



A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

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DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As this school year comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Northville Public Schools and for entrusting us with your children each day. We are grateful for the incredible support of the Northville community, which values exemplary programs for all students — whether in the academic arena, in the arts, or on our fields of play. I am likewise grateful for the collective work of our students, teachers and administrators, in collaboration with parents, toward our vision of success for all students.

The work we do in education and with children is challenging and sometimes all-consuming. We are called upon to reach higher and search farther. As educators, we also are called on as never before to reflect on and improve our practice of educating children, to give one another feedback, and to deepen our efforts to unleash each student's potential. There is no greater work than impacting the lives of our students in powerful and meaningful ways. As a school district, we remain committed to creating the best possible learning environment in our classrooms, in our schools, and in all that we do.

DISTRICT GAINS IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

It is with great pride that I share the news that Northville High School, Hillside Middle School and Meads Mill Middle School have been authorized by the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) Organization as IB World Schools offering the Middle Years Program for all Northville students in sixth through 10th grade beginning with the 2014-15 school year. The news comes on the heels of the announcement in May that Northville High School is authorized to offer the IB Diploma Program for highly motivated 11th and 12th graders, also beginning with the 2014-15 school year.



This unique and innovative approach to learning through the IB Middle Years and Diploma Programs means our middle and high school students and teachers are part of an unparalleled global network committed to developing knowledgeable, caring young people who are equipped to succeed in the 21st century and who have the tremendous potential to make the world a better place for future generations. These authorizations are the culmination of a multi-year initiative on the part of the entire school district that is a testament to the hard work of our students, staff, and leadership.

subject areas — English language arts, a world language, social studies, sciences, math, the arts, physical education, and technology. Teachers organize the curriculum through units, which emphasize inquiry through global contexts. Global contexts provide the framework for learning and give relevance and meaning to that learning. In their capstone 10th grade year, MYP students also undertake a "personal project" that allows them to demonstrate the understanding and skills developed throughout the Middle Years Program.

The district's work toward authorization of the IB Diploma and Middle Years Programs also 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 sets as educators as they develop IB units of study and begin sharing them with students. In addition, IB offers teachers the opportunity to be part

The Middle Years Program (MYP) emphasizes 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. Students study in eight

IMPORTANT DATES

Summer

Board of Education Meetings

Tuesday, June 24, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

July 8, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Tuesday, August 12, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Tuesday, August 26, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

First Day of School (Half-Day)

Tuesday September 2, 2014



of an international network of experts leading the field of education. 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 who provided the significant funding that made this journey possible, along with 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 for our students.

For more information about the IB Programs at Northville Public Schools, visit the district website at <http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/1165>.

ALL SIX ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ADVANCING IN THE LEADER IN ME JOURNEY

I am excited to share that both Amerman and Thornton Creek elementary schools have been awarded grants from the I Am A Leader Foundation and are moving forward in *The Leader in Me* journey at their schools. The I Am A Leader Foundation is a private grant-making organization dedicated to providing programs and services that build student character and leadership in elementary schools around the world.

With all six of our elementary schools embracing *The Leader in Me* framework, the opportunity to build on a culture of leadership and learning across our school district has never been greater. The transformational *The Leader in Me* initiative is based on Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and designed to teach leadership to students. The

innovative, school-wide effort emphasizes a culture of student empowerment that helps unleash each child's full potential. Applying the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, teachers and students internalize timeless leadership principles that nurture the skills students need for success in the 21st century. This is powerful work that fits hand-in-hand with the IB Middle Years Program and brings students, teachers, parents, and families together with a collective focus on learning in a way that lets loose the leadership capacity and potential within each learner.

I also want express our appreciation to the Northville Educational Foundation, which earlier this year allocated \$5,000 to each of our elementary schools to advance their work on *The Leader in Me* implementation process.

FOUR NEW PRINCIPALS JOIN DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Please join me in welcoming four new school principals to our district leadership team for the 2014-15 school year. At its Tuesday, May 27 2014 Regular Meeting, the Northville Board of Education approved the appointments of **Anthony L. Koski**, Principal at Thornapple Kellogg High School in Middleville, Michigan, as Principal of Northville High School, and **Heather Bauer**, who has been serving as Interim Principal at Ridge Wood Elementary School, as that school's permanent Principal. Tony Koski succeeds Rob Watson who, at his request, will move to an Assistant Principal role at Hillside Middle School. Heather Bauer succeeds Alicia Parsons who left the district in early May to accept a position with Franklin Covey.



Heather Bauer



Brad O'Neill

Additionally, at its Tuesday, June 10, 2014 Regular Meeting, the Board approved the appointments of **Kelly Lindsay**, Head Teacher (similar to an assistant principal role) at Keith Elementary School in Walled Lake, as Principal of Winchester Elementary School, and **Brad O'Neill**, currently Assistant Principal at Hillside Middle School, as Principal of Meads Mill Middle School. Kelly Lindsay and Brad O'Neill succeed Pat Messing and Dr. Susan Meyer, respectively, who are retiring at the end of the school year.



Tony Koski



Kelly Lindsay

As school principals, these individuals will serve important roles on our leadership team as we move forward in our vision of success for all students. Each of them brings a depth of knowledge and demonstrated leadership to the district. We are fortunate to have them as part of our administrative leadership team.



CLASS OF 2014 SHINES BRIGHT!

The Northville Class of 2014 had a lot to be proud of as 590 students received diplomas during the June 1, 2014 Graduation Ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. It was my privilege — along with the

teachers, principals, staff, administrators, Board of Education members, parents, family members and friends in attendance — to share this significant



moment in the life journey of our graduates and to honor the members of the Class of 2014 for their outstanding achievements in the classroom, on the stage, on our fields of play and beyond the walls of our schools in service to others.

While the accomplishments of these graduates are too numerous to list, among the highlights are:

- 27 National Merit Scholar finalists, semi-finalists, and commended students;
- 107 Phi Beta Kappa graduates;
- 109 Summa Cum Laude graduates;
- 131 Magna Cum Laude graduates;
- 158 Cum Laude graduates;
- 8 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program candidates — the most in the state this year — including 2 semi-finalists;
- 164 National Honor Society Members;
- 11 Eagle Scouts;
- 9 Gold Award Girl Scouts



Students in the Class of 2014 have devoted their time and talents to help those in need right here in Northville and around the world logging more than 5,800 hours of community service through National Honor Society and the Community Impact Awards for Students initiative. They also have been a part of award winning vocal and instrumental ensembles, championship athletic teams, and statewide, nationally and internationally competitive academic teams, including DECA, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), Robotics, and Science Olympiad.

On Wednesday, June 11, 2014, Northville Public Schools and Cooke School honored the 14 graduates of our special education center program, which serves students from age three through 26. In a moving celebration of each graduate, families, caregivers, teachers and staff had the opportunity to reflect on each student's growth, as well as the powerful lessons learned from our students and families.

On behalf of Northville Public Schools, I want thank the members of the Class of 2014 for being active, contributing members of our school community. They have enriched our lives and challenged all of us to become better educators and better human beings. We wish them all well as they take this next step in their journey.

SINKING FUND AND TECHNOLOGY BOND DOLLARS HARD AT WORK

For the third straight summer, dollars from the sinking fund capital improvement millage approved by Northville Public Schools voters in May 2011 are hard at work on much-needed repairs and upgrades across the school district. The 1-mill capital improvement millage is providing the district with approximately \$2.2 million a year for five years to address capital repair and improvement needs. Among the \$1.5 million in sinking fund projects to be completed this year are:

- Parking lot resurfacing and modified traffic flow, asphalt resurfacing, new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps, and additional storm water drains at Amerman Elementary School.
- New high efficiency boiler installations at Hillside Middle School and Amerman.
- Window replacements in the original section of Moraine Elementary School, along with some window replacements at Amerman.
- New flooring and carpeting in key areas at Thornton Creek Elementary School and Northville High School.
- Refinishing the tennis courts at Northville High School.

In addition to the sinking fund projects, the district also has just over \$300,000 in capital improvements that will be paid for with General Fund dollars. These include:

- Exterior door replacements at Amerman in the gymnasium and multipurpose room.
- A new relief fan in the Ridge Wood Elementary School gymnasium.

- Painting some classrooms at Northville High School and selected areas at Meads Mill Middle School, Silver Springs Elementary School and Winchester Elementary School.
- Replacing the gym floor at Silver Springs.
- Partial roof repair at Meads Mill.
- New door entry mats at NHS, Hillside and Amerman.

The district also will use \$58,000 in Food Service Fund dollars to install a back-up generator in the Cooke School kitchen.

With the lion's share of the new classroom technology now in place across the school district, Technology Bond projects — approved by voters in November 2012 — planned for the coming months will focus in large part on upgrading the district's building security systems. This includes the addition of high resolution, low-light security cameras, controlled building access systems with additional card readers, and updated two-way audio-video intercoms at school entrances. There also will be alarm upgrades with door contacts to monitor door position and avoid propped doors and unauthorized exit or entry from buildings. Other improvements on tap that will have a classroom emphasis include development of a comprehensive digital learning platform, phase two installation of the digital video system and the purchase of 336 additional mobile computing devices (Chromebooks) — enough for one full classroom at each school building.

CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT AND TECHNOLOGY VISIONING TEAMS BEGIN WORK

Throughout the 2013-14 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 10 years down the road in order to maximize the success of our students in

our strong **Tradition of Excellence** by forging a path forward that will open the 21st century. As we prepare for 2015 and beyond, we seek to build on a **World of Possibilities** for our students as we navigate an increasingly interconnected and digitally rich world.



A guiding principle of the district's technology planning is focused 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, we are delighted to report the kick-off of district-wide visioning teams in the areas of Curriculum & Assessment Design and Technology Design this summer. The 23-member Curriculum & Assessment Design team will focus on developing user-friendly knowledge maps and a unit design framework, while the 15-member Technology Design team will build capacity around digital learning tools and provide input into the development of a robust digital learning platform. The teams, which

include a cross-range of pre-kindergarten through secondary teachers, professional support staff and administrators, will work collaboratively with a blend of face-to-face time, independent study, and through an online learning environment. The work of the two visioning teams will intersect throughout this process. Their work will be shared with all teachers in the fall, with ongoing work including feedback from and with stakeholders, including our students, parents and community members. This is learning-focused, ground-breaking work that builds on the culture of leadership and learning for all that is advancing in each of our schools! We appreciate the commitment our staff members are making to in-depth work this summer!

HONORING MORE THAN 300 YEARS OF WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE

At a district-wide celebration on Monday, June 9, 2014, we had the honor of recognizing 17 retiring Northville Public Schools staff members including teachers, counselors, our school psychologist, administrative assistants, an accountant, and two school principals. Collectively, the following individuals have served our students, families and community for more than 300 years:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Maureen Gorshak | Dr. Sue Meyer | Carol Jarocho |
| Lisa Rohde-Barbeau | Kathleen Langham | Debra Murphy |
| Dr. Nancy Schieb | Iain Burrell | Janice Dabkowski |
| Alice Dechert | Diana Costlow | Dave Dickson |
| Theresa Weiss | Gale Jelics | Millie Whitbeck |
| Beth McGlennen | Lynda Davies | |



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

Schools and to acknowledge that they take with them a great deal of wisdom and experience. We thank them for the opportunity to learn from and with them as colleagues, students, parents and community members and we wish them well as they take on this new adventure in life.

IMPORTANT SUMMERTIME REMINDERS

- **Last Day of School** — A reminder that **Thursday, June 12, 2014**, is the last day of school for the 2013-14 school year. It is a half-day.
- **District Summer Hours** — Elementary and Middle School offices will be open from Friday, June 13, 2014 through Tuesday, June 24, 2014, and will reopen for the 2014-15 school year on Monday, August 4, 2014. The Northville High School Office will remain open for the majority of the summer with limited staff, from 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and noon -3:00 p.m. Our Board of Education/Central Office will be open throughout the summer, Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Fridays in July from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- **Summer Connections** — The **registration deadline** for the school district's Summer Connections Summer School program is **Thursday, June 19, 2014** for elementary, middle and high school students. Summer Connections programs offer students the opportunity to review skills, explore areas of interest, recover credits and/or earn additional credits during the summer. All in-class courses take place at Hillside Middle School (775 North Center Street in Northville) with middle and high school classes beginning on Monday, June 23, 2014, and all elementary classes beginning on Monday, July 7, 2014. Online courses are also available for high school students. We appreciate everyone's patience as we've had a few glitches with the online registration process that have been smoothed out so that students can take advantage of every possible learning opportunity. For more information or to register your student online, visit the Summer Connections webpage at <http://northvilleschools.org/node/551>.



COMPLETE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE

Tuesday, September 2, 2014 will be the **first day of the 2014-15 school year** for Northville Public Schools students. It will be a half-day. To view the entire 2014-15 Northville Public Schools calendar, visit the district website at <http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/487>.

Please note that there will be an adjustment of three minutes to the school day in K-12 programs, with some adjustments possible in our Early

Childhood Intervention Program (ECIP) and special education center program schedules as well – either at the beginning or end of the school day – as a result of a change in the way that instructional minutes may be counted by the Michigan Department of Education beginning with the 2014-15 school year. Look for a communication in August once the exact times have been determined. We look forward to maximizing opportunities for learning throughout each school day.



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.



- The Northville Public Schools instrumental music program, under the direction of Michael Rumbell, recently earned three Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) State Championship ratings and three District Championship ratings. The State Champions include the Northville High School Jazz Ensemble and NHS Symphonic Band 11/12 in class AA and the NHS Symphonic Band 10 in class B. The District Champions include the NHS Symphonic Band 11/12 in class AA, the NHS Symphonic Band 10 in class B, and the Hillside Middle School 8th Grade Band in class A. The NHS Symphonic Band 9 and Meads Mill Middle School 8th Grade Band both earned Division 2 rating at the district level. In addition, the Hillside 8th Grade Band was awarded second division at the state level putting them in the top 10 percent of bands in Michigan. The NHS Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Band 10 and Symphonic Band 11/12 are ranked in the top one-half-of-one-percent of instrumental groups statewide. And if that is not enough, the NHS Jazz Ensemble has been selected to perform at the Detroit Jazz Festival on Saturday, August 30, 2014 at 12:30 p.m. at the Morgan Chase Main Stage. This honor identifies the NHS Jazz Ensemble as one of the top six youth jazz ensembles in the state. Congratulations on another outstanding year for the Northville Public Schools instrumental music program.

- In what has become an annual Armed Forces Day tradition, the Northville High School Varsity Baseball Team collected between 200-250 boxes of requested items — each weighing a maximum of 20 pounds — to send overseas to our troops, in addition to raising more than \$5,800 in cash donations given to the Freedom Center in support of the United States Armed Forces. Now in its fifth year, these numbers exceed last year's totals and plans are already in the works for next year's event. Congratulations to the NHS Varsity Baseball Team, coaches, parents, families and the Northville community for offering their support to the honorable men and women serving in our military.



Armed Forces Day

- Following up on a Point of Pride from my May newsletter, the Meads Mill Middle School Science Olympiad Team continued its dominance at the National Tournament receiving the 4th place team award. The 2014 National Tournament took place at the University of Central Florida in May. More than 2,500 students from top middle and high schools nationwide competed in the tournament.

This is the third year the Meads Mill Science Olympiad Team has won the Michigan State Championship and gone on to represent Michigan in the national tournament — placing 7th in 2012, 4th in 2013 and 4th in 2014. I would be remiss if I didn't also mention that our Northville High School Science Olympiad Team, which also qualified for the national tournament and placed 17th overall — the highest finish ever by a Michigan high school attending the national tournament for the first time.

- The small but mighty Northville High School DECA team, in just its second year as a student organization, garnered an incredible number of outstanding performances at the International Career Development Conference competition recently in Atlanta, Georgia. Senior Aillen You took top 10 honors on the exam in Human Resource Management; freshman Lauren Fane took top 20 honors



in her role play for Principles of Finance; freshman Michael Zhang took top 10 honors on the exam, top 20 honors overall, and finalist honors for Principles of Hospitality and Tourism; and junior Weiyi (William) Ding took top 10 honors on the exam, top 20 honors overall, top 10 finalist

honors and second overall in the category of Principles of Business Management. Congratulations to the entire Northville DECA team, along with NHS DECA advisors Jean Calabrese, Kelly DeWitt and Kaytee Bellows.

For those families enrolled in our summer programs, we look forward to seeing your children engaged in meaningful learning opportunities as well! As always, I thank all of you for your continued support of Northville Public Schools and I wish each of you many relaxing moments and the gift of time spent with family and friends this summer.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher

Mary Kay Gallagher
Superintendent

