



A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

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AT A GLANCE

August Ballot Issues Impacting Northville Public Schools Community

The Facts About the Wayne County Education Enhancement Millage

Northville Township Millage Requests Focus on Public Safety, Shared Services

Katie Shirk Named New Cooke School Assistant Supervisor

NHS Grad Joins NEF as New Executive Director

Summer Learning Underway

Lots of Mustang Pride to Go Around

DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

I hope everyone is enjoying a fun and relaxing beginning to summer. As we continue to work across the school district on a number of exciting initiatives

in preparation for the 2014-15 school year, I want to take this opportunity to share updates in a number of areas.

AUGUST BALLOT ISSUES IMPACTING NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMMUNITY

THE FACTS ABOUT THE WAYNE COUNTY EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE

You may be aware that voters from school districts across Wayne County – including Northville Public Schools residents – will be asked to consider a county-wide, two-mill, six-year Education Enhancement millage proposal as part of the upcoming **August 5, 2014** statewide election. If approved, these millage dollars will provide additional operating funds beyond the state and local funding already received by the more than 30 Wayne County school districts -- including Northville -- that are part of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (WRESA).

When Proposal A was approved by voters in 1994, the Michigan Legislature included a county-wide enhancement millage option so that school districts would have a potential revenue source if their communities want to generate additional funds for their district beyond state allocated resources. (Under Proposal A, individual school districts are prohibited from asking their voters to consider general operating millages beyond the 18-mill non-homestead levy, and for a limited number of districts, a hold harmless levy.) The enhancement millage is a millage that, if approved, is assessed on all taxpayers in the county and distributed on a per student basis to each public school district in that county.

Education Enhancement millages have come under consideration by Michigan school districts in recent years due to the continued cuts in state education funding over the past decade. State law requires that if school district boards of education representing more than 50 percent of a county's K-12 public school students request that an enhancement millage



proposal be brought forward to voters, then it must be placed on the ballot for the next statewide election. While this 50 percent threshold was exceeded in Wayne County, the Northville Board of Education, at its April 15, 2014 meeting, unanimously voted against the resolution for the proposed enhancement millage.

Northville Public Schools will receive additional funding if the Wayne County Education Enhancement millage is approved by voters. The two-mill increase would generate just over \$5 million in revenue from Northville taxpayers in its first year, with Northville Public Schools receiving back \$2.8 million, or approximately 56-cents for each \$1 of Northville tax revenue collected. Under the millage request, property owners across Wayne County would pay an additional \$100 each year for every \$100,000 of the market value of their property.

Absentee ballot applications, for those individuals unable to get the polls on August 5th, as well as information about voting precincts and locations are available at your city or township offices. Polls will be open on August 5th from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES

Summer Board of Education Meetings

July 8, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Board of Education Office (Room 302)

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

See Page 2 for Information regarding the August 5th Northville Township Millage Proposals



NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP MILLAGE REQUESTS FOCUS ON PUBLIC SAFETY, SHARED SERVICES

Also on the August 5th ballot will be two important millage proposals from Northville Township. For the first, voters will be asked to approve a renewal of an existing 5.575-mills for seven years. The second proposal is a request for an additional dedicated millage of 1.550-mills over the next seven years, with 1.250-mills going to public safety, including fire and police services, and 0.300-mills to shared services including Parks and Recreation, Senior Services and Youth Assistance programs. If approved, township property owners will see an increase in their tax bill of up to \$1.55 per \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. (The actual amount may vary depending on a specific property's taxable value.)

I encourage all Northville Township residents to take the time to become informed about these important proposals and the valuable programs

and services they support for our community and to please vote on August 5th. At Northville Public Schools, our students, staff and families benefit from these services through the presence of police liaison officers at our township schools, as well as the many support programs and services offered by Northville Youth Assistance. We are truly fortunate to be part of a community that cares deeply in both its words and actions about the safety, along with the physical and emotional wellbeing, of our young people.

For more information about the Northville Township millage proposals, visit the township website at www.northvillemich.com. And again, absentee ballot applications, along with information about precinct locations, are available at the township offices.

KATIE SHIRK NAMED NEW COOKE SCHOOL ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR

I am happy to announce that long-time Northville educator and leader Katie Shirk has been named Assistant Supervisor for our Cooke School special education center program. Most recently, Katie has served as a Northville High School Assistant Principal and the district's Coordinator of Secondary Special Services for the past two years. She succeeds Jennifer Bugar who was named Cooke Supervisor in May.

Along with Jennifer, Katie will assist in the day-to-day operation of the district's special education center program – financed through the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency and staffed by Northville educators. The program serves severely cognitively and multiply impaired students from preschool through age 26 from school districts across western Wayne County.

Katie joined Northville Public Schools in 1994 as a classroom teacher for the special education center programs formally at Old Village School in downtown Northville. In her tenure with Northville, she also has served as a resource room teacher at Silver Springs and Winchester elementary schools, as well as a teacher consultant for the district's Early Childhood and Extended Day Program. While working part-time for the district for six years, Katie also was an educational consultant providing technical support across Michigan. Seven years ago, Katie's responsibilities as a

teacher consultant expanded to the district level with a focus on our high school and middle school programs. She has a Bachelor of Special Education with an endorsement in Emotional Impairment from Eastern Michigan University and a Masters in Special Education, with an endorsement in Learning Disabilities, from the University of Michigan – Dearborn. Katie is also working toward her Specialist Degree in Special Education Administration and Educational Leadership at Grand Valley State University.



Throughout the interview process, Katie clearly demonstrated a connection with our Cooke students and an understanding of the limitless possibilities they possess. I am confident that Katie's flexibility and student-centered approach will foster the continued growth of our Cooke program.

The timeline and process for posting, interviewing and hiring a new Assistant Principal at the high school will be available soon on the district website at www.northvilleschools.org.

NHS GRAD JOINS NORTHVILLE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I'm also pleased to share that Jennifer Roosenberg, a Northville High School graduate, has joined the Northville Educational Foundation as its new Executive Director. She succeeds Jennifer Pearson who had served in this role for three years and recently relocated to Texas.

Jennifer Roosenberg comes to the Foundation from the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce where she has worked for the past five years. While with the Ferndale Chamber, Jennifer grew its membership by 86 percent and increased its revenue by 133 percent. Under her leadership, the Ferndale Chamber was recognized in late 2013 as the Michigan Small Chamber of the Year by the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals. While at the chamber, she worked closely with Ferndale Public Schools to strengthen partnerships between the schools and local businesses. Prior to joining the Ferndale Area Chamber, Jennifer spent more than 11 years in sales and marketing in both residential and commercial real estate. She also worked at a non-profit foundation in

Oxford, Ohio, just out of college, as well as for an advertising agency that assisted non-profit foundations with direct mail fundraising campaigns. Jennifer is a 1989 graduate of Northville High School and has a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising from Michigan State University.



The Northville Educational Foundation 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. For more information, visit the Foundation website at: www.NorthvilleEdFoundation.org.



SUMMER LEARNING UNDERWAY

Northville Public Schools is pleased to offer students from kindergarten through high school a range of learning opportunities through our Summer Connections summer school program. Students enrolled in 753 in-class and online courses are taking advantage of the program this summer at Hillside Middle School. Classes began this past Monday, June 23, 2014 for middle and high school students and will begin on Monday, July 7, 2014 for elementary students.

Summer Connections offers a variety of learning experiences for students to reinforce skills in key academic areas, get a head start on the high school Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements, and/or to explore new areas through enrichment opportunities. We look forward to hearing from our Summer Connections students about all they have learned this summer! For more information, visit the Summer Connections webpage at www.northvilleschools.org/node/551.

LOTS OF MUSTANG PRIDE TO GO AROUND

The 2013-14 school year was truly the year of the Mustang! Our Northville Athletic Program had many historic accomplishments throughout the school year. The following are just some of the highlights:

- Nine Northville High School (NHS) teams won Kensington Lakes Athletic Association (KLAA) Central Division Championships including Football, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Girls Swim & Dive, Boys Swim & Dive, Baseball, Girls Soccer, Girls Track & Field, and Girls Tennis.
- Eight NHS Teams won KLAA Kensington Conference Championships including Football, Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Baseball, Girls Soccer, Girls Track & Field, Girls Tennis and Boys Lacrosse.
- The Girls Soccer and Girls Tennis teams each won overall KLAA Association Championships.
- At the state level, Northville athletic teams achieved amazing success with:
 - Three NHS teams winning State District Championships including Volleyball, Baseball, and Girls Soccer.
 - Six NHS teams winning State Regional Championships including Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Volleyball, Girls Track & Field, Girls Tennis and Girls Soccer.
 - The Boys Lacrosse teams competing in the State Quarterfinals for the first time in school history.
 - The Volleyball team competing in the State Final Four.
 - Girls Track & Field finishing as State Runner-Up.
 - Girls Cross Country and Girls Soccer finishing as State Champions.

And if all of this isn't enough, Girls Soccer finished its season undefeated and ranked #1 in the nation by the Fab 50 National Poll, and 13 teams finished the regular season in the Top 15 at the state level including Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Football, Volleyball, Boys Tennis, Girls Swim & Dive, Boys Swim & Dive, Boys Hockey, Baseball, Girls Soccer, Girls Track & Field, Girls Tennis and Boys Lacrosse.

In addition, more than 50 of our student-athletes achieved All-State honors and four students were individual "State Champions" including Laura



Westphal (Girls Swim), Rachel Coleman (Track) and Jordan Hermiz and Alex Jennotte (Girls Tennis). Girls Soccer player Megan Buckingham also was honored as the "Gatorade Player of the Year" and Michigan "Miss Soccer." Six of our coaches were recognized as "Coach of the Year" at the state or national level.

Our NHS student-athletes also continued to prove they not only get it done on the field of play but also in the classroom, with more than 50 student-athletes achieving All-State All-Academic honors and 14 NHS teams achieving All-State All-Academic team honors.

It truly was an exciting year for Mustang Athletics. These accomplishments are the celebration of all the hard work and dedication of our student-athletes, coaches, teachers and parents, as well as Northville Athletic Director Bryan Masi. You have all made our entire community proud. Congratulations!

As always, I thank you for your continued support of Northville Public Schools. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher
Superintendent