach Higher Committee

North Branch High School has adopted the Michigan College Access Network goal of 60% college attainment by 2025. Each year we strive to increase the knowledge of post-secondary accessibility. This year our senior class has been outstanding! As of November 28, our senior class has completed 491 college applications, with 51% of our senior class completing more than three applications. To compare, the class of 2017 completed 268 college applications with 18% of the class applying to three or more colleges.

College Cash Campaign Kick Off started November 1st. So far 45% of our senior class has completed the FAFSA. At the end of November the Class of 2017 has reported \$926,000 in grants and scholarships. The College Cash Campaign will run until March 1, 2018.

At NBHS we have a **Reach Higher Committee** that meets at least 10 times per year to plan activities, events and assist with promoting post-secondary knowledge to our students. Some of these activities include:

- SAT and ACT study seminars after school
- FAFSA and TIP completion assistance
- Apply and Admit Events
- 26 College Admission Representative Visits
- 3 College Campus Tours
- Promoting Your Future Event included speakers Kevin Daley, Nancy Boxey, Military recruiters, apprenticeship programs, representatives from colleges, MISSG and more



2016-2017 Fiscal Year End General Fund Financial Report

By **CHERYL BRUFF, Director of Finance & Business**

The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 was presented to the Board of Education at their regular meeting October 23, 2017. Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, P.C. gave the district an excellent evaluation regarding the financial review conducted by their firm. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the district general fund had operating revenues of \$21,640,621. The district expenditures were \$21,073,908 resulting in an increase of \$566,711 to the fund balance. The current fund balance is 11.48% of the budgeted operational expenditures for 2017-2018.

North Branch Area Schools employed 127 teachers, 77 support staff, 11 administrators and a number of substitute workers in 2016-2017. The school district is one of the largest employers in the area and the majority of our employees live within the boundaries of our school district. Since the school district's main resource is its personnel, this is the largest expense of the district, and approximately 77% of the total expenditures were for wages and benefits paid to district employees. The district contract for custodial and transportation services.

The student enrollment for the Fall count of 2016 was 2,333 pupils, which is down by 36 students from the February 2016 count.

The district's property base improved in 2016. Property values increased from 295.3 million in 2015 to 297.9 million in 2016. This represents a .88% increase over the previous year. The five-year average growth in property value is .05%.

The district is financially sound and the Board of Education has adopted five year plans this year for capital costs, technology, and curriculum.

To view more detailed information, visit the district website www.nbbronscos.net.

North Branch Area Schools General Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Year Ended June 30, 2017

	General Fund
Revenues:	
Local Sources	\$1,362,914
State Sources	\$19,079,426
Federal Sources	\$571,723
Transfers In	\$626,558
Total Revenues	\$21,640,621
Expenses:	
Instruction	\$13,522,491
Support Services	\$6,502,213
Transfers out	\$85,322
Capital Outlay	\$963,884
Total Expenses	\$21,073,910
Net Change in Fund Balance	(\$566,711)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$1,826,820
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,393,531

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

As the calendar turns to 2018, I want to take a moment to reflect on a tremendous 2017 year for North Branch Area Schools. Our district strives for excellence in all areas but we continually focus on three specific goals to measure our progress: Curriculum (Student Achievement), Financial, and Communication Goals. At our December 11 Board of Education Meeting, I shared the progress our district has made with each goal:

- **Student Achievement Goal: North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education will teach, measure, and continuously improve instruction aligned with state standards for increased student achievement and College and Career readiness.**

- o We have identified 4 key measurements of success relative to student achievement:

- ◊ Horizontal and vertical alignment of core curriculum, instruction, and assessment;
- ◊ Growth on K-12 local and state assessments;
- ◊ Assessment data is used to guide School Improvement;
- ◊ Documentation and participation in early childhood district initiatives (please review the article within this publication informing the community what our district is doing regarding Michigan's New K-3 Reading Law).

- **Communication Goal: North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education will validate the importance of every staff member as critical to the success of the district and maintain partnerships of integrity and trust within the North Branch Community.**

- o We have continued our District Theme of "All In" to create a culture of excellence throughout our schools. One example is how our high school counseling office is going above and beyond to work with our seniors in preparing

them for post-secondary opportunities. Please review the amazing progress shared by our counseling department in the article on the front page of this publication. Highlights include a significant increase in completion of college applications, FAFSA and \$926,000 in grants and scholarships for the 2018 graduating class;

- o We continue to communicate with our community through social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We publish our Bronco Academic E-Magazine on a monthly basis and our Bronco Athletic E-Magazine bi-weekly. Please visit the front page of our web-site to access our social media.

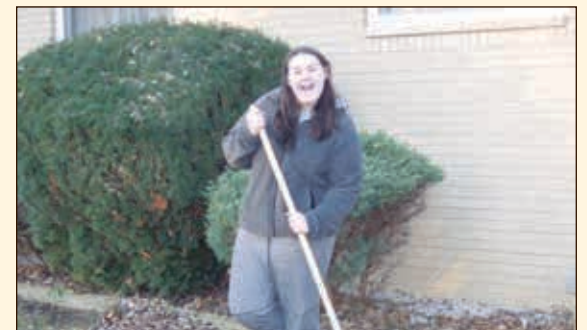
- **North Branch Area Schools and the Board of Education will evaluate and enhance opportunities for students by adopting and executing a budget that prioritizes teaching and learning while improving the district's financial stability.**

- o Our team approach in everything we do has allowed our district to put \$500,000+ in our savings account (see article in this publication on 2016-17 Financial Report) while enhancing opportunities for our students. For the 16-17 and 17-18 budgets, our school district has invested close to \$600,000 for technology and curriculum improvements in the classrooms and updated facilities for our students (new Ruth Fox Roof).

Yes, our district is making progress with each of our goals, and it is because we have a supportive community and a dedicated and caring staff. I hope you are able to spend quality time with your loved ones over the holidays. Winter break starts on Wednesday, December 20 and we return to school on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

*Happy Holidays,
Jim Fish
North Branch Superintendent*

THE BIG FALL CLEAN-UP!



Quest students took the opportunity to help our local senior citizens on an unseasonably warm late November day. In total, Quest students were able to clean 6 lucky seniors lawns, bagging over 200 bags of debris and leaves.

Michigan's New K-3 Reading Law



In the fall of 2016, Michigan legislature adopted House Bill 4822. This reading law has important implications for K-3 students at North Branch Elementary. The most talked about requirement of this new reading law is the 3rd grade retention component that will come into effect in 2019-2020, impacting this year's 1st grade students (2017-18). Starting in 2019-2020, any child who is one year or more behind on the state's reading assessment would be retained (please see exemptions listed below). The law also has other provisions that schools must implement before retention goes into effect (see table below; adapted from the Michigan Education Association).

As a way to be responsive and grow readers at North Branch Elementary, the school has put together a Reading Task Force. This task force is composed of teachers, parents, the K-5 Literacy Coach, as well as district leadership to make sure we are meeting the requirements of the legislation, but also, discussing ways to instill the love of reading with North Branch students.

PROVISIONS IN THE NEW READING LAW:

Retention:

- begins in 2019-20 school year
- takes place when a student is 1 year or more behind in reading on the state assessment

Exemptions can be granted for students to bypass retention, who EITHER:

- are less than 1 year behind on the state assessment
- perform at grade level on state approved alternative assessment
- demonstrate grade-level proficiency through portfolio work
- were previously retained in K, grade 1, 2, or 3 & received 2 years of remedial support

- have an IEP or 504 plan
- have less than 3 years of instruction in English Language Learning programs
- have been enrolled less than 2 years in the current district & were not provided an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) in previous school
- demonstrate proficiency in all other subject areas **OR**
- have a parent who requests an exemption "in the best interests of the student" to be approved by the Superintendent

Beginning in 2017-18, districts must:

- assess K-3 reading skills 3x's per year, the 1st within 30 days of school starting
- provide written notice to parents of a deficiency
- provide an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) developed by the teacher, principal, parents & other pertinent school personnel for any deficient students within 30 days after identification
- target specific areas of professional development for teachers
- differentiate & intensify professional development for teachers
- utilize a literacy coach from the ISD or in-house

Districts will develop a Reading Intervention Program that includes:

- evidence-based core reading instruction
- intensive development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, & comprehension
- parent "read at home" plans & other documentation of school's efforts to engage parents
- documentation of dissenting opinions expressed by school personnel or parents in Individual Reading Plans (IRP)

Grade 3 Reading Intervention Programs must include:

- more intervention time than the previous school year
- daily small-group and/or one-to-one instruction
- ongoing progress monitoring assessments
- intervention by a teacher, tutor, or volunteer outside the regular English Language Arts classroom time who has specialized reading training
- parent "read at home" plans with training workshops

English Language Learners must receive:

- ongoing assessments that provide actionable data
- instruction in academic vocabulary
- instruction using strategies such as modeling, guided practice and comprehensive input

Literacy Coach shall support teachers in:

- each of the 5 major reading components
- administering & analyzing assessments
- diagnosing reading deficiencies
- using progress monitoring
- modeling effective teaching strategies
- facilitating study groups
- data analysis
- evidence-based practices

End of 2019-2020- A student not promoted to Grade 4 must have:

- a) a highly effective teacher of reading as determined by the teacher evaluation system under section 1249 **OR**
- b) the highest evaluated grade 3 teacher in the school as determined by the teacher evaluation system under section 1249 **OR**
- c) a reading specialist

**CEPI will notify parents of retention by June 1.*

Masonic Lodge Hosts Quest Fundraiser

The North Branch Masonic Lodge again hosted the annual fundraiser for Quest High School. Over the 13 years that the Masonic Lodge has generously partnered with Quest, they have donated almost \$20,000 to Quest's activity fund. Thank you to all that attended!



F.A.B.S.

Fun After & Before School

Effective 1/1/18

NBAS in house Child Care

will be increasing our hourly rate

1st Child cost will be \$3 per hour

2nd Child (& each additional sibling) \$2.50 per hour

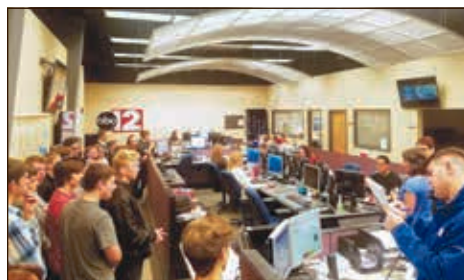




North Branch High School students tour ABC 12 News station

Mr. Margrif's current events students were introduced to Mallory Pearson, ABC 12's morning traffic reporter. Ms. Pearson provided an excellent, all-access tour and provided many opportunities for students to interact with additional ABC 12 staff. Students visited the newsroom, studio, control room, marketing department, and editing room. In a question-and-answer session, North Branch students were able to gain insight about reporting the news, the pace of the job, and the various positions that exist within a news organization.

Mr. Margrif stated, "Mallory Pearson is a product of Lapeer County. I think it's a great experience for students any time that they can see successful people from our area working in various career-fields. Mallory's enthusiasm for the news and her job provided a memorable and meaningful experience for our students."



National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

To be eligible for National Honor Society membership, students must meet very high standards of academics, leadership, service, and character. On Monday, November 27th, the following students were inducted into the North Branch High School Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Jacquelyn Ankle	McKenna Forster	Carlie Jones	Hunter Reinke	Tiffany Stradinger
Hannah Bader	Ryan Gavan	Ava Kee	Reilly Roach	Joshua Sutton
Emma Bloss	Hanna Gipson	Paige Kempa	Eli Robinette	Madison Taylor
Holly Boyne	Bailey Good	James Kielczewski	Hunter Robinson	Keaira Teichow
Riley Bugg	Maria Gordon	Delaney Kropp	Caitlyn Rogers	Veronica Turner
Dylan Castle	Jenna Gormley	Brent Lange	Reese Ruhlman	Garrett VanWormer
Emily Cichoracki-Polly	Michael Gormley	Amy Ludescher	Gerrid Rutledge	Robert Vipperman
David Colby	Abigail Hadden	Colton Maher	Hunter Schank	Bruno Voigt
Saffron Convery	Gabrielle Hadden	Cora McLean	Leah Schank	Luke Wadley
Alexandria Curtis	Julia Hagopian	Kimberly Miklovich	Allie Schlaud	Carlie Walker
Jazmyne Debono	Lance Harnden	Brant Mohr	Maeson Schlaud	Abigail Weaver
Carolyn DeLong	Marcus Holzinger	Emily Murray	Cloye Schram	Danyelle Wells
Mackenzie DeLong	Melody Horne	Mikaela Page	Allyson Severance	Madison Wenta
Autumn Deshetsy	Isabel Huffaker	Whitney Pettibone	Jordyn Slater	Taylor Williams
Nathan Farnsworth	Olivia Huffaker	Grace Pfromm	Saidie Soit	Kendall Wilson
Morgan Fike	Christopher James			

We congratulate these students on their hard work and dedication.



Drama Department Developments

What a year we have had so far. The North Branch Players started the year out with their Fall Production of "Henry Episode IV: A New Hope." They spent countless hours preparing for their opening night on November 16th. Thanks goes out to all who helped make it a great success. A special thank you is sent to all who volunteered countless hours to help make our students look and sound great.

The North Branch Players also sponsored a Halloween costume dance, which made for a lot of frights and smiles. All who attended had a ghoulishly great time. It was a great success and helped raise money for the drama department. Thanks to the Drama Club presidency, for organizing the dance and all who helped volunteer for set up and clean up.

We are currently working on our next project, an evening of One-Act plays. Please keep an eye out for these comedies as they perform on January 25th, 26th, & 27th. One of the productions will compete in the Mid-Michigan High School Drama Festival on February 2nd & 3rd at Garber High School in Bay City.

Award Winning NBHS Marching Band



Congratulations Seniors!



Annual Harvest Gala



CMU Band Day



Pontiac Scholastic Competition



Annual High School Collegiate Breakfast

The annual NBHS Collegiate Breakfast will take place this year on Tuesday, December 19th starting at 7 a.m. Students who have graduated within the past two years and who are attending college or trade school or at actively serving in the military are especially encouraged to attend and participate. After breakfast, juniors, seniors, and our guest alumni move to the audi-

torium where the graduates respond to questions about life after high school and offer advice on ways to make the most of the remaining time to prepare for what comes next.

Interested graduates should email the NBHS Student Council Advisor, Mrs. Leann Kerr at lkerr@nbbronzos.net with their RSVP by Friday, December 15.

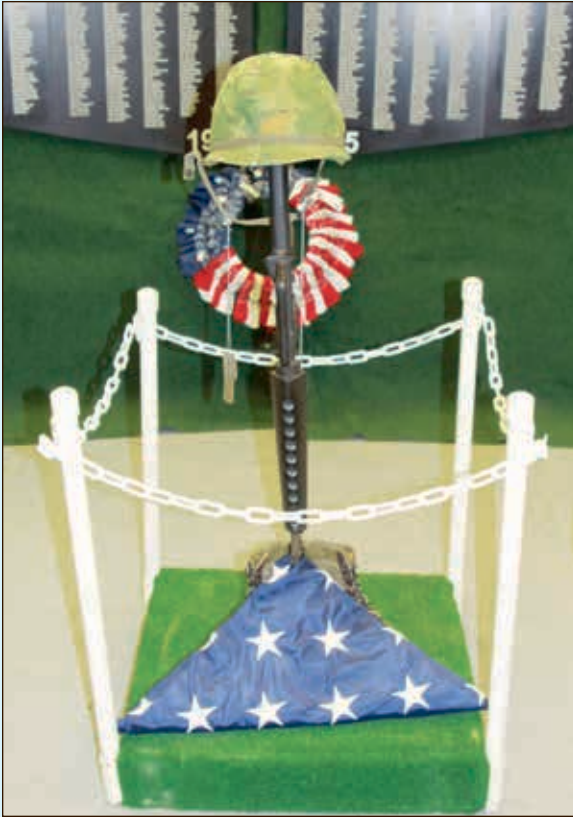
Class of 2019 to host Prom April 21, 2018

The Class of 2019 is pleased to announce that the Junior/Senior Prom will be held from 6pm – 11pm on April 21, 2018 at Shelby Gardens in Shelby Township.



Shelby Gardens

VIETNAM MEMORIAL



*North Branch
High School
students visit
Vietnam Memorial
hosted by
North Branch
Wesleyan*



Bronco Brew serves new flavor for the season

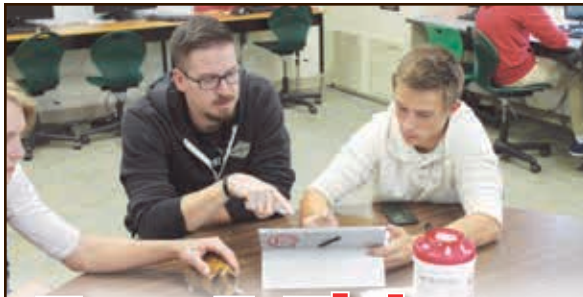
The Bronco Brew, an on campus coffee shop, is run twice weekly by students to benefit the NBHS Business Professionals of America chapter and teach valuable "Real World" skills to students. The "Brew Crew" keeps customers coming back for more with routine introductions of new flavors.

N.B.H.S. Quiz Bowl

The North Branch High School Quiz Bowl Team is off to a great start for the 2017-2018 Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League fall seasons. We are fielding 2 teams this year. **Coaches are:** Rugh Stover-Lange & Katie Wagner.

Members of the "A" team are: Brady Good, Bailey Bood, Reilly Roach, Drake DeMoines, Emily Murray, & Charlie Buckel. **Members of the "B" team are:** Olivia Heugh, Gabrielle Hadden, Abigail Hadden, & Nathan Coulter.





Top 5 Things

Overheard at Quest Parent Teacher Conferences

- #5** I couldn't even get my kid to come to school, now he sets his alarm and wants to be 30 minutes early every day!
- #4** My son has never talked about school when he has gotten home. Almost every night he is talking about stuff from government or English class, or something that is going on in the world. He started checking the news for his current issue of the week. We have real conversations about stuff going on in our world!
- #3** My kid is actually talking about what his plans are after high school now!
- #2** When I first got the call that my student needed Quest, I really didn't want to do it. Since coming to Quest I have seen such a change in him. He's become a man. I am so glad that we made this choice with him!
- #1** I used to cry every day because I knew my son was going to drop out. It was such a fight to get him to go, and when he would he would call and have me come get him. Quest saved his life! I mean that. He has a future now and actually gives a (darn) about school.

Quest Wins TASL Football Championship

The Quest flag football crew traveled to Bad Axe for the annual TASL flag football tournament. Competition was stiff as they opened the day with a rematch of last year's championship with Bad Axe. While the contest remained competitive Quest held a small lead most of the game, winning 46-37. Alex Gregory threw for 2 touchdowns, ran another, and returned an interception the length of the field for a touchdown. Noah Mayerle caught 2 touchdowns. Devont Smith and DJ Knight each added a touchdown.



In the championship game Quest met Caro. The two powerhouses were tied at 22 at halftime. Caro jumped out quick and maintained control most of the second half. But the victor on the day would be Quest, as they scored on their last two possessions, including a 19 yard field goal by Alex Gregory on the last play of the game, giving Quest the win 44-42. Alex threw 4 touchdowns, 3 to Noah Mayerle and another to DJ Knight. Devont Smith again added a touchdown.



Quest Students Excel at Ed-Tech!

As part of Quest's programming, all students have the opportunity to attend the Lapeer Ed-Tech center. At midterm, 33% of Quest students are currently receiving an A in their Ed-Tech Class, with another 23% receiving a B. Great job and keep it up!

Those students receiving A's are: **Gracie, Sennan, Max, Charles, Brooklyn, Evan, Hunter, Ariella, Chis, and Noah!**

Quest Joins Social Media

Quest High School now has their own Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter accounts. To get the latest updates, you can find us on social media at:

f <https://www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/>
ig Northbranchbronzos **tw** Nbranchquest

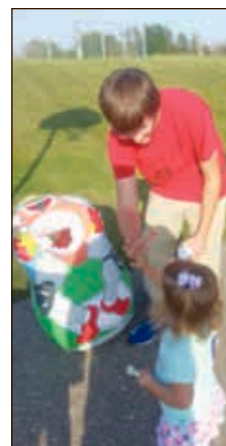
Enroll at Award-Winning Quest High School Today!

Students interested in enrolling at Quest High School or obtaining more information about the programs offered at Quest can visit our Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/NBQuesthighschool/.
 To enroll at Quest email our Program Coordinator Corey Rosser at **crosser@nbbronzos.net** or call **810-688-7581**.

Quest Students Volunteer at Family Fun Night

On Friday, September 22nd, The Parent-Teacher Club hosted the Family Fun Fair event at the elementary school. Quest students Dominic Sloan and Jessica Sherman volunteered their Friday night to assist in the event. Quest High School is always looking for more ways to participate in and serve the community. If you are in need of student volunteers please contact Quest Teacher Corey Rosser at **crosser@nbbronzos.net** or by phone at (810) 688-7581 ext. 2820.



Quest Students Lend a Hand at the Thrift Shop

With the help of retired NBAS educator Lisa Bodnar, Quest students are being offered weekly opportunities to help make a difference in the community through their work at the North Branch Thrift Shop! Each week, Mrs. Bodnar supervises groups of different students as they provide a much needed hand in moving and sorting items.



Congratulations Athletes!



Volleyball Team Academic All-State
with Team GPA of 4.1156



Boys' Soccer Team Academic All-State
with Team GPA of 3.25



Ryan Beatley
Football Individual Academic
All-State Qualifier



Caitlin Rogers
Cross Country
All-Conference – 2nd Team



Volleyball Individual Academic All-State
Olivia Sweeney 4.033 GPA and Janel Ruhlman 4.033 GPA



Boys' Soccer All-Conference
Back Row (l-r): Riley Schlaud, Joe Koval, Chris Nadolski, Josh Sutton. Front Row (l-r): Hunter Robinson, Brent Lange, Ryan DeWitte, Garrett VanWormer. Not Pictured: William Ankley



Football All-Conference
(l-r): Hayden Mabery, 2nd Team Defensive Back; Michael Gormley, 1st Team Offensive Line; Ryan Beatley, 2nd Team Offensive Line; Gerrid Rutledge, Honorable Mention Quarterback. Not Pictured: Logan Rutledge, 1st Team Running Back; Hunter Murphy, 2nd Team Running Back; Nathan Farnsworth, Honorable Mention Defensive Back



Boys' Soccer Individual Academic All-State
Chris Nadolski 3.576 GPA, Cole Fike 3.922 GPA
Not Pictured: Ben Parton 3.835 GPA



2017 Football Team Academic All-State Qualifiers with Team GPA of 3.824 in Division 4



Volleyball All-Conference
(l-r): Jacque Armstrong, Honorable Mention; Reese Ruhlman, Honorable Mention; Autumn Deshetsky, 1st Team; Olivia Sweeney, 1st Team; Janel Ruhlman, 1st Team; Allyson Severance, 1st Team; Hannah Bader, Honorable Mention; Allison Bryce, 2nd Team

United Against Bullying



October was National Bully Prevention Month: Many NBMS students joined the staff in standing "United Against Bullying," on October 25th, wearing orange to show their support. We have sought to reinforce student understanding of bullying and how we can all stand together to resist it. Students are willing to speak up for others they see who may be experiencing bullying.

Science at RF/MS

Science. A subject that can excite many students. Mentioning hands-on activities, explosions, and dissections can make a class full of students cheer with excitement. A few years ago, the State of Michigan approved science standards that are based on the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards require teachers to use more hands-on activities to help students learn to use the processes of questioning, gathering, analyzing, presenting, and defending data. All of these processes will help students be more prepared to use science in high school, college, and ultimately in their future careers.

Science teachers in North Branch have been training for years in an effort to make a timely switch to changing the curriculum to meet the new standards. Every year since beginning the extra training, new activities have been added to our curriculum. This year, we are happy to announce Ruth Fox and the Middle School have changed all of their curriculum to meet the Next Generation Science Standards! This switch has occurred within the State recommended timeline, preparing our students as soon as possible for the future.

Recently, seventh graders used the inquiry process to learn about density in various liquids as well as volume, mass, and weight in solids. After gathering data, the students work in small groups to analyze the information that was gathered. Finally, the whole class looked at every group's data, discussed what they noticed about the data, and used that data to create definitions of density, volume, mass, and weight. These definitions helped the students visual-

ize how the molecules of the liquids and solids would arrange themselves due to the characteristics of each volume and liquid. Even though this lesson focused mostly on seventh graders, similar activities are happening in all of our science classes.



Here, Mr. Lewis is having his students explore a chicken wing to continue their learning on the human body. Students explore the skin, tendons, veins, muscle, fat and bones of the chicken wing and connect that learning to the human body.

NB Middle School Student Council lends a helping hand



Each year, North Branch Middle School Student Council travels to Lapeer to lend a hand with Homeless Connect. This is a charity event that sets up homeless and disadvantaged individuals and families with goods and services that they truly need!

Our Student Council worked hard all day and represented our school and community in an awesome way! **Way to make us proud Broncos!**

Middle School Quiz Bowl



The North Branch Middle School Quiz Bowl Team is off to a terrific start for the 2017-2018 Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League season. Coached by Katie Wagner, members of the team are Johnny Altomare, Avery Flowers, Gabe Hutchins, Sawyer Hyma, Noah McDonald, Nathaniel Sherrieb, and Kirk Worrell.

After competing in their first tournament at Marlette, North Branch finished 3rd with a record of 4 wins and 1 loss. The next tournaments are December 5 at Peck and January 9 at Sandusky. All tournaments start at 4:00, are free, and open to the public.

NFP (National Family Partnership) HISTORY *A Proud Beginning*

Red Ribbon Presentation: *Students from the Lapeer County Young Marines presented to our middle schoolers about the dangers of drugs and alcohol*

National Family Partnership, formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, was established as a grassroots, non-profit organization in 1980 by a handful of concerned and determined parents who were convinced they should begin to play a leadership role in drug prevention. Nancy Reagan was an Honorary Chair of NFP. Since its founding thirty years ago, NFP has devoted its efforts to the well-being of youth. Today, NFP is a national leader in drug prevention education & advocacy. Our mission is to lead and support our nation's families and communities in nurturing the full potential of healthy, drug free youth.

AWARENESS – NFP provides drug awareness by sponsoring the annual National Red Ribbon Campaign.™ Since its beginning in 1985, the Red Ribbon has touched the lives of millions of people around the world. In response to the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, angered parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction caused by drugs in America. In 1988, NFP sponsored the first National Red Ribbon Celebration. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.



For more information about Red Ribbon week, go to:
<http://redribbon.org/>

It's All About ATTENDANCE!

Attendance Choice Time

As part of the new attendance policy at Ruth Fox this year, students who have good attendance are rewarded with Attendance Choice Time the last day of each week. Typically, on Friday afternoons from 1:30-2:05, students who have not missed more than 5 days in a semester or those who have finished any required MUST time can choose a desired activity. In the picture you see students in Iron Beads, where they take small plastic beads and place them in patterns to create works of art that are melted together and sent home with the students. Other activities that can be chosen by the students are dodge the pins, computer games, doodling and drawing, playground, indoor games, nature/walking club, card games, and kickball. These rewards are aimed at increasing student attendance and participation throughout the year.



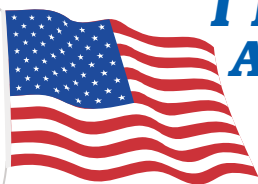
Attendance Football

In our effort to increase grades by increasing attendance at the Ruth Fox, we have created an attendance football game. We calculate attendance at the end of each day and the team with the highest attendance for the day moves their helmet forward 10 yards until a touchdown is scored.

The week of September 25th the Goldstein, Mitchell, Rogers team won their 10th attendance day and reached the end zone. They had a popcorn party to celebrate their great attendance! A new football game began the following day with all teams back at the original goal line. After a tight game with three teams at the goal line, the Hopp, Sieh, Sweeney team won the second football game on November 15th. Game number three is now underway with all teams back in the hunt. Attendance has been up this year in the Ruth Fox with nearly 120 students having perfect attendance for the 1st Marking Period.



I Pledge Allegiance...



Every day students throughout North Branch schools begin their day with the **Pledge of Allegiance**. Here you see a group of 6th grade students along with Mrs. Howe reciting the Pledge after singing the Ruth Fox Song to start the day. Sixth grader Whisper Shipp joins in the reciting of the Pledge by using American Sign Language to share the words as they are being spoken. Each marking period a new team is chosen to come and recite the pledge giving all Ruth Fox students the chance to be a part of our morning tradition. Whisper also signed the Pledge to the audience during the Veterans Assembly at Ruth Fox on November 22nd.



Maniac Magee



All 5th graders read Newbery Medal Winning Novel *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli. There are a number of activities that go with the novel including classroom discussions, a word wall, and of course the use of technology. Here Madelyn Gyomory, creates a SeeSaw on her iPad telling her interpretation of one of the chapters.

SeeSaw is an online program that empowers students to document their learning with built-in creative tools and create a digital portfolio that allows parents to follow their student's work. Students and parents get a login that allows parents to see and comment on the work that students are doing in class.



RF Quiz Bowl

The North Branch Ruth Fox Quiz Bowl Team is off to an outstanding start for the 2017-2018 Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League season. Coached by Katie Wagner, members of the team are Marley Anderson, Brendan Barkowska, Brookelynn Franklin, Ashlynn Pasternak, Logan Pung, and Samantha Wagner. After competing in their first tournament at Marlette, North Branch was undefeated with a 6-0 record. The next tournaments are December 5 at Peck and January 9 at Sandusky. All tournaments start at 4:00, are free, and open to the public.



Mrs. Baksa's Art Class

Mrs. Baksa's 7th and 8th grade art classes do a number of different projects over the marking period and Mrs. Baksa wants to make sure that they understand how great they are. She took multiple pieces of artwork from each student and pictures from their childhood and set them to music. Here students are celebrating their final day of art class watching the iMovie of their Middle School Art experience.



Number Talks

All math classes at Ruth Fox Elementary experience the power of Number Talks by Jo Boaler. Number talks are short discussions among a teacher and students about how to solve a particular mental math problem. The focus is not on the correct answer, but on all the possible methods of finding the answer. Each student has a chance to explain their method, and everyone else will learn from other people's methods!

Mrs. Goldstein starts each math class with carpet time and number talks.



Elementary School News

Donuts with Dad

A great time was had by hundreds of dads and students as part of our annual Donuts with Dad event. Thanks again to all PTC volunteers for making this happen.



NBE News!

At the beginning of the school year, students of the C.O.M.P.A.S.S. program were given the opportunity to participate in one of two Project-Based Learning experiences. Students involved in the NBE News Project-Based Learning Activity created, edited, and filmed the news. Once they were familiarized with the process of what it takes to make a news broadcast, students have been writing and producing several episodes with minimal support from their classroom teachers. The students quickly solve problems or technical difficulties that arise and are always thinking about what the next episode will look like.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKHq7_rqQkI&t=1s

Pumpkin Science Day

Ms. Polly's kindergarten class enjoyed pumpkin science exploration day. Students learned about the parts of a pumpkin and the life cycle of a pumpkin. Each child had a pumpkin to explore. We spent time measuring our pumpkin, describing its characteristics, seeing whether it sank or floated, and counting the lines on it. Lastly, students celebrated by painting their pumpkins.



Attendance Recognition

On Thursday, Nov. 9th, North Branch Elementary recognized 398 students for their perfect or excellent (1 or less days absent/tardy) attendance during the 1st quarter of school. Students received a certificate as well as coupon for a free drink from Sunrise.



We will continue to celebrate perfect and excellent attendance, at the end of each quarter of this year. Thank you for Sunrise's support with the incentives, and our Pathways to Potential Program for helping organize additional incentives and partnering with the school in promoting positive attendance.

Pumpkin Day Events

Mrs. Mroz's class held a measuring activity using pumpkins. They measured how many cubes tall their pumpkins were and how many paperclips it took to go around their pumpkin. They also counted how many seeds were inside! They explored how many pumpkins tall they were, and had a great time exploring whether or not their pumpkins would sink or float. To the surprise of children and adults alike, pumpkins float.

Fire Prevention Day



Thank you to all the firefighters and first responders that volunteered their time to make North Branch Elementary's Fire Prevention Day a learning and memorable experience. We had volunteers from North Branch Twp., Deerfield Twp., and Burlington Twp. fire departments, as well as a special appearance from St. Mary's Flight Care. Proud of our local heroes!

Socratic Circles PD

As part of a building-wide school improvement initiative, Matt Copeland presented follow up professional development to all staff after school this past week. Two separate sessions were available to better define lower elementary and upper elementary strategies.

