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.

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.

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 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 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 event with our graduates. 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. This 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.

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.

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.

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.
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 Honor Society Members;
- 9 Gold Award Girl Scouts;

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.

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 $50,000 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.

Across the curriculum area, 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 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  Lisa Rohde-Barbeau  Dr. Nancy Schieb
Alice Dechert  Theresa Weiss  Beth McGlinnen

Dr. Sue Meyer  Kathleen Langham  Iain Burrell
Diana Costlow  Gale Jelics  Lynda Davies
Carol Jarocha  Debra Murphy  Janice Dabkowski
Dave Dickson  Millie Whitbeck

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.
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 Kay Gallagher
Superintendent