Dear Northville School Families, Staff and Community Members

The first quarter of the school year has flown by! Our classroom communities have come together and the work of learning and leadership is evident across our classrooms and schools. 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, on our fields of play, or in the extraordinary range of extracurricular and/or community service opportunities our students seek. We are likewise grateful for the collective work of our students, teachers and administrators in collaboration with parents, toward a vision of success for all students.

We are committed to creating the best possible learning environment in our classrooms, in our schools, and in all that we do as we seek to advance our Tradition of Excellence and truly open A World of Possibilities for and with each of our students.

This newsletter includes information about the bond proposal on Tuesday’s ballot, which is focused on our ongoing effort to strengthen our learning environments to meet the needs of our current and future students, along with several upcoming opportunities and highlights of some of the great things happening in our schools.

VOTE Tuesday, November 7th on Northville Public Schools Bond 2017

Over the past several months our Board of Education and district administrators have been meeting with stakeholders from across our community to share the details and rationale for the school district’s bond proposal that will go before voters on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. If approved, the $104.85 million in bonds will result in a ZERO increase to the current debt millage rate, with 100% of the bond revenue remaining here in Northville Public Schools. No revenue will go to Lansing, or any other school o...
The Northville High School Fourth Annual Community Open House is a terrific opportunity for future students, families and community members to see all that Northville High School, and Northville Public Schools, has to offer! More than 100 of our high school’s student leaders will be available to take visitors on guided tours of the building, and offer views of Northville Public Schools from a student perspective. Teachers from each of our academic areas, music, arts and physical education programs, along with current students, Northville High School and District administrators will be available to share information about the school’s and district’s programs, and answer any questions. 

Open House visitors will see how Northville Public Schools’ commitment to excellence is evident through its comprehensive programming in academics, the arts, athletics and extra-curricular opportunities. Northville Public Schools’ students consistently score near the top on Michigan Department of Education assessments, ACT and SAT performance, and Advanced Placement assessments. The Class of 2018 alone includes 58 National Merit Scholar competitors. Northville High School, along with the district’s two middle schools, is fully authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Middle Years and Diploma Programs.

Northville educators have long been dedicated to ensuring students develop strong literacy skills in the early grades, and in providing targeted, early interventions when necessary to support learning. Being literate is essential for students to be successful in school, as reading proficiency is a strong predictor of future college- and career-readiness.

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Reading Law (Public Act 306) in an effort to ensure students across Michigan exit third grade reading at or above grade level. The first students affected by PA 306 are this year’s first graders, as they will enter the third grade in the 2019-20 school year. The new law has several requirements that must be integrated into every school district’s K-3 reading program over the next three years. Northville Public Schools already has many of these required practices, assessments and early interventions in place across its K-3 literacy and reading curriculum, including regular assessments to identify each child’s reading progress; individualized early interventions for struggling students; and partnering with parents and guardians to reinforce reading skills at home. The new legislation requires these processes become more formalized and documented, beginning with this year’s kindergarten and first grade students. Northville Public Schools is committed to working together with students and parents to ensure that every student has the support necessary to continue to grow as readers and learners.

Starting this year, the law also requires schools to develop an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) for K-1 students who perform below grade level expectations on district-designated reading assessments. The plans are intended to address individual student needs and provide training and resources for parents to use at home through what is referred to as a Read at Home Plan.

Northville Public Schools is building on a strong Tradition of Excellence by opening A World of Possibilities for and with each student.

While the Open House is especially geared toward incoming freshmen for the 2018-19 academic year, families with students of all ages, as well as community members, are invited to attend. Join us and learn how Northville High School and Northville Public Schools are building on a strong Tradition of Excellence by opening A World of Possibilities for and with each student.

There will also be an opportunity to review information about the Northville Public Schools Bond Proposal on the 11/7/17 ballot, ask questions, and interact with members of the Northville Public Schools Board of Education.

A special thank you goes out to our student tour guides, along with our teachers, staff and administrators for providing this opportunity for future students, along with families and community members, to visit Northville High School!
Please join me in welcoming James Gordon to the Northville Public Schools’ administrative team as an Assistant Principal at Northville High School. He replaces Karin Crabtree (Pierson) who accepted an administrator position earlier this fall with the Rochester Community Schools to be closer to home.

Mr. Gordon comes to Northville from Hazel Park Public Schools where he served for five years as assistant principal at Hazel Park High School. Prior to becoming an administrator, Mr. Gordon was a teacher and coach for two years in Ferndale Public Schools, and subsequently 10 years at Hazel Park High School, teaching at both the middle and high school levels in Social Studies and Physical Education. During his tenure at Hazel Park Public Schools, Mr. Gordon was a key innovator and developer of programming and interventions helping turn a priority high school into a reward high school in just two years.

Mr. Gordon holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and a Master of Arts in Sports Administration from Wayne State University. He also has earned an Education Leadership Endorsement in Elementary and Secondary Education from the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals. Mr. Gordon is a passionate learner and leader, and is looking forward to joining the administrative team at Northville High School.

I’d like to take this opportunity to share with you the school district’s 2016-17 Year-End Report, which was presented to the Board of Education at its Tuesday, October 10, 2017 meeting. The Year-End Report serves as a record of the 2016-17 school year. Each member of our Central Office Leadership Team – including the Superintendent’s Office, the Office of Instructional Services, the Finance and Operations Office, the Office of Special Services, and the Human Resources Office – took this opportunity to reflect on and learn from the experiences of their respective departments including the accomplishments, issues, challenges and concerns from the past school year. To view the complete report, go to 2016-17 Year-End Report on the district website.

Additionally, the Northville Board of Education in October reaffirmed the 2014-2019 District Goals, along with the Key Focus Areas for the 2017-18 school year that support our vision that “All students will graduate from Northville Public Schools with the skills and dispositions necessary to maximize their potential as contributing members of a global society.” A description of the District’s Purpose, Mission, Vision, Graduate Profile, and detailed 2014-2019 District Goals, with Key Focus Areas for 2017-18, is available at 2014-2019 District Goals on the district’s website.

As winter approaches, I want to remind school families, students, staff and community members of our protocols for inclement weather days. Please know that we do not take the decision to close school lightly. We value learning, and recognize the impact that cancelling school has on our students and families. The safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and families is paramount.

When a “snow day” or “inclement weather day” is called, it is done as early as possible (generally before 5:30 a.m. and often earlier, including the night before in some cases). The decision is made after much deliberation among district officials who monitor road and building conditions throughout the night in consultation with other area school superintendents, and with expert advice from a national meteorologist who can help predict a storm’s path as much as 48 hours before it reaches our area. The weather conditions and issues taken into consideration in closing schools due to weather include:

- The amount of snowfall and its impact on road (including side roads and dirt roads) and parking lot conditions and the ability to safely transport students to school.
- The timing of a storm and the ability of local road crews and district personnel to clear roads and parking lots in time for the safe transport of students to school.
- Ice or freezing rain and its impact on road and parking lot conditions — as well as the potential for downed trees and power lines — and the ability to safely transport students to school.
- Dangerous temperatures or wind chills that carry a high risk for frostbite in a short period of time. To close school based on cold alone (rather than in conjunction with concerns about road conditions, bus issues or other safety considerations), the actual temperature combined with wind chill considerations is greater than -19 and -22 degrees below zero. This figure is based on the range of temperature/wind chill that carries a higher risk of frostbite at the 30 minute threshold (for exposed skin). For a detailed wind chill chart, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website.
- Building problems such as loss of heat, power or water service.
- School closings are also sent out via the district’s ListServ e-mail service, and through radio and television stations that participate in the Detroit Media School Closings Alliance. This includes WJBK-TV (FOX 2), WDIV-TV (Local 4), WXYZ-TV (Channel 7), WWJ-TV (CBS Detroit), WKBD-TV (CW 50), WWJ Newsradio 950 and News/Talk WJR-AM 760.
- Although it seldom occurs, it also may be necessary to close school early due to weather. In the event of an early closure, every effort is made to release elementary students no earlier than 3:15 p.m. (normal dismissal is 3:50 p.m.). This may mean that high school and middle school students are released earlier than their normal dismissal times in order to keep the buses running on time for elementary students. Again, notification regarding an early school closure is made as soon as possible by LISTSERV, Edulink, the district website and local TV and radio stations.

With the shift in weather, it’s also important to take time to make sure each and every student has the necessary outdoor gear to travel to and from school safely and to enjoy opportunities to get outside for recess. The general rule of thumb for outdoor recess at the elementary level is an actual temperature and wind-chill above 0 degrees. There are resources available for those who may find it a hardship to secure the necessary winter gear. If this is the case, please contact your child’s principal and/or school social worker for assistance. I hope you will find this information helpful as we prepare to traverse another Michigan winter and all that it may bring. Stay safe and warm!
There is still time to get tickets for the Northville Educational Foundation's Second Annual $25,000 Cash for College Raffle. The drawing will take place Friday, November 17, 2017, between 7-8 p.m. at the downtown Northville Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Northville Town Square. Tickets are $50 each or three for $100 and the Grand Prize is $25,000*. Participants can purchase tickets online or by mail-in order form through the foundation website at www.SupportNEF.org. (*Please note, if ticket sales are less than $50,000, the drawing will divert to a 50/50 raffle with a minimum prize of $1,000.)

The fundraiser supports the efforts of the Northville Educational Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to supporting enrichment programs to benefit Northville students in academics, the arts, and athletics. Over the past 17 years, the Foundation has raised and granted more than $2.4 million to Northville Public Schools. Through the generous support of parents, teachers, alumni, businesses and community groups the Foundation has committed $85,500 for the 2017-18 school year toward STEAM-related and other enrichment and financial assistance programs at Northville Public Schools. In addition, NEF has set a goal to raise an additional $75,000 toward instructional materials and tools for a STEAM Lab at Northville High School. For more details click on STEAM Lab. For more information about the Northville Educational Foundation visit www.SupportNEF.org.

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:

- **Lifesavers:** We gratefully acknowledge and honor several individuals who, in heroic moments, stepped in to literally save the lives of individuals in crisis. These moments remind us of the frailty of life, the importance of being mindful of what’s happening around us, and being there for one another. Our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation goes out to:
  
  o Northville High School senior **Ryan Figueroa**, who performed CPR on an individual in cardiac arrest until medical assistance arrived, and joined Northville Township Police Officer **Ken Delano** to make a difference for this individual. Their story is featured in this video by the American Heart Association.

  o Northville Early Childhood Pre-K teacher **Sandi Maynard**, whose quick action to perform the Heimlich maneuver on one of her three-year-old students to clear his airway, prevented him from choking. Coincidentally, Ms. Maynard also taught this students’ father when he was in preschool – a father who is very grateful for the opportunity for his son to be in her class.

  o Northville Cross-Country Coaches **Nancy Smith and Amy Baditio** noticed a health issue in one of their athletes and took steps to intervene. A very grateful parent shared the following: “Northville has a top cross country team. In fact, when we were moving back to Michigan we bought a home in the Northville district so our student could compete on the NHS team. It takes a coach with an incredible sense of dedication to the health and safety of their participants in a top program to sideline an athlete that can help the team be better without regard to how it impacts that team. Possibly nothing would have gone wrong with our daughter if Nancy and Amy didn’t say anything, the team (though doing quite well) may have done better but what matters here is they did act and they acted forcefully. I say it to people at work all the time that it matters what they do when people are not looking much more than it matters what they are doing when people are looking. The district is quite lucky to have coaches that care so much about their athletes that they do the right thing when it is inconvenient and work so hard to help an athlete that is not even able to compete. I am certainly very happy that these two ladies are looking over my daughter and I hope you can find a moment to give them a pat on the back.”  **Kudos to our coaches!** This athlete went on to be cleared to compete again, and contributed to the team's success in winning their 8th consecutive regional title! To add to the kudos, **Coach Nancy Smith** is the well-deserved recipient of the 2017 Regional Coach of the Year in Girls Cross Country!

- A record fifty-eight (!) Northville High School seniors in the Class of 2018 have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as academically outstanding based on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test taken their junior year. Thirty-two of these students are National Merit Semi-Finalists, ranking them among the top 1 percent of their peers nationwide academically and giving them the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $35 million that will be offered in the spring. These Semi-Finalists include: Jacob Abraham, Madeline Adler, Ye Ming Cui, Haleigh Czarnecki, Priya Dandamudi, Casey Fortman, Derek Glaser, Rachel Holmes, James Huang, Justin Iqal, Sohan Jadhav, Raghav Jain, Sanjana Kannikeswaran, Pavana Karanath, Adit Khandelwal, Soumya Kulkarni, Angela Lee, Neil Mankuzhy, Lauren Masse, Roshni Misra, Joseph Patel, Pujan Patel, Alexander Steinig, Diane Tian, Sahil Tolia, Ananya Varre, Revanth Vadhapudi, Himansu Vepamakula, Brandon Wagstaff, Kevin Yan, Katherine Yang, and Michael Ying.

In addition, 26 members of the Northville High School Class of 2018 earned National Merit Scholar Commended honors, ranking them among the top 5 percent of their peer academically. Commended students include: Abhinav Alluri, Charlotte Beaudoin, Kayla Blaise, Rohan Challa, Neha Chava, Gina Gasparotto, Kathleen Gruschow, Cameron Heaven, Jason Hesse, Carson Hoffman, Haotian Jiang, Kirsten Lam, Janak Mukherji, Saahith Mummad, Sriman Papul, Joseph Schultz, Emily Segraves, Maya Simonte, Heather Sun, Krithik Vallem, Serena Wang, Annie Xiong, Clarissa Xu, Bassel Yassine, Jenny Yu, and Rachel Zimmer.

Congratulations to each of these stellar students!
Points of Pride from Across the District, CONTINUED

- Kudos to the Northville High School Smiles for Students Club for achieving the 2017 Pacemaker Award from the Euro-Pediatrics Foundation which works to enhance the quality of life for children with gross motor disorders such as Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida and traumatic brain injuries. The Pacemaker Award is given to five people, organizations or clubs that support the special needs community, advance treatment or research, raise awareness or serve as a role model to the special needs community.

The goal of Smiles for Students is to build friendships among the special education students at Northville High School and peer mentors and create an environment in the school that fosters relationships and helps special education students feel more connected to their school and their fellow students. The club meets every two weeks after school to facilitate activities, take part in fundraisers, and go on outings in the community. The peer mentors also take turns visiting and eating lunch with special education students during the school day. Through these experiences, students at Northville High School are building connections, and in some cases developing lifelong friendships. They are gaining social understanding and tolerance, as the lessons being learned through the club have had a ripple effect across our entire school community.

Over the years, this small club of 20 members has grown to more than 150 members who together are making an impact on many lives and setting a great example of care and inclusion in high school. **Kudos to Smiles for Students for this prestigious award, and for making a difference at NHS!**

- Congratulations to the NHS Chamber Choir for performing at the Michigan State University Choral Invitational on Monday, October 30. Our students had the opportunity to work with nationally known clinicians Dr. David Rayl and Dr. Sandra Snow of MSU and Dr. Karen Kenaston-French from the University of Texas Arlington.

- NHS Junior Sai Anantapantula is among 101 regional finalists named across the United States in this year’s prestigious Siemens Competition, a research competition in Math, Science, and Technology for high school students. Siemens seeks to promote excellence by encouraging students to undertake individual or team research projects that improves students’ understanding of these disciplines. **Congratulations Sai!!!**

- Amerman Courtyard Rejuvenation: Last year, Amerman’s Leader in Me Student Lighthouse team formed a Courtyard Team, consisting of four students and two teacher representatives. Student and staff leaders discussed how the courtyard could be transformed into a great learning space. In partnership with the Amerman PTA, the school reached out to local businesses and parents with design experience, including Mrs. Jean Gertley, a Northville community member who has contributed her time, energy and expertise to beautification projects across Northville Public Schools. Mrs. Gertley worked together with Mr. Marco Marando, principal at Amerman Elementary School, and the Courtyard Team, to devise a plan for the courtyard. Throughout their meetings, student involvement and student voice were at the forefront of how to rejuvenate the courtyard. During the month of October, Mrs. Gertley and the students at Amerman worked together on three different occasions to transform Amerman’s courtyard! Every student at Amerman had an opportunity to assist in cleaning out debris, leveling the dirt, laying mulch, and planting shrubs and plants around the perimeter of the courtyard. The joy and sense of pride created by the students from this project is accredited to the hard work of Mrs. Gertley, Amerman staff and the Courtyard Team. With the foundation of the learning space created, there is still more to come for this beautification project, as the courtyard is now ready to be an outside learning space for all students at Amerman Elementary to utilize. **Kudos to Mrs. Gertley and all who contributed to making the vision for their courtyard a reality!**

- Come and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with Northville High School Theater’s adaptation of A Christmas Carol – The Musical on November 16, 17, 18. Nineteenth century London comes to life in this timeless Dickens’ classic. A vibrant cast tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a lonely and miserly curmudgeon, who’s shown a second chance by a series of ghosts who visit him one spooky and sleepless Christmas Eve. This show is sure to be a hit, so get your tickets now! Click here for more information.

Coffee and Conversation With the Superintendent

I would like to invite Northville school parents, guardians, staff and community members to my next Superintendent Community Coffee Chat on Monday, November 20, 2017, 6:30-7:45 p.m., at the Northville Public Schools Board of Education Office, 501 West Main Street, Northville, MI. These informal coffees offer school families and community members the opportunity to ask questions, offer input and learn more about the district in a small group setting. Those attending are welcome to come and go at any time during the specified timeframe.

We have much to be proud of, and grateful for, as we continue to work toward providing the best possible educational experiences for all of our students. Thank you for choosing Northville Public Schools and entrusting us with your children each day.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher
Superintendent

Awesome Work, Amerman Leaders!

Thank You, Mrs. Gertley and PTA