



School Talk

www.nbbroncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

August 2013

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



North Branch Board of Education: Front row (left to right): Cathy Severance, Trustee; Rosann Clark, President; Ginger Russell, Vice President Back row Mike Snoblen, Trustee; Daniel Deshetsky, Treasurer; Cory Mabery, Secretary; Doug Meiburg, Trustee

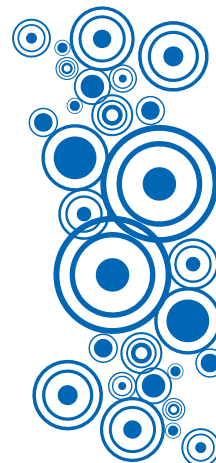
Schools of Choice – ENROLL NOW

Why choose North Branch Area Schools?

- A dedicated teaching staff that provides excellent learning opportunities for all students
- Safe, new and updated school buildings and grounds
- State of the arts technology for students
- AP Classes
- Dual Enrollment
- Online Learning
- Lapeer County Educational and Technology Center programs
- A successful alternative education program
- 5th – 8th grade Space Camp
- 8th grade Washington D.C. Trip
- No fee athletics
- More than 60% of NBAS athletes received the Scholar Athlete Award in 2012-13
- Band
- Drama
- Forensics and United Model Nations
- Before and after school program F.A.B.S.
- Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds

Applications for Schools of Choice are available now through 4:00 p.m. Friday, September 6, 2013

For more information, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 810-688-3570



First Day of School September 3, 2013

*It will be a 1/2 day for all students
ECSE students will begin September 4th*

2013-2014 Building Schedules

High School (grades 9 – 12)

7:25 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Middle School (grades 7 – 8)

7:25 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

Ruth Fox Elementary (grades 5 – 6)

7:25 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.

North Branch Elementary (grades K – 4)

8:40 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.

1/2 DAY SCHEDULES:

Elementary ends 12:20 p.m.

Secondary ends 11:05 a.m.

Open House/Orientation Dates at a glance

North Branch Elementary

Wednesday, August 28, 2013 6-7:30 p.m.

Ruth Fox Elementary

Tuesday, August 27th beginning at 6 p.m.
in the Ruth Fox gym

North Branch Middle School

Wednesday, August 28th 5-6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 29th from 3:30-5 p.m.

North Branch High School

11th / 12th Grades

Tuesday, August 20th 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

9th Grade

Tuesday, August 20th 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Freshmen Parent meeting at 7:30 p.m. in HS Auditorium

10th Grade

Wednesday, August 21st 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Make-Up Day

9th – 12th Tuesday, August 27th 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Quest High School

Open enrollment for students will be
Tuesday, August 27th from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.



Superintendent's Corner



As the summer draws to an end and final preparations for the coming school year are finalized, take a moment to pause and reflect on the many good things life has to offer. Whether you are a parent shopping for school clothes and supplies, a student eager to discover the challenges of the next grade, a community member gearing up for the rumble of yellow school buses or even a staff member putting the finishing touches to your classroom to make it the most inviting place for students, North Branch Area Schools has a lot of which to be proud. Student achievement is the number one priority. We are a learning community dedicated to excellence and believe our children come first. The entire staff of NBAS is committed to insuring all students are college and career ready when they graduate.

This summer, North Branch Area Schools hired a new middle school principal, Cindy Howe and counselor, Dale Parsons as well as added a new Spanish teacher, Carina Hilbert at the high school. Because the safety of our students and staff is paramount, specialized key fob access systems have been installed in all buildings to maintain the safest learning environments.

The first half-day of school for students is September 3. I want to express my thanks for your continued support of our schools. Working together, we can continue providing the high level of educational opportunities for our children. North Branch Area Schools is proud to be a part of a caring community that believes "kids come first." Feel free to reach out to any staff member with questions or concerns. The administrative team is ready to address any issues prior to the start to school. Further, consider checking out the district's updated website to discover specific information as it relates to your child. Have a great rest of the summer. I'll see your children bright and early September 3.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. English, Superintendent

Transportation

Dean Transportation came to North Branch Area Schools beginning the 2012-2013 school year. They handled all of the district's transportation needs, taking your students to and from school, field trips and sporting events. It was a year for learning and things remained the same as much as possible. Ninety five percent of the North Branch drivers stayed on to work for Dean and the office staff are all familiar faces. The Transportation Supervisor Mark Britton brought many years of transportation and management experience to North Branch as well as being a former school bus driver.

Dean Transportation is a Michigan based company that has been in business for over 50 years. We are dedicated to providing the safest possible ride to and from school for our students. Some of the changes that have been made are things like: Reducing turnarounds whenever possible, eliminating as many corner stops as possible and reducing crossing on paved roads. We have also created designated, safer stops for school-of-choice students.

Some exciting things that we were able to do this year:

- Dean provided a charter bus, at a reduced cost, for our volleyball team to go to State Finals.
 - Buses were donated to transport our teams to Special Olympics events at no cost.
 - Kelli Dean gave out checks at our Christmas Party to help three families in our community to have a better holiday season.
 - Eight new buses were purchased for North Branch Schools with more being ordered this year.
- Dean management and employees are involved with community events and will continue to be in the future.

Plans are underway for the 2013-2014 school year. You may see school buses on the road in August



driving routes in preparation for the upcoming school year. We do have people on staff working all summer so if you have any questions, have moved, or have changes for your child for next year please feel free to call at (810) 688-3660. No changes will be made for the first two weeks of school so be sure to notify us before school starts.

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.

District Website: www.nbbrncos.net
Thomas A. English, Superintendent 810-688-3570
Angela Martin, Special Education810-688-3042

HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, Principal810-688-3001
John Sherman, Asst. Principal810-688-3001
Jim Fish, Asst. Principal/
Athletic Director810-688-2518

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cindy Howe, Principal.....810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, Principal.....810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

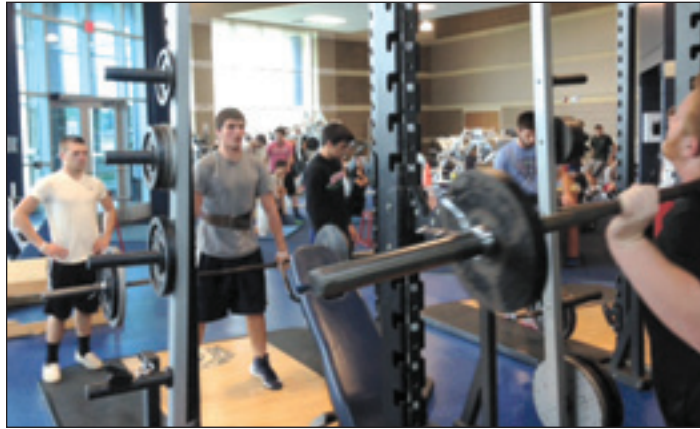
Greg Matheson, Principal.....810-688-3041

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

The North Branch Area Schools operates a child care program called F.A.B.S. This is a licensed program funded by user fees. The year round program is located in the North Branch Elementary School and is open weekdays from 6:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. (closed for Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks, Memorial Day and 4th of July). Registration packets for the 2013-14 school year will be available at the center beginning August 12, 2013. There is a registration fee of \$15 per student and an hourly rate of \$2.50. For additional details contact Leann Gwinn at 810-688-4634 or visit our website at www.nbbrncos.net.

State of the Art Physical Fitness Center

North Branch Area Schools has a state of the art Fitness Center that is located in the North Branch High School. The center is used by students on a regular basis for physical fitness or to condition for sport activities. During the school year volunteers operate the Fitness Center so it can be open for adult public use from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. for a nominal fee. For more information including details on fees and rules please visit our website at www.nbb Broncos.net or call (810) 688-2518 during the school day or the Fitness Center from 6-8 p.m. (810) 688-3003.



Volleyball Coach of the Year

The Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association (MIVCA) is proud to announce the induction of Jim Fish, North Branch Area Schools Athletic Director and Volleyball Coach into the 2013 Volleyball Coaches' Hall of Fame.

Jim Fish coached at Sandusky High School in Ohio for 13 years. Upon moving to Michigan he started coaching at North Branch High School where he has been the varsity coach for 13 years. His overall varsity record is 928-238-37. His record at North Branch is 740-126-37. In 2007 Jim was the Region 9 Coach of the Year. In 2009 he was the Class B State Coach of the Year. North Branch has earned 9 Conference Championships, 9 District

Championships, 5 Regional Championships, has made 5 State Final Four appearances, has earned the State Runner-up 3 times and has earned 1 State Championship. In 2007 Samantha Fish was Ms. Volleyball Finalist, in 2008 Olivia Kohler was Ms. Volleyball and in 2010 Jordan Fish was Ms. Volleyball. All of these young ladies were coached by Jim Fish.



Ruth Fox and Middle School joined forces to fundraise

The single fundraising event is the annual Old Fashioned Family Christmas held in December.

Six students were chosen to go. Three were from Ruth Fox. Three from the Middle School.

They were: 5th grade - Abigail Weaver, 6th grade - Gerrid Rutledge and Carlie Jones, 7th grade - Ben Parton, 8th grade - Brenden Forster and Aleah Britt. Camp was July 14-19.

Students participated in simulations, missions, rocket building, and team building activities.



Special Olympics State Games



Brittany Truax, Mariah Lovasz, Ray Deaton, Miguel Kaake, Austin Gonda and Mary Bartel



Mariah in a running event

The 28th
Annual

Alumni Association Reunion
will be honoring the "Class of 1963"

at North Branch High School
Sunday, September 8, 2013

Dinner is \$16 per person

For details contact-Leonard Bruman 810-919-2432

Youth Summit



My name is Madison Ekstrom, a junior at North Branch High School who recently attended the Washington Youth Summit on the environment which is held in Washington D.C. Only 250 juniors and seniors from around the nation are nominated to attend this summit and I am grateful to have earned the opportunity. My trip was supported by local service organizations in Lapeer County and without their generous support I would not have been able to go.

During my visit to the Smithsonian National Zoo, I met Elise Bernardoni the Education Programs Director. I was also able to join a panel discussion with the head veterinarian and other biologists who are doing important research with coral and certain frog species.

In another session, our group had the opportunity to meet with staff from National Geographic and learn about the use of the critter cam. Videos from the critter cam may be viewed on National Geographic's web page. During a field visit our group was able to participate in a debate about the Klamath River Basin and whether the dams should be removed or not.

My career goal is to become a hydrologist, so I was very excited when I was one of those selected to do water testing in the Rappahannock River. I was able to meet Hydrologist, Mark Houck, an Environmental and Water Resource Engineer. Mr. Houck gave me advice on how to get into the hydrology field. During this weeklong summit I made some long lasting friendships and enjoyed some life changing experiences that I will never forget.

North Branch High School Drama Productions



← Cactus Pass

Teenage Night
of Living Horrors

Paintin' the Fence →



High School Information

North Branch High School offers Advanced Placement courses in the following areas: Biology; Calculus; Chemistry; English Language and Composition; English Literature and Composition; Psychology; Statistics; US History; and World History. North Branch High School students consistently earn the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams.

Students can participate in the following extra-curricular clubs and organizations: Art Club; Band Letter Club; Drama Club; Equestrian Team; Forensics; Friends of Rachel Club; Hockey Club; Legislative Debate; Model United Nations; National Honor Society; Publications (Newspaper & Yearbook); Spanish Club; Student Council; Varsity Girls Club; Running Club; Quiz Bowl.

NBHS's Link Crew, a group of over 40 upperclassmen, provides mentoring to incoming freshmen and new students to our district. The Link Crew members run the day-long freshmen orientation before the school year begins and each member mentors a group of 10 freshmen throughout the school year.

The Drama Department Features 3 theatri-

cal productions each school year and participates in regional and State competitions.

NBHS offers the only TV and Film production program in the county with a fully functioning TV Lab including a Set, Control Room and Editing Bay.

North Branch High school offers free student tutoring by NBHS teachers and National Honor Society students four days a week after school in our Homework Lab.

The NBHS Quiz Bowl team completes in both the fall and winter sessions of the Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League

The NBHS Equestrian Team won the B Division Championship at District Competition.

Over 89% of North Branch High School's class of 2013 successfully enrolled in an institution of higher learning.



The Class of 2013

PaySchools Payment Application Broadened

North Branch Area Schools is now providing parents with the option of paying for school functions such as class trips, dues, fundraisers, AP

Testing fees, etc., via PaySchools. Parents have been able to use PaySchools to put money in their children's lunch accounts or to pay tuition for Little Learners or FABS. A link is provided on the North Branch Area Schools website for parents to set up an account through PaySchools and pay for things using an electronic check or debit/credit card.



Welcome Ms. Hilbert

Ms. Hilbert, the new high school Spanish/English teacher has a B.A. in English, Secondary Education track from Mount Vernon Nazarene University with a minor in Spanish. She has studied abroad in Nizhni Novgorod, Russia, is a Level II Certified Knitting Teacher through the Craft Yarn Council of America, and loves her two children very much. Ms. Hilbert often tests her teaching ideas on her children, and she can often be found grading or reading something for school at her kids' many practices while cheering her children on loudly. She is currently a graduate student working on her online master's in ESL through the University of Southern California's Rossier School of Education. She also has the two neediest pets who have ever lived, but she's grown accustomed to their begging for attention.



Senior Picture Requirements for Yearbook

As you have your senior pictures taken over the summer, please inform your photographer of the following requirements for the NBHS Yearbook and class composite.

- 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 1/4 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—October 4th, 2013

Questions? Contact Ms. Stover-Lange, (810)-688-3001, ext. 2154 or rstoverlange@nbbroncos.net



High School Student Registration for 2013-14

PLEASE NOTE: Student schedules will NOT be mailed.

To minimize time out of classes, reduce expenses, and expedite access to student information, North Branch High School students will go through orientation on August 23rd, 24th and 31st.

Students are **REQUIRED** to attend orientation and report to the NBHS Cafeteria according to the following schedule:

- **11th / 12th Grades** - Tuesday, August 20th, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **9th Grade** - Tuesday, August 20th, 5:00 pm – 8:00 PM *Freshmen Parent meeting at 7:30 pm in HS Auditorium*
- **10th Grade** - Wednesday, August 21st, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
- **Make-Up Day (9th – 12th)** - Tuesday, August 27th, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Students in grades 10-12 can drop in any time during their scheduled orientation time. Orientations should take no longer than 45 minutes, depending on each student's needs. Students in grade 9 will be required to attend their entire orientation session (5:00 - 8:00 pm). The counseling department will be holding a meeting for parents of freshman students at 7:30 pm in the HS Auditorium. Although this meeting is optional, it will be very informative, especially for those parents having children in the High School for the first time.

All orientations will address the following:

- School Pictures and Photo ID's (required of all students)- Order Forms from the Photo Factory will be mailed home as well as available in the office.
- Emergency contact information updates. Acceptable Use Policy forms for computer usage (AUP's)

- Locker numbers and combinations - Classroom numbers and map
- Free and Reduced Lunch Forms - Student Vehicle Registration (\$5 registration fee required)
- Bus #'s with pick-up/drop-off times - Sports schedules
- Student Fees and Fines – from past years
- Parking sticker applications
- Yearbook sales for 2013-14 (Early Bird Special) - Graduation Information (only for Class of 2014)
- Class Voting

The building will be open so that students can locate lockers and tour the building. There will be a make-up date (Tuesday, August 27th, 2013) provided for those families/students that are out of town on their assigned dates. If you have any questions, please contact the main office at (810) 688-3001 beginning on August 19th.

North Branch Athletic 2012-2013 Year in Review

The North Branch Athletic Department is looking forward to a great 2013-2014 athletic year, but let's first look back at the accomplishments of last year. In the fall, the varsity volleyball team won the TVC Championship, won its eighth straight District Championship, and advanced all the way to the State Championship game. The team earned Academic All-State honors and Senior Alyson Light earned Individual Academic All-State Honors while Seniors Rachel Fish and Micaela Deshetsy earned First Team All-State Honors. In Boys' Soccer, the varsity team earned Academic All-State and the following seniors earned Individual Academic All-State: Phillip Ankley, Brendan Hurley, Isaac Smith, and Garrett Washington.

During the fall season, an outstanding 136 of 197 participants earned the scholar-athlete award for 69% of our fall athletes.

In the winter, the varsity boys' basketball team earned Honorable Mention Academic All-State. In wrestling, Devon Pingel won the Div. II 160 lb. Regional Championship and became only the second wrestler in North Branch history to win an Individual State Championship. Devon won his final match 10-5 thus securing the State Championship title. Also, of the 124 winter athletes, 87 received the scholar athlete award for an amazing 70.71% of the participants.

In the spring, the girls' varsity soccer team earned Team Academic All-State and Seniors Eva Kasperwicz and Sam Coulter earned

Individual Academic All-State. The varsity baseball team posted a new school record for wins finishing the season 23-7-1 and won its first ever TVC East Division Championship. The softball team won its first District Championship since 2007 and finished the season with a fine 23-11 record. In golf, Austen Waterman and Nick Kreiner earned Academic All-State recognition. Finally, in boys' track, Aaron Fielder qualified for the State Finals in the pole vault and set a new school record at the State Finals jumping 13'10" to finish in 9th place overall. Also, 127 of 181 student-athletes earned scholar-athlete awards at the spring banquet for 70.1% of the participants.



**Devon Pingel State Championship
Class B Title**



North Branch Equestrian Team District Champs - Team Members Samantha White, Rachel Kanaziz, Madison Ekstrom, Jessica Neff, Nicole Hawk, Brandy Wilcox and Kayla Yakes.



North Branch Broncos - TVC Baseball League Champs



2012 Varsity Boys' Soccer Academic All State with a team grade point average of 3.474



2012 Varsity Volleyball - Varsity record 68-8-1, TVC East Division Champions, TVC Conference Champions, Class B District Champions; Class B Regional Champions, Class B State Runner Up, Class B Ranked #2, Team Academic All State GPA 3.572.



North Branch Lady Broncos - MHSAA District Champs



NORTH BRANCH FOOTBALL WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT
Travis Mills of Vassar along with the North Branch and
Birch Run football team captains and head coaches.

Football Teams Raise Money for Local Wounded Warrior.

This year, the Bronco Football team continued their support of our injured soldiers as they once again participated in a “Wounded Warrior” contest with Birch Run. This year, instead of raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project, Head Coach Patrick Forster and Birch Run’s Head Coach, Chris Gilliam, decided to try to keep the money the two teams raised right here in Michigan.

So, with that goal in mind, both teams decided to dedicate their September 21st contest to Staff Sergeant Travis Mills. Travis was a standout football player for Vassar and competed against both schools when Vassar was still in the TVC-East. Back in April, Travis was in the middle of his third tour in Afghanistan when he was on patrol and an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) suddenly detonated next to him causing him to lose all four of his limbs. Travis is only the fourth quadruple amputee in the history of our armed forces to survive such an event.

Travis wasn’t able to attend the game, but he was able to watch the game live thanks to the MHSAA-TV. His family was also able to watch the

highlights on Fox Sports Detroit as the game was featured on their mid-night high school football recap show which is shown throughout Michigan. The captains of the North Branch football team, Travis Hill, Jacob Young, Corey Franks, and Travis Kukkola, as well as the captains of Birch Run, had the privilege of attending a luncheon with Travis a few weeks later and were able to learn exactly how he has been able to overcome such a devastating injury.

Fundraising for the September 21st contest began the Saturday prior to the game. Both teams had a combined goal of \$4,000 and attempted to meet that goal by selling t-shirts and by asking family, friends, and community members for simple donations. North Branch alone was able to raise well over \$7,000 dollars in less than a week, and both teams combined to raise over \$11,000 to help Travis and his family with the extreme costs that they will incur due to his injuries. A big thanks has to go out to everybody in the community for all of their support especially those involved with the American Legion as they helped raise close to \$1,000.

Fall Sports Schedule

Varsity Football

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 29	IMLAY CITY	HOME	7:00
Sep. 06	CARO	HOME	7:00
Sep. 13	LAKEVILLE	AWAY	7:00
Sep. 20	FRANKENMUTH (Lights Out)	HOME	7:00
Sep. 27	GARBER	AWAY	7:00
Oct. 04	BRIDGEPORT (Homecoming)	HOME	7:00
Oct. 11	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	7:00
Oct. 18	MILLINGTON (Band Night)	HOME	7:00
Oct. 25	YALE	AWAY	7:00

J. V. Football

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 28	IMLAY CITY	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 05	OPEN	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 12	NOUVEL CATHOLIC	HOME	6:30
Sep. 19	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 26	GARBER	HOME	6:30
Oct. 03	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	6:30
Oct. 10	BIRCH RUN	HOME	6:30
Oct. 17	OPEN	AWAY	6:30
Oct. 24	YALE	HOME	6:30

Freshman Football

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 28	ALMONT	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 05	CARO	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 12	LAKEVILLE	HOME	4:30
Sep. 19	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 26	NOUVEL CATHOLIC	HOME	4:30
Oct. 03	RICHMOND	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 10	FREELAND	HOME	4:30
Oct. 17	MILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 24	YALE	HOME	4:30

8th Grade Football

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 10	MILLINGTON-SCRIMMAGE	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 17	BRIDGEPORT	HOME	5:00
Sep. 24	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	5:00
Oct. 01	GARBER	AWAY	5:00
Oct. 08	LAKEVILLE	HOME	5:00
Oct. 15	MILLINGTON	HOME	5:00
Oct. 22	CARO	AWAY	5:00

Varsity Girls' Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 24	GRAND HAVEN INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Aug. 27	NORTH BRANCH INV.	HOME	8:30
Aug. 28	LAKE ORION INV.	AWAY	TBA
Sep. 04	OXFORD QUAD	AWAY	TBA
Sep. 07	CROS-LEX INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 11	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 18	BIRCH RUN	HOME	6:30
Sep. 25	CARO	AWAY	6:30
Sep. 28	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 02	GARBER	AWAY	6:30
Oct. 09	LAKEVILLE	HOME	6:30
Oct. 12	MARIAN INVITE	AWAY	TBA
Oct. 16	MILLINGTON	HOME	6:30
Oct. 19	BEAST OF EAST-WARREN	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 23	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	6:30
Oct. 26	NORTH BRANCH INV.	HOME	8:30
Nov. 02	TVC @ ALMA COLLEGE	AWAY	TBA
Nov. 4-9	DISTRICTS	TBD	TBA
Nov. 12	REGIONALS-SEIMIS	TBD	TBA
Nov. 14	REGIONALS-FINALS	TBD	TBA
Nov. 19	QUARTERFINALS	TBD	TBA
Nov. 22	STATE SEMI-FINALS	AWAY	TBA
Nov. 23	STATE FINALS	AWAY	4:00

JV Girls' Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 24	LAKE ORION INVITE	AWAY	TBA
Aug. 29	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 04	CLARKSTON QUAD	AWAY	TBA
Sep. 11	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 14	IMLAY CITY INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 18	BIRCH RUN	HOME	5:30
Sep. 25	CARO	AWAY	5:30
Oct. 02	GARBER	AWAY	5:30
Oct. 09	LAKEVILLE	HOME	5:30
Oct. 12	REESE INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 16	MILLINGTON	HOME	5:30
Oct. 19	NORTH BRANCH INV.	HOME	8:30
Oct. 23	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	5:30

Freshman Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 29	MT. MORRIS INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 04	FLUSHING QUAD	AWAY	TBA
Sep. 07	FRANKENMUTH INV	AWAY	8:30
Sep. 11	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 18	BIRCH RUN	HOME	5:30
Sep. 25	CARO	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 26	DAVISON QUAD	AWAY	TBA
Sep. 28	REESE INVITE	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 02	GARBER	AWAY	5:30
Oct. 09	LAKEVILLE	HOME	5:30
Oct. 12	CROS-LEX TOURN.	AWAY	8:30
Oct. 16	MILLINGTON	HOME	5:30
Oct. 19	NORTH BRANCH INV	HOME	8:30
Oct. 23	BRIDGEPORT	AWAY	5:30

Varsity Boys' Soccer

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 22	SCRIMMAGE	HOME	6:00
Aug. 24	USA INVITATIONAL	AWAY	8:30
Aug. 26	VALLEY LUTHERAN	HOME	4:30
Aug. 28	FLINT KEARSLEY	AWAY	6:45
Sep. 03	LAPEER WEST	HOME	4:30
Sep. 04	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Sep. 07	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 09	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 11	LAKEVILLE	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 16	MILLINGTON	HOME	4:30
Sep. 18	CARO	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 19	MARLETTE	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 23	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 25	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Sep. 26	IMLAY CITY	HOME	4:30
Sep. 30	LAKEVILLE	HOME	4:30
Oct. 02	MILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 03	GARBER	HOME	4:30
Oct. 07	CARO	HOME	4:30
Oct 14-19	DISTRICTS	TBA	TBA

J.V. Boys' Soccer

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 22	SCRIMMAGE	HOME	3:00
Aug. 26	VALLEY LUTHERAN	HOME	6:00
Aug. 28	FLINT KEARSLEY	AWAY	5:00
Sep. 03	LAPEER WEST	HOME	6:00
Sep. 09	FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	6:00
Sep. 25	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	6:00
Sep. 26	IMLAY CITY	HOME	6:00

Cross Country

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Aug. 23	CROS-LEX INVITE	AWAY	9:00
Aug. 29	BROWN CITY	AWAY	9:00
Sep. 07	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	10:00
Sep. 10	TVC #1 @ BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 14	ALMONT INVITE	AWAY	9:30
Sep. 17	COUNTY MEET	HOME	4:00
Sep. 24	TVC #2 @ CARO	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 03	MARYSVILLE INVITE	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 08	TVC #3 @ FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 15	TVC @ BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 19	THUMB MEET @ CARO	AWAY	TBA
Oct. 26	REGIONALS	AWAY	TBA
Nov. 02	STATE FINALS @ MIS	AWAY	TBA

Middle School Cross Country

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 07	BAD AXE INVITE	AWAY	11:15
Sep. 10	TVC #1 @ BIRCH RUN	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 14	ALMONT INVITE	AWAY	12:00
Sep. 17	COUNTY MEET	HOME	5:00
Sep. 24	TVC #2 @ CARO	AWAY	5:30
Sep. 30	BROWN CITY	AWAY	4:00
Oct. 08	TVC #3 @ FRANKENMUTH	AWAY	5:30

7th + 8th Grade Volleyball

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sep. 16	BIRCH RUN	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 18	BRIDGEPORT B" TEAMS"	AWAY	4:30
Sep. 23	LAKEVILLE	HOME	4:30
Sep. 25	CARO	HOME	4:30
Sep. 30	MILLINGTON	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 03	GARBER A" TEAMS"	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 07	BIRCH RUN	HOME	4:30
Oct. 09	LAKEVILLE	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 14	CARO	AWAY	4:30
Oct. 16	MILLINGTON	HOME	4:30
Oct. 21	FRANKENMUTH	HOME	4:30
Oct. 23	BRIDGEPORT B" TEAMS"	HOME	4:30

Quest High School Selected As A WNEM TV5 Cool School



This past spring Quest High School was selected by WNEM TV 5 to be honored as a "Cool School". "Cool Schools" is a program that selects local schools of all educational levels and highlights them in a five minute news segment. The selection of Quest

was particularly exciting in that it marked the first time that WNEM chose to feature the works of an alternative high school. Quest was selected for the family culture that it promotes and the volunteer work that it does in the community. Unfortunately, the feature on Quest was delayed due to scheduling conflicts, and WNEM has since discontinued the program before getting to visit Quest High School with their camera crew. If the feature is revitalized, expect to see Quest on the short list of schools to be visited!

Open Enrollment At Quest High School

Quest will be holding an open enrollment for students on Tuesday, August 27th from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in the computer lab of the Quest High School located in the North Branch Educational Services Center, 6655 Jefferson Rd, North Branch.

Graduates of Quest receive a high school diploma program, not a certificate or GED program. To be eligible, students must be in their third year in high school. North Branch students must also first consult their counselor to determine if a transfer to Quest is in their best interest. Parents interested in this option for their child should bring their birth certificate, immunization records, and proof of residency. Parents and students unable to attend on August 27th may schedule an interview by calling (810) 688-7581. Please make sure to leave the parents and student(s) name and return number. Calls will be returned August 27th and 28th.

North Branch Masonic Lodge's Quest HS Fundraiser Well Attended

On Thursday, May 2nd, the North Branch Masonic Lodge hosted the 8th annual Quest Benefit Dinner. The event was well attended by Quest families, former graduates, community members, and school faculty as well. The crowd of over 250 people yielded a total donation to Quest of \$1,502. The North Branch Masonic Lodge matched \$1,000 of the funds, bringing the total money raised for Quest to just over \$2,500, well

exceeding the previous high for this fundraiser. In the 8 years that the Masonic Lodge has put on this event, their total fundraising for Quest has totaled over \$13,000.

Quest staff and students would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to the North Branch Masonic Lodge and all that attended that made the evening the success it was!



The North Branch Masonic Lodge Presents their donation to Quest

Quest Alternative High School Embarks on 10th Year

As Quest High School embarks on its 10th year of existence, it seems appropriate to reflect back on the evolution and successes of the program. Quest was established in 2004 by North Branch Area Schools under the leadership of Principal, Mark Hiltunen, who saw the need to better serve the struggling students in our school district. Quest began (literally) in an old storage closet with no windows to the outside, one teacher, and one support staff.

Quest quickly grew from its original enrollment of 18 students to its now maximum capacity of over 60 students. As Quest High School grew, it was moved to a portable classroom in 2006, and then again to its present location in 2009 to its own school building. Quest's average graduating class varies between 25-40 students per year, ballooning to 42 graduates this past school year, the most graduates Quest has had. Quest has received great notoriety at the local, state, and national levels due to its student based initiatives, support from administration and the community, and from its close knit staff.

Quest's awards include:

- 2007 MAEO School of the year
- 2007 MASB's Excellence in Education Award
- 2007 Pearson Digitals National Referencing Success Award

- 2008 MASB's Michigan's Best Award

- 2013 WNEM Cool School

Additionally, individual faculty from Quest have



been recognized at the local and state level for their contributions. Quest's popularity for what it provides its' students has grown so widely that we now consistently have a waiting list to enroll!

Quest's student-centered philosophies have consistently helped them maintain one of the highest graduation rates for alternative schools in the state of Michigan; consistently graduating 80% of their students on time, well above the state average of 32% for alternative high schools. To date, Quest has graduated 275 students! The key to their success has been the establishment of a positive peer culture in which students take ownership of their successes and failures, celebrate success with each other often, and help perpetuate their positive attitude toward school to the incoming groups of new students.

NBMS

CONNECT

Helping every student connect with their own personal value, scholastic excellence, and a promising future.

NBMS CONNECT is a proactive guidance counseling program encouraging every student to realize and accept their own tremendous value, motivating them for achievement in education, and a fulfilling and successful career.

NBMS CONNECT:

- Communicate** With parents and guardians, administrators, teachers and community members.
- Optimize** Every opportunity to connect with students.
- Nurture** Every student during academic, social and personal times of need.
- Network** With community and regional resources.
- Equip** Every student to discover and grasp their own value as individuals.
- Coach** Every student toward positive personal responsibility, achievement, and self-regard.
- Treat** Each student with equal respect, effort, time, empathy, and positive expectation.

Welcome Mrs. Howe & Mr. Parsons

I am so incredibly excited to be the new principal of North Branch Middle School and so thankful for the opportunity to continue to be a part of the school district that I love. North Branch is an amazing little town. I can't think of a better place to work and raise children.

My roots are in North Branch- graduated in 1994. I graduated with my Secondary Teaching Certificate from Madonna University (Livonia). Returning to North Branch in 2000 to teach English at the high school has been one of the greatest joys of my life. I have taught all types of learners in English for the last 13 years. Recently, I obtained my degree in School Administration with an emphasis in Principalship from Saginaw Valley State University.

I believe my strong ties to North Branch will be essential as I continue North Branch's great legacy in exemplary education.



My name is Mr. Parsons, I am excited to be the new guidance counselor at North Branch Middle School. My wife and I have four children, four grandsons, and one dog. In my spare time I enjoy doing lots of things, but especially being with our family. My hobbies are model railroading, flying RC airplanes, and golf. (I am much better at railroading and flying than I am at golf!) I love to write and am in the middle of writing a fictional middle-youth novel. I am also a musician and enjoy all kinds of music.

I completed my education studies at Saginaw Valley State University and am certified to teach Social Studies and Psychology. I received a Master of Arts Degree in Educational and Professional Counseling from Central Michigan University. I worked with young people for many years in my previous career. I have had the privilege of being a substitute teacher for North Branch Area Schools for several years. I am looking forward to working with our terrific students and staff at NBMS. It's going to be a great year!



Left: 7TH Grade Visit Kettering University - North Branch environmental science students from Mrs. Tumblin's exploratory class once again visited the campus of Kettering University on May 17th to publicly share their official water quality data of the Flint River.

Bottom Left: 8th grade dinner dance: HOW FUN!

Bottom Center: Boys 8th grade Basketball : season highlighted by the A team achieving a 34-31 victory over one of the top teams in our division.

Bottom Right: Girls at North Branch Middle School have an opportunity to participate in Girls Fitness. A girls ONLY physical education class is to get young girls involved in positive lifetime physical activities that can be carried into adulthood. Activities included a training and participating in a 5K. These young ladies also learn about the social issues of bullying and self-esteem, and healthy eating.



Open House at Ruth Fox!

The staff will be holding an Open House for students and parents on August 27th beginning at 6:00pm in the Ruth Fox gym. Students and parents will be able to meet their teachers, get their informational packets for the year, and try their lockers. Open House will be followed by a family movie night that will begin immediately afterward.

Sixth Grade Graduation Brings Memories!



Sixth grader Evan Caudill celebrating graduation with his family.

The staff at Ruth Fox is very proud to be a part of this elementary experience for students and wishes them all the best as they move to North Branch Middle School.

Sixth grade students at Ruth Fox Elementary School end the year with a graduation of their own! The graduation celebrates their life as an elementary student and signifies the change they make as they become a secondary student.

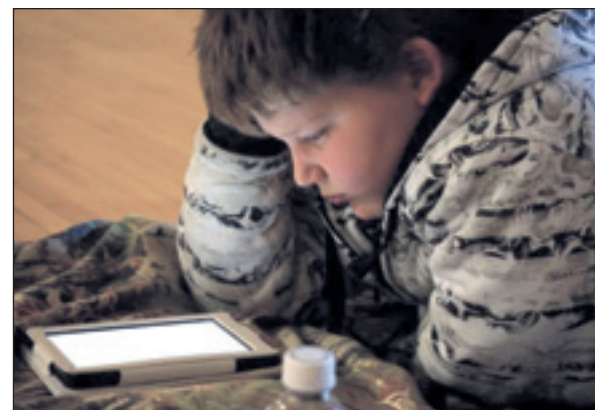
Shade Out Cancer

Several years ago, Ruth Fox Elementary started an event called "Shade Out Cancer." The project was the proposal of two fifth grade students who were interested in raising money for the American Cancer Society. Students who participate spend some time walking on the track at the end of the day. They bring sunscreen and hats for the event. In addition to raising money for a good cause, it is a good chance to students to learn about the dangerous effects of the sun.

This year, although the event was held indoors due to rain, the students and staff raised just over \$700 for the American Cancer Society. The students had a great time and walked around in the gym while listening to music.

A New Way to Read!

As technology increases, the staff at Ruth Fox Elementary has seen a whole new kind of reader! Although paperback and hardcover books are still very useful, students are often seen reading from their iPads or Kindles. The school does allow students to bring their own technology devices for use when approved by the staff. Pictured is Marcus Holzinger reading a book during a Ruth Fox reading event.



Hannah Waite, Mrs. Wood, Carolyn Delong, Elissa Bicego, Olivia Phillips, and Ann-Marie Lavallee.

Horse Camp

Students who participate in Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Brusie's Horse Choice Time Reading group have the opportunity to be involved in a "horse camp" with The Traveling Trainer – Ann-Marie Lavallee. Ann-Marie is located in Dryden. The selected students get the opportunity to learn about the different breeds, how to groom and tack a horse correctly, and they also get to ride horses! The horse camp was held on June 21st at Ann Marie's facility.

Ruth Fox Band Students Perform

The fifth and sixth grade band students performed their final concert of the year with all of the other bands in the district in the Band Collage Concert on June 3rd in the high school gymnasium. Students spent the year learning about their instruments, reading music, and improving their sound. All of their work definitely showed as both bands did a phenomenal job!

Band gives students a lot of opportunities including being able to play a musical instrument, performing in front of crowds, travelling, and meeting other students. Being involved in music has also been shown to help students academically.

The Ruth Fox Bands are directed by Mr. and Mrs. Ehardt. Students in fifth and sixth grade are always welcome to join band at any time, even if they did not begin the year in band.



Immunizations Needed at Ruth Fox!

At the end of the school year, students in need of immunizations for the 13-14 school year were notified by letter of the requirements. In addition, several reminders have been sent out via Facebook, Edulink, and Skyward. In addition, the requirements have been posted on the school website. The new regulation requires two new shots for sixth graders.

Students who are not compliant by the start of

the 13-14 school year will NOT be allowed to start school. In the past, the school has made exceptions for students who had a scheduled appointment. This, however, proved to be unsuccessful as the appointments were often not kept. Therefore, ALL students must be up-to-date on their vaccinations before they will be allowed to begin school in the fall.

Third Graders' Night in the Spotlight



Miss Berridge's third grade class celebrated March's Reading Month with an Author's Night celebration on March 26th, 2013. The classroom reserved a special night to have their published books read aloud on stage. Families were invited to hear their children share their published writing. The students have been taking the journey as authors all year. During writer's workshop, students have been working hard learning the importance of taking a piece of writing through the writing process, studying various genres and publishing pieces to share with others. Each student selected their personal favorites to share on the evening of their special "Author's Night."

The audience enjoyed listening to each author's book. Everyone was proud of how well each child spoke clearly to the audience as he/she read aloud their writing into the microphone. These third graders definitely shined in the "spotlight" when they shared their published work. What a wonderful group of fine authors we have!

Miss Berridge's Third Graders Research Michigan Animals

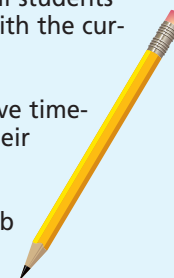
Third graders in Miss Berridge's class have been studying animals in science. This unit of study provided cross curriculum content expectations to be interwoven with Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum. Students read non-fiction texts, used technology resources, and applied note taking skills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



North Branch Elementary... Did you know?

Based on feedback through an anonymous on-line survey, the staff at North Branch Elementary are proud to say that:

- 100% of our parents agree that their child feels connected and part of the school and that their child's teacher does whatever it takes to help all students meet high standards.
- 98% of parents would recommend North Branch Elementary to family and friends
- 96% of parents receive timely communications from the classroom teacher; feel welcomed by the staff as a partner in their child's education; feel that all students are expected to achieve high academic standards; believe that school leaders advocate for effective instruction for all students
- 94% of parents are satisfied with the curriculum provided by North Branch Elementary School
- 92% of parents feel they receive timely information from the school; their child feels safe and respected at school; agrees that North Branch Elementary School does a good job of informing the public about school events and activities.



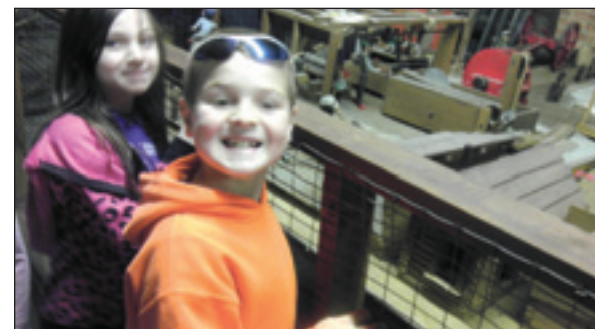
Second Graders Say, "WOW!" About North Branch

Second graders in Mrs. Conley's class were busy about town this spring. The students set out to learn about the economics and history of North Branch by taking on a writing project to create a Kids' Business Directory of North Branch. The first step was to tour a few local businesses, take pictures for the directory, and to learn about the goods and services the various businesses made and sold. One of their stops was a tour of Davis Tire to learn how to mount and balance a tire and to tour the warehouse. Mrs. Czaczkowski at the North Branch Bakery was glad to see the kids and even gave them free donut holes to sample. Back at class, each student wrote about his/her assigned business. After publishing was completed, a second trip to town was planned. This time, the first stop was to visit the North Branch Township Library to find out about their amazing Summer Reading Program. The library staff enjoyed the Kids' Business Directory of North Branch so much they



offered to share and display it for all of their library patrons to see. After leaving, the class met Mrs. Welke, curator at the Orr Museum, in order to take a trip back in time and experience our town's history. One student exclaimed about the museum experience, "This isn't great . . . this is awesome!"

Mrs. Welke loved the great questions the kids had. Mrs. Welke enjoyed the Kids' Business Directory of North Branch so much, that she added it to the collection of artifacts in the Orr Museum. For your own free copy of the Kids' Business Directory of North Branch, visit www.nbbrncos.net and download a copy from Mrs. Conley's classroom website. It's found in the "Document Manager."



Family Access to Student Information

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

Attendance

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

GradeBook

- Real-time progress reports to determine current grade
- Immediate access to assignment

and term grades as they are released by the teacher

Food Service

- Make online payments to your student's lunch account
- Shows current balance and past payments
- Display daily purchases by student
- Subscribe to Automatic email notifications
- Receive daily attendance information
- Receive notifications regarding student grades (low/missing assignments)
- Receive notification when Food Service Balance is below \$5

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:

Director of Operations & Technology Department, North Branch Area Schools, 6655 Jefferson Rd., P.O. Box 3620, North Branch 48461. (810) 688-3570

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. Jeff Drayton, 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 Jeff Drayton at (810) 688-3570.

Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity

The North Branch Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

Cafeteria News

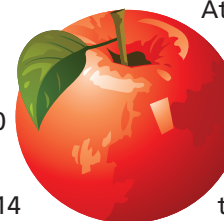
Our food service department welcomes your family back for the 2013-2014 school year and we welcome those families new to our school district.

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.

North Branch Area Schools follows the "Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs".

We offer healthy school lunches with fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and milk. New this year at the high school and middle is a custom sandwich bar with a variety of meats and toppings.

Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch will be on Family Access for your convenience, as well as sent home with students the first week of school. Please complete **ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER HOUSEHOLD** and return it as soon as possible. **Applications MUST BE FILLED OUT WITHIN THE FIRST 30 DAYS OF SCHOOL.** Those families qualifying at the end of the 2012-2013 school year will receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch for the first 30 days of school. After the first 30 days of school, if the school does not receive a new application for the 2013-2014



school year, the family will be adjusted to a paid/normal lunch. (PLEASE SEE THE CHART BELOW FOR THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR THE 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR.)

2013-2014 Meal Prices

Elementary (K-6):

Breakfast \$1.45 • Lunch \$2.25

Secondary (7-12):

Breakfast \$1.65 • Lunch \$2.65

Reduced breakfast 30¢

Reduced lunch 40¢.

If it has been determined that your child has a disability and is unable to eat a regular school meal, the school will make ANY SUBSTITUTION PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN at no extra charge.

How Do I Pay For Lunch?

Payments can be made using the on-line convenience of our new payment processing system, PaySchools. There is no surcharge for using PaySchools. This program allows you to make payments online via e-check or credit card from

www.nbbrnconcs.net. Payments can also be made by cash/check and sent to school with your student, or mailed to: North Branch Area Schools, Attn: Food Service, PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461.

Please see the district website for additional information and menus. Contact the Food Service Department at (810) 688-2226 with any questions or concerns.

Qualifying For Free or Reduced Lunch

Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced price school meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$21,257	\$1,772	\$886	\$818	\$409
2	\$28,694	\$2,392	\$1,196	\$1,104	\$552
3	\$36,131	\$3,011	\$1,506	\$1,390	\$695
4	\$43,568	\$3,631	\$1,816	\$1,676	\$838
5	\$51,005	\$4,251	\$2,126	\$1,962	\$981
6	\$58,442	\$4,871	\$2,436	\$2,248	\$1,124
7	\$65,879	\$5,490	\$2,745	\$2,534	\$1,267
8	\$73,316	\$6,110	\$3,055	\$2,820	\$1,410
*Each additional household member add:	\$7,437	\$620	\$310	\$287	\$144