

North Branch
Board of Education
6600 Brush Street
PO Box 3620
North Branch, MI 48461



August 2010

SCHOOL TALK



US POSTAGE
PAID
NON-PROFIT
PERMIT NO. 4
NORTH BRANCH
MICH. 48461

Visit our website at
<http://www.nbbrncos.net>

CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL September 7, 2010

a full day for students (grades 1st – 12th)
Kindergarten and ECDD students will begin September 8th

2010-2011 Building Schedules

High School, Middle School (grades 7 – 12) .7:25 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
**Ruth Fox Elementary (grades 5 & 6)7:25 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
North Branch Elementary (grades K– 4) . . .8:45 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.
AM Kindergarten8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
PM Kindergarten12:50 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.
**NEW HOURS

North Branch Area Schools School Calendar 2010-2011

DATES	COMMENTS
9/7-11/26	FIRST TRIMESTER
September 7	First Day of school for students
November 23	End of first trimester 1/2 day for students
November 24	No school for students
November 25-26	No school Thanksgiving break
11/29-3/11	SECOND TRIMESTER
Dec 22- Jan 2	Winter break
January 3	School resumes
January 17	No school Martin Luther King day
February 18	No school
February 21	No school Presidents Day
March 10	End of second trimester 1/2 day for students
March 11	No school for students
3/14-6/10	THIRD TRIMESTER
April 4-8	Spring Break
April 22	No school Good Friday
April 25	No school
May 30	No school Memorial Day
June 9^	Last Day of school 1/2 day for students

^Tentative based on snow days

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

NORTH BRANCH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jack Lewis, President
Ginger Russell, Vice President
Lorrei Natke, Secretary
Cathy Severance, Treasurer
Kevin McCrory, Trustee
Jerry Schlaud, Trustee
Rosann Clark, Trustee

Superintendent’s Corner

BACK TO SCHOOL MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready to send your children back to us well rested and ready for a new school year. September is a time for new beginnings. Unlike people in business and industry, educators have the luxury of a new start each Fall and for me there is something special about the opening of a new school year.

Our students come back to us a year older, a year wiser and represent all that is good with the world. The proverbial slate is wiped clean, providing learners the prime opportunity to refocus, renew and reinvent their journey to adulthood.

We want all children to learn because they can. We want every child to be successful because we know that he or she wants to be. We want all children to be prepared for the next grade level or course because we know they must be.

North Branch Area School’s curriculum is driven by the Michigan Department of Education Curriculum Content Standards and provides stepping stones for a lifetime of learning and challenges. Delivered through a balanced, research based, innovative and traditional learning environment, our programs allow students to develop their strengths, discover unique talents and become responsible citizens.

The high quality of our school is enhanced by you, the families in the community we serve. To some extent, the school can only take partial credit for our level of student achievement. A large measure of the credit goes to you, the parents and our community that value and support learning. You are your children’s first and most important teachers. You have high expectations for the school and your children’s performance, and we applaud and welcome those expectations. Our teaching, administrative, and support staff look forward to working with you during the 2010-2011 school year to meet these goals.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. English
Superintendent

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, Superintendent810-688-3570
Marianne Fleet, Special Education Coordinator810-688-3570
Cheryl Bruff, Director of Finance & Business810-688-3570
Operations & Transportation810-688-3660
Food Services810-688-2226
Leann Gwinn, FABS Child Care.....810-688-4634
District Website www.nbbrncos.net

HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, Principal810-688-3001
John Sherman, Asst. Principal810-688-3001
Jim Fish, Asst.Principal/ Athletic Director810-688-2518
Richard Stevens, Counselor810-688-3564
Deanna Surrence, Counselor810-688-3564
Georgette Aguilar, Quest High School810-688-7581

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Shelly Cranick, Principal810-688-4431
Susan Strump, Counselor810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, Principal810-688-3284
Tammy Siegler, Counselor810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

Merry Hosner, Principal810-688-3041
Wendy Spivy, Principal810-688-3042
Brenda Jefferey, Counselor810-688-3041

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.nbbroncos.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.

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

- 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

A Family Access welcome letter should be included in your child’s orientation package.

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

SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

For the most detailed information, tune in to the following radio and television stations.

WMPC 1230 AM

WQUS 103.1

WCRZ 107.9

WNEM (Channel 5)

WJRT (Channel 12)

WDIV (Channel 4)

Other radio and television stations may pick up the announcements through the Michigan State Police Lien Network.

Or visit: www.cancellations.com

Sign-up for e-Alert and receive a text message or e-mail every time school will be closed or delayed. Forms are available in “e-Alerts” on the district website at www.nbbroncos.net.

- The decision to cancel the regular school day program is usually made about 5:30 am/ no later than 6:00 a.m. if possible. Only in unusually severe weather conditions is a decision made the night before.
- Occasionally school is dismissed early because of weather or afternoon kindergarten classes may be cancelled. These announcements will be made on the same stations indicated above.
- It is very important that all parents talk with their children about the procedure to be followed in the event of early release. The school must be notified in advance of any special arrangements or transportation.
- Planning in advance reduces stress and anxiety for your children and saves many last minute phone calls to the school.
- In the event of a tornado or severe thunderstorm watches/ warnings it may be necessary to extend the school day rather than send children home in threatening weather.
- Generally, decisions or information about athletic events and other extracurricular activities on days when school is cancelled will be made after 10:30 a.m.
- Elementary students are returned to the school if the bus driver determines they cannot be left at home.
- Parents and students are also asked to avoid calling the bus garage on snowy mornings to inquire about school closings.
- Decisions about school cancellation or early dismissal are made in the best interest of student safety.

2009-2010 STAFF RETIREMENTS

North Branch High School – Math and PE teacher, Bob Shadley; Social Studies; Teacher, Greg Peplinski; High School Secretary, Linda Hayes.

North Branch Middle School – Counselor, Sue Shoemaker; 8th grade English Teacher, Jan Gartee; and Middle School Cook, Bonnie Hargrove.

Ruth Fox Elementary – 6th Grade Teacher, Jeanie Stevenson; Media Paraprofessional, Margaret Lewiski; Custodian, Cecile Boyle

North Branch Elementary – Special Education Teacher, Diane Piontowski; 2nd Grade Teacher, Bill Traubenkraut; 1st Grade Teacher, Debra Sefton; PE Teacher, Debra Peplinski; Reading Recovery Teachers, Laura VanAntwerp, Rose Schoen, Teri Nelson

Bus Drivers: Sally Hanna and Duan Castle

Congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful retirement!

Our food service department welcomes your family back for the 2010-2011 school year and we welcome those families new to our school district.

North Branch Area Schools will continue to operate our own food service program and we promise to continue to deliver healthy, good, quality food and services to you and your children.

Breakfast is offered daily in all schools. Students who eat breakfast perform better in school. Research shows that students who eat a healthy breakfast show increased attention at school, visit the nurse less often, and have lower rates of tardiness and absenteeism.

Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch will be sent home with students, please complete only one Family Meal Application per household and return it as soon as possible. Those families qualifying at the end of the 2009-2010 school year will receive free or reduced lunch for the first 30 days of school. Students must have a new application on file within the first 30 days of the current school year.

2010-2011 Meal Prices

Elementary: Breakfast \$1.35 Lunch \$2.00

Secondary: Breakfast \$1.50 Lunch \$2.35

Sandwich Central \$3.00 Adult \$3.50

Milk: \$.50

Did you know?

Parents of students attending North Branch Area Schools can enjoy the convenience of sending in meal money on a weekly or monthly basis. You may send in a check or cash to prepay for meals. Here is how the system works:

1. Send a check payable to North Branch Area Schools or cash in an envelope. Include the name(s) and grade(s) of the student(s) for whom the meal is being paid. This payment and information may be sent to the building your student attends.
 2. The money will be immediately deposited in your student’s meal account.
 3. As your student(s) check out of the food service line, their purchase will be automatically debited from their account balance.
 4. When the amount of your account gets low, your student(s) will be notified. You may then send in additional funds.
 5. Any balance on your account at the conclusion of a school year will either be refunded to you by check or the balance may be carried forward to the next school year, or transferred to another child’s account.
- Give our prepaid meal program a try. It’s secure and convenient.**

Thank you for your participation in North Branch Area Schools breakfast and lunch program. Please contact Food Service at 810-688-2226 if you have any questions.

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

North Branch Area Schools’ child care program is currently registering students for the 2010-11 school year. Registration packets are available at the center.

FABS is open week days 6 AM-6:30 PM

The program is funded by user fees and is licensed by the State of Michigan.

**Check us out on the NB website
or call (810)688-4634**

**North Branch Area Schools
Annual 2009-2010 Education
Report is now available online at
www.nbbroncos.net. Each building has their annual report posted on their respective web pages as well. Please contact the school offices with questions or if you prefer a paper copy.**

SENIOR PICTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR YEARBOOK AND CLASS COMPOSITE

As you have your senior pictures taken, please inform your photographer of the following requirements:

- If hard copy, TWO photos (one for yearbook and one for composite)
- Picture size- 1 1/2 inches wide by 2 inches long
- Head size- 1 1/2 inches (chin to top of head)
- MEDIUM: JPEG preferred (300 dpi or greater) or Color Glossy or black/white
- Plain background: subdued blues, grays, etc.; NO OUTDOOR SHOTS
- Clothing in photo must follow school dress code
- No Hands, animals, or props in picture
- Those students not submitting a photo will have their student ID picture used.
- DEADLINE: Friday, October 1, 2010

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

The student handbook, which includes the Code of Student Conduct, may be found on the NBHS website (Go to www.nbbronzos.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.

HIGH SCHOOL FALL PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES SET

The annual Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences have been set for Wednesday, October 13th, from 3 – 6 p.m. and Thursday, October 15th, 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 23rd. The deadline to sign up for the fall test is Friday, September 17th, 2010.

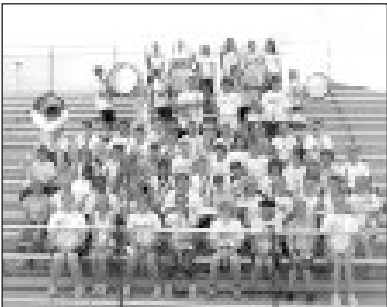
ACCESS TO STUDENT DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/nclbguide/parentsguide.html>

Yearbook is looking for businesses or individuals wanting to advertise. Please contact Ruth Stover-Lange to have a student contact you about advertisement choices at 810-688-3001 x 2154 or rstover-lange@cnbbronzos.net.

The North Branch Marching Broncos' Summer Marching Camp

The traditional week of marching band camp began August 2nd 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 out very humid and in the mid to upper 80's. On Thursday Mother Nature was good to the Broncos with less humidity with temps in the low 80's! After lunch, which was around noon, the students had music rehearsals and sectionals. The days ended at 3:30 PM, and uniform fittings lasted until 5:30 PM.
 This year's show is titled "South of the Border" that features hot Latin music and rhythm and harmonies! The music and drill are exciting exhilarating! Friday's 3:30 PM Parent Show brought the week to a close!
 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!



The North Branch Band Alumni make it into the Big Ten!

This summer found Lauren Morrison a 2010 graduate auditioning for a spot in the piccolo section of the University of Michigan's Marching Band. The audition requirements were: two prepared pieces of contrasting styles (slow melodic and fast lively) as well as sight reading! There were only three freshman spots and Lauren won one of those spots! Lauren is the daughter of Steven and Faye Morrison. Sister Amanda is a member of the Bronco Marching Band and Symphony Band member performing on Clarinet (marching) and Bassoon (Symphony). Congratulations to Lauren and her family!



DEANNA SURRETTE NEW HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR



An anonymous person once wrote "I don't care how much you know until I know how much you care." It is with this thought in mind that I am ecstatic to begin my new adventure as a counselor at North Branch High School. My name is Deanna Surrette and I cannot begin to express to you how passionate and committed I am to my job, how much I genuinely care about the students, and put my heart and soul into ensuring that I am doing everything I can to make each child successful. I was born and raised in Grand Blanc. I was extremely active in high school, involved in many clubs and sports including cheerleading and softball. I love to be involved in different capacities at school and have coached cheerleading previously and headed many extra-curricular clubs. I have already been asked to be the Student Council Co-Advisor and look forward to aiding the students and bringing some positive changes to the high school. I recently moved to Vassar and adopted a new puppy (Jax) so this year marks the start of many exciting changes for me! I do not own a truck or a tractor, (which I have heard is almost a requirement here), so I am working on that (ha ha). I will warn everyone in advance, I LOVE the color pink and it will be EVERYWHERE! In my spare time I enjoy being outdoors, fishing, volunteering and spending time with family and friends.
 I attended Michigan State University for my undergraduate work and received my Masters in Counseling degree from Spring Arbor University. I am currently working on my PhD in Educational Psychology. I have worked in many capacities in social work/education mainly in the Flint area including foster care and prevention programming. My first year in school counseling was at the elementary level and last year I made the transition to high school. I was the single counselor for two school districts (rival schools at that) which was very challenging but fun. One thing I am looking forward to being able to go to the same school on a daily basis! I will be working very closely in the fall with the seniors and senior parents to ensure that they are prepared for the next transition.
 I feel that a school counselor has the ability to make a measurable impact in every student's life, assisting with academic, career and personal/social development; I take this role very seriously. I believe strongly in teaching character education and plan many school activities/assemblies in order to educate the students and help them to grow academically as well as socially. I also feel that parent and community involvement is of the utmost importance, and that communication between all is the key to giving students the most successful learning experience possible. I am trained in parenting education and counseling, allowing me to function as a facilitator between parents, teachers and the students in matters concerning the student's goals, abilities and any areas needing improvement. Also, I believe in keeping parents informed on important dates/school events via monthly newsletters, keeping the counseling website up-to-date and holding parent information nights. Please know that my door is always open. There are going to be a lot of exciting changes in the counseling department this year and I cannot wait to get started! Confucius once said "Wherever you go, go with all your heart." My heart is now a part of North Branch Area Schools and I look forward to becoming a part of the community and am proud to be a Bronco!! It's going to be a great year!!!!

Middle School Student Council News

Officers for the 2010-2011 school year are President – Madison Ekstrom, Vice-President Kelcie Gormely, and Treasurer Mady Rhulman. The officers have met and have begun the planning stages of many activities for the 7th and 8th grade students.

They are implementing the monthly drive for the North Branch Emergency Aide again this year, starting with the month of September “rolling into a great year” with toilet paper and Kleenex. The rest of the months are as follows: October – peanut butter and jelly; November – canned corn, green beans, peaches and pears; December – new gloves, mittens, scarves and hats; January – mac-n-cheese and soups; February – toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner; March – cereal; April – baby products; May – juice and juice boxes. Anyone wanting to donate can drop items off at the Middle School.

The officers are planning the first dance which is the Welcome Back Dance on August 31th immediately following the Middle School Open House. It will be from 7- 8:30. And the cost is \$2.

During the first couple weeks of school the Student Council will be voting in representatives from their FOCUS hours and begin planning the rest of the school year discussing ideas they would like to participate in and things they would like to accomplish. Expect to hear much more throughout the year from this young group of leaders. Any questions or concerns about the Middle School Student Council please contact sponsors Mrs. McNulty or Mrs. Rinn at the Middle School.

Two New Programs at the Middle School

Two new programs will be started at the middle school this year to provide a better educational opportunity for all students. We will start each day with a 30 minute class called Focus on Education. Every teacher in the building, including general and special education teachers, rotation teachers, and even Mrs. Cranick and Mrs. Strump will be co-teaching a section of this class format (one of us will be in the office daily). Focus on Education will consists of 17—19 students from both 7th and 8th grade equally distributed. The 7th graders will have their Focus instructor for their two years at the middle school. This class will emphasize Accelerated Reading three days of the week (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays) which will be the same as our SeminAR class that we have had at the MS for the past three years. This will continue to reinforce our reading for comprehension School Improvement goal. The other two days (Wednesdays and Thursdays) will focus on the educational component that each individual needs support or enrichment in.

The other new program started in the middle school this year is Z.A.P. (Zeroes Aren’t Permitted). When assignments are given, it is the hope of the instructor assigning this that each student will attempt all work so that the instructor will have an idea of what is understood by all students and what needs to be reinforced. When students attempt all of the work to the best of their ability, all will gain from this. When a student does not turn in assignments, the instructor does not know what the understanding level is. If students do not turn in assignments, they will be assigned lunch “attention” time where they will complete the assignment while eating their lunch. An adult will be in the “attention” space provided to give the students support. With students attempting all of their assigned work, the assessments given should better demonstrate the knowledge gained from the class.

NBMS Gets a New Look



The new windows and encasements have arrived early in August and the look brings quite a difference in appearance to the building. Stop by and take a look.

Open House Date at the Middle School Set

The North Branch Middle School staff will have our Open House on Tuesday, August 31, 2010 from 5:30pm—7:00pm and then the Student Council will have a welcome back dance for all incoming 7th and 8th graders from 7:00pm—8:30pm. The cost of the dance for all incoming North Branch Middle School students is \$2.00. The Open House will have an open format where all teachers will be available to talk with students and their families about expectations for the class and materials necessary to be successful in that classroom. The School Store will be open as well for families to make purchases of school materials or apparel that has NB either screened or embroidered.

A Briefing from the New Teachers at the Middle School

My name is JoanieLyn Brown. I graduated from Lake Superior State University in 2006 with a degree in Elementary Education with concentrations in Mathematics and Social Studies. I am currently pursuing my master’s degree in Special Education through SVSU.

My teaching career started in 2006 at Ruth Fox Elementary as a 6th grade teacher. I taught all subjects as a 6th grade teacher at Ruth Fox for 3 years. In 2009 I was hired in Marlette to teach 6th grade Social Studies and Reading. I chose to come back to North Branch Area Schools for the 2010 school year to teach math to 7th and 8th grade students.

I enjoy reading, exercising, learning, and spending time with my family. I am currently learning how to be a better bowler and softball player. I hope to work hard with my fellow math teachers to create a program that promotes success for all students. I would also like to participate in the planning and execution of enrichment/ tutoring programs for students at the middle school level.

Hello, my name is Michelle Ruhlman. Most people have seen me at the elementary teaching your children music but now I will be teaching 8th grade English and a few other 7th and 8th grade electives at North Branch Middle School. This will be my 19th year of teaching, all of it at North Branch Area Schools. I am proud to be a product of NBAS from the class of 1985. I married my high school sweetheart, Ed, and we have three wonderful children in the district: Whitney, 12th grade, Blase, 10th grade and Mariah, 6th grade. We love spending time together.

I earned my Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of Michigan-Flint (Go Blue!!). I feel so lucky to be able to teach in the community that I grew up in and love. I am blessed to be working with your middle school children this year. My hope is to help them be educationally as well as socially prepared to enter the high school. I will dearly miss the young ones at the elementary but I will be looking forward to seeing them in 7th and 8th grade.

Guidance Counselor Transfers into the Middle School

My name is Sue Strump and I am very excited to be a part of the North Branch Middle School team this year! During the past two years as guidance counselor at NB High School, I learned many valuable ways to help prepare our students both during and after high school. I look forward to bringing these experiences to assist in preparing our middle schools students for high school and beyond. For now, my husband Tony and I are busy with our home and yard work!



STUDENT TEACHERS JOIN THE STAFF AT NBMS

Two student teachers from Central Michigan University will join the middle school staff this fall. They will be overseen by coordinator, Mr. VanHaften and will work with Mrs. Tumblin, Mrs. Schulte, and Mr. Sippell. Ms. Jillian Hankins will work a majority of her day with Mrs. Schulte teaching English and the MS Girls Reading Club and one hour will be with Mr. Sippell in the physical education program. She resides on the west side of Michigan, but will be living with her Aunt, Mrs. Pat Wells. Mr. Alex Clem will work with Mrs. Tumblin in 7th grade science and Environmental Science. Mr. Clem’s twin brother, Dan, student taught in the high school last fall and is now subbing in the district. Mr. Clem lives in Lapeer.

Middle School Store Has All Your Bronco Needs

The Middle School Store carries all the school needs from flash-drives, pencils, notepads, binders, index tabs, map pencils, 3x5 cards, highlighters, erasers and many other items.

The Middle School Store has expanded its spirit wear. There are many new items available this fall for students and adults from screen printed t-shirts, embroidered coats, hats, and sports bags. Clothing prices run from \$8 to \$55. All items can be ordered for specific sizes and embroidery needs. Please come in and see what we have to offer and remember us during the upcoming holiday months.

The Middle School Store will be open during the Open House. Dates and times are: Tues., August 31 5:00 – 7:00p.m. Signature t-shirts for the Class of 2015 and the Class of 2016 will be available to order also.

The School Store hours will be from 7:25a.m. – 7:55a.m.and by appointment.

Access to the Middle School Store will soon be available through the Middle School Website, please watch for it as soon as school starts. If there are any questions or concerns about the Middle School Store please contact, Chris McNulty at the Middle School.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Volunteers at NBMS Greatly Appreciated

North Branch Middle School is once again looking for volunteers for the 2010-11 year. Any adult wishing to volunteer needs to pick up a clearance registry form in the main office and turn it in to one of the secretaries. Once volunteers have been approved, our staff and students greatly appreciate the additional support and opportunities that the extra adults in the building provide for our program. Volunteers can assist with student supports such as assisting with reading or other assigned work or monitoring during test/quiz taking if the student has missed class time. They may also help staff with copying or bulletin boards or assist in the office. If have an interest in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Shelly Cranick at (810) 688-4431; ext. 2203. Volunteering in the schools need to continue beyond the elementary years and the students and staff at NBMS appreciate your support in providing additional educational time for our students. Remember, it takes a village to raise a child and the children in North Branch are the best.

Eighth Grade Washington, D.C. Trip 2011

The Class of 2015 is scheduled to embark on the annual trip to Washington D.C. May 3-7, 2011. One bus out of the three buses scheduled to go is already full, several students and parents have registered over the summer and have been making payments. The cost of this year’s trip is \$565 for a student room (quad occupancy) and \$669 for an adult room (double occupancy); this is only two dollars more than last year’s price. Students and chaperones have the opportunity to visit Gettysburg Civil War Battle Field, tour many Washington D.C. monuments, visit the gravesites of famous Americans such as John and Robert Kennedy, Joe Louis, and others at Arlington Cemetery, watch classmates participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, explore America’s treasures in the Smithsonian Museums, experience Toby’s Diner Theatre, and navigate Luray Caverns. Registration is taking place until October 15 with an initial payment of \$100. A fixed cost of \$312 needs to be paid by December 31st. The final payment for the trip is due April 1, 2011. There will be at least two more fundraisers for the students to participate in to help defray the cost of the trip. Please watch for information to come home once school starts. If you have any questions about the trip please contact the Middle School Office.

Honors Night at NBMS

The gym was packed; standing room only, and thankfully the weather man provided pleasant temperatures. On Tuesday, June 8th, 265 students at the middle school were recognized for their accomplishments throughout the 2009-10 school year. This is 78% of the student body population at NBMS. The students who received an honor roll certificate had been listed on the honor roll for one or both of the first two trimesters. These students had an average Grade Point Average (GPA) during the trimester of a 3.0 or better. Some of the students who were recognized as honor roll students were also part of the list of students that accepted academic excellence honors due to their exemplary grades during first and second trimesters. Ninety-nine students (37% of student body) averaged a 3.75 GPA between the start of their educational opportunity at the middle school and the end of second trimester this year. Students were also recognized for their involvement with our middle school student council program, art, equestrian, and spelling bee achievements, winners of the “America and Me” competition, and “Students of the Month” recipients. The final award was the Principal’s Award, which was taken home by Jamie Barrows, a young lady who is involved with school sports and other outside activities, is a conscientious student and “team” player, and has over a 4.0 GPA. Congratulations to all recipients.



Sports News



Doug Griffin signs with Wayne State University



Dennis Natke II signs to attend Bijimidi College on a Football Scholarship
l-r: Mr. Dennis Natke Sr., Dennis Natke II, Lorreli Natke



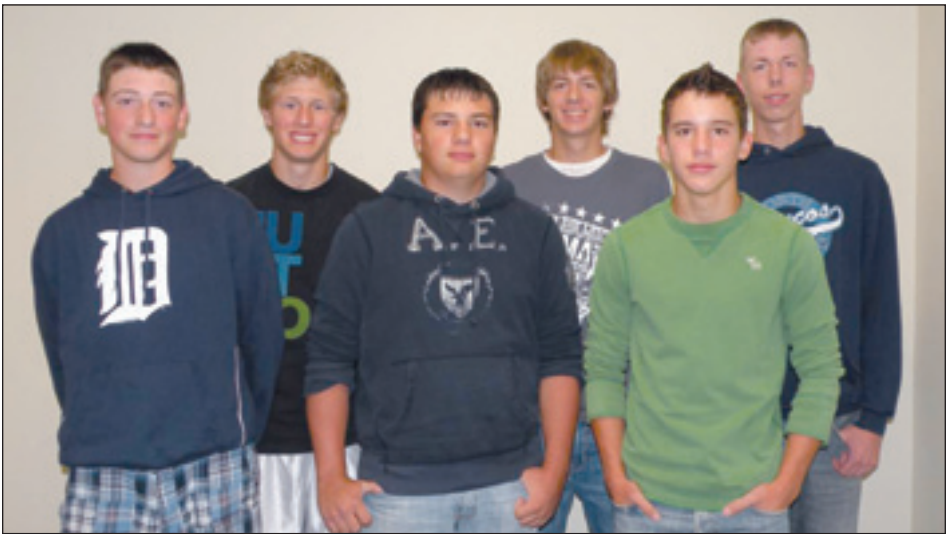
Dalton Bates signs to attend Eastern Michigan University on a track scholarship.
l-r: Dalton Bates and Tammy Bates



Andy Peplnski signs to attend Rochester College on a golf Scholarship
l-r: Mr. Greg Peplinski, Andy Peplinski, Eunice Rutlege

North Branch Broncos Sports News

The 2009-2010 athletic year saw many of the North Branch teams finish in the upper half of the TVC East Division and also do well in the MHSAA play-offs. In the fall, the volleyball team won its 6th consecutive TVC East Title and has not lost a league match since the 2003-2004 season going 40-0 over the past six years. The volleyball team also won its fifth consecutive District Title and finished the season ranked #1 in Class B and 76-5-2 overall. North Branch advanced to the Class B Final Four where the team won the first ever team State Championship in North Branch history. In addition, the team received Academic All-State recognition for the fourth consecutive year with an overall team grade point average of 3.48. The varsity football team had a great season qualifying for the playoffs for just the second time in school history and finishing with a 6-4 overall record. In addition, the football team was awarded team academic all-state recognition finishing with a 3.776 GPA for its top 11 players. Also during the fall season, North Branch had 113 out of 195 student-athletes (57.95%) receive scholar-athlete awards for a 3.2 or high grade point average. During the winter season, the girls' basketball team finished 15-9 overall and 9-3 in the TVC East Division for a second place finish. The Lady Broncos also won its first District Championship in 22 years since the 1988 season. The team was also honored as Honorable Mention for Team Academic All-State with a grade point average of 3.62. The varsity boys' basketball team won the H.C. Moore Classic Basketball Tournament for the first time in school history. The boys' team finished 14-9 overall for its second consecutive winning season and 7-5 in the TVC East Division which was good for a second place tie. During the winter season, North Branch had 68 out of 153 student-athletes (44.4%) receive scholar-athlete awards for a 3.2 or higher grade point average. The varsity boys' golf team finished the dual season 6-3 and battled back on the last day of the season to win its second TVC East Title in three seasons. The girls' soccer team finished 13-8 for its seventh consecutive winning season. Also, the girls' track program ended 8-4 for its 10th consecutive winning season, while the boys' track program finished 10-2 overall and 5-1 in the TVC East which was good for second place. In addition, Dalton Bates won a Division II



2010 ALL CONFERENCE BASEBALL

Front Row (l-r): Mike Berlin, Honorable Mention; Jacob Clark, 2nd Team; Josh D'Arcy, Academic All District
Back Row (l-r): Uriah Horton, Academic All District; Daniel Jacobson, 1st Team Infield, all District, Academic All District; Ryan Barrows, Honorable Mention; Jered Laur, Honorable Mention

2009-2010 Athletes of the Year



Doug Griffin 2009-2010 Male Athlete of the Year



Tonya Calkins 2009-2010 Female Athlete of the Year and All State First Team Division II

State Championship in the 300 Meter Hurdles and finished in second place in the 110 Hurdles scoring enough points (18) for North Branch to finish in 11th place in the State Finals. Finally, during the spring season, a very impressive 127 out of 200 student-athletes (63.5%) received the scholar-athlete award for a 3.2 grade point average or higher. 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 2010-2011 year. Many of our athletes have participated in strength training, camps, and scrimmages. The football team has participated in several 7-7 scrimmages and been involved in team camp activities. The boys' and girls' soccer teams held camps and participated in scrimmages during the summer. The girls' basketball team hosted several scrimmages with various schools and hosted a camp at North Branch. The boys' basketball team attended a team camp, played in a summer league, and hosted a skills camp. The cheerleading teams went away to camps. The volleyball program hosted a camp and participated in a summer tournament. The wrestling team had open mats all summer long and will be hosting a camp at the end of August. Of course, many of our baseball and softball players were playing on traveling teams throughout the summer. 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 2009 season finished with the Broncos going 6-4 overall qualifying for the playoffs for the second time in school history. The Broncos took on Mt. Pleasant and played the game at Central Michigan University. Coach



Kyle Cline and Ryan Kosko - 2010 Blue Water Area All-Stars



2010 ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS' SOCCER
Katie Reid, 2nd Team; Morgaen Vauter, Honorable Mention; Katie Owens, 1st Team, All District Honorable Mention; Lauren Brooks, 1st Team, All District Honorable Mention; Chelsea Griffin, Honorable Mention
Not Pictured: Melissa Pratt, 2nd Team; Stephanie Marsh, Honorable Mention

Ticket Information:

Individual ticket prices will remain the same for the 2010-2011 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 only contests will be \$3.00 with all Middle School games priced at \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for 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 \$22.00 on single ticket purchases) Family Pass for \$75.00 is a savings of \$133.00 for a family of four!
- **Basketball: Individual Pass for \$40.00** 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 \$75.00** is a significant savings for a family of four)
- **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 (\$65.00)**.....a huge savings!
Family (\$125.00).....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. Rates for the All Sports Pass have not increased in eight years. 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.

North Branch Broncos Sports News

Pat Forster will enter his second season as the varsity coach after leading a team that finished 2-7 in 2008 to the playoffs last year. The Broncos will be returning 17 letter winners from last year’s team and are focused on returning to the playoffs for a second consecutive season. The season opener will be on Friday, August 27 at Imlay City with kickoff at 7:00 p.m. The Broncos will play 4 home games this year including September 2 vs. Garber in the home opener. Homecoming will be on Friday, October 1 vs. Durand. The annual



2010 ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS’ TRACK

Front Row (l-r): Stephanie Schlaud, Linsay Bartle, Maggie Verellen, Jesica McKnight, Ashlynn Law, Sasha Ferrett
Back Row (l-r): Samantha Griffin, Jordan Fish, Danika Racknor, Amanda Cranick, Teal Washington, Kirstyn Cordner
Not Pictured: Layne Molosky, Clare Dudley

Light’s Out contest will be on October 15 and the band night/parent night game will the last game of the season on October 22 vs. Yale. 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: Coach Jason Castle returns to lead the boys’ and girls’ cross country teams. The girls’ team will have 6 returning letter winners and with a squad of 12-14 girls will be in the thick of the confer-



2010 ALL CONFERENCE BOYS’ TRACK

Front Row (l-r): Mike Seeley, Ronnie Jones, Dalton Bates
Back Row (l-r): Doug Griffin, Kyle Cline, Joe Raymond, Brian Curell, Aaron June
Not Pictured: Mitch Brusie, Nathan Calvert, Donovan Dudas, Taylor Sullivan, Pattrick May, Elliott Orr, Russ Lombardo, Steve LaFavor

NORTH BRANCH FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010											
VARSITY FOOTBALL				VARSITY GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL				7TH/8TH GRADE GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL			
DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 19	MARYSVILLE SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	TBD	Aug. 19	LIV. CHURCH SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	9:00	Sep. 08	MILLINGTON	HOME	5:00
Aug. 27	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	7:00	Aug. 21	W. BLOOMFIELD INVITE	AWAY	TBD	Sep. 13	CARO	HOME	4:30
Sep. 02	GARBER	HOME	7:00	Aug. 27	LIVONIA LADYWOOD	AWAY	10:00	Sep. 15	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 10	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	7:00	Aug. 31	CLARKSTON QUAD	AWAY	5:30	Sep. 22	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 17	CARO	AWAY	7:00	Sep. 03	FRANKENMUTH INVITE	AWAY	8:30	Sep. 27	GARBER "A" TEAMS	HOME	4:30
Sep. 24	MILLINGTON	AWAY	7:00	Sep. 11	LAKELAND INVITE	AWAY	9:00	Sep. 29	BRIDGEPORT "B" TEAMS	HOME	4:30
Oct. 01	DURAND (Homecoming)	HOME	7:00	Sep. 15	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	6:30	Oct. 02	HARTLAND INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Oct. 08	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	7:00	Sep. 18	FLUSHING INVITE	AWAY	TBD	Oct. 04	MILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 15	BIRCH RUN (Light's Out)	HOME	7:00	Sep. 22	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	6:30	Oct. 06	CARO	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 22	YALE (Parent/Band Night)	HOME	7:00	Sep. 25	PORTAGE NORTH INV	AWAY	TBD	Oct. 11	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
JV FOOTBALL				Sep. 29	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	6:30	Oct. 18	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	Oct. 06	CARO	HOME	6:30	Oct. 20	GARBER "A" TEAMS	AWAY	4:30
Aug. 19	MARYSVILLE SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	TBD	Oct. 09	WATERFORD MOTT INV	AWAY	9:00	Oct. 25	BRIDGEPORT "B" TEAMS	AWAY	4:30
Aug. 26	IMLAY CITY	HOME	6:30	Oct. 13	NB QUAD	HOME	5:00	VARSITY BOYS' SOCCER			
Sep. 01	GARBER	AWAY	6:30	Oct. 16	MI ELITE INVITE	AWAY	8:30	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 09	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	6:30	Oct. 20	GARBER	HOME	6:30	Aug. 23	CARO	HOME	4:30
Sep. 16	CARO	HOME	6:30	Oct. 23	NB INVITE	HOME	8:30	Aug. 25	GARBER	HOME	4:30
Sep. 23	MILLINGTON	HOME	6:30	Oct. 27	MILLINGTON	AWAY	6:30	Aug. 30	MILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 30	DURAND	AWAY	6:30	Oct. 30	TVC @ ALMA COLLEGE	AWAY	TBD	Sep. 01	VALLEY LUTHERAN	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 07	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	6:30	11-1 thru 11-6	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBD	Sep. 07	FLINT KEARSLEY	HOME	4:30
Oct. 14	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	6:30	11-9 thru 11-11	REGIONALS	TBD	TBD	Oct. 09	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Oct. 21	YALE	AWAY	6:30	JV VOLLEYBALL				Sep. 08	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	Sep. 11	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Aug. 19	MARYSVILLE SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	TBD	Aug. 21	GARBER INVITE	AWAY	9:00	Sep. 13	BROWN CITY	HOME	4:30
Aug. 26	IMLAY CITY	HOME	4:30	Aug. 25	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00	Sep. 15	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Sep. 01	GARBER	AWAY	4:30	Aug. 28	FLUSHING INVITE	AWAY	TBD	Sep. 16	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 09	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30	Aug. 31	QUAD @ FLUSHING	AWAY	5:30	Sep. 20	CARO	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 16	MICHIGAN WARRIORS	HOME	4:30	Sep. 09	GOODRICH	AWAY	5:00	Sep. 22	GARBER	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 23	MILLINGTON	HOME	4:30	Sep. 11	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00	Sep. 27	MILLINGTON	HOME	4:30
Sep. 30	DURAND	AWAY	4:30	Sep. 14	MT. MORRIS QUAD	AWAY	5:00	Sep. 29	VALLEY LUTHERAN	HOME	4:30
Oct. 07	KINGSTON	HOME	4:30	Sep. 15	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	5:30	Oct. 04	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 14	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30	Sep. 18	IMLAY CITY INVITE	AWAY	9:00	Oct. 06	LAKEVILLE	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 21	YALE	AWAY	4:30	Sep. 22	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	5:30	Oct. 11	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
8TH GRADE FOOTBALL				Sep. 27	BROWN CITY	HOME	6:00	Oct. 14	CASS CITY	HOME	4:30
DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	Sep. 29	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	5:30	Oct. 18	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBD
Sep. 07	SCRIMMAGE @ M'TON	AWAY	5:00	Oct. 06	CARO	HOME	5:30	thru Oct. 23			
Sep. 14	CARROLLTON	HOME	5:00	Oct. 14	LAKEVILLE	HOME	6:00	CROSS COUNTRY			
Sep. 21	GARBER	AWAY	5:00	Oct. 16	NB INVITE	HOME	8:30	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 28	CARO	HOME	5:00	Oct. 20	GARBER	HOME	5:30	Aug. 24	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	3:00
Oct. 05	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	5:00	Oct. 27	MILLINGTON	AWAY	5:30	Aug. 26	CROS-LEX INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Oct. 19	MILLINGTON	HOME	5:00	FRESHMAN GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL				Sep. 01	BROWN CITY	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 26	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	5:00	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	Sep. 11	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	10:00
7TH GRADE FOOTBALL				Aug. 21	OXFORD INVITE	AWAY	TBD	Sep. 14	TVC #1 @ FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	Aug. 25	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00	Sep. 16	COUNTY MEET	HOME	4:30
Sep. 21	MARLETTE	HOME	6:00	Aug. 31	NB QUAD	HOME	5:30	Sep. 28	TVC #2 @ CARO	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 29	ALMONT	HOME	5:00	Sep. 02	QUAD @ LK ORION	AWAY	TBD	Sep. 29	MARLETTE INVITE	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 06	CROS-LEX	AWAY	4:30	Sep. 09	GOODRICH	AWAY	5:00	Oct. 09	CASS CITY INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Oct. 20	ARMADA	AWAY	4:30	Sep. 11	FRANKENMUTH INVITE	AWAY	8:30	Oct. 12	TVC #3 @ GARBER	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 26	UBLY	HOME	6:00	Sep. 14	MT. MORRIS QUAD	AWAY	5:00	Oct. 16	REESE INVITE	AWAY	8:30
J.V. BOYS' SOCCER				Sep. 15	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	5:30	Oct. 19	TVC @ SWAN VALLEY	AWAY	4:30
DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	Sep. 22	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	5:30	Oct. 23	THUMB MEET @ CARO	AWAY	10:00
Aug. 25	IMLAY CITY	Home	6:00	Sep. 27	BROWN CITY	HOME	6:00	MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY			
Sep. 01	VALLEY LUTHERAN	AWAY	4:30	Oct. 06	CARO	HOME	5:30	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 07	FLINT KEARSLEY	HOME	6:00	Oct. 14	LAKEVILLE	HOME	6:00	Sep. 11	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	11:15
Sep. 08	GOODRICH	HOME	6:00	Oct. 16	NB INVITE	HOME	8:30	Sep. 13	NORTH BRANCH INV	HOME	4:30
Sep. 15	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	6:00	Oct. 23	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00	Sep. 29	MARLETTE INVITE	AWAY	4:45
Sep. 16	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	6:00	Oct. 26	MT. MORRIS QUAD	AWAY	5:00	Oct. 04	BROWN CITY	AWAY	4:00
Sep. 23	GOODRICH	AWAY	6:00	Oct. 27	MILLINGTON	AWAY	5:30	Oct. 09	CASS CITY INVITE	AWAY	10:00
Sep. 29	VALLEY LUTHERAN	HOME	6:00					Oct. 16	REESE INVITE	AWAY	12:30
Oct. 04	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	6:00								
Oct. 11	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	6:00								

North Branch Broncos Sports News



2010 ALL CONFERENCE SOFTBALL

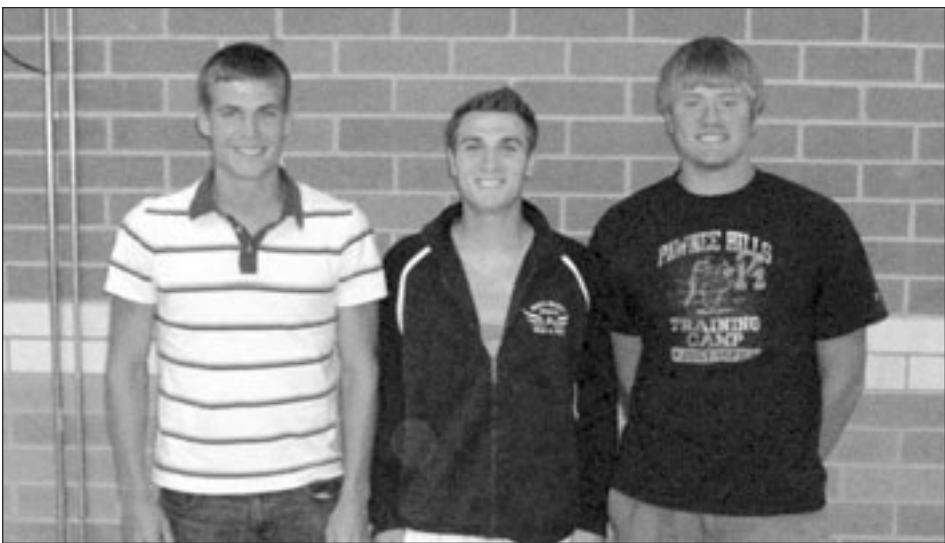
Joelle Tumblin, Hororable Mention; Kelsey Roloson, 2nd Team; Shanel Johnstone, 1st Team; Tonya Calkins, 1st Team; Chelsea Freeland, 2nd Team
Not Pictured: Maegan Hyde, Honorable Mention

ence race. The boys’ team could return 5 runners and needs more athletes to come out and compete in order to have a full squad. North Branch will host the Lapeer Press County Meet on Thursday, September 16 with races beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Cheerleading: Krystal Gyomory begins her third year as the varsity cheer coach. Coach Gyomory will have an experienced squad with 16 girls competing who earned letters from last year. The team had an outstanding camp and is extremely important in creating a spirited atmosphere at our athletic events. Watch for news about the first fall mini-cheerleading clinic scheduled for sometime in September.

Boys’ Soccer: Josh Spencer returns for his seventh season as the varsity coach. Last year’s team finished with a 11-9-3 overall record and 6-4-2 conference record earning the team a fourth place finish in the TVC East Division. The squad graduated 11 players with varsity experience, but will return 7 others who saw some action on the varsity team last year. Catch the action early as the team will play 6 of its first 9 contests at home opening the season on Monday, August 23 vs. Caro and Wednesday, August 25 vs. Garber. Highlights on the schedule include a home game on September 15 vs. rival Frankenmuth.

Volleyball: The Lady Broncos lose 6 seniors from last year’s team, but will return 9 players with varsity experience with 3 of those players starting their fourth year on the varsity squad. The team will attempt to defend its Class B State Volleyball Championship. The varsity team will count on talent from its 52-5-1 JV team of last year to add depth to the roster. Highlights on the schedule include attending the Frankenmuth Tournament on Sept. 3, going to the west side for a tournament at Portage Northern on September 25, and hosting the North Branch Tournament on October 23.



2010 BOYS’ TRACK STATE QUALIFIERS
Joe Raymond, Dalton Bates, Kyle Cline

NOTES OF INTEREST:

The second booster meeting of the year will be held on Monday, September 20 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. 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 seventh annual Community Pep Rally will be held on Tuesday, August 24 at the football field beginning at 8:00 p.m. We will be introducing all fall sport teams and coaches. All teams will be holding a parent meeting immediately after the festivities at the stadium. In addition, the marching band will be recognized and will be performing throughout the evening. The booster club will open up the concession stand for those wishing to purchase cold drinks and hotdogs. Please come out to support our student-athletes and band members.

- The booster club has provided plaques for individuals who have been given all-state recognition at any time in the history of North Branch athletics. We need the help of the community. If you know of an individual who was all-state in any sport, please contact Jim Fish at 688-2518. We need some type of documentation such as a newspaper clipping or an all-state certificate. Some of the plaques have been put up outside the gymnasium, but we need help in order to properly recognize those individuals who excelled athletically at North Branch.



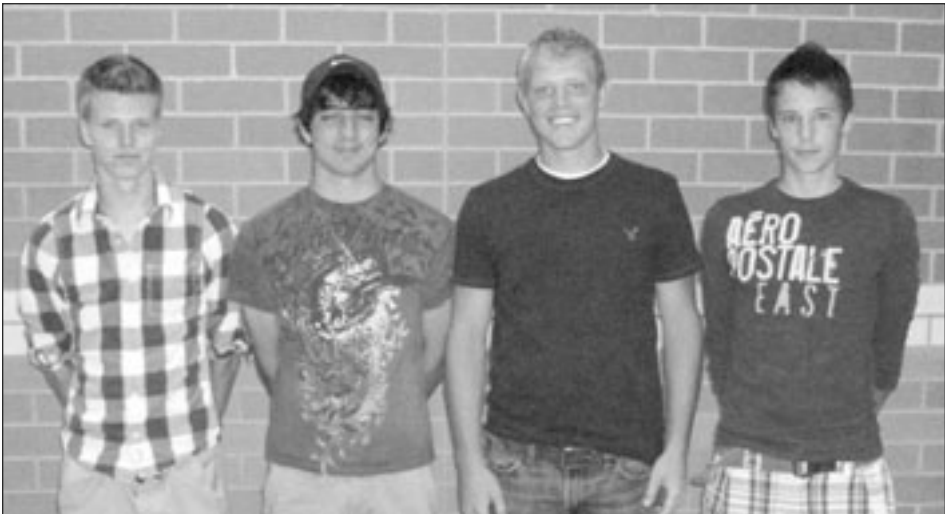
State Champion Dalton Bates, 300m Hurdles



Amanda Cranick, 2010 Girl’s Track State Qualifier



Kyle Cline signs with Saginaw Valley State University



ALL CONFERENCE GOLF

l-r: Brendan Dye, Honorable Mention; Andy Peplinski, 1st Team; Doug Griffin, 2nd Team; Andrew Beckwith, 2nd Team
Not Pictured: Dillon Montgomery, 1st Team



Ryan Kosko signs with Davenport University

Summer School at Ruth Fox!

Ruth Fox Elementary would like to extend a big thank you to the following people who VOLUTEERED their time over the course of eight weeks this past summer to allow students to have some extra practice in reading and mathematics! These people generously gave of their time on Tuesday nights each week! Special thanks to Tammy Siegler, Kevin Withey, Andrea Bower, Amber White, Cindy Lewis, Deb Vallie, and Sheeran Letts.

Ruth Fox would also like to thank Lyn Rogers for her summer work with the Garden Club, and Anne Sherrieb for hosting a summer writing program for students! These activities provide students with great summer activities! We appreciate the extra time and commitment from these teachers!

Building Theme for 2010-2011

Each year, Ruth Fox staff members select a “theme” for the year. This year, due to all of the technology integration that teachers have been learning about through their collaboration with MSU, they have decided on the theme of “Art and Technology.” As technology becomes more and more a part of our daily world, it is important to ensure that our students understand and can utilize the available technology to assist them in their future jobs and personal lives. The integration of art in the theme is intentional as well. In designing brochures, powerpoint shows, projects, etc., through various computer programs, students will also learn the importance of integrating artistic elements into their projects to make them appealing to the intended audience. We are excited to share the many things that we have learned through our collaboration with MSU with our students!

Horse Camp Promotes Ruth Fox Readers!

In spite of the heat, five students from Ruth Fox Elementary had a fabulous time at Horse Camp this past July. The students, along with Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Siegler, and Ann Marie Lavallee (www.thetravelingtrainer.net), enjoyed learning all about the different breeds of horses, horse safety, how to care for a horse, and how to ride safety. The students earned the honor by participating in “horse choice time” (a reading program) during the course of the school year. Those students who were the “top” readers during the year were treated to the special day as a result of their hard work! We are very proud of these readers and hope they will continue reading and loving horses!!!! Ruth Fox



Pictured above are: Angel Abbey, Ann Marie Lavallee, Mackenzie Delong, Kayla Yakes, Dena Bartel, Mrs. Wood, and Lauren Haight. Pictured below is Dena Bartel and Lauren Haight



Elementary Continues to Head in the Write Direction: The Saginaw Bay Writing Project Summer Institute 2010

Ruth Fox Elementary Teacher, Lyn Rogers, gained certification in the National Writing Project this summer through participation in the Saginaw Bay Writing Project’s 2010 Summer Institute. The National Writing Projects of Michigan are university-school partnerships. The sites develop regional leadership and research-based practices in reading, writing, and thinking, pre-k-college. This year’s Summer Institute was co-led by Ruth Fox Elementary Literacy Coach, Amber White and Delta College English Professor, Michael Somers.

Institute participation is by select invitation only. Certification requires a four week intensive process, where teachers strengthen their knowledge of writing through inquiry, demonstrations, professional reading, discussions, literature response groups, writing response groups, tech literacy, and most importantly, by writing themselves.

As a result of this process, the National Writing Project supports these teacher-leaders in an ongoing way, sponsoring study groups, action research groups, and Advanced Institutes. Sites engage institute members in a variety of tasks and roles that lead to professional and personal growth. Participants leave the institute with a professional community of writers to correspond with, as well as a vast list of resources and ideas for professional development. Congratulations Lyn!

Ruth Fox Elementary and MSU: Technology Collaboration

In March 2010, Ruth Fox Elementary entered a collaborative learning partnership with Michigan State University. This collaboration was headed up by Amber White (Ruth Fox Literacy Coach), Anne Wood (Ruth Fox Principal), Carmen Woodruff (Ruth Fox Computer Teacher), Douglas K. Hartman, Professor of Teacher Education and Educational Technology at MSU, and two of Hartman’s doctoral students, Paul Morsink and Michelle Schira Hagerman. The emphasis of this partnership is to grow teacher expertise and confidence with technology. Through this experience, MSU is developing their research and practicum on how teachers develop this tech expertise and confidence, the effort it takes to develop new tech-integrating curriculum, as well as the kinds of support teachers find most beneficial to their learning, and so on.

Late spring, the partnership took off with a full professional development day. Hartman brought several of his PhD students along to share their expertise, grow rich discussion, and provide small group support for Ruth Fox staff. Teachers were immersed in various tech exploration sessions, such as: Flip Cameras, VoiceThread, Blogs, Wikis, Diigo, ScreenToaster, etc. To encourage carry over after the professional development day, MSU Skyped (software that allows users to make free online video conferencing calling) into several Ruth Fox grade level planning meetings to answer questions, provide support, or assist in any capacity needed.

To extend this collaboration, Douglas Hartman and his team graciously offered to provide Ruth Fox staff with a free, 2010 Tech Summer Institute. On June 16th, Ruth Fox teachers headed over to the MSU campus and began working on tech goals/projects for the 2010-2011 school year. Over the summer, every Ruth Fox teacher was provided with a one-on-one MSU support person they would stay connected with (via Skype, e-mail and/or phone). On August 30th, MSU will return to Ruth Fox to provide professional development. This day will also celebrate and showcase the learning from Ruth Fox staff summer technology investigations.



Take-Off for Crew #7!

Crew #7, under the leadership of Mrs. Cindy Mitchell (a sixth grade teacher at Ruth Fox Elementary), attended Space Camp this summer in Huntsville, Alabama. The program, in its seventh 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 Ruth Fox Elementary School at (810)688-3284.



Pictured are: Jacob Peralta, Lauren Haight, Stephanie Knudsen, and Tara Ash.

North Branch Elementary Back to School Night! “OPEN HOUSE”

*All students and
families are welcome!*

Start the new school year by
visiting your classroom and
meeting your new teacher!

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 2, 2010

Family Literacy Summer Reading

You may know Family Literacy for the excellent parent and child reading workshops they sponsor at our Elementary. You may have enjoyed their math games on Math and Science Night. But this summer Family Literacy provided one on one tutoring at North Branch Elementary for eight students. Donna Woodward from Family Literacy and eight trained volunteers spent Tuesday and Thursday mornings for six weeks to boost the reading and learning skills of these students. Students were provided with reading materials at their reading level along with fun activities and snacks. There was also a parent component to this program with parents making a commitment to attend the parent workshops and assure that their child regularly attends. This wonderful program helped students to improve their learning skills and their love of reading and was made possible by Family Literacy and dedicated volunteers.

North Branch Elementary Parent and Teacher Club

We are looking for parents who want to contribute to making North Branch Elementary a fun learning place for our children. You can participate as often as you like or as little as an hour or two. We sponsored many events during last school year: Father/Son All Sports Night, Math and Science Night, Mother/Daughter Dance, Popcorn Fridays and Movie Night. We have one or two fundraisers which help us support these activities.

If you are interested in being part of the North Branch Elementary Parent and Teacher Club stop by our information table at the Open House, look for our September meeting date and time in the weekly newsletter, or call the Elm Creek office at 688-3041 or the Jefferson Trail Office at 688-3042.

Reading Buddies

The students in Mrs. Bower’s second grade class and Miss Berridge’s third grade classes have enjoyed the time to read with their reading buddies this school year. Each week, the classes have had the opportunity to meet up with their reading buddy and share their book selections. In addition to reading, the students have written pen pal letters to their buddies.

On June 9th, the classes celebrated their time together with a picnic luncheon at the North Branch Elementary pavilion. The students enjoyed having the time to play together at recess following the picnic with their buddies. Being reading and writing buddies is a fun way to learn and make friends!



Transportation and Operations News for 10-11

The Operations Department consisting of the Custodial, Maintenance, Grounds and Utility personnel have been working hard this summer to make sure that your student’s rooms, halls, lockers, and facilities are all ready to go for the new school year. It is amazing to see what takes place over the course of a summer season at North Branch Area Schools as each area is cleaned, repaired, upgraded if necessary and put back together for the beginning of a new year. Our staff takes a great deal of pride in their buildings and it shows all year long. The Transportation Department is coming back to some positive changes as the system adapts to the new requirements of this year and looks forward to the upcoming changes for next year. Each year parents and students should look forward to improvements in the busing system and schedules that allow the district to operate with more efficiency to better serve you. We are again using the post-card notification system for your route information. Please look over the information when it arrives and notify us if there are any changes needed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our services in Transportation or Operations, it is easy to reach us and we welcome your feedback.

Please feel free to leave a message if you get our voice mail in these areas.
The Operations Department can be reached at 810.688.4625.
The Transportation Department can be reached at 810.688.3660



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

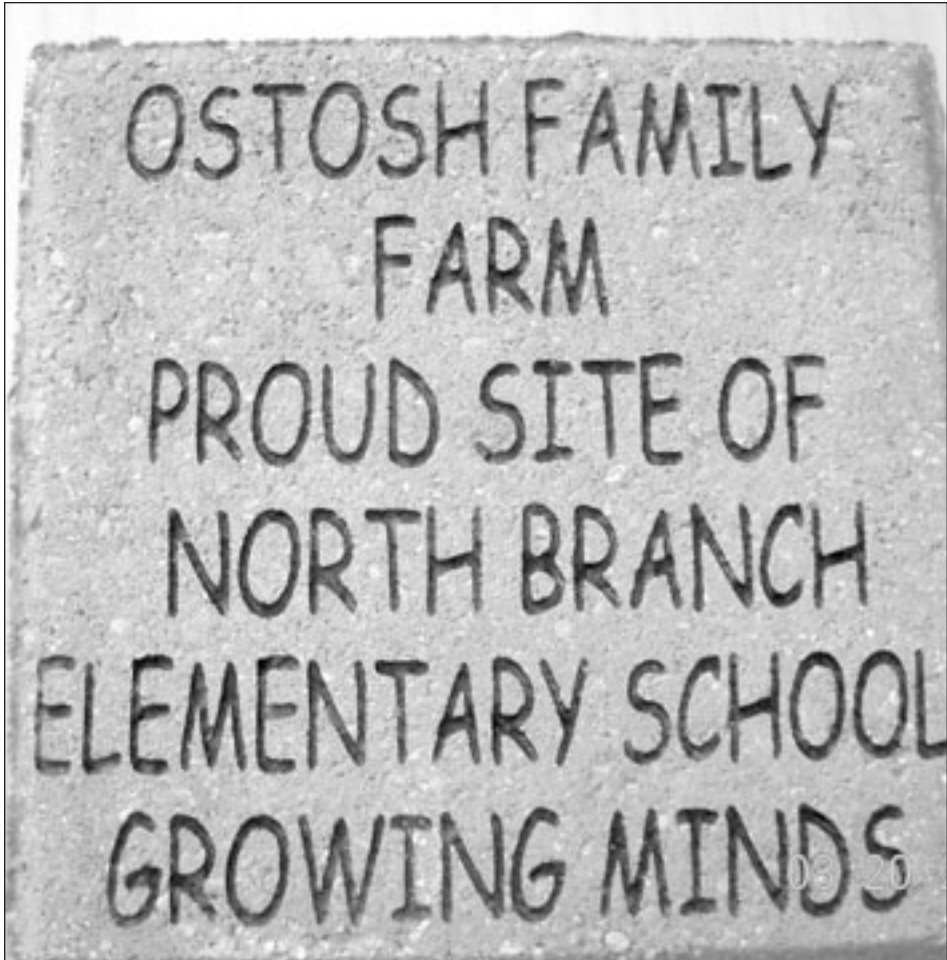
Established 2004

The Lapeer County Community Foundation endowment fund supports the annual \$500 Maynard DeGrow Scholarship, \$1,000 Ostosh Engineering Scholarship, the \$1,000 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

Growing Crops to Growing Minds

North Branch Elementary sits on the property that once was the Ostosh family farm. The Ostosh family is extremely proud to have a part in the future of North Branch students. A commemorative brick will be placed at North Branch Elementary to honor their commitment.

If you are interested in honoring a student, staff or community member with a brick please call the elementary office at 688-3041 for details.



School Pictures



High School
During Orientation - August 24 & 25
Make Up Day is September 1

Quest High School
October 12th

Middle School
September 14

Ruth Fox Elementary
September 14

North Branch Elementary
October 5

GENERAL FUND BUDGET DETAIL

	ACTUAL 2008-2009	AMENDED 2009-2010	PROPOSED 2010-2011
REVENUES:			
LOCAL SOURCES	\$1,246,356	\$1,192,847	\$1,100,727
STATE SOURCES	\$18,026,654	\$16,994,800	\$17,385,832
FEDERAL SOURCES	\$1,521,795	\$1,663,464	\$514,642
TOTAL REVENUES	\$20,794,805	\$19,851,111	\$19,001,201
INCOMING TRANSFERS & OTHER TRANSACTIONS	\$72,037	\$136,100	\$2,000
TOTAL REVENUE SOURCES	\$20,866,842	\$19,987,211	\$19,003,201
EXPENDITURES:			
INSTRUCTION EXPENSE	\$13,266,439	\$12,883,184	\$12,549,571
BASIC PROGRAM	\$8,599,615	\$8,297,463	\$7,910,350
COMPENSATORY EDUCATION	\$541,522	\$583,671	\$415,013
INSTRUCTION			
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$4,125,302	\$4,002,050	\$4,224,208
SUPPORT SERVICES	\$7,214,338	\$6,908,748	\$6,449,771
PUPIL	\$1,256,816	\$1,276,474	\$1,090,015
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$269,353	\$184,319	\$271,287
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	\$779,059	\$765,373	\$790,394
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	\$1,672,808	\$1,605,680	\$1,520,101
TRANSPORTATION	\$1,089,724	\$1,140,598	\$933,451
BUSINESS SERVICES	\$263,123	\$215,476	\$195,291
SUPPORT SERVICES BENEFITS	\$1,883,455	\$1,720,828	\$1,649,232
CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$132,318	\$58,483	\$36,530
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$20,613,095	\$19,850,415	\$19,035,872
OUTGOING TRANSFERS & TRANSACTIONS	\$490,853	\$439,239	\$440,428
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$21,103,948	\$20,289,654	\$19,476,300
EXCESS REVENUE (APPROPRIATIONS)	(\$237,106)	(\$302,443)	(\$473,099)
FUND BALANCE JULY 1	\$2,786,017	\$2,548,911	\$2,246,468
FUND BALANCE JUNE 30	\$2,548,911	\$2,246,468	\$1,773,369
Balance as a Percentage of Expenses			9.11%

For additional information regarding the new State Guidelines for Transparency Reporting are available on the district website homepage at www.nbbrncos.net

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.

Children who are recipients of Michigan’s Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations households, or enrolled in Head Start, Even Start, an At-Risk afterschool center, or an emergency shelter, automatically qualify for free meals. Households with incomes less than or equal to the following guidelines qualify for free or reduced price meals or free milk. Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk

New Immunization Requirements 2010-2011 School Year

(BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2010)

Required for all children entering kindergarten, all 6th grade students, and all children changing school districts:

- Two doses of varicella (Var) vaccine or history of chickenpox disease

Required for all children 11 - 18 years of age who are changing school districts or who are enrolled in 6th grade:

- One dose of meningococcal (MCV4 OR MPSV4) vaccine
- One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine (if 5 years have passed since last dose of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine - DTaP, Td or DT)

Lapeer County Health Department immunization clinics are as follows:
Monday Walk-ins 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday Appointment only 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Thursday Appointment only 1:00 – 3:45 p.m.

Please call 810-667-0448 for more info or to make an appointment

DATES TO REMEMBER

North Branch Elementary
Open House – September 2nd from 6-7:30 p.m.

Ruth Fox Elementary
Open House – August 31st from 6-7:30 p.m.

North Branch Middle School
Open House August 31st from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
A WELCOME dance follows 7-8:30 p.m. cost is \$2

Washington D.C. Trip – May 3-7, 2011

North Branch High School
Senior Pictures due – October 1st

High School Fall Parent/Teacher Conference
October 13th 3-6:00 p.m.
October 15th 5-8:00 p.m.

Fall ACT Deadline – September 17th
ACT Test – October 23rd

Homecoming is October 1st

MEAP Testing for grades 3-9 – October 12-29

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month in the Board Room at the North Branch Educational Services Center.

Substitute Teachers Wanted
North Branch Area Schools
needs qualified and enthusiastic
substitute teachers K-12.

If you have a love of children, good communication and organizational skills and 90 or more college semester credit hours you could be a substitute teacher.

Please apply by going to www.pcmiservices.com and complete the online application. If you have any questions you may contact the superintendent’s secretary, Cheryl Howell at 810-688-3570

Income Guidelines for National Free and Reduced Priced Meals

The Michigan Department of Education has announced the household income guidelines established by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for free and reduced price meals and free milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. The income guidelines remain unchanged from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010. The rates published below will remain in effect through June 30, 2011.

Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly
1	\$14,079	\$1,174
2	\$18,941	\$1,579
3	\$23,803	\$1,984
4	\$28,665	\$2,389
5	\$33,527	\$2,794
6	\$38,389	\$3,200
7	\$43,251	\$3,605
8	\$28,113	\$4,010
For each additional family member add:		
	\$4,862	\$406

Scale for Reduced Price Meals

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly
1	\$20,036	\$1,670
2	\$26,955	\$2,247
3	\$33,874	\$2,823
4	\$40,793	\$3,400
5	\$47,712	\$3,976
6	\$54,631	\$4,553
7	\$61,550	\$5,130
8	\$68,469	\$5,760
For each additional family member add:		
	\$6,919	\$577

An application to a school or child care center can be approved if it contains complete documentation of household income, or documentation of current participation in Michigan’s Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Foster children usually qualify for free meals or free milk without regard to the foster parents’ income. Information supplied on an application for free or reduced price meals may be verified at any time. An appeal procedure is available for households where applications are denied.

Participating schools and centers accept applications for free or reduced price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced price meals due to a temporary loss of income, such as a period of unemployment.

If a doctor has determined that a child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school or child care meal, the school or child care facility will make any substitution prescribed by a doctor at no charge. The doctor’s statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department of the school or child care facility.