



A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

June 16, 2016

Volume 4 • Issue 4



Mary K. Gallagher
Superintendent

Northville Public Schools
501 West Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167
248-344-3500

GallagMa@northvilleschools.org



AT A GLANCE

2016-17 Budget Update

Sinking Fund Summer Projects

Congratulations Class of 2016!

IB Marks Important Milestones

New Amerman Principal Named

District Adopts
ALICE Training Protocol

District Looks at Options for
Old Village, Main Street Schools

Honoring 440-Plus Years of Service

Middle School Sports for 6th Graders

2016-17 School Calendar Online

Important Summer Reminders

Points of Pride from Across the District

IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

Special Call Meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Board of Education Offices

Budget Hearing

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Summer Connections Summer School Registration Deadline

Friday, June 17, 2016

(High School in-class courses)

Saturday, June 25, 2016

(Elementary, Middle School in-class and
High School online courses)

First Day of School

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As this school year winds down, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Northville Public Schools and for entrusting us with your children each day. We are grateful for the incredible support of the Northville community, which values exemplary programs for all our students — whether it is in academic arenas, in the arts, or on our fields of play. We are likewise grateful for the

collective work of our students, teachers and administrators in collaboration with parents, to build on our *Tradition of Excellence* and open *A World of Possibilities* for all learners. There is no greater work than impacting the lives of our students in powerful and meaningful ways, and we are committed to creating the best possible learning environment in our classrooms, in our schools, and in all that we do.

2016-17 BUDGET UPDATE

The School Aid Conference Committee in Lansing has agreed on a proposal for 2016-17. This proposal still requires approval by the full House and Senate and the signature of Gov. Rick Snyder to finalize the budget process. For Northville, this proposal includes an increase of \$60 per pupil, or 0.7%, and raises the foundation allowance from \$8,169 to \$8,229 per pupil. Additionally, the proposal includes additional targeted funding for the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System (MPSERS), to maintain the cap on the district's mandatory employer contribution to the system. This

proposal, along with a projected increase in pupil enrollment for 2016-17, underlies the projected revenue increase in 2016-17. This revenue increase will, however, be more than offset by additional staffing due to increased enrollment and to stabilize class sizes, contractual wage and salary increases, and higher health care costs. Further details about the district's 2016-17 budget will be provided at the **Budget Hearing on Tuesday, June 28, 2016**, at 6 p.m. in the Hillside Middle School Forum.

SINKING FUND SUMMER PROJECTS

The school district has a number of much-needed capital repairs and improvements planned for our school buildings and facilities over the summer months, which will be funded under the last year of the district's original **Building Site and Sinking Fund millage**, approved by voters in 2011. We continue to be grateful for our community's strong support for a five-year renewal of the Sinking Fund millage in May 2015, with those funds becoming available with the 2016 tax levy later this year to fund 2017 projects. This year's summer Sinking Fund projects, totaling \$2.9 million, include:

- Renovation of the Meads Mill Middle School Media Center and "Pit" to create a media studio, collaboration areas and innovation pod. (In addition, Technology Bond dollars will be used to purchase technology and furniture for these areas.)
- Flooring replacement at Northville High School in some stairwells and classrooms.

- New classroom doors and security hardware in selected areas at Winchester and Silver Springs elementary schools.
- Track resurfacing at NHS and Meads Mill that will include new asphalt surfaces for each track, along with a structural spray for the high school track that will serve as a protective base and extend the life of the track. (Note: due to safety concerns, the two tracks will not be accessible to the community during the construction period of early-June through late-July.)
- Paving the Silver Springs Elementary School front parking lot.
- HVAC improvements at Silver Springs including replacing the air-cooled chiller and segmenting the school office cooling system to its own roof-top unit.

In addition to these Sinking Fund projects, the district also will use General Fund dollars this summer to paint selected hallways and classrooms at NHS.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016!

It was my great privilege recently – along with the teachers, principals, staff, administrators, Board of Education members, parents, families and friends in attendance – to share in this significant moment in the life journey of our 2016 graduates from both Northville High School and our Cooke School program.

The **Northville High School Class of 2016** had a lot to celebrate as 593 students received diplomas during the June 5, 2016, Graduation Ceremony at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. Collectively, the Class of 2016 has achieved excellence – in the classroom, on stage, in the arts, on our fields of play and beyond the walls of our schools in service to others. Many have overcome challenges or grappled with barriers – whether apparent to others or not – to earn their diplomas. From record numbers of National Merit Scholar Finalists, Semi-Finalist, and Commended students, National Honor Society members, Scholar Athletes, Eagle Scouts, Gold Award Girl Scouts to those contributing thousands of hours of community service, the

Class of 2016 has left its mark on Northville Public Schools!

On Wednesday, June 15, 2016, I likewise had the honor, on behalf of Northville Public Schools, of recognizing the **Cooke School Class of 2016 graduates** from our special education center program, serving students from age three to 26. In a moving celebration of each student, his or her family, caregivers, teachers and staff had the opportunity to reflect on each graduate's growth, as well as the



powerful lessons learned from these students and their families. These students challenge us to stretch beyond our limitations, to break new ground in learning and growth, and have taught us every day the meaning of courage and perseverance.



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS MARK IMPORTANT MILESTONES

I am pleased to share that the district's International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and Middle Years Programs marked two important milestones this year, as Northville High School graduated its first-ever class of IB Diploma Program students – 19 in total – and this year's 10th graders in the Class of 2018 became the first to complete all five years of the IB Middle Years Program.

The **IB Diploma Program**, for motivated high school juniors and seniors, is a demanding two-year curriculum that works in an interconnected and cross-discipline manner and leads to final examinations and qualifications for students that are recognized by leading colleges and universities across the country and around the world. The innovative program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who will help create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

In addition to the 19 IB Diploma Program graduates this year, more than 30 students from the NHS Class of 2017 are currently fully enrolled in the Diploma Program. At the same time, more than 300 additional 11th and 12th graders are scheduled to take one or more Diploma Program classes in the 2016-17 school year, up from 55 students two years ago.

In celebration of the **IB Middle Years Program**, parents, teachers and fellow students gathered recently at Northville High School to recognize the hard work of more than 20 NHS 10th graders who took part this school year in the IB Middle Years Program (MYP) "Personal Project" experience. The student-generated projects ranged from creating a video to explain difficult physics concepts, including Einstein's theory of relativity, to organizing a soccer tournament to raise money for a charity that provides soccer balls to children in poverty-stricken countries.

As the culminating event for students in the MYP who choose to pursue it, the Personal Project encourages students to reflect on their learning through the MYP and the outcomes of their work – key skills that will prepare them for success in future study, the workplace, and the community.



Beginning with the upcoming 2016-17 school year, 10th grade students will have the option to take a one-semester class to complete their Personal Projects or they can choose to complete it on their own. Students who choose to do their projects on their own will still have the support of a mentor and the Personal Project Coordinator through regular meetings and e-mail communications. In addition, some flexibility has been built into the MYP curriculum for the 2016-17 school year for students in the world language requirements.

We are truly fortunate to have a team of exceptionally talented and devoted educators and school district leaders who work tirelessly to bring the IB philosophy and framework alive for our students. We also are grateful to the **Northville Educational Foundation** for providing more than \$287,000 in funding specifically for International Baccalaureate Program implementation, along with our high school and middle school PTAs and Mothers' Club of Northville for their generous support of the district.

DEBBIE MADEJA RETIRES; MARCO MARANDO NAMED NEW AMERMAN PRINCIPAL

Amerman Elementary School Principal Debbie Madeja is retiring at the end of the school year after 37 years as an educator, which culminated these past three years in her role at Amerman. Mrs. Madeja's leadership, together with that of the Amerman staff, students and community, is evident in the commitment Amerman has made to foster a culture of learning and leadership. We thank Mrs. Madeja for her long career in education and her service to the children, staff and community of Amerman Elementary School and Northville Public Schools.

With Mrs. Madeja's retirement, it is my pleasure to inform you that **Marco Marando has been named Amerman's new principal**. A strong educational leader with experience as an elementary school principal and a focus on building relationships with students, parents, staff and the community, Mr. Marando comes to Northville Public Schools from the Taylor School District, where he has served as principal of Blair Moody Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year.



While at Blair Moody, Mr. Marando was instrumental in fostering the development and beginning the implementation of *The Leader in Me* framework, which resulted in the school being awarded a *The Leader in Me* Foundation grant. In addition to serving as an active and visible leader, Mr. Marando worked collaboratively with stakeholders at the school to successfully increase parent involvement. Prior to joining Blair Moody, Mr. Marando was a fifth grade teacher for five years with Lamphere Schools in Madison Heights, Michigan. While with Lamphere, he also served as a summer school principal, teacher leader and athletic coach. In addition, he was selected for participation in the Galileo Leadership Academy and the Oakland Schools Aspiring Principals' Leadership Academy.

As a leader, Marco Marando aspires to create an atmosphere where students grow intellectually, emotionally and socially. He is excited to join the Amerman community and Northville Public Schools, with the goal of fostering student achievement and building on a school culture that works in partnership with families and the community to ensure that we make a difference in each of our student's lives. I hope you will join me in welcoming Mr. Marando to Northville Public Schools.

DISTRICT ADOPTS ALICE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND SECURITY

Providing a safe place for students and staff to learn and grow is one of the most important responsibilities of any school system. When a crisis occurs, Northville Public Schools officials follow detailed emergency response protocols – developed, practiced and refined in partnership with local police and fire officials – aimed at keeping students and staff safe during an emergency situation.

With this in mind, Northville Public Schools – in consultation with local police agencies and the district's safety consultant, along with guidance from various federal agencies – is adopting the ALICE protocol to enhance our existing safety and security procedures specifically in regard to active shooter and violent intruder response.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) is a set of proactive strategies that move beyond lockdown and increase the chance for survival during a violent intruder event. ALICE is supported by more than 2,300 law enforcement agencies across the country and complies with the new standard of care recently developed by the Federal Department of

Education, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We believe that adopting the ALICE protocols will ensure Northville Public Schools has a robust incident response plan in place should the unimaginable happen.

Key to the implementation of the ALICE protocols is training for all staff. District administrators, including school principals and assistant principals, along with local police officials from the City of Novi and Northville Township, will participate in two days of on-site, hands-on ALICE training later this month. In addition, all Northville Public Schools teachers and staff will take part in online ALICE training modules prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year, along with on-site emergency drills in fall 2016.

For more information or answers to your questions visit the [ALICE](#) website or contact the Office of Finance and Operations at 248-344-3510.



DISTRICT CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR OLD VILLAGE AND MAIN STREET SCHOOLS

Northville Public Schools is currently in the process of researching options for the best use of the historic Old Village School building and the adjacent Main Street School facility with the goal of finding a fiscally responsible solution that is in the best interest of both the school district and the community.

district's Central Office Administration, along with several Early Childhood Education classrooms.

The district is in the process of developing a Request for Proposals for the Old Village and/or Main Street School sites, along with pursuing cost-effective options for the potential relocation of the Board of Education offices and Early Childhood programming.

HONORING MORE THAN 440 YEARS OF SERVICE

At its June 14, 2016 meeting, the Northville Board of Education had the honor of recognizing 19 retiring Northville Public Schools staff members, including 11 educators, three paraprofessionals, three support staff, one Early Childhood staff member, and a principal.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of these individuals for the important contributions they have made over their years of service in furthering the excellence that is Northville Public Schools.

- John Campbell, Margaret Coponen, Pamela Dase, Kathryn Devendorf, Paul Durkee, Patricia Hansen, Jay Hillard, Carmen Kennedy, Marilyn Kowalkowski, Carmen Kuckenbecker, Martine Leech, Deborah Madeja, Mary Mende, William Reynolds, Jacqueline Silverman, Diane Taylor, Kathryn Thompson, Carla Tibble, Barb Trudeau



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS OPEN TO 6TH GRADERS

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, sixth graders at Hillside and Meads Mill middle schools will be eligible to participate on a limited basis in school-sponsored individual sport teams.

and track and field. These sixth grade athletes will participate in home meets only and therefore will pay an annual Pay to Participate fee of \$100, half the regular \$200 fee for middle school athletes.

For the upcoming school year, sixth graders at Hillside and Meads Mill will be eligible to participate with their seventh and eighth peers in cross country, swimming and diving,

2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE



Tuesday, September 6, 2016, will be the first day of the 2016-17 school year for Northville Public Schools students. It will be a full day. The entire 2016-17 school year calendar is available on the district website.

joined most counties across Michigan in scheduling Spring Break during the first full week of April. For the 2016-17 school year this means Spring Break will be April 3-7, 2017 (with the Easter holiday on April 16, 2017 and no school on Friday, April 14, 2017) and for 2018-19, this means Spring Break will be April 1-5, 2019 (with the Easter holiday on April 21, 2019, and no school on Friday, April 19, 2019).

IMPORTANT SUMMER REMINDERS

- District Summer Hours - Elementary and middle school offices will be open from Friday, June 17, 2016, through Tuesday, June 28, 2016. Middle school offices will reopen for the 2016-17 school year on Monday, August 8, 2016 and elementary school offices will reopen on Monday, August 15, 2016. The Northville High School office will remain open for the majority of the summer, with limited staff from 7 a.m.-11 a.m. and noon-3 p.m. weekdays. Our Board of Education/Central Office will be open throughout the summer, Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. beginning the week of June 27th through the week of August 1st.
Summer Connections - The registration deadline for the district's Summer Connections Summer School program is Saturday, June 25, 2016, for elementary and middle school students, as well as high school students taking classes online. For high school students taking in-class courses, the deadline to register is this Friday, June 17, 2016. Summer Connections programs offer students the opportunity to review skills, explore areas of interest, recover credits, and/or earn additional credits

during the summer. All in-class middle and high school courses will take place at Hillside Middle School, with high school classes beginning Monday, June 20, 2016, and middle school classes beginning Monday, July 11, 2016. Elementary school classes will take place at Ridge Wood Elementary School beginning, July 11th. Online courses also are available for high school students. For more information or to register your student, visit Summer Connections on the district website.

- Community FYI ListServ - The popular Community FYI ListServ published by the district each Wednesday detailing events and programs from across the Northville community will move to an every other week publication during the summer months, beginning Wednesday, June 15, 2016 through Wednesday, August 24, 2016. Weekly publication of Community FYI will resume on Wednesday, September 7, 2016. For more information visit ListServ and Flyers on the district website.



POINTS OF PRIDE FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Every day in our classrooms, through the arts, on our fields of play and through extracurricular activities, our students and teachers from across Northville Public Schools give us much to celebrate. Here are just a few highlights.

- Northville High School is once again among the best in Michigan, according to the annual U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools ranking. NHS ranked 13th in Michigan and 598th nationally among the more than 2,100 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia ranked by the magazine. High schools receive this honor based on their performance on state assessments, their graduation rates, and how well they prepare students for college.

- Northville students had another outstanding year for participation and the number of winners in the nationally sponsored PTA Reflections program, with just under 500 entries and 108 of those advancing to the state competition this year. Thirteen students placed at the state level and four students advanced to the national competition. One student, **Malcolm Wang** from Northville High School, received an Award of Excellence in the Special Artist Photography Division at the national level. Other students advancing to the national competition include **Logan Makowski** from Ridge Wood Elementary School in the Dance Choreography Primary category; **Grace Robinson** from Moraine Elementary School in the Music Competition Primary category; and **Alexis Aulepp** from NHS in the Literature category. All Northville Public Schools Reflections participants whose entries won in the state competition were honored at a special ceremony at the Northville Art House in May, with those who competed in the state competition on display for the entire community to view. Thank you to all these talented students for sharing their incredible artistic ingenuity with us! The theme for next year's Reflections program is "What is Your Story?"



- Double congratulations are in order for the **Meads Mill Middle School** and **Northville High School Science Olympiad Teams** who recently finish third (Meads Mill) and eighth (NHS) in the Science Olympiad National Tournament at the University of Wisconsin. This marks the highest finishes ever at the national competition for both teams. The Science Olympiad National Tournament is the pinnacle of achievement for 120 of the country's best Science Olympiad teams representing more than 2,000 students. The Meads Mill and NHS teams both placed first in Michigan's statewide competition in April to advance to the national tournament.

- **Ridge Wood Elementary School** students in teacher Sue Beth Balash's third grade class were featured recently in the **Great Backyard Bird Count** eNewsletter for the month they spent learning about birds in preparation for participating in the worldwide count. The class even got to share a great video they put together showing some of their activities such as learning about bird identification, what birds eat, how to count birds, and how to build a birdhouse. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Now, more than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds. Kudos to our Ridge Wood bird watchers!



- The administration of the Detroit Jazz Festival, along with the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA), has identified the **Northville High School Jazz Ensemble as one of the premiere youth jazz ensembles in Michigan!** Because of this honor, the NHS Jazz Ensemble has been chosen to perform at the Detroit Jazz Festival on Saturday, September 3, 2016, from 11:30 a.m. to noon on the JP Morgan-Chase main stage in Campus Martius, in downtown Detroit. This is the 40th time the band has been chosen for this honor! Congratulations NHS Jazz Ensemble!



- On another musical note, the NHS Choir program recently had all three of its ensembles and a soloist selected for **Michigan Youth Arts Festival (MYAF)** consideration at the State Solo & Ensemble Festival. The **Chamber Choir** was selected as a top ensemble and had the honor of performing at the festival in May. **BackBeat** and **TrebleMakers** were selected among the top four for final consideration. Junior **Madison Green** was selected as an alternate soloist and Sophomore **Em SeGraves** was chosen to be among the top 125 singers in the **MYAF High School All-State Honors Choir**. Being selected for the MYAF is the top honor for high school vocal ensembles in the state. **Chamber Choir** was also selected to represent Northville at the highly prestigious **Choral Hour** for the **Michigan Music Conference (MMC)** in Grand Rapids in January 2016. NHS Choirs including Chorale, Chamber Choir, BackBeat and TrebleMakers all received **#1+ 'Superior' ratings** at the **Michigan School Vocal Music Association's (MSVMA)** State Choral and Solo & Ensemble Festivals. The NHS Choral program continues the long-standing honor as the largest high school choral program in the state.

- Silver Springs Elementary School recently hosted its annual **Multi-Cultural Festival** with more than 17 countries represented including Armenia, Austria, Brazil, China, France, Greece, Guatemala, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Palestine, Poland, Scotland and Venezuela. Activities included a fashion show that featured cultural outfits modeled by students of different heritages; entertainment by students and families reflecting their ethnicities; and student and family designed displays with food, activities and other items representative of their cultures. What a great experience for all those involved!

- **Northville High School DECA** recently qualified and competed 21 students in individual and team events at the **International Career Development Conference** in Nashville, Tennessee. Sophomore **Madeline Adler**, senior **Brendan Sullivan**, freshman **David Hargitt** and junior **Michael Zhang** won honors for top 10 exam scores in their events. Sophomore **Casey Fortman**, freshman **Arvind Ganeshram**, freshmen **Jean Xiong**, sophomore **Clarissa Xu**, and junior **Jason Liu** were top 20 overall finalists. Four of these students advanced again earning top 10 in their events including Casey in Automotive Services Marketing, Arvind in Principles of Finance, Clarissa in Food Services Marketing, and Jason in Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling. Other NHS DECA competitors included **Allison Chang**, **Himanshu Zambare**, **Nick Chirgwin**, **Deepti Sanku**, **Iyah Youssef**, **Suneeth Torke**, **Lauren Fane**, **Alex Steinig**, **Sohan Jadhav**, **Jenny Yu**, **Marin Furuyama**, and **Merry Shen**. Six members of the team also earned the right to attend the DECA Leadership Seminar including **Katherine Yang**, **Pavana Karanth**, **Jay Thuruli**, **Bhaveka Gummadi**, **Ashley Weber** and **Shreya Basu**. Way to go NHS DECA team!



We have so much to be proud of at Northville Public Schools. For those families enrolled in our summer programs – whether through the Summer Connections program, the Cooke Summer Program, or Summer Kids' Club – we look forward to seeing your children engaged in meaningful learning over the course of the summer. We wish each of our students, families and staff members many relaxing moments and the gift of time spent with family and friends this summer.

Sincerely,
Mary K. Gallagher

Mary K. Gallagher
Superintendent

