Welcome to the first edition of “A Message from the Superintendent,” a new format for regular communication from me to you with the latest news about important issues impacting Northville Public Schools, as well as items celebrating some of the incredible work being done by our students, teachers and staff everyday in our classrooms and across our community.

It is my hope that this newsletter will provide another opportunity for school families and community members to learn more about our schools and stay up to date on important district issues and happenings. For your convenience, the newsletter is organized by topic — feel free to click around to those items of greatest interest to you by using the “At A Glance” menu on the left-hand side of this page.

As always, I welcome your questions and input. Thank you for your continued support of Northville Public Schools.

Northville school families and community members can provide feedback on several proposed options for changes to the school district’s 2013-14 elementary and middle school attendance boundaries during two community forums being hosted by the Northville Board of Education in March.

Maps of the Northville Public Schools district showing the changes proposed under each of seven options will be presented and discussed at the forums and are posted on the district website at: http://www.northville.k12.mi.us/node/1074.

The Attendance Boundary Community Forums are scheduled for the following dates, times and locations:

- **Tuesday, March 5**, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Meads Mill Middle School Cafeteria
- **Monday, March 11**, 6:30-8 p.m., in the Hillside Middle School Cafeteria

The Attendance Boundary Community Forums will offer participants an explanation of the boundary change options being considered by the Board; an overview of why boundary changes are necessary, including the results of a demographic study, enrollment projections and facility assessment; and the guiding principles being considered by the Board as boundary options are evaluated. School board members and district leaders will be on hand at the forums to take feedback and answer questions at small group discussion “stations.” Participants also will be asked to complete a feedback form before leaving each session.

Following the Attendance Boundary Community Forums, the Board will continue to evaluate and narrow attendance boundary options — with consideration given to community input — at a Board Committee of the Whole meeting slated for Tuesday, March 19, 2013. Citizen comment and public hearing opportunities also will be available at the March 26, 2013 Board of Education meeting at Thornton Creek Elementary School. The Board is expected to vote on a final Attendance Boundary Plan for the 2013-14 school year at its April 9, 2013 meeting at Hillside Middle School.

I am delighted to share with you the district’s successful sale of its Series 1 2013 School Technology Bonds in the amount of $16.27 million. The bonds will be used to purchase and install instructional technology improvements, communications and building security systems and related equipment, infrastructure and remodeling, as well as to pay the cost of issuing the bonds.

The district’s bonds were sold as a private placement to the low bidder PNC Bank at a true interest rate of 1.76 percent with a final maturity of 2020.

[Image of Northville Public Schools logo]
VMView technology, which will allow staff and students to have secure and system resources to allow for more digital learning technologies and server will enhance the district’s ability to dynamically allocate computer curriculum to share with students and collaborate with colleagues. The new greater storage capacity offers a place to gather and archive digital their classroom and homework assignments digitally. For teachers, the system’s capacity and provide greater ability for students to maintain storage standpoint, these upgrades substantially enhance the magnitude of to offer more “cloud” based solutions for students and teachers. From a demands of a modern educational network. This also will allow the district by April 30, 2013.

Round-Up visit. Parents are asked to register their incoming kindergartners school’s Kindergarten Parent Information meeting and Kindergarten kindergarten enrollment information, as well the dates and times for your 2013. If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before Northville Public Schools is now accepting kindergarten enrollment for fall December 1st could be enrolled in kindergarten. During this three-year transition, families wishing to enroll their child in kindergarten based on the
Many of you may have already heard that long-time Amerman Elementary School Principal Dr. Stephen Anderson will retire at the end of this school year. Dr. Anderson has served the Amerman school community, as well as the larger Northville Public Schools community, for 21 years. During Dr. Anderson's tenure with Northville Public Schools, his leadership has been instrumental in a number of arenas, including a steadfast commitment to parent involvement and education; Amerman's Green School effort (achieving Emerald status); offering a variety of learning-centered extra-curricular opportunities for students (i.e. Lego Robotics, Chess Club, Science Olympiad); securing grant funding for project work; and a tremendous focus on action research.

We appreciate Dr. Anderson's leadership, and look forward to recognizing him for his service to the children, staff, and community of Northville Public Schools as the end of the school year approaches. We also appreciate the ample notice of retirement that Dr. Anderson has provided, as it will allow for a thorough search and selection process and a thoughtful transition in leadership. We consider the process of selecting a building leader to be critically important, and value the input of staff, parents, and students.

The timeline and process for posting, interviewing, and hiring a new principal for Amerman Elementary School is available on the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us. Updates will be provided as information becomes available including dates and times for the opportunities for staff and parent input into this process.

NORTHVILLE AND DETROIT STUDENTS JOIN FORCES TO FEED THE HUNGRY

Once again this year, students from all six of our elementary schools in Northville are joining forces with inner-city Detroit students to learn more about world hunger and, most importantly, do something about it through the Kids Against Hunger Michigan Coalition “Michigan Project” and the Gleaners Community Food Bank Kids Helping Kids initiative.

The eight food packing events, which got underway in late-January and will continue through March, bring together elementary students from different experiences and cultures to work and learn side-by-side at Detroit area landmarks including the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn and Gleaners in Detroit, as well as the Jack Doheny Supplies warehouse in Northville.

Kids Against Hunger is an international, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to providing food to malnourished and starving children throughout the world, including right here in metro Detroit. Through the Kids Against Hunger “Michigan Project,” which specially tailors food packing events to the school setting, more than 5,500 Northville and Detroit students have worked together to pack over 750,000 meals since 2005.

This marks the eighth year Northville and Detroit students are coming together to pack food for Kids Against Hunger, as part of a partnership with local non-profit organizations such as Bridgepointe, the Plymouth Kiwanis, the Conrad Charitable Foundation, Mothers’ Club of Northville, and other local school and community groups. Northville Public Schools is also pleased this year to welcome several area businesses as sponsors of the Kids Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids events providing more than $7,000 to purchase the food and packing materials, cover shipping costs and/or provide transportation to the packing events. Sponsors include:

- **Gold Sponsor** — Patti Mullen & Associates, Remerica Hometown One
- **Silver Sponsors** — Grand Rapids Building Supply, Inc., and Durham Transportation Services
- **Bronze Sponsors** — Clark Hill PLC; Tom Holzer Ford, Inc.; Stifel Nicolaus & Company, Inc.; and Wright & Hunter, Inc.

We believe very strongly that Kids Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids are an integral part of what makes our schools and our community strong. Just as we value exemplary academics, athletics, the arts and extra-curricular opportunities — the opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with students from inner-city communities in service to others empowers our students, strengthens relationships, builds awareness of our global society, and offers an incredible service experience for those students, teachers and community members who participate.
NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL HONORS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

At a special breakfast event sponsored by the Northville Educational Foundation (NEF), Northville Board of Education members, NEF Board members, Central Office administrators, principals, counselors and teachers will join parents in celebrating the success of 28 Northville High School seniors receiving National Merit Scholar honors. Among the 28, are 11 receiving “Commended” honors; three National Merit Semi-Finalist; and 14 National Merit Finalists. National Merit Commended students rank among the top 5 percent of seniors nationwide academically, while Semi-Finalists rank among the top 1 percent nationally and Finalists represent the top less than 1 percent of their peers academically. Students can invite their parents and siblings, and also have the opportunity to ask a teacher who has had an impact on their success to the National Merit breakfast, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. It is truly a privilege each year to honor these outstanding students and to hear them pay tribute to their parents for the support, wisdom and guidance they offer, as well as to hear powerful examples of the impact that our passionate, dedicated and caring teachers and counselors have on their success.

BRYAN MASI NAMED MIAAA REGION 11 ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

I am very pleased to share with you that the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) has named Northville High School Athletic Director Bryan Masi the Michigan Region 11 Athletic Administrator of the Year. There are 14 regions in the state and Region 11 is comprised of school districts in Wayne, Oakland, and Genesee counties. Masi was nominated for this honor by his colleagues in the Kensington Lakes Activities Association (KLAA). He will receive the award at the MIAAA State Conference in Traverse City on March 18, 2013. Bryan is an outstanding athletic director who has worked tirelessly to make athletics an integral part of the Northville Public Schools learning community. Through his leadership and commitment, our student athletes at both the high school and middle school levels compete at the highest level of interscholastic competition to reach their educational and athletic goals. We are fortunate to have Bryan as part of our team.

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER CHOIR HONORED AT THE 8TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN MUSIC CONFERENCE

The Northville High School Chamber Choir accepted the honor of performing for music educators across the state at the 8th Annual Michigan Music Conference in January, 2013. The Chamber Choir (pictured below) is one of 10 choirs in the Northville High School choir program of over 560 students, and is the largest High School choir program in the state. The select mixed ensemble of 20 singers has the opportunity to experience in-depth study of choral music at an accelerated pace, enabling them to achieve sensitivity to precision, musical nuance, and aesthetic quality. The Chamber Choir performs at school concerts, community events, and festivals with various styles of music from madrigals to 20th century compositions and special emphasis on acapella selections.

Additionally, Northville High School students Patrick Murray, Ashley Hart, Michael Dause, Annelle Hermann and Lauren Wickett, as well as Hillside Middle School students Jackie Cole, Maddie Green, Emily Mazara and Jaya Thyagarajan were honored to perform as members of the State Honors Choirs. The Honors Choirs are comprised of no more than 100 students each, selected from across the State for performing at the highest level. Ashley Hart, Michael Dause, Annelle Hermann and Lauren Wickett were also selected among the top 120 singers in the state to go on and perform at the All-State Honors Choir at the prestigious Michigan Youth Arts Festival in May. Congratulations to each of these students for making the State and All-State Honors’ Choir, and for the hard work and many hours of practice they put into achieving at this level!

We have tremendous pride in our choir program, and value the opportunity to hear our students’ voices lifted in song under the talented direction of Choir Directors Mark Krempski, Mary Kay Pryce and Beth Richert at the high school level; and Amanda Good and Vicky Kopistiansky at the middle school level. This tremendous participation in our choir program underscores the degree to which our students, our families and our community values a comprehensive high school program and the integral role that the Performing Arts have in our student’s education and experience in Northville Public Schools.

Finally, I would like to personally invite Northville school parents, guardians, and community members for coffee and an informal conversation at my next Superintendent Community Coffee on Monday, May 13, 2013, from 6-7:30 p.m., at the Northville Public Schools Board of Education Office, 501 West Main Street, Northville.

We have much to be proud of as we continue to work toward providing the best possible educational programs for all students. Thank you to our students, teachers, staff, families and community members for all that each of you do to help make this possible.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher
Superintendent