



# A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

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## AT A GLANCE

NHS Achieves IB Diploma Program Authorization

New, Familiar Faces Join District Leadership Team

Tradition of Excellence ... Opening a World of Possibilities

Transportation Bus Tracking App Pilot Underway

Thank You Teachers and Staff!

Registration Begins for Summer Connections Summer School Program

Welcome the Class of 2027!

Points of Pride from Across the District

Last Day of School:  
Thursday, June 12, 2014

## DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As we finally emerge from one of the harshest winters on record, with the signs of spring all around us, I would like to take this opportunity to share updates in a number of areas, draw your attention to

some of the great things happening in our schools, and keep you informed as the end of the 2013-14 school year draws closer.

## NHS ACHIEVES INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

For those who haven't already heard the good news, I am pleased to share that Northville High School recently received authorization to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program to interested 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The IB Diploma Program is an academically rigorous and internationally focused course of study.



This authorization is the culmination of a multi-year initiative on the part of the district that is a testament to the students, staff and leadership at Northville High School and across Northville Public Schools. The IB Diploma Program strengthens the opportunities available to our students and the wider community, and challenges students to make connections, apply learning in relevant ways, and to consider issues from a variety of perspectives. The IB Diploma Program is a holistic approach to education that requires participating students to take six subjects over two years from five groups — literature in the student's native language, a world language, science, math and a humanity or social science — plus an art or another choice from the first five groups. In addition to this coursework, students in the Diploma Program complete three core requirements that challenge and broaden their educational experience. These include a 4,000-word extended essay, a "Theory of Knowledge" epistemology class, and 150 hours of activities focused on creativity, action, and service (CAS). NHS juniors and seniors also can take individual IB Diploma Program offerings outside of the full Diploma Program.

intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth through all domains of knowledge and prompts students to understand how they learn and to connect and apply that learning. It provides a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and to understand the connection between traditional school subjects and the real world and to become critical and reflective thinkers. A verification team from the IB Middle Years Program visited the district earlier this spring, and news regarding authorization is expected in the near future.

The district's work toward authorization of the Diploma and Middle Years Programs has included an in-depth course of professional development over the past four years for teachers at the middle and high school levels that strengthens their skill set as educators as they develop IB units of study and begin sharing them with students. We are truly fortunate to have a team of exceptionally talented and devoted educators and school district leaders who have worked tirelessly to bring the IB framework and philosophy alive for our students in the classroom. We also are grateful to the Northville Educational Foundation, our high school and middle school PTSAs and Mothers' Club of Northville for their generous support of the district's efforts to advance our tradition of excellence and increase the opportunities available to our students.

In addition to the IB Diploma Program, Northville Public Schools is in the final stages of candidacy to offer the IB Middle Years Program for all sixth through 10th graders at Hillside and Meads Mill middle schools and Northville High School. The IB Middle Years Program is designed for all learners; it emphasizes

For more information about IB, and/or the application process for the IB Diploma Program, visit the district website at <http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/1165> and click on the "Diploma (DP)" button.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### May/June

#### Board of Education Meetings

Tuesday, May 27, 2014  
7:30 p.m.  
Cooke School

Tuesday, June 10, 2014  
7:30 p.m.  
Hillside Middle School

Tuesday, June 24, 2014  
7:30 p.m.  
Hillside Middle School

### Class of 2014

#### Commencement Ceremony

Sunday, June 1, 2014  
6 p.m.

Compuware Arena, Plymouth

#### Last Day of School (Half-Day)

Thursday, June 12, 2014



NEW, FAMILIAR FACES JOIN DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Please join me in welcoming one new recruit and one familiar face to the district leadership team for the 2014-15 school year. The Northville Board of Education recently appointed Deanna Barash, Principal of Seaholm High School in Birmingham, as Northville Public Schools' new Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services. Jennifer Bugar, current Acting Program Supervisor for the Cooke School special education center program also has been approved as the program's permanent Supervisor.

As the end of the school year approaches, Northville Public Schools also will be saying farewell to three of our school principals. As many of you are probably already aware, Winchester Elementary School Principal Pat Messing and Meads Mill Middle School Principal Sue Meyer will retire at the end of this school year and Ridge Wood Elementary School Principal Alicia Parsons left the district earlier this month to accept a position with Franklin-Covey. Additionally, at his request, Northville High School Principal Rob Watson will move to Hillside Middle School as an assistant principal (with additional district-wide responsibilities) to provide additional administrative support at Hillside given the school's enrollment and the size of the facility. On behalf of the entire Northville school community, I want to thank each of these individuals for the commitment and passion with which they have served our students and families.



Deanna Barash



Jennifer Bugar

We consider the process of selecting a building leader to be critically important and we value the input of staff, parents and students in this process. We are currently in the process of interviewing and hiring new principals for NHS, Meads Mill, Winchester and Ridge Wood and plan to bring forward candidates for Board of Education consideration in late-May and early-June.

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE ... OPENING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES



Moraine Student Leaders inspire students, teachers and community members to have a voice in the NPS Vision process!

Throughout the school year, our students, staff members, families and community members have been invited to contribute to the process of redefining our vision for what Northville Public Schools will look like five to ten years down the road in order to maximize the success of our students in the 21st century. As we prepare for 2015 and beyond, we seek to build on our strong Tradition of Excellence by forging a path forward that will open a World of Possibilities for our students as we navigate an increasingly interconnected and digitally rich world.

We remain incredibly grateful for the support of the Northville community in passing our 2012 Technology Bond, and to our teachers and students, who are developing a stronger, more adaptable tool-set to address individual student needs and to meet the demands of 21st century learning.

Interactive classroom technology — now in place across the district — includes more than 3,400 new computers and laptops, interactive whiteboards in all classrooms and learning labs, document cameras and upgraded audio and visual systems in all schools. These much-needed technology enhancements are increasing access to digital content, expanded instructional resources, and interactive learning opportunities customized to individual student learning needs.

A guiding principle of the district's technology planning is a focus on rigorous curriculum design and learning outcomes, with technology serving as a tool to support learning. As part of the next phase in this process, district-wide Curriculum and Assessment and Technology Design teams will be engaging in in-depth work this summer to develop user-friendly curriculum map and unit design templates, and provide input into the development of a robust digital learning platform. Upcoming technology improvements that will support this work include installation of the digital video system (phase two), additional mobile computing devices, and the addition of student response and assessment systems. This is exciting work — aligned with our evolving vision — that has the potential to significantly impact student learning and strengthen the culture of learning and leadership that is advancing in each of our schools!

TRANSPORTATION BUS TRACKING APP PILOT UNDERWAY

In an effort to improve communication with families who use school district-provided bus service, Durham School Services, the district's transportation provider, has developed a phone application that will allow parents and guardians to securely view the location of their child's bus in relation to their family's assigned bus stop. The "app" also enables parents to view multiple stops on their child's assigned route, including the scheduled bus arrival time at each stop.



As this is a new application and communication tool, Durham is currently piloting the app on selected bus routes across the district. Families who have students assigned to the pilot bus routes have been notified that the app is active for their child's bus route. One of the intended outcomes of the pilot is to obtain feedback from parents and guardians. It is expected that the app will be made available district-wide beginning with the 2014-15 school year.





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.



- Northville High School once again made the *U.S. News & World Report* list of the Best High Schools for 2014 receiving a silver award and ranking 601<sup>th</sup> nationally and 15<sup>th</sup> in Michigan. The *U.S. News* rankings include data on more than 19,400 public high schools in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Schools are awarded gold, silver or bronze medals based on their performance on state assessments and how well they prepare students for college.

- All six of the district's elementary schools have been recognized by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency as "Green Schools" for their environmental leadership in encouraging students, staff and parents to improve energy



conservation and become environmental stewards. This includes Silver Springs Elementary School achieving "Evergreen" status; Amerman, Moraine, Ridge Wood and Winchester elementary schools achieving "Emerald" status; and Thornton Creek Elementary School achieving "Green" status.

- Our youngest learners recently displayed their artistic flare for all of the community to see during the Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Programs "Children's Exhibit" at Northville Square Mall in downtown Northville. Now in its eighth year, the theme of this year's exhibit —



"Celebrating Communities of Learners" — celebrated our children, honored their unique qualities and captured the power of community involvement that constitutes each child's story. The exhibit also provided documentation from the studies that represented the value of group learning in each of the classrooms. The accompanying documentation was in the form of books, panels and photos that helped to tell the story of how each project emerged. What an ideal way to put the community focus on our children.

- Four Northville High School vocal ensembles earned top honors recently at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival of the Michigan School Vocal Music Association. BackBeat (nine-voice guy group), TrebleMakers (10-voice women's ensemble), Freshmen Select (16 ninth grade singers) and Chamber Choir (20-voice mixed ensemble) all qualified earlier this year to compete in this prestigious state

competition. Additionally, Chorale (72 advanced singers) and Chamber Choir earned superior ratings at the District Choral Festival. TrebleMakers and Chamber Choir were named the top Michigan ensembles at the State Festival, which put them in consideration to perform in the prestigious Michigan Youth Arts Festival at Western Michigan University. Way to raise those voices!

- Also at Northville High School, our Future Health Professionals Team brought home gold and silver medals in the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Competition, which took place in April in Traverse City. Twenty-four NHS students were among more than 1,900 students from across the state that competed in more than 56 health-related events. In Forensic Medicine, Northville juniors Urvashi Gupta and Riya Malhotra received gold medals and sophomores Nihitha Pinnamaraju and Amanda Cui received silver medals. In addition, senior James Chen received the silver medal in Nutrition and freshman Emily Guo received the silver medal in PathoPhysiology. Congratulations to all our NHS participants.



- Meads Mill Middle School continued its championship streak at the Science Olympiad state competition, which took place recently at Michigan State University, winning gold in 12 of the 23 events. The team is now invited to represent the State of Michigan at the Science Olympiad National Tournament Division B, hosted by the University of Central Florida in Orlando, this weekend. This is the Meads Mills Science Olympiad Team's third straight state championship. Northville High School also placed second in Division C at the tournament and also qualified to represent Michigan at the national tournament. Hillside Middle School, also Division B, placed fifth in the state, a recent best.

- And while we are on the topic of Science Olympiad, our Amerman Elementary School team came out on top in a 46-team field



competing in the Macomb County Science Olympiad earlier this month. Sixteen students represented Amerman at the tournament, winning five first-place spots in 16 events and bringing home medals in all but two events to give them the overall championship for the K-5 elementary competition. Outstanding performances by all our Science Olympiad teams!

- **Northville's Academic Games Team** comprised of elementary and middle school students from **Amerman Elementary School and Hillside and Meads Mill middle schools** recently **brought home three state championships** at the Academic Games Leagues of America National Tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee. The Hillside team "Time Square" won the national championship in Team Sweepstakes, which

measures the team's overall performance in all four categories — math, logic, language and social studies. The Time Square Team is also national champion in the game Equations and ranked second, fifth and sixth in the three other games. The Amerman and Meads Mill combo team of "TT" is the national champion in the game On-Sets. The team also won second place in Equations and fourth in Presidents. Their extraordinary performance put them on the bronze medal stand in team overall performance. The Amerman and Hillside combo team "Terminators" took third place in Equations and ranked in the top 10 in the other three games they participated in, including a sixth place finish in Team Sweepstakes. Three Northville students were also ranked in the top 10 in overall individual performance. They are **Liana Lau from Hillside, Jeffrey Zhang from Amerman, and Brian Yang from Meads Mill.**

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL — THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2014**

A reminder that **Thursday, June 12, 2014** will be the last day of school for the 2013-14 school year. It will be a half-day.

As the end of the school year approaches, following an unprecedented winter that brought a record seven snow days, many of you have asked how Northville Public Schools (NPS) was able to avoid adding days to the end of the school year, when many school districts across the state have days to make up. NPS has consistently maintained a schedule of 180 student days per school year, with instructional hours beyond what is required by the State. Because NPS has at least 175 days scheduled in our calendar, and exceeds the minimum number of instructional hours required by the Michigan Department of Education (factoring in the six days of "forgiveness" permitted for inclement weather/school closures), we are not required to make up days at the end of the school year.

We have so much to be proud of as we continue to work together to create the best possible educational programs for all students. Thank you to each of our students, teachers, staff, families and community members for all that you do to contribute to a strong partnership – it is truly one of the hallmarks of our community.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher  
Superintendent

