Dear Northville School Families, Staff and Community Members

At Northville Public Schools we have much to be grateful for, including our innovative and compassionate teachers and staff who open a World of Possibilities for all our students; our incredible school families and community members who value the education of our young people in both their words and actions; and, most importantly, our more than 7,000 students who come to school each day ready to learn and share of themselves. Their voices are an integral part of the learning process, and of our ongoing growth and success as a community. As we head into Winter Break, I would like to take this opportunity to share updates in a number of areas and fill you in on some of the great things happening in our classrooms.

Old Village School Open for Business

Our Bond 2017 construction crew recently put the final touches on the 20-month, $10 million renovation of the historic 101-year-old Old Village School, located three blocks west of downtown Northville. Lovingly restored, the Classical Revival building is now home to five Early Childhood Education classrooms – with room to grow – on the building’s first and second floors, and the district’s Central Office Administration on the third floor.

We were especially touched by the nearly 200 community and school district leaders, staff, school families and community members who turned out on Sunday, November 11, 2018, for our Ribbon-Cutting and Open House celebrating the rebirth of Old Village School. We were honored to be joined by so many in our community who have been a part of the rich history of Old Village School and our community.

The Old Village School construction and renovation project is the first in a $104.85 million, multi-year Bond 2017 construction and program initiative generously approved by voters in November 2017 that will touch every school.

In an unfortunate turn of events, you may be aware that the City of Northville has filed a lawsuit against Northville Public Schools to block the demolition the Main Street School, adjacent to Old Village School, which previously housed the school district’s downtown Early Childhood program and Central Office Administration. For more information regarding the disposition of the Main Street School facility, including the next steps in the legal action, please visit the district website at www.NorthvilleSchools.org.

Construction Design Underway at NHS, Hillside & Amerman

Following months of planning by Bond User Groups - comprised of building administrators, teachers, support staff, students, and design and construction experts – construction crews will break ground soon on Bond 2017 projects planned for Northville High School, Hillside Middle School and Amerman Elementary School.

Bids will be awarded soon on projects at NHS and Amerman with construction slated to begin in April. A detailed listing of NHS and Amerman Bond 2017 projects are available on the district website by clicking on Bond 2017 Construction Update. Bids for the major addition and renovation at Hillside – that will include demolition of much of the existing building following the construction of academic wings that will essentially result in a whole “new” school – are expected to be awarded in February 2019, with construction beginning in April. Again, a detailed description of the Hillside addition and renovation is available on the district website by clicking on Bond 2017 Construction Update.

Winter Break: December 22, 2018 – January 6, 2019

Northville Public Schools will close for Winter Break at the end of the day, Friday, December 21, 2018, with classes resuming on Monday January 7, 2019, with the exception of scheduled school or athletic events communicated directly by schools or coaches.

The Board of Education Offices at Old Village School will also be closed during the same time period, other than for scheduled appointments on January 2 – 4, 2019, with regular business resuming on Monday, January 7, 2019.
Please join me in recognizing the crucial role our Northville Board of Education members play in the lives of our children, our schools and our community during School Board Recognition Month in January. Public education is the backbone of American society and local school boards are deeply rooted in this tradition. Their job is to establish the district’s vision, mission and goals and develop policies to achieve them; to strongly encourage continuous improvement in student learning; and to advocate at the local, state and national level in support of public education. This work includes an endless string of meetings and school functions to attend; reams of reports, agendas, proposals and other documents to read and study; and a never-ending commitment to thoughtful consideration of the issues, balancing perspectives, and making difficult decisions that are both fiscally responsible and focused on what is best for students. We are fortunate at Northville Public Schools to have a Board of Education that supports our quest to open A World of Possibilities for and with each and every student that will prepare them for work and life in the 21st century. Together with district leaders, the seven members of the Northville Board of Education develop policies and make tough decisions that help shape the future of our school district, and in turn our community. They bear the responsibility and oversight for an annual general fund budget of more than $80 million, 7,151 students, 863 employees, and 11 buildings. We welcome incoming Board of Education trustees Ms. Ann Kalass and Mr. James Mazurek, who will be stepping down from the Board at the end of the December after completing five years and eight years respectively on the Board of Education.

During her tenure on the Board, Ms. Kalass served as a trustee and secretary, along with a member of the Board’s Finance and Policy Subcommittees. She was the Board Liaison to the Northville Educational Foundation, the Northville Council of PTAs Legislative Action Network, and the Michigan and Wayne County Associations of School Boards. In 2016, Ms. Kalass was appointed to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder’s 21st Century Education Commission. During Ms. Kalass’ tenure, she maintained a consistent focus on meeting the needs of all students; raised awareness of the needs of vulnerable children and families; and was known for her attention to the importance of process and productive meeting protocols. Together with her Board colleagues, she was instrumental in submitting the passage of Bond 2017.

In his eight years on the Board, Mr. Mazurek served twice as trustee, secretary, vice president and president, along with serving on each of the Board’s subcommittees. He also served as district representative on the Michigan and Wayne County Associations of School Boards; Claude N. Ely Memorial Fund Committee; the Senior Advisory Commission; and Northville Parks and Recreation Commission. An active member on the district’s Facility Review/Bond Study Committee, he was instrumental in supporting the passage of Bond 2017. Mr. Mazurek was elected to the Board of Education in 2010, in the midst of the school funding crisis. Together with his Board colleagues and in partnership with district leaders, staff and community members, Mr. Mazurek led Northville Public Schools through challenging times that threatened the school district’s solvency, to emerge as one of the strongest public school districts in the state both financially and academically.

We appreciate Ann and Jim’s leadership and service in support of the children, families, staff and community of Northville Public Schools, and recognize the impact they have had as members of the Board of Education.
The quickest and easiest way to learn about school closings is via the district’s parent notification system (Edulink), which uses the main contact information within MI-STAR to call parents with snow day notifications, student attendance issues, building updates, and other important information. Details regarding the Edulink callout system and the options available for parents can be found on the district website at Edulink.

School closing announcements are also sent out via the district’s ListServ email 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 dismissals 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 to colder weather, it is also an appropriate time to make sure all students have 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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR PARENT CAMP 2019: SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019**

The Northville Public Schools Office of Instruction is hosting its annual Parent Camp on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile Road with topics of interest for parents with preschoolers through high school seniors. Registration and refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m. and break-out sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. Parent Camp participants will have the opportunity to attend break-out sessions that will be led by Northville educators and experts from across the community. A sampling of topics for this year’s Parent Camp include – Supporting Student Social and Emotional Health; Helping Your Child Transition from High School to College; the College Application Process; School Safety; and How to Talk About Books with Your Student to Improve Reading Comprehension.

A complete listing of session topics and speakers will be available as the date approaches. For more information about Parent Camp, contact the Office of Instruction at 248-344-3520.

**FIFTH ANNUAL STEAM FAIR TAKES THE GREAT CARDBOARD CHALLENGE**

Northville students of all ages and grades are signing up to take The Great Cardboard Challenge as part of Northville Public Schools’ fifth annual STEAM Fair (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile Road.

Experiences like the STEAM Fair allow our students to connect their learning in the classroom with the real-world and encourages students to consider STEAM degrees and careers. On the morning of April 24th, fourth grade students from across the district will visit the STEAM Fair to explore dozens of activities, demonstrations and interactive exhibits developed by students of all ages and grades – made entirely out of cardboard – including furniture, games, artwork, clothing, automated displays, and everyday conveniences. Joining our Northville fourth and fifth graders at the STEAM Fair will be third grade students from Thornton Creek Elementary School’s partner school in Detroit – Neina’s Dual Language Learning Academy.

In an effort to encourage students to take the Cardboard Challenge, STEAM Fair partner Advanced Disposal is generously offering to deliver cardboard to schools and classrooms across the district to ensure students and staff have the materials they need to make their dream a reality. While the theme for the 2019 STEAM Fair is the Cardboard Challenge, any and all STEAM projects are welcome to display, including Makers Fairs and Project Lead the Way initiatives. The STEAM Fair will also be open for a Community Night from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on April 24th for school parents, students and community members to explore and interact with the student-created inventions. The STEAM Fair is a collaboration of Northville Public Schools and the Northville Educational Foundation, along with presenting sponsor Community Financial. Senior sponsors include ITC, Advanced Disposal, and Michigan Educational Credit Union. In addition, student volunteers from the Northville High School National Honor Society and Advanced Placement Environmental Science class will provide tours and serve as presenters at the STEAM Fair. Students at the district’s two middle schools – Hillside and Meads Mill – will have an opportunity to take part in an art contest to design the poster artwork for the 2019 STEAM Fair. Watch your student’s school ListServ and website for details.

For more information, visit www.NorthvilleSTEAMfair.com. To learn more about the Northville Educational Foundation and the many ways it supports Northville Public Schools students and teachers, go to www.SupportNEF.org.

**DISTRICT READIES FOR IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME EVALUATION**

In the spring of 2014, Northville High School, Hillside Middle School and Meads Mill Middle School were fully authorized as International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools offering the IB Middle Years Programme for all students grade six through 10 and the esteemed IB Diploma Programme for highly motivated 11th and 12th graders. IB Authorized World Schools must have a comprehensive, standard-aligned curriculum that supports student inquiry, viewing content through a global lens, and problem solving matters that are rigorous and challenging.

The Northville Public Schools Office of Instructional Services is currently in the process of reevaluating its five year authorization of the district’s IB Middle Years Program. This process includes:

- Completing the Building Quality Curriculum Process and submitting units of study including interdisciplinary units, to a board of IB educators in order to garner feedback and opportunities for growth.
- Completing an extensive self-study that is an internal review and assessment of IB practice and pedagogy completed by all Northville IB MYP staff.
- Hosting of an IB Evaluation Visit where the MYP team will meet district stakeholders including staff, students, parents and community members.

The district’s MYP self-study was submitted to the IB MYP team in December, and IB MYP Evaluation Visit is scheduled for May 1-3, 2019. The IB Diploma Programme will undergo a similar authorization process in the 2019-20 school year.

The IB framework aligns with Northville Public Schools District Goals and supports students as risk-takers, principled, and open-minded citizens of the world. This unique and innovative approach to learning through the IB Middle Years and Diploma Programmes, means or 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 place for future generations.
Students Earn MYP Certificates, Share Personal Projects

Speaking of the IB Middle Years Programme, it is an honor and a privilege to share that the following Northville High School sophomores have earned their IB MYP Certificates and have completed their capstone MYP Personal Project:


The MYP Certificate signifies that a student has successfully completed the MYP coursework beginning in the sixth grade and continuing through the 10th grade year in Language and Literature, Language Acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Science, Math, Visual and Performing Arts, Physical and Health Education, Design, and the Personal Project. The IB MYP Personal Project allows students to participate in a sustained, self-directed study of a topic of their choosing that generates new insights, honed independent thinking and communications skills, and demonstrates each student’s ability to persevere, solve problems, and seek help when needed. Kudos to each of these motivated students!

Calling All Future Kindergartners: Now Enrolling the Class of 2032

Northville Public Schools is now accepting kindergarten enrollment for fall 2019. If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2019, please go to the 2019-20 Enrollment page on the district website to schedule an appointment with a member of the Office of Student Data. Staff from the Office of Student Data will be present on the following dates at your child’s future school to review all necessary documentation and process your child’s enrollment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary School</th>
<th>Enrollment Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amerman</td>
<td>February 20, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td>February 26, 27, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Creek</td>
<td>March 5, 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Wood</td>
<td>March 12, 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraine</td>
<td>March 18, 20, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Springs</td>
<td>March 26, 27</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please follow Steps 1-6 on the website to complete the enrollment forms and gather information regarding which documents you will need to bring to your scheduled appointment. If circumstances prevent you from making an appointment during the dates listed above for your child’s school, please select an appointment at any other school. If you are unsure of which school your child will be attending, please view the Attendance Boundary Map on the district website.

All six of our elementary schools are fully-engaged in The Leader in Me framework, which emphasizes a culture of student empowerment that helps unleash each child’s full potential. To find out more about this innovative school-wide model, visit the Curriculum & Instruction page on the district website. If you have any additional questions about your child’s school, click on the link to the school’s website on the district home page at www.NorthvilleSchools.org.

Calling All Future Kindergartners: Now Enrolling the Class of 2032

A parent meeting for incoming 2019-20 kindergarteners will take place at each school. The following are the dates for each Kindergarten Parent Orientation. Please inform the school ahead of time if you plan for your child to participate in the visitation date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Parent Orientation Date, Time</th>
<th>Round-Up (Student Visitation) Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amerman</td>
<td>May 1, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moraine</td>
<td>April 29, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Wood</td>
<td>May 8, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>May 10, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Springs</td>
<td>May 8, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>May 10, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thornton Creek</td>
<td>May 16, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>May 17, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winchester</td>
<td>May 16, 2019 – 5:45 p.m.</td>
<td>May 17, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Northville Public Schools Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Programs offers Kids’ Club at each elementary school. This tuition-based program allows parents the option to have their child participate in a before and/or after school childcare program. Kids’ Club is offered as an option on school days from as early as 7:00 a.m. to the start of school and from school dismissal until 6:00 p.m.

Our Nationally Accredited Early Childhood program also offers Half-Day, Pre-K PLUS, School-Day and Full-Day programs for children as young as 33 months old and toilet trained. A Parent/Child class is also available for children who have turned two by September 1, 2019.

The NPS Early Childhood Education and Extended Day Program will host Curriculum Parent Night Open Houses on Tuesday, March 5, 2019, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at each of the locations where preschool programs are offered including Old Village School, Thornton Creek Elementary School, Ridge Wood Elementary School and Winchester Elementary School. These Open Houses are intended for potential new families to our programs and are designed for parents and guardians. Webinars will also be provided for program overviews, curriculum information, and the registration process.

Northville Educational Foundation Awards Innovative Teacher Grants

I am delighted to share that Northville Educational Foundation recently awarded 22 Innovative Teacher Grants to 45 teachers across all 10 Northville Public Schools, totaling $30,000. Each year, these grants support unique school and classroom programs and initiatives that enhance the education of our students and support innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Since 2010, the foundation has awarded nearly $200,000 in innovative grant funding to teachers. A sampling of some of the grants awarded this year include:

- **Fostering Mindfulness at Moraine** – Create Penguin “Chill Zones” (calm corners) throughout Moraine Elementary School, to address the need to support students when they need to self-regulate strong emotions and reduce anxiety.
- **Improved Learning Through Sensor Technology** – Use ultrasonic sensors to allow Northville High School to measure the position, velocity and acceleration of a moving object graphically on a laptop or Chromebook, while simultaneously observing the object’s motion.

- **Amplifying Student Talk** – Q-Ball throwable microphones will be used in Amerman Elementary School classrooms to amplify student talk, so students are able to speak and be heard in a busy classroom.
STEAM in Art – STEAM is an important concept in the art room, especially when creating works of art. Having STEAM materials available in the art rooms with help Silver Springs and Winchester elementary school students transform their two-dimensional ideas into three-dimensional sculptures.

Giving Non-Verbal Students a Voice – At the Cooke School special education center program, voice output devices will help increase student talk and give non-verbal students a voice, allowing them to provide input, discuss ideas, and have conversations with their teachers and peers.

Learn to Code with Drone – Hillside Middle School students will use drones to explore coding, problem-solve, become familiar with sensors, aerodynamics, programming logic, and remote controls by creating autonomous drone flights.

Our congratulations and sincere appreciation to each of this year’s grant recipients, and to NEF, for bringing these exciting opportunities to our students.

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

- In October, 63 students from Northville High School’s National Honor Society participated in Detroit’s Life Remodeled six-day beautification project. Here is a firsthand report from NHS senior Suneeth Torke, who was part of the event:

  Life Remodeled is a non-profit organization that invests approximately $5 million in money, labor and materials each year into a different Detroit high school neighborhood. Projects are determined based on the community’s needs and vision, and Life Remodeled assists in three areas: remodeling a community asset, repairing owner-occupied homes, and mobilizing 10,000 volunteers to beautify 300 city blocks in six days. This year’s project focused on the 300 blocks surrounding Detroit Central High School and the organization’s Durfee Innovation Society. During the six days of torrential rain and thunderstorms, volunteers worked to board up 400 houses, mow overgrown brush and weeds and clear debris, and plant trees, shrubs and perennials. They also built community gardens and installed Little Free Libraries around the neighborhood. The Northville High School student volunteers primarily worked to clear alleyways running behind neighborhoods surrounding Detroit Central High School. The NHS teens worked tirelessly to clear debris despite the bad weather. They worked side-by-side with other teens from neighboring high schools to complete the job. “While the thunderstorms may have cut my volunteering experience short, I believe that it made it much more enjoyable and rewarding. The rain made everything quite muddy and sticky, but it made me feel as though we were making a real difference in the community. I love the rain or shine attitude of Life Remodeled – Northville Stands with Detroit. Thank you Suneeth, and to all who participated in this impactful event!

- Kudos to the teachers and staff at our six elementary schools, who mounted an “Adopt a Staff Member” initiative that sent care packages to the staff of the three elementary schools the hardest hit by the July 19, 2018 Marshalltown, Iowa tornado. The packages included school supplies for their classrooms, household items, snacks and much more. The effort had a special place in the heart of Northville’s Moraine Elementary School Principal Denise Bryan who is a graduate of Marshalltown High School.

- Congratulations to Northville High School sophomore Alisa Zhavoronkova and Meads Mill Middle School eighth grader Olivia Steele on earning gold medals in the 2018 IDO World Tap Dance Championships held in Riesa, Germany in November. The IDO World Dance Championships is the largest tap competition in the world and Alisa and Olivia are the first ever dancers from Michigan to earn gold medals.

- Meads Mill Middle School Social Studies teacher Amy Soukup is this year’s recipient of the Smart/Maher Veterans of Foreign Wars National Citizenship Education Teacher Award from Post 6695 in Plymouth. The award honors a teacher each year who promotes civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism. Amy will now go on to compete in the district competition which includes Posts from across Wayne County. What an incredible and well-deserved honor!

- Nine Northville High School students recently earned the prestigious designation of Eagle Scout including, Timothy Raoul Chalom, Carson Wick, Edward Richard Prescott, Christian Alexander Aulepp, Jacob David Danes, Justin John Pressler, Andrew James Maciejewski, Ethan Galdikas, and Jacob Weiskopf.

- Congratulations to Northville High School Applied Technology and Robotics teacher Julie Fisette, who was recently named a Samsung Solve for Tomorrow State Finalist, for her work and the work of her Engineering Design and Development students in identifying and solving an important issue. The Solve for Tomorrow nationwide contest challenges public school teachers and students in grades six through 12 to show how STEM can be applied to help improve their local community. Ms. Fisette will know in January if she advanced to the second round. The top three winners, announced in April, receive a $100,000 prize packet.

- I’m happy to report that our Northville High School fall athletic teams posted another incredible season with our Girls Golf Team earning State Championship honors and our Girls Volleyball Team finishing as State Semi-Finalists. In addition the Boys Tennis Team was fourth in the State; both the Girls Cross Country Team and Girls Swimming and Diving teams finishing eighth; and the Boys Cross Country Team finishing 15th. GO ‘STANGS!
Twenty-four third through fifth graders from Silver Springs Elementary School recently completed in the YMCA-sponsored Girls on the Run initiative, with 19 of them joining together to run a “Celebration” five kilometer race on Belle Isle in Detroit in mid-November. Coordinated by the YMCA and run by local coaches and volunteers, Girls on the Run focuses on inspiring girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. The curriculum focuses on empowerment, responsibility, intentionality, diversity, connectedness, joy, optimism, gratitude, nurturing, healthy, opened-hearted and compassion. The girls trained two times a week from mid-September to prepare for the race. A special guest on that cold, wet and snowy morning on Belle Isle was Silver Springs Principal Katie Booth, who joined the girls in running the Celebration 5K. Way to go girls!

Warm wishes for a joyful Holiday Season
And a happy, healthy 2019!
Thank you for all you do to Open a World of Possibilities for and with the children, staff, families and community of Northville Public Schools.

Warmly,

Mary Kay Gallagher
Superintendent

Northville Public Schools
Board of Education & Central Office Leadership Team