



A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

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DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As this school year winds down, I would like 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 our students — whether it is in academic arenas, 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 a 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 to search farther with diminishing resources (see the budget update below). We are also 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 child's potential. Our teachers and principals have been asked to adapt to new processes and significant change over the past few years. There is no greater work than impacting the lives of our students in powerful and meaningful ways, and we are committed to creating the best possible learning environment in our classrooms, in our schools, and in all that we do.

2013-14 BUDGET UPDATE

School district leaders, together with the Board of Education, continue to plan for the 2013-14 school year, including a review of enrollment forecasts and ongoing evaluation of school funding proposals at the state level. As of this publication, the legislature has reached agreement on a School Aid Bill that has been forwarded to the Governor for consideration. While we continue to grapple with the overall cuts to school funding that have taken place over the past decade, I am able to report that our Board advocated for, and legislators are proposing, school funding that will at least hold steady with 2012-13 funding. Rather than facing a shortfall of up to \$500,000 or more, we will see a small gain of \$5 per student, or roughly \$35,000. Additionally, for the 2013-14 school year, the district qualifies for \$40 per student in "performance incentive" funding. This is positive news for the 2013-14 school year. At the same time, we remain concerned about funds being redirected from the School Aid Fund contrary to the intent of Proposal A, and are mindful of the ongoing increases in retiree health and pension legacy costs that are projected. We anticipate hearing news of the final School Aid Act by the end of June.

At the district level, we continue to work hard to maintain the overall fiscal health of the district. As a result of Michigan's economic climate and the significant cuts to school funding over the past decade, 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 we 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.

A **Budget Hearing** will take place during a Special Call Board of Education meeting on **Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education Offices** at 501 West Main Street. At this time, the district's proposed 2013-14 budget will be presented, including notice that the debt millage rate will remain at 4.3 mills as previously communicated. Following the budget presentation, there will be an opportunity for public comment. At the regular Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, following an additional opportunity for public comment, the Board will adopt a balanced budget for the 2013-14 school year as required by law.

We continue as a district and community to work with our legislators to better understand the impact of legislation on our schools and to encourage them to consider ways to better fund our schools. We are also mindful of the impact budget cuts have already had on our students, staff and parents and remain grateful for the support of our families, businesses and community organizations who donate incredible time, talent and funding that makes it possible for Northville Public Schools to continue to provide an excellent educational experience for all students.

IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

Budget Hearing

Tuesday, June 18, 2013
6:30 p.m.

Board of Education Offices

Tuesday, June 25, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School Forum

Tuesday, July 9, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Board of Education Offices

Tuesday, August 13, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School Forum

Tuesday, August 27, 2013
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School Forum

First Day of School (Half-Day)

Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013



THANK YOU NEF AND THE NORTHVILLE SCHOOLS COMMUNITY!

The Northville Educational Foundation (NEF) contributes to the excellence that exemplifies Northville Public Schools through funding of academic, artistic and athletic initiatives that allow our schools to not only continue to offer comprehensive programming, but to strengthen pathways for success for all students in the 21st Century. With its sole financial purpose to fund programs at Northville Public Schools, which the district would otherwise not be able to support 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 donated funds to supplement and enrich educational programming.

During the 2012-13 school year alone, the Northville Educational Foundation allocated \$224,000 towards: the International Baccalaureate Program (\$187,000); Student Financial Aid (\$5,000); Innovative Teacher Grants

(\$20,000); Coaches Programs and Athletic Assistance Grants (\$5,000); National Merit Breakfast Sponsorship, (\$1,000); Northville High School Band Uniforms (\$2,000); the SPROUTS Autism Program at Thornton Creek Elementary School (\$1,000); and Staff Professional Development and Leadership (\$4,000).

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to each and every donor — including businesses, individuals, families, staff members and organizations — who contribute to the Northville Educational Foundation. Since 2010, the NEF has raised and granted almost \$2 million for Northville Public Schools. Contributing is a great way to keep local dollars here in Northville Schools, and to support an organization committed to *enriching our schools and inspiring our future*. For more information about NEF, or to contribute, please visit the NEF website at www.NorthvilleEdFoundation.org.

CLASS OF 2013 LEAVES LASTING MARK

The Northville High School Class of 2013 had a lot to celebrate as 545 students received diplomas during the June 2, 2013 graduation ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. It was my great privilege — along with the teachers, principals, staff, administrators, Board of Education members, parents, family members and friends in attendance — to share in this significant moment in the life journey of our graduates and to honor the members of the Class of 2013 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:

- 28 National Merit Scholar finalists, semi-finalists, and commended students;
- 126 Phi Beta Kappa graduates;
- 100 Summa Cum Laude graduates;
- 140 Magna Cum Laude graduates;
- 144 Cum Laude graduates;



- 7 Eagle Scouts;
- 15 Gold Award Girl Scouts, including one 2013 National Young Woman of Distinction

On June 12, 2013, Northville Public Schools and Cooke School honored a record eighteen graduates of our Center Program serving students between the ages of three through twenty-six years of age. In a moving celebration of each graduate, families, caregivers, teachers and staff had the opportunity to reflect on each graduate's growth as well as the powerful lessons learned from our students and their families.

On behalf of all of us at Northville Public Schools, I want to thank the members of the Class of 2013 for being active, contributing members of our school community. They have enriched our lives and challenged us to become better educators and better human beings. We wish them all well as they take this next step in their journey, knowing that each of them has the tremendous potential to make the world a better place for all of us today and for future generations.

OLD VILLAGE SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY UNDERWAY

Northville Public Schools and the City of Northville recently agreed to commission a joint feasibility study for the redevelopment of the school district-owned Old Village School building located at 405 West Main Street in downtown Northville. You may recall that this historic school building was mothballed by the school district in September 2012 in order to reduce costs and better coordinate the district's special education center programs by consolidating the center programs — previously split between Old Village and Cooke schools — at Cooke School.

The feasibility study, to be conducted by the same firm that performed the city's 2006 Downtown Strategic Planning Effort, will look at the possibility of co-locating school district and city administrative offices at Old Village School, as

well as the potential for redeveloping unused space along Main and Wing streets near Old Village School. The move of school district and city administrative offices to Old Village would make the current school district administrative space, located adjacent to Old Village School, and the City Hall building available for adaptive re-use.

Our Board of Education and administrative leaders are excited about this opportunity to work in partnership with city leaders to explore potential uses for this beautiful old school building that has been such a major part of Northville's history with the goal of ensuring that it remains a vital part of our community's future. The feasibility study report is expected to be shared with a joint planning group, comprised of school district and city leaders, in August or September.

SUMMER TECHNOLOGY BOND WORK — THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

Many of you are aware that the school district will be using the summer months to implement the bulk of the Technology Bond projects approved by voters in the November 2012 election. These projects include the installation of classroom technology at Northville High School and the district's two middle

schools, as well as upgrades to the district's server and storage network and installation of new voice communication (phone) systems. (Please note that classroom technology will be installed at the district's six elementary schools beginning in the fall.)



As the district works to bring this new technology online, it is important for students, staff, school families and community members to know that there may be short periods of time over the summer when the district's phone, e-mail, internet and other systems may not be operational as we make the transition for

old to new technology. We will do our best to keep you informed of any disruption in service via LISTSERV and thank you in advance for your patience as we work to bring this technology initiative to its successful completion for the benefit of all students.

CELEBRATING MORE THAN 600 YEARS OF WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE

At a district-wide celebration on June 4, 2013 we had the honor of recognizing 25 retiring Northville Public Schools staff members including teachers, custodians, maintenance staff, food service coordinators, and a principal (Dr. Stephen Anderson from Amerman Elementary School). Combined these employees have served our students, families and community for more than 600 years.

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 is 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 wish them well as they take on this new adventure in life.

ENJOY THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE AT THE GARAGE AND SUPPORT THE NHS MARCHING BAND

The Northville High School Marching Band is very close to reaching their fundraising target to replace their 20-year-old uniforms! Thank you to the many families and businesses who have contributed to the **Adopt-A-Uniform** drive, as well as to the Conrad Langfield Fund and the Ruth Heyman Shattuck Foundation for their significant donations. There is still time to Adopt-A-Uniform (or several!) Additionally, the Evasic families, owners of the popular downtown Northville restaurant the **Garage Grill & Fuel Bar** are opening up their doors

and parking lot on **July 4th from 7 AM until the end of the parade** in support of the award-winning Northville High School Marching Band! Stop by The Garage on the 4th of July to stock up on water, coffee, juice, and "grab and go" breakfast items while you enjoy the parade. The band will also have some nostalgia for sale – consider purchasing an old band jacket or hat! This promises to be a fun-filled opportunity to enjoy the parade, The Garage, and support the Northville High School Band as well!

OTHER IMPORTANT SUMMERTIME REMINDERS

- **Last Day of School** — A reminder that Thursday, June 13, 2013 is the last day of school for the 2012-13 school year. It is a half-day.
- **District Summer Hours** — Although most of our school offices will be closed this Friday, June 14, 2013, for a furlough day, they will be open Monday, June 17, 2013 through Tuesday, June 25, 2013; and will reopen for the 2013-14 school year on Monday, August 5, 2013. 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 20, 2013** 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 will take place at Meads Mill Middle School with middle and high school classes beginning on Monday, June 24, 2013 and all elementary classes beginning on Monday, July 8, 2013. For more information, or to register your student online, visit the Summer Connections webpage on the district website at <http://www.northville.k12.mi.us/node/551>.

TENTATIVE 2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Tuesday, September 3, 2013 will be the first day of the **2013-14 school year** for Northville Public Schools students. It will be a half-day.

To view the **entire tentative 2013-14 Northville Public Schools calendar** visit the district website at <http://www.northville.k12.mi.us/node/487>. The dates noted in **bold** on the calendar are **unlikely to change**, as those dates align with the Wayne County Common Calendar. The final school calendar will be available once the negotiations process with each of the school district's bargaining units is completed.



POINTS OF PRIDE FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT



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

- **Northville High School junior Annelie Herrmann** has been honored with a 2013 Achievement Award in Writing by the National Council of Teachers of English, earning a certificate of Superior Writing. A total of 753 student writers from across the country were nominated, with 155 chosen as outstanding writers. Other NHS nominees include juniors **Susan Doong, Michelle Helner and Max Paul**.



Kudos also goes to the staff of the 2012 edition of the **Palladium**, NHS's yearbook, which garnered 30 individual awards from the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association (MIPA), out of 32 entries submitted. The overall 2012 book also won its fourth **Spartan Award** since 2006, the highest honor the MIPA awards yearbooks, and was featured again in yearbook publisher Herff Jones' "Ideas that Fly," a best-of collection compiled and shared with other schools the company represents. **Our Spin**, Northville High School's 2013 edition of the **Palladium**, was presented to the Board of Education on June 11, 2013, boasts over 300 pages of award-winning potential that will be cherished by our students and their families.

- Students, teachers and staff at **Amerman Elementary School** recently celebrated the **ribbon-cutting of their new solar panel system** at the school. The system, comprised of high-performance solar panels from SolarWorld, the largest U.S. solar manufacturer, will enable students to learn about renewable energy while providing enough electricity to power one classroom. Amerman's 2.7-kilowatt solar array was developed through SolarWorld's *Solar2Schools* program, which promotes solar energy education by providing discounted, highly visible solar installations to schools across the country. The installation is the culmination of a year's worth of research and fundraising by Amerman's fourth-grade class, with support from SolarWorld, NOVA Consultants of Novi, DuoGard of Canton, and McNaughton-McKay Electric Company of Madison Heights. The students studied alternative energy, collected data on solar and presented it to an engineer. The students spent the rest of the year marketing and raising money for their solar installation. What a great example of combining science, math, community service and language arts.
- **Thornton Creek Elementary School** recently hosted the grand opening of its new playground that features an inclusive play design fit for children of all abilities. The school and volunteers raised \$105,000 for the playground and also won the \$50,000 grand prize in playground manufacturer Landscape Structures' *School Grounds, Playgrounds, Common Ground* national contest with the National Association of Elementary School Principals. In addition, school families, along with volunteers from Home Depot, Community Financial Credit Union and Guido's Premium Pizza, gathered on a Saturday in May to put the playground together. Congratulations to the entire Thornton Creek school community on this incredible accomplishment. In other great news, **Ms. Christine Parnin's kindergarten class** at Thornton Creek was recently awarded **\$5,000 in equipment** from the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation and Discovery Education for taking third place in their **Find Your Balance Challenge** to eat more fruits and vegetables and exercise every day during and after school.
- **Hillside Middle School** and **Amerman Elementary School** have received grants from Exxon Mobil and Michigan Fuels. Hillside will use its \$500 grant to support the school's science department including chemistry labs and physics projects for students. Amerman used its \$1,500 grant to support its June 5, 2013 Solar Sprint event in which fourth grade students design, test and race solar cars. The event also included a visit from the University of Michigan Solar Race Team. Michigan Fuels is the owner of the Mobil gas stations at the corner of Eight Mile and Taft roads and Seven Mile and Northville roads. Our thanks to Exxon Mobil and Michigan Fuels for this generous support.
- **The Northville Public Schools instrumental music program**, under the direction Michael Rumbell, recently earned two Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) State Championship ratings and three District Championship rating. The state champions include the Northville High School Jazz Ensemble I and Symphonic Band 11/12 in class AA. The district champions include the Hillside Middle School Eighth Grade Band in class A; the NHS Symphonic Band 10 in class B; and the NHS Symphonic Band 11/12 in class AA. In addition, the Hillside Eighth Grade Band and the NHS Symphonic Band 10 were awarded second division at the state level putting them in the top 10 percent of bands in Michigan. Jazz Ensemble I and Symphonic Band 11/12 are ranked in the top one-half-of-one-percent of instrumental groups statewide. Another outstanding year for the Northville Public Schools instrumental music program!
- As a follow up to a Point of Pride in my May newsletter, the **Meads Mill Middle School Science Olympiad Team** earned fourth place in the Science Olympiad National Tournament at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. The Meads Mill team competed against 59 of the country's best science olympiad middle school teams in biology, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, physics and technology. Events like Boomilever, Mission Possible, Helicopters, Shock Value, Sounds of Music, Rocks and Minerals, Rotor Egg Drop, and Anatomy are just a few of the 23 events in which the team competed to secure the fourth place finish. Congratulations to the Meads Mill Science Olympiad Team.
- Our Early Childhood Intervention Program, located at Thornton Creek Elementary School, recently hosted **Classroom Learning Exhibits** for families and community members featuring work done by students throughout the school year showcasing their creativity and growth as learners in areas including fine motor, pre-math and sensory skills, as well as their ability to work together in a group. Students constructed sunflowers from various materials; made butterflies by pasting tissue paper to windows and birds by putting paper mache on balloons; built robots using interesting perspectives; made raindrops by blowing paint through straws; built kites using tongue depressors, paint, construction paper and string; and planted and watered bulbs that grew into colorful flowers, among numerous other projects. What an incredible display of talent by some of our youngest learners.
- In what has become an annual "Armed Forces Day" tradition, the **Northville High School Baseball Team** collected over 2,200 pounds of requested items to send overseas to our troops, in addition to raising \$5,000 in cash donations given to the **Michigan Military Mom's** organization in support of the United States Armed Forces. These numbers exceed last year's totals and plans are already in the works for next year's event. Kudos to the Northville High School baseball team, coaches, parents, families and the Northville community for offering their support to the honorable men and women serving in our military.

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 K. Gallagher
Superintendent

