District leaders and educators build vision for success for all students

In this ever-changing and increasingly inter-related world in which we live, Northville Public Schools continues to evolve and grow in its vision for success for all students.

The students in the school system today—from this year’s seniors in the Class of 2014 to the two-year-olds in the district’s preschool program—will be the leaders and innovators of tomorrow, entrusted to care for the world and raise a future generation of caring, compassionate and skilled world citizens. It is the job of Northville educators, parents and community members to ensure these young people are ready to shoulder these responsibilities.

“Across our school district’s learning continuum from early childhood through high school, we are deepening our focus on authentic learning opportunities that allow students to make connections between what they are learning in the classroom and real-world issues,” said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher.

“We also are building a culture of student empowerment along with timeless leadership principles that nurture the skills, talents and disposition students will need to be college and career ready in the 21st Century.”

To do this, the district is literally changing the way teachers teach and students learn in three very significant and interconnected ways that are strengthening teaching and learning across the district. These are:

See VISION FOR SUCCESS on page 2

New interactive classroom technology awaits students and teachers

The Northville Public Schools technology team has been hard at work across the school district this summer with the goal of welcoming students, teachers and staff this fall to technology equipped classrooms and school buildings. The improvements will offer the flexibility for students to access the tools they need to be successful, and a stronger, more adaptable tool-set for teachers to address the individual learning needs of their students.

Installation of the proven interactive classroom technology is just one of a multitude of Technology Bond projects—approved by voters in the November 2012 election—that are a key piece

See NEW TECHNOLOGY on page 5
Vision for Success

Continued from page 1

- The Common Core State Standards
- International Baccalaureate (IB) programming
- Advancing 21st Century learning

Northville Public Schools is embracing the national shift to the Common Core State Standards in math and English. (See box on page 4.) These new rigorous K-12 standards require students to learn at deeper levels while making connections to real-world situations and applications. The Common Core also moves instruction and assessment to a focus on best practices for instructional delivery — and requires teachers to deepen their understanding of content, strengthen lesson design, and challenge all students to rise to the standard of college and career ready.

For example, through the English language arts standards, teachers still teach students literature as well as literary non-fiction. However, because college and career readiness overwhelmingly focuses on complex text outside of literature, these standards also ensure that over time students are being prepared to read, write, and research across the curriculum, including in history and science. In math, the Common Core State Standards stress not only procedural skill but also conceptual understanding so that by high school students are able to apply mathematical ways of thinking and reasoning to real-world issues and challenges.

With financial support from the Northville Educational Foundation, the school district is also currently in the candidacy phase to become an IB World School (see box on page 3), an initiative that fits hand-in-hand with the Common Core Standards and Northville Public Schools’ focus on authentic student learning in a global society.

As with the district’s work with the Common Core, training in the IB approach to learning is strengthening the skill set of teachers, as they develop IB units of study and participate in a rigorous course of professional development.

Rather than limiting participation in IB to only those students interested in the Diploma Program—designed for highly motivated, academically well rounded 11th and 12th graders—Northville Public Schools has chosen to also teach all students through the IB Middle Years Program, beginning in sixth grade and continuing through 10th grade.

“The Middle Years Program strengthens learning across the domains of knowledge, while supporting the development of a strong learner profile with experiences that require students to understand themselves as learners, apply their learning, and to consider multiple perspectives to strengthen their understanding of complex issues,” said Northville IB Middle Years Coordinator Janice Henderson. “Students of today need to be able to see an issue from a variety of perspectives; to collaborate as members of a global community; and be moved to action by the ‘big ideas’ from their learning that will influence their thinking 20 to 30 years from now.”

As an example, Henderson said, students might reflect on the different perspectives on the cost of a cell phone. From a mathematical or accounting perspective the cost might depend on the length of the contract, the data plan selected, or whether it is the newest device on the market. From an environmental perspective the cost might be that your old phone winds up in a landfill when you upgrade to a new phone. From a health and social education perspective, the cost might be that you lose a friend who is texting on their cell phone while driving. And from a community and service perspective, you are able to mobilize a community in seconds to respond to a family in crisis and in need of assistance. All of these examples offer a perspective on the cost of a cell phone.

“Providing multiple opportunities for students to consider issues from a wide range of perspectives also supports the development of deeper thinking and problem-solving skills,” Henderson added.

The district’s approach to student learning also means empowering students to take ownership of their learning and giving them the tools they need to grow. Students need to receive meaningful and honest feedback on their progress, and to be the ones doing the work of learning.

“Instead of holding on to individual student assessment data as the private domain of teachers and parents, even our youngest learners have access to their own learning data, and are involved in setting realistic and measurable goals for themselves — and taking an active role in developing action plans for achieving success,” Gallagher said. “The result is extremely powerful in how students take responsibility for their learning, understand their strengths and challenges as learners, and are able to modify and adapt their strategies when they don’t meet with success.”

Key to the district’s progress with the Common Core, IB implementation and data-driven instruction are the great strides being made by the district in the technology arena. (See related story on page 1.)

“Technology is a powerful part of our everyday lives, whether at school, work or home,” Gallagher said. We know from the feedback we get from colleges and employers that technology as a resource and a required skill set is necessary for success in college and in the workforce.”
District on track in IB authorization process

Middle Years Program

- The district plans to submit its Middle Years Program Application for Authorization for the partnership comprised of Northville High School, Meads Mill Middle School and Hillside Middle School on October 1, 2013.
- All secondary teachers and administrators have completed one-day training and more than 30 have participated in three-day training to prepare them to teach courses using IB practices and principles. Another 20 staff members have participated in various symposiums on IB principles and assessments, with additional professional development regarding assessments planned for all secondary staff this fall.
- The district’s current sixth through 10th grade course offerings, student scheduling and curriculum reflect the Middle Years Program philosophy.
- For three days in May 2013 the district’s IB-assigned Middle Years Program consultant visited the district’s two middle schools and high school meeting with teachers, administrators, students and parents to assess the district’s readiness for its authorization visit in late-winter or early-spring of 2014. The authorization visit will determine if Northville Public Schools will be authorized as an IB World School beginning in 2014-15 or if additional planning and work is needed.
- In June 2013, an IB Middle Years Program teacher leader was named for each of the three schools to coordinate the program across the district’s secondary schools.

Diploma Program

- The district submitted its Diploma Program Application for Authorization for Northville High School on April 1, 2012.
- All Diploma Program teachers and administrators have completed training, and these educators have written and submitted the curriculum specific to the courses they will be teaching.
- This past spring, the district’s IB-assigned Diploma Program consultant visited Northville High School, meeting with teachers, administrators, students and parents to assess the district’s readiness for its authorization visit slated to take place in the fall (November).
- Final authorization of the Northville Public Schools IB Diploma Program, pending approval, should occur during the 2014-15 school year, in time for this year’s sophomores (the Class of 2016) to apply and to participate.

About the IB

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an innovative learning opportunity that will prepare Northville students to compete on a world stage. Thanks to the generous support of the Northville Educational Foundation, Northville Public Schools is currently in the candidacy phase to become an IB World School, offering both the Middle Years and Diploma programs.

Focused on all students age 11 to 16 (sixth through 10th grade), the IB Middle Years Program exposes students to eight subject areas integrated across five areas of interaction—health and social education; community and service; approaches to learning; the environment; and human ingenuity. The IB Middle Years subject areas include English, science, math, the arts, a second language, social studies (humanities), physical education, and technology.

The IB Middle Years Program is designed for all learners, and emphasizes intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth through all domains of knowledge and encourages learners 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 understand the connection between traditional school subjects and the real world and to become critical and reflective thinkers.

Available to highly motivated 11th and 12th grade students, the IB Diploma Program offers the rigor, the structure and the experiences necessary to challenge academically talented students. The IB Diploma Program is a two-year program of studies across disciplines, the components of which are:

- Successful completion of courses in six different subject areas
- Internal and external assessments and examinations in each area
- Participation in the Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) Program
- Completion of the Theory of Knowledge Course
- The writing and submission of an extended essay in an area of interest to the student

“The IB Diploma Program will not replace Advanced Placement coursework at Northville High School, but will provide another option — one that extends the Middle Years Program framework directly,” said Northville IB Diploma Program Coordinator Dr. James Davis. “The Diploma Program is a demanding two-year curriculum that works in an interconnected and cross discipline manner and leads to final examinations and a qualification that is recognized by leading universities across the country and around the world.”

To learn more, visit the IB website at www.ibo.org or go to the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us/node/1165.
About the Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards initiative is a state-led effort that has established a set of clear educational standards adopted by 45 states, including Michigan. The standards are a vibrant set of shared goals and expectations for the knowledge and skills students need in English language arts and math at each grade level to ultimately be prepared to graduate high school as college and career ready.

The standards establish what students need to learn, but they do not dictate how schools or teachers teach that material. At Northville Public Schools, the Board of Education, administrative leaders, teachers and staff continue to devise the district's curriculum and lesson plans across subject areas and to tailor instruction to the needs of students. At the same time, the Common Core State Standards promote equity across the country by ensuring all students, no matter where they live, are well prepared with the skills and knowledge necessary to collaborate and compete with their peers in the U.S. and abroad.

The Common Core State Standards were written by building on the best and highest state standards in the U.S.; examining the expectations of other high performing countries around the world; and the careful study of the research and literature available on what students need to know to be successful in their college and career choices. The standards were also developed in consultation with parents and educators across the country, so they are realistic and practical for the classroom.

The national initiative has been led by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, with input and support from organizations including Achieve, Inc.; ACT; the College Board; the National Association of State Boards of Education; the Alliance for Excellent Education; the Hunt Institute; the National Parent Teacher Association; the State Higher Education Executive Officers; the American Association of School Administrators; and the Business Roundtable, along with leading teachers and education experts from across the country and around the world.

For more information, visit the Common Core website at www.corestandards.org.

DISTRICT NEWSMAKERS

2013 Inspiring Coach — Northville High School Boys Cross Country Coach Chris Cronin has been chosen as one of Brooks Sports Inc.’s “2013 Inspiring Coaches.” An English teacher at the high school, Cronin is also staff sponsor for the National Honor Society. The goal of the “Inspiring Coaches” program is to honor inspirational track and cross country coaches who not only support their team with time, encouragement and dedication, but go above and beyond to build and keep their programs strong, making a lasting difference in the lives of their athletes and inspiring not only their own athletes, but others in their communities to run and be active. Cronin’s top 25 status means the NHS Boys Cross Country Team will receive $5,000 in Brooks running shoes and accessories for the team, $500 in cash for team expenses, and membership in the Brooks Inspire Daily program for 2014. Brooks is a leading supplier of running shoes and apparel.

Moraine Playground Addition — Plymouth dealership Dick Scott Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram recently helped raise $580 toward an addition to the Moraine Elementary School playground. The money was raised through Chrysler’s “Drive for the Kids” program in May at the Moraine Fun Fair. For every person who test-drove a car, Chrysler donated $10 to the school. The funds will go toward the purchase and installation of a new play structure, which replaces an older wooden structure that was removed from the playground last year. The new playground structure will be installed in phases, with Phase 1 ready for students to enjoy this fall. The playground addition is the result of planning by the Moraine Playground Design Committee comprised of students, teachers, staff and representatives from the school’s PTA. In addition to the Dick Scott “Drive for the Kids” program, funds for Phase 1 of the new playground addition also were raised through Moraine’s annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction event.

Teen Ambassadors — Northville High School senior Claire Cepuran and Class of 2013 graduate Austin Fell will fulfill the role of teen ambassadors for the United States when they spend the upcoming school year in Germany. Both students were awarded full-ride Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarships in April during their third-year German class with NHS teacher Hubert Rast. They will spend the 2013-14 academic year in Germany, each living with a host family. Claire and Austin underwent a rigorous screening process before receiving the scholarships including writing a series of essays, completing questionnaires, providing recommendations and participating in interviews. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship is jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag (legislature) and has exchanged more than 17,000 young men and women since its creation in 1983. It is administered in Michigan by Youth for Understanding, one of the world’s oldest and largest exchange programs, providing student exchange opportunities with 64 countries. For more information about Youth for Understanding, including how to become a host family, visit www.yfu-usa.org.
New Technology

Continued from page 1

of the puzzle in the district’s vision for 21st Century learning.

More than 3,400 desktop and laptop computers that run on Windows 7 with the latest generation processor and Office 2013 software have been installed in every building, classroom and learning lab across the school district, replacing the district’s previous computer fleet which operated on an antiquated XP processor with Office 2003 software. (The outmoded computers—which will undergo a “Department of Defense security wipe,” the industry standard for erasing data from computer hard drives—are being sold by the district to a computer refurbisher for $60,000.)

In addition, some 390 classrooms and learning labs across the district are being equipped with state-of-the-art interactive whiteboards with intuitive multi-user functionality. Designed to foster a true collaborative learning experience, the whiteboards will enable students to work together simultaneously. The interactive whiteboard offers a large display that connects to a computer and a projector. The projector displays the computer’s desktop onto the board’s surface where teachers and students can control the computer with a pen, finger or other device.

The new classroom technology, including computers, interactive whiteboards, document cameras, and audiovisual systems will be in place at Northville High School, as well as Hillside and Meads Mill middle schools in time for the start of 2013-14 school year, followed by the district’ six elementary schools starting this fall.

“These much-needed technology enhancements will provide proven educational technology that adapts to individual student learning styles and strengthens college and career readiness for all students,” said Northville Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Robert Behnke. “The guiding principals throughout the district’s technology planning are what will best support student achievement and prepare students for a lifetime of learning. As instructional delivery systems are updated and refined, true student-focused, immersive learning takes place when the most appropriate technologies are available in the classroom.”

As critical to the success of the district’s technology initiative as the computer and classroom technology upgrades are the 26 Technology Teacher Leaders who underwent intensive training over the summer with the goal of supporting their fellow teachers in the integration of the new technology into instructional practices.

serve as resources to teachers and staff in their buildings as they integrate the new tools into their classrooms and the curriculum.

Other technology upgrades taking place across the school district include:

• New E-Mail Service and E-Mail Addresses—In April, Northville Public Schools moved to a new Google-based e-mail service that offers more flexibility and greater storage. While this means new e-mail addresses for all Northville Public Schools’ employees, rest assured that the old e-mail addresses will continue to work for the foreseeable future, with messages sent using the old e-mail address formula (@northville.k12.mi.us) automatically forwarded to that individual’s new e-mail address (@northvilleschools.org).

• New Phone System and Numbers—Activated in July, the new voice communication (phone) system moves the district from old TDM technology to new and more widely used IP technology. The new phones are linked to computers, allowing for unified voice messaging that can be accessed by phone with a notification via e-mail when there is a voice mail message. Also included is an automated call router system (phone tree) with an emphasis on ease of use. The core of the new system is two redundant, server-based systems that have complete failover should one of the systems go down. There also is an emergency notification system, which not only assists in getting detailed information to public safety agencies, but also provides for internal notifications of when and where 911 calls have been placed.

The new phone system has resulted in new phone numbers for all school district buildings and employees. (See box on page 12.) Like the district’s new e-mail system, old district and school building phone numbers will continue to work for the foreseeable future. However, it is important to note that all outgoing calls from the district now show the building’s or individual’s new phone number and “Northville Schools” on caller ID displays.

• District Server and Storage Network Upgrades — These improvements provide the district with a server network that has a modern user interface. Students and staff now have more storage space for collaborative work and the new system is able to handle all the demands of a modern educational network. This also allows the district to offer more “cloud” based solutions for students and teachers. From a storage standpoint, these upgrades substantially enhance the magnitude of the system’s capacity and provide greater ability for students to maintain their classroom and homework assignments digitally. For teachers, the greater storage capacity offers a place to gather and archive digital curriculum to share with students and collaborate with colleagues. The new server enhances the district’s ability to dynamically allocate computer system resources to allow for more digital learning technologies and systems in the future.
As the 545 members of the Northville High School Class of 2013 walked across the stage at Compuware Arena on June 2, 2013, they did so secure in the knowledge that collectively they had achieved excellence—whether in the classroom, on the stage, on the field of play or beyond the walls of school in service to others.

Twenty-eight students qualified as National Merit Scholar finalists, semi-finalists and commended students and the class was awarded $13.9 million in scholarships.

“The truth is, as much as you have learned from us—your teachers, your parents, your families and your fellow students—we have all learned so much more from you,” Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher told the Class of 2013. “Northville Public Schools and the entire Northville community are different, BETTER, places because each of you has been willing to give of yourselves as students, classmates and friends.”

“You have enlightened us with your thoughtful words—both written and spoken,” Gallagher added. “You have amazed us with the depth and breadth of your abilities and dedication. And you have heartened us with your kindness and compassion toward others.”

“I have every confidence that each of you will find your path...that you will make your mark...that you have tremendous potential to make the world a better place for all of us here today and for future generations.”

On June 12, 2013, Northville Public Schools and Cooke School also honored a record 18 graduates from the district’s Special Education Center Program, which serves students between the ages of three and 26 from across western Wayne County, in a moving celebration of each graduate, in which their families, caregivers, teachers and staff had the opportunity to reflect on each graduate’s growth, as well as the powerful lessons learned by students and their families.
Class of 2013 Highlights

- 14 National Merit Scholar Finalists
- 3 National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists
- 11 National Merit Scholar Commended students
- 126 students graduating Phi Beta Kappa
- 100 students graduating Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.8-4.0)
- 140 students graduating Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.5-3.79)
- 144 students graduating Cum Laude (GPA 3.0-3.49)
- 115 Presidential Awards for Educational Excellence honorees

Photos compliments of Kara Purtell Photography
District funding holds steady for 2013-14 school year

While Northville Public Schools continues to grapple with the unprecedented cuts in school funding over the past decade, district leaders are pleased to see that funding for the 2013-14 school year will at least hold steady with 2012-13 under the School Aid Bill approved by the Michigan Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Rick Snyder in June. At its June 25, 2013 meeting, the Northville Board of Education adopted a balanced budget, in keeping with state law, of $68.8 million for the 2013-14 school year.

Rather than facing a shortfall of $500,000 or more as previously projected, Northville Public Schools will see a small gain—although well below the rate of inflation—of $5 per pupil, or approximately $35,000, for the 2013-14 school year. Additionally, the district will qualify for $40 per student, or about $283,000, in “performance incentive” funding for 2013-14 and the district could also see a $240,000 increase in funding through a projected enrollment increase of 30 students district-wide.

“This is positive news,” said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. “Still, we cannot sustain further losses in funding without impacting the quality of education that exemplifies Northville Public Schools. We remain deeply concerned about funds being redirected from the School Aid Fund contrary to the intent of Proposal A, and are mindful of ongoing increases in retiree health and pension legacy costs that are projected.”

“At the district level, we continue to work hard to maintain the overall fiscal health of the district,” Gallagher added. “As a result of Michigan’s economic climate and the significant cuts in school funding, we have had to make some difficult decisions — with sacrifices made by our staff, as well as parents and families — in order to live within this new reality.”

As a result of this shared sacrifice, the district’s financial position has improved markedly over the past two years. According to Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Michael Zopf, the district’s budget improvement over what was projected is due in large part to a significant $1.1 million reduction in health insurance claims following implementation of the district’s high deductible employee health plan last year; as well as one-time revenue increases from prior year reimbursements due to property tax abatements; Medicaid payments and a Workers Compensation equity distribution for 1988-2004; and a reduction in unemployment compensation costs.

“Even with this improved financial stability, we anticipate that public school funding will continue to be challenging for all Michigan districts in the years ahead. This will require that Northville Public Schools continue to be prudent when making future spending decisions to maintain the array of high quality programs for our students.”

That said, Zopf added, the improved financial position assists the district in at least three ways:

• The district is currently in contract negotiations with its employee groups. In these negotiations, district leaders and staff share a common goal of fair, competitive and sustainable labor agreements. Northville Public Schools is a high performing district, made possible in large part by the collective efforts of talented teachers and staff at all levels. Having a stronger financial position makes it possible to reach fair, competitive and sustainable agreements with these employee groups.

• Over the past several years of school funding cuts, the district has reduced spending on discretionary non-personnel costs including maintenance. With the support of the Northville community, the district passed a sinking fund millage in 2011, which has allowed the district to undertake a number of large-scale projects (see related story on page 9) that would otherwise not be possible. However, state law precludes the use of sinking fund revenues for routine maintenance, an area where the district has deferred spending over the past several years. The improvement in the district’s financial position will allow for some much-needed maintenance projects to be completed.

• Because of the variability in district operational costs and the absence of State School Aid payments from August 20 and October 20 each year, it is necessary to maintain an adequate General Fund Balance for operating purposes. The Northville Board of Education has a long standing goal of maintaining a General Fund Balance of 11 percent of current operating expenses for this purpose, although with school funding reductions, the district’s actual General Fund Balance currently falls below this target. The district’s improved financial position translates into a stronger General Fund Balance, which lowers borrowing costs and allows the district to respond proactively to programming and operational needs.

“As we continue to plan for the 2013-14 school year, we are cognizant of the need to maintain or improve class size where possible while also moving forward with the integration of technology and continuing to challenge all students to reach their potential,” Gallagher said. “We remain grateful for the support of our teachers, staff, families, businesses and community organizations who donate incredible time, talent and funding and make it possible during these challenging economic times to provide an excellent educational experience for all students.”
Sinking fund millage dollars hard at work on needed repairs

For the second straight summer, dollars from the sinking fund capital improvement millage approved by Northville Public Schools voters in May 2011 have been hard at work on much-needed repairs and upgrades across the school district.

The 1-mill capital improvement millage, now in its second year, is providing the district with approximately $2.2 million a year for five years to address capital repair and improvement needs.

Among the sinking fund projects completed over the summer are:
- A new roof, along with a ventilated deck (which will help the roof last longer) at Thornton Creek Elementary School ($612,000)
- Relief air (ventilation) system improvements at Thornton Creek and Ridge Wood elementary schools ($77,700)
- New boilers at Meads Mill Middle School, Winchester Elementary School and Silver Springs Elementary School ($721,00)(The Cooke School boiler was replaced last year using sinking fund dollars)

Another major project completed over the summer is the Phase II stadium improvements at Tom Holzer Ford Field, with sinking fund dollars paying for $835,000 of the total $1.1 million in Phase II projects. Improvements include redesigning the stadium’s north (Cooke School) entrance and gate to include a handicap accessible ramp, as well as renovation of the stadium’s concession, facilities, restrooms, locker rooms, fencing and walkways.

TURF CLUB, a consortium of community members representing Northville area organizations and businesses — through the generous support of the entire Northville community — raised the remaining $265,000 for the Phase II improvements. Phase I stadium improvements, completed last summer, included the installation of an artificial turf field and a new scoreboard, paid for exclusively through donations, along with a new press box and light and sound system paid for by the school district using sinking fund dollars. In total, over the two-year project, the school district has devoted $1.35 million in sinking fund dollars to necessary stadium improvements.

“Now two years in to the sinking fund millage, we have been able to complete a number of much-needed, major capital improvements and upgrades across the district that have allowed us to protect the community’s investment in our school buildings and facilities, and at the same time ensure the school district’s limited operating funds are available to support student learning,” said Northville Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations Michael Zopf.

Projects for the third year of the sinking fund millage — many of which will take place over the summer of 2014 — will continue to focus on identified facility repairs and site improvements at individual school buildings including additional boiler replacements; heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements; lighting upgrades; selected carpet replacement; and sidewalk, entry way and parking lot improvements and repairs, Zopf said.

Coffee and conversation with the Superintendent

Northville school parents, guardians and community member are cordially invited for coffee and informal conversation at the first Superintendent Community Coffee of the 2013-14 school year on Thursday, October 3, 2013, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. to be held at Next Chapter Bookstore & Bistro (141 East Main Street in downtown Northville).

The coffees, which Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher began hosting last year, offer school families and community members the opportunity to ask questions, offer input and learn more about the school district in a small group setting.

“I also am eager to hear from school families and residents about those issues and concerns that are most important to them,” Gallagher said.

The coffees have an informal format. Those attending are welcome to come and go at any time during the specified timeframe.

Look for additional Superintendent Coffees to be scheduled for school families, community members and staff throughout the 2013-14 school year. Specific dates, times and locations will be sent via LISTSERV beginning in the fall.

Learn more about Stormwater Management

Northville Public Schools is committed to the environment and strives to be a good steward of the land within its jurisdiction and to use appropriate Best Management Practices to contribute to the improvement of water quality within the Rouge River Watershed where the district is located.

Northville Public Schools encourages all students, faculty, staff, parents, and visitors to get involved through opportunities provided by the local water shed groups including Friends of the Rouge and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). The district is committed to “promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life of the people, plants and animals of the watershed”.

To this end, the school district has developed and is implementing a “Stormwater Management Program Plan” in compliance with state and federal regulations. Stormwater carries untreated water runoff directly into creeks and rivers and, by doing so, impacts the environment. Improper disposal of wastes, such as oil, paint, fertilizer and pesticides will pollute the stormwater and destroy plants, endanger wildlife and affect drinking water.

To learn more about the district’s “Stormwater Management Program Plan” and how you can help protect the environment, visit the district’s website http://www.northville.k12.mi.us/node/271.
Teacher Professional Days — No School | August 27 & 28 | Tuesday & Wednesday
Teacher Work Day — No School | August 29 | Thursday
Labor Day Recess — No School | August 30 & September 2 | Friday & Monday
First Day of Classes — Half-Day for Students | September 3 | Tuesday
Teacher Professional Day — No School | November 5 | Tuesday
Thanksgiving Recess — No School | November 28 & 29 | Thursday & Friday
Winter Recess Begins End of Day | December 20 | Friday
Classes Resume | January 6 | Monday
Teacher Work Day — No School | January 20 | Monday
End of 1st Semester | January 24 | Friday
Mid-Winter Recess — No School | February 17 | Monday
Classes Resume | February 18 | Tuesday
Teacher Professional Day/MME Testing | March 4* | Tuesday (No school for any students except High School Juniors)
NHS Only: MME Testing/Teacher Professional ½ Day | March 5* | Wednesday (Juniors attend school at regular time for MME testing, late start for Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors at the High School)
NHS Only: MME Testing/Teacher Professional ½ Day | March 6* | Thursday (Juniors attend school at regular time for MME testing, late start for Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors at the High School)
Spring Recess Begins End of Day | April 17 | Thursday
Classes Resume | April 28 | Monday
Memorial Day Recess — No School | May 26 | Monday
Last Day of Classes — Half-Day for Students End of 2nd Semester | June 12 | Thursday
Teacher Work Day — No School | June 13 | Friday

- Students do not attend school on Teacher Professional Days or Teacher Work Days, with the exception of High School Juniors for Michigan Merit Exam test periods as noted below.
- The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) testing dates noted for March 4, 5, and 6 are subject to change if the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) schedules the MME/ACT on a date other than March 4. The fourth Teacher Professional Day will align with the MME/ACT test date as scheduled by MDE.
- Check building calendars for specific dates and times for evening conferences, open houses, etc.

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Thank you to NEF and the Northville community

The Northville Educational Foundation (NEF) contributes to the excellence that exemplifies Northville Public Schools by funding academic, artistic and athletic initiatives which allow the district to not only continue to offer comprehensive programming, but also strengthen pathways for success for all students in the 21st Century.

The sole financial purpose of NEF is to help fund programs at Northville Public Schools with the goal of allowing the district to provide outstanding educational experiences for all students—even during these challenging economic times. NEF is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization that raises, professionally manages, and, in partnership with Northville Public Schools, distributes funds to supplement and enrich educational programs.

Since 2009, the Northville Educational Foundation has raised and granted more than $2 million for Northville Public Schools. Major funding initiatives include International Baccalaureate ($300,000); TURF CLUB, which funded artificial turf and other significant improvements at Tom Holzer Ford Field ($1.25 million); textbooks ($125,000); technology improvements ($130,000); Innovative Grants for Teachers ($50,000); Student Financial Aid Grants ($18,000); and the new playground at Cooke School ($320,000).

“Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to each and every donor—including businesses, individuals, families, staff members and community organizations—who contribute to the Northville Educational Foundation,” said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. “Contributing to NEF is a great way to keep Northville dollars here in Northville schools, and to support an organization committed to enriching our schools and inspiring our future.”

For more information or to contribute, visit the NEF website at www.NorthvilleEdFoundation.org.
Students and families take advantage of summer learning opportunities

Northville Public Schools once again offered students from kindergarten through high school with a wide range of learning opportunities through its Summer Connections summer school program. A record 848 students took advantage of the program this summer which took place at Meads Mill Middle School from June 24-July 25 for middle and high school students for all in-class courses, and July 8-25 for elementary students.

“We are excited to be able to offer students a wide variety of learning experiences,” said Summer School Principal Bob Boshoven. “Students can build skills in key academic areas, get a head start on the high school Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements, as well as explore new areas through enrichment opportunities.”

For elementary and middle school students the courses help hone their math and reading skills and keep them fresh over the summer months. High school students can take advantage of the summer classes to recover credits or improve their grades in courses taken as part of their regular academic schedule, as well as to fulfill Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements, freeing up space in their schedules in the fall to explore elective classes, take advance coursework, or get first-hand experience in different career areas through the high school’s Business Internship Program.

A game changer in recent years for high school (and some middle school) students has been the added flexibility of being able to complete summer classes online through Michigan Virtual School, which offers courses taught by Michigan certified, highly qualified online teachers, along with on-site lab opportunities. This summer alone, more than 650 students took online courses—with some doing so while traveling abroad, according to Boshoven. Through Michigan Virtual School, students were able to choose from some 70 required and elective courses in subject areas including business, English, art, music, life management, math, physical education, social studies, science and world languages.

Other learning opportunities offered as part of this year’s Summer Connections program included High School Transition (for incoming high school freshmen) and Middle School Transition (for incoming sixth graders); hands-on Mad Scientists 1 and 2 classes and the popular week-long Camp Invention program for elementary students; and English Language Learner classes for elementary and secondary students who are newer to the country and wish to continue to build listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English.

Watch for information about 2014 Summer Connections offerings and registration via LISTSERV and on the district website beginning in the spring.

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education and the School District not to unlawfully discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability. Concerns or questions may be directed to the following offices at 248.349.3400. Title IX and Title VI, the Office of Instructional Services; and Section 504, the Special Services Department. (See Board Policy No. 1440.93.)
Northville Public Schools Contact Information

**Central Office Administration**  
248-344-3500  
www.northville.k12.mi.us

- Mary Kay Gallagher, Superintendent  
- Instructional Services  
- Finance & Operations  
- Special Services  
- Human Resources  

**District-Wide Attendance Line**  
248-344-3999

**High and Middle Schools**

- Northville High School  
  Robert Watson, Principal  
  248-344-3800  
  http://nhs.northville.k12.mi.us

- Hillside Middle School  
  James Cracraft, Principal  
  248-344-3600  
  http://hillside.northville.k12.mi.us

- Meads Mill Middle School  
  Dr. Susan Meyer, Principal  
  248-344-3700  
  http://meadsmill.northville.k12.mi.us

**Elementary Schools**

- Amerman Elementary School  
  Deborah Madeja, Principal  
  248-465-2100  
  http://amerman.northville.k12.mi.us

- Moraine Elementary School  
  Denise Bryan, Principal  
  248-465-2150  
  http://moraine.northville.k12.mi.us

- Ridge Wood Elementary School  
  Alicia Parsons, Principal  
  248-465-2200  
  http://ridgewood.northville.k12.mi.us

- Silver Springs Elementary School  
  Melissa Hunt, Principal  
  248-465-2300  
  http://silversprings.northville.k12.mi.us

- Thornton Creek Elementary School  
  Alison Epler, Principal  
  248-465-2350  
  http://thorntoncreek.northville.k12.mi.us

- Winchester Elementary School  
  Patricia Messing, Principal  
  248-465-2400  
  http://winchester.northville.k12.mi.us

**Special Education Center Program**

- Cooke School  
  Mary Meldrum, Supervisor  
  248-344-3550  
  http://cooke.northville.k12.mi.us

**Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Program**

- Eileen Freeman, Coordinator  
  248-465-2550  
  http://earlychildhood.northville.k12.mi.us

**Transportation**

- Michael Henry, General Manager  
  Durham School Services  
  248-465-2070  
  www.northville.k12.mi.us/transportation

**Food Service**

- Robin Bolitho, Manager  
  248-344-3690  
  www.northville.k12.mi.us/foodservices

**Technology and Instructional Integration**

- Andrew Piazza, Director  
  248-344-3680  
  http://www.northville.k12.mi.us/node/562