



A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

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Mary K. Gallagher
Superintendent

Northville Public Schools
501 West Main Street
Northville, Michigan 48167
248.344.3500

GallaqMa@northvilleschools.org



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IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Tuesday, March 10, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Tuesday, March 24, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Amerman Elementary School

Tuesday, April 14, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Tuesday, April 28, 2015
7:30 p.m.

Meads Mill Middle School

Spring Break Begins

Thursday, April 2, 2015
(End of the Day)

Classes Resume

Monday, April 13, 2015

STEM Fair

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
Hillside Middle School

DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Hopefully, we are nearing the end of a second Michigan winter filled with unprecedented snow and subzero temperatures! My sincere appreciation to our entire school community for your patience and understanding as we traverse this challenging weather with the goal of ensuring the safety of students, staff and families while maintaining a focus on learning. We give careful thought to a variety of factors in deciding whether or not to close school for a "snow" or "cold" day. This includes the amount of snow and the impact on roads and school parking lots; the timing of the storm; ice or freezing rain and its impact on roads and parking lots; and dangerous temperatures or wind chills that carry a high risk for frostbite in a short period time.

We also recognize the widely varying views among parents and community members regarding the threshold for "cold" days versus "snow" days called as a result of snow and road conditions, as well as the variance in calling "cold" days among area school districts. The threshold we follow in Northville, along with most Wayne County and some Oakland County school districts, is the National Weather Service Wind Chill Chart for dangerous temperatures and wind chills. To close school based on cold alone (rather than in conjunction with concerns about road conditions, bus issues or other safety considerations), the actual temperature combined with wind chill considerations are greater (colder)

than -19 to -22 degrees below zero. To view the detailed wind chill chart go to:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/winter/windchill-images/windchillchart3.pdf>

When a "snow" or "cold" day is called, we do our best to communicate this to families and staff as early as possible – before 5:30 a.m. or earlier, sometimes the night before.



With five "snow" and "cold" days already under our belt and winter still lingering, we also know that many in our school community are concerned about the impact on instructional time for our students. Northville Public Schools has always had at least 180 days of school scheduled each year, and as you may recall, we added instructional minutes to the school day this year as a result of changes in the way the Michigan Department of Education counts instructional time. With six days of "forgiveness" currently allowed by the state, we do not anticipate the need to add days to our school calendar at this point in time. However, we will continue to monitor this concern for the balance of the year.

DISTRICT PREPARES FOR APRIL ADVANCED ACCREDITATION REVIEW

Northville Public Schools will take its next step in the cycle of district-wide accreditation when the prestigious AdvancED accreditation agency visits the school district as part of an external quality assurance review in late-April. During the visit, the quality assurance review team will meet with district leaders, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, students and community stakeholders, as well as visit the district's schools, to see our educational system in action.

In preparation for the on-site visit, a team of Northville educators and administrators from across the district

has spent the past several months completing a Standards Assessment Report, designed to serve as a valuable self-assessment and as a tool to help the school district prepare for the quality assurance review. The report is based on a set of standards for quality school systems, which serve as the foundation of the accreditation process. In order to earn and maintain accreditation, school districts must meet these standards, engage in a process of continuous improvement, and demonstrate quality assurance through internal and external review. Our sincere thanks to all the parents, students and staff



members who participated in our AdvancED stakeholder surveys in November and December. These surveys are a means to involve all of our stakeholders in a two-way communication as we review the results in order to gain a better understanding of our areas of strength and effectiveness, as well as those areas that may need improvement. District accreditation is a powerful systems approach to improving student learning over time. It

recognizes that increasing student achievement is more than teaching reading, math or science better. It is a result of how well all the parts of the education system – the district, the school, the classroom – work together to meet the needs of students.



BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND MILLAGE RENEWAL – MAY 5, 2015

Northville Public Schools is seeking a renewal of the Building and Site Sinking Fund millage originally approved by voters in 2011 and used to make much-needed repairs across the district's 10 school buildings and other facilities. On May 5, 2015, Northville Public Schools voters will be asked to consider renewing the current levy of 0.9978 mills which was reduced from the initial levy of 1 mill due to a Headlee adjustment in 2014. If approved, the millage renewal will provide the district with about \$2.5 million for each of the next five years from 2016 through 2020 – the same as the district's current sinking fund millage, which will expire with the 2015 tax levy.



All but three of Northville's school buildings are more than thirty-five years old, and like residential and commercial structures reaching this age, major building system and site repairs are needed to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for students. Over the past decade, there have been severe cuts in the state's per pupil allocation, which is the primary source of funding for the Districts on-going operations. Northville's per pupil funding has been reduced from \$8,538 in 2008-09 to \$8,099 per pupil in 2014-15. Without the millage renewal, any necessary facility repairs would need to be paid for with operating funds that would otherwise go to support educational programs that are already strained as a result of the trend in state funding.

As part of our ongoing effort to provide responsible fiscal management, a Facility Condition Assessment was conducted by TMP Architecture in December, 2014. The assessment was performed by a team of experienced architectural, mechanical and electrical engineering professionals who evaluated the current state of the District's buildings and identified future

repair and renovation priorities for our school facilities. While all building and site needs identified over the next five years exceed revenues generated by the .9978 mill levy, the millage renewal will allow the District to address our most pressing needs.

Projects completed through the original sinking fund millage included sidewalk and parking lot replacement; carpet replacement; roof replacement and repair; boiler and mechanical room replacement; gym floor replacement; replacement of interior lighting with more energy efficient fixtures; and technology network infrastructure upgrades. The current sinking fund also helped pay for a portion of the safety-related repairs and improvements to *Tom Holzer Ford Field* on Eight Mile Road.

Priority projects for the next five year period fall into the categories of safety and code, energy efficiency, classroom and program improvements, and facility and site infrastructure. If approved, the 0.9978-mill Building and Site Sinking Fund will:

- Help preserve General Fund dollars to accomplish the district's core mission of instruction and student learning.
- Enable students to learn in a safe, secure and healthy environment.
- Protect the community's investment in the school district's buildings and facilities.
- Maintain appropriate learning facilities that enable the district and community to keep and attract residents.
- Keep Northville's taxpayer dollars in Northville.

Look for more information about the sinking fund millage renewal proposal, including a list of potential projects and answers to frequently asked questions, as well as dates and times for school family, staff and community information sessions soon on the district website:

www.northvilleschools.org.

TWO EVENTS SHOWCASE NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Northville High School recently hosted two highly successful events aimed at showcasing the outstanding academic, athletic, artistic and extracurricular endeavors available to our high school students. On February 11, 2015, more than 300 Northville residents with students

currently enrolled in eighth through 10th grade attended an information night regarding the world-renowned International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. The event was open to families with students living in the Northville school district. Those in attendance heard from Northville High School IB teachers, as well as a panel of students, about their experiences teaching and learning through the lens of this innovative program. IB materials and information from college recruiters also was available. Northville High School and the district's two middle schools are fully authorized IB World Schools offering the IB Middle Years Program for all Northville students in grades six through 10 and the IB Diploma Program for highly motivated 11th and 12th graders.

On Sunday, February 23, 2015, Northville High School hosted a Community Information Session attended by more than 500 current and potential new families and students, along with community members. More than 80 of the high school's student leaders were on hand to take visitors on a guided tours of the building. Academic chairs and representatives from athletic teams, student clubs, and music and arts programs, as well as current students and administrators, were available to share information about the school's and the district's programs and answer questions. For more information about Northville High School, call 248-344-3800 or visit the high school's website at <http://nhs.northvilleschools.org>.

A special thank you to the many student leaders who served on the IB student panel and as tour guides at the information session for representing their school and the district so well. Thank you also goes out to the teachers, staff and administrators at Northville High School and across the district who worked so hard to make these two events such an incredible success!



M-STEP TESTING SLATED FOR THIS SPRING

You may have already heard that this spring the State of Michigan is replacing the 44-year-old Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) with a summative assessment called the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). This school year, students will complete the new M-STEP online assessments through three-week testing blocks during the April to early-June testing window established by the State of Michigan.

Students in grades three through eight, as well as 11th graders, will take the English language arts and mathematics assessments, which will include both open-ended response and multiple choice questions. Open-ended questions challenge students to explain their answers by providing written responses. The M-STEP science test will be administered to fourth, seventh and 11th

graders and the social studies assessment will be given to fifth, eighth and 11th graders. These two assessments will include only multiple choice questions. Your child's school will provide specific grade level and individual classroom M-STEP testing schedules.

Teachers will be working over the coming weeks to prepare students for the new online testing format and structure. For more information about M-STEP or to preview practice items, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>. We recognize this is a transition period with the state assessment and will use this data as we continue to examine our instructional practice and enhance student learning. We encourage all students to participate in the assessments.

THANK YOU TO OUR KIDS AGAINST HUNGER AND KIDS HELPING KIDS DONORS AND SPONSORS

At Northville Public Schools, we believe strongly that the Kid Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids experiences are an integral part of what makes our schools and our community strong. These food packaging events bring together elementary school students from Northville and inner-city Detroit to work side-by-side to learn more about world hunger, and most importantly, do something about it. Just as we value exemplary academics, athletics, the arts and extracurricular activities – the opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder with students from inner-city communities in service to others empowers our students, strengthens relationships, and builds awareness of our global society.

The opportunity for our students to participate in these powerful experiences is made possible through the generous support of our business sponsors, together with grant funds, contributions from our school families, and the fundraising efforts of our students. This year, I am delighted to report that Northville Public Schools has received a \$3,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Northville through its Tour de Ville bicycle tour event and fundraiser which took

place Victorian Festival weekend. I'm also pleased to share that Amerman Elementary School received a \$500 Martin Luther King Day of Service Mini-Grant to help purchase the food for its packing events in January.

Additionally, we are incredibly grateful for the continuing generosity of our business and community group sponsors who make this opportunity possible for elementary students across Northville and our partner schools:

- Patti Mullen & Associates Remerica Hometown One (Gold Sponsor)
- Rotary Club of Northville (Gold Sponsor)
- Clark Hill PLC (Silver Sponsor)
- Durham School Services (Silver Sponsor)
- Grand Rapids Building Supply, Inc. (Silver Sponsor)
- Mothers' Club of Northville (Silver Sponsor)
- Tom Holzer Ford (Bronze Sponsor)
- 2015 MLK Day of Service Mini-Grant (Bronze Sponsor)
- Stifel-Nicolaus & Company, Inc. (Bronze Sponsor)
- Wright & Hunter Technology Consultants (Bronze Sponsor)

There are more sponsorship opportunities available to support this worthwhile program! If interested, contact Meghan Irving in the Office of the Superintendent at IrvingMe@NorthvilleSchools.org or 248-344-3508. This year's packing events began in January and will go through April.



WELCOME CLASS OF 2028!

Northville Public Schools is accepting kindergarten enrollment for the 2015-16 school year. If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2015, we want your student and family to become part of the culture of leadership and learning that exemplifies Northville Public Schools. To schedule an Enrollment Appointment at your child's elementary school and complete the online Pre-Enrollment Process, visit www.northvilleschools.org/node/584.

The Pre-Enrollment Process will walk you through the steps for enrolling your kindergartener and provide many of the forms you will need to complete

before your appointment. Those unable to meet during the Enrollment Appointment dates and times for their child's school, should call the school's main office to make other arrangements. Those unsure about which elementary school their student will attend, can view the Attendance Boundary Map at www.northvilleschools.org/node/251.

Parents will receive the dates and times for Parent Orientation and Kindergarten Round-Up during the Enrollment Appointment at their child's school. For more information, contact your child's school or the Office of Instruction at 248-344-3520.



PUTTING TECHNOLOGY IN THE HANDS OF STUDENTS

Earlier this year, Northville Public Schools launched a "Technology in the Classroom" grant program, which offered teachers the opportunity to apply for iPads and Chromebooks to be used by students in their classrooms. Grantees developed extensive interactive lesson plans demonstrating how the student technology would enhance instruction. Teachers also defined how they would share their experience with their colleagues and committed to multiple professional development sessions. Coordinated by the Office of Instructions, teachers from across the district submitted more than 50 grant applications. Seventeen grants were awarded valued at more than \$150,000. Thank you to all of the teachers who participated in the grant program for your innovative ideas and commitment to enhancing student learning. We look forward to hearing from our students and teachers as they integrate these personal learning devices into the classroom in innovative ways, with the goal of building on our capacity across the district to meet each student where they are in their learning and move them forward in their achievement.

And while we are talking about putting technology in the hands of our students, I also wanted to share with you that the Northville Board of Education recently approved the purchase of 160 iPads as part of the



Technology Bond approved by voters in 2012. The iPads will be used alongside the classroom sets of Chromebooks for each school purchased last summer with an additional set going to each of the elementary schools. In addition, this spring we hope to purchase iPad carts for every building comprising 336 of the personal devices and purchased using a Technology Readiness Infrastructure grant and Technology Bond funds. These are just a few examples of the many ways the district is putting our Technology Bond dollars to work to enhance learning in our classrooms.

NEWS FROM THE NORTHVILLE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

I am delighted to share that the Northville Educational Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal of \$100,000 for its annual *Thanks for Giving* Campaign that ran from November through January, raising a whopping \$288,772. The campaign included an anonymous matching gift challenge for all donations up to \$50,000. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the Northville Educational Foundation and its many generous donors who support initiatives including *The Leader in Me* at our elementary schools; the International Baccalaureate in our middle and high schools; Science, Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives across the district; innovative teacher grants; needed facility improvements; and student and athletic assistance grants.

In other news, the Foundation recently awarded 12 grants totaling \$15,000 to teachers across the Northville Public Schools as part of its 6th annual

Innovative Grants competition. Each year, these grants support unique school and classroom programs and initiatives that enhance the education of all our students and support innovative approaches to teaching. Our congratulations and sincere appreciation is extended to each of this year's grant recipients for bringing these exciting opportunities to our students.

And finally, I want to make you aware of the Northville Educational Foundation's **A Night for Northville: Spring Break Bash fundraiser on Saturday, March 21, 2015, 8 p.m. to midnight at Northville Square, 133 West Main Street.** The evening will be hosted by Blaine and Colleen Fowler from WDVD 96.3 FM and will feature appetizers, an open bar, fun and games, a silent auction, music and great company. Tickets are \$100 (\$70 is deductible) and can be purchased online at www.NorthvilleEdFoundation.org. Hope to see you there!

LEARN MORE ABOUT STEM

Mark your calendars for the Northville Public Schools **STEM Fair: Education and Energy Powering Our Future**, at Hillside Middle School, 775 North Center Street. On April 22, 2015, more than 1,000 Northville fourth and eighth graders will participate in a one-day Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair. Partnering on this event, Northville Public Schools and the Northville Educational Foundation are committed to encouraging and inspiring Northville Public Schools students to become interested in pursuing STEM degrees and careers.

During the daylong event, students will be led through several alternative energy themed activities and demonstrations provided by partnering companies and 12-13 teams of students of all ages. These demonstrations will bring to life what these fourth and eighth graders are learning in the

classroom. In the evening, parents and all district students are invited to participate and check out the projects that the student teams have created. These projects will provide students with independent learning, allowing them to start from scratch and end with an activity they can explain to others and of which they can be proud.

The STEM Fair is being entirely supported by the community through sponsorships and volunteers. For more information about the Fair or how you or company can support this event go to <http://www.northvillestemfair.com/index.html>. Sponsors for the STEM Fair include Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, 50th Aisin Group, Advanced Disposal, soulbrain MI, Oakland University, The Green Panel, Michigan State University, Next Energy, Srinergy and ZeroBase.



2015 BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS ELECTED

The Northville Board of Education welcomed its newest member, Roland Hwang, in January, along with James Mazurek who is returning for a second four-year term on the Board and Ann Kalass who is beginning her first full term after being appointed to the Board in January 2014. All three were elected in the November General Election and were sworn into office in

January. The Board also elected its officers for 2015. They are Cynthia Jankowski, President; Scott Craig, Vice President; James Mazurek, Secretary; and Matthew Wilk, Treasurer. Also serving on the Board is Trustee Adam Phelps.

POINTS OF PRIDE FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT



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



- Congratulations to **Moraine Elementary School Principal Denise Bryan**. Denise recently received the **2014 Region 1 Honors Award** from the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA). This award is presented to a single member from each of the MEMSPA's 14 regions for their teaching and administrative leadership, participation in professional and civic organizations, most especially their work in advancing the profession through service. On behalf of the entire Northville school community our sincere congratulations to Denise on this recognition. It is much deserved!!



- Also, Congratulations to **Northville High School social studies teacher Tim Dalton** on being name the **2014 Division 1 Girls Track & Field Coach of the Year** by the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches Association. Under Tim's leadership the 2014 Northville Girls Track & Field team finished as Runner Up in the Division 1 Michigan High School Athletic Association statewide competition.
- Cheers to the **Northville High School Robostangs** robotics team for making its first appearance at Detroit's North American International Auto Show in January. The team was one of three selected by FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to present their robot and demonstrate last year's game, Arial Assist. Way to go Robostangs!

- The **Meads Mill Middle School Mathcounts Team** recently won the **First Place Team Award at the 2015 Mathcounts Metro Detroit Chapter Competition** on February 14, 2015, at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. The Meads Mill team also garnered six individual awards and four Countdown awards in the competition. Six Meads Mill team members have advanced to the state competition at the GM Tech Center in Warren on March 14, 2015. Good work!
- Our sincere appreciation to the **Northville Township Fire Department Charity Fund**, which has set aside \$5,000 to be used to provide free, voluntary heart checks through one of our local health providers to Northville's incoming freshmen student-athletes. The surprise announcement was made at the Fireman's Ball on February 14, 2015. This is another great example of our schools and our community working together to keep our kids safe and healthy.

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

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher

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Superintendent

