

Mission Statement

The staff of the North Muskegon Public Schools, in partnership with parents and community, will educate each student. Our mission is student mastery of skills essential to lifelong learning and the development of positive self-esteem leading students to become productive, responsible citizens.



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North Muskegon Education Foundation

“Supporting our tradition of excellence”

The North Muskegon Education Foundation is an endowment fund created to support programs and resources for NM schools that are not affordable under today’s public funding formulas. The Foundation is a fund within the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, and as such, donations to the North Muskegon Education Foundation receive the maximum tax benefits available for charitable donations in Michigan (including an income tax credit equal to 50% of your donation up to \$400 for a couple who files jointly.)

You may help build this fund and strengthen our future by sending a gift to the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, 425 W. Western Ave., Muskegon MI 49440. Checks may be made payable to CFFMC- Norse Ed. Fund. Or, you may make a gift online, using your credit card, by going to www.cffmc.org, and following the instructions.

As we build our school’s endowment with yearly gifts, we hope also that you will consider naming the North Muskegon Education Foundation as a beneficiary in your estate plan or IRA. You will leave a legacy of strength and quality for the future! Go Norse!



North Muskegon Public Schools proudly recognizes the senior graduating class for 2012.

Dear Families and Supporters of North Muskegon Public Schools:



I have had the privilege of serving you as elementary school principal since August of 2004. We were in the middle of a major renovation of our campus at that time and it has been a non stop march forward for our district since then. I began my career during a very warm August, 1974, in Ionia, MI teaching English for grades 5 through 8 with a 7th grade homeroom. Ionia is a farming community and had three prisons located nearby. That made for a very interesting mix of people. During that first year I had 32 students who were the greatest kids a teacher would want. They were very understanding as this young 22 year old began a love affair with teaching and learning.

I completed by bachelor's degree at Grand Valley State College of Arts and Sciences. It wasn't a big university back then since we had nearly 7,000 students. So it was quite a shock to begin work on my Master's Degree in Educational Administration at Michigan State University with nearly 40,000 students while continuing to teach in Ionia. It wasn't a long drive and I en-

joyed the ride with friends. Summers, I could take more classes and hang out with my younger brother who was also attending MSU. Eventually I finished up my work and began leading a fairly large K-8 school in the core area of Grand Rapids northeast side of town.

To make a long story short, I ended my time with the Diocesan School System after 30 years and began to search for a public school gig. I moved to the Grand Haven area and enjoy living in a year round cottage that I renovated with help from family and friends. I hoped to find a job near the lakeshore. After several near misses for potential leadership positions up and down US 31 I received a call from Mr. Weaver who was promoted to superintendent here at NM and needed to fill his old job. I interviewed twice and was finally offered the job. At the board meeting he called me a "turn key" candidate. Later, when I asked what he meant by that he said "It is kind of like a transitional pope; someone who can take over without the need for a lot of explanation.. You know, experience." I was very impressed with the interview committee and felt it would be a good fit. Although I hoped to give a full 10 years I have to say the size of the job every year has increased. Unfortunately, my stamina has not been able to keep up with the time and energy required. So I requested and was granted a personal leave of absence that will begin shortly after the Christmas break and officially retiring in May.

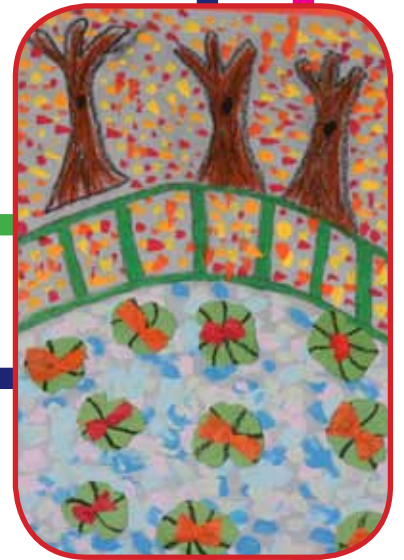
I have enjoyed the children more than anything else here. They are full of life, are very smart and have a great

sense of humor. The support from our parents is overwhelming (especially the PTA) and this support and involvement help make us a great school. The teachers are dedicated and don't give up until they find success in their students. I have enjoyed working with so many of them and the great natured support staff here. Our para-professionals, maintenance staff, clerical and fellow administrators have provided support and concern for each other every year. Curt Babcock, Heidi Christiansen and Steve Sanocki are young, smart and have the energy to carry the district forward and make sure it continues to be the successful effort that we all know and enjoy. I want to thank them and you for making this an enriching and interesting experience.

After I retire in May, I will enjoy serving on The Dean's Alumni Advisory Committee at GVSU, giving time to the new school the Diocese supported and built while I was principal in Holland at Corpus Christi, spending quality time with family and friends, and enjoy quiet walks at Hoffmaster Nature Preserve with my yellow lab Boomer and the other labs (and one Rottweiler) we walk with there. I enjoy many sports and hobbies: fishing, golf, downhill skiing, and home improvement, to name a few. So I will have plenty to do and keep me out of trouble.

God bless you all for your support and friendship.

Mitri (Mr.Z) Zainea



Beating the Odds!

“To make this list, a school must be performing above and beyond others with similar demographics. Our High School has done just that! We all know that it takes a full district effort for success to shine at the High School level. Way to go NM! We should all feel very proud!”

- *Dr. Curt Babcock, Superintendent of North Muskegon Public Schools*

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recently released a list of 123 “Beating the Odds” schools who are outperforming schools with similar risk factors and demographic composition. These schools were identified by the Department through two separate studies using considerably different methodologies.

“We have good things happening in Michigan schools,” said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan. “These Beating the Odds schools are helping students make progress and finding ways to overcome traditional barriers to academic achievement.”

The Department conducted two separate studies to identify schools that are “Beating the Odds.” Study 1 identified 60 schools that are performing above their predicted levels, based on risk factors such as percent economically disadvantaged; percent students with disabilities; percent English language learners; and percent minority students. Study 2 identified 83 schools that perform better than a comparison group of schools with similar demographics.

This year’s list differs from the list of 2009-2010 schools beating the odds published earlier this year in two ways: (1) this list is based on 2010-11 school year data while the list previously published was based on the previous year’s data, and (2) the outcome used in this year’s list has been improved. Last year’s list was based solely on percents proficient in each tested subject. This year’s list is based on a school’s ranking on the top to bottom list, which includes school-wide improvement rates and achievement gaps in addition to achievement levels.

Of the 123 schools identified, 20 schools meet both study criteria including 15 elementary, two K-8, two middle schools and one high school. All 20 schools were interviewed and profiled by the department.

“Beating the Odds” schools credited various factors for their success including strong building leadership; common vision; highly qualified and dedicated staff; high academic and behavioral expectations; a collaborative school culture; commitment to technology; strong community and parent involvement; and staff commitment to do whatever it takes to help students succeed.

“Beating the Odds schools have found ways to work smarter and harder, not just harder,” Flanagan said. “They have good leaders, knowledgeable and prepared teachers who engage students and a commitment to involve and embrace parents and the community.”

Flanagan said that while there is no single factor to school success, there are common themes worth studying. “I encourage all educators to explore what similar Beating the Odds schools are doing and, when appropriate, replicate what will work in their buildings,” said Flanagan.

The Beating the Odds school information is part of the Michigan Department of Education’s continuing commitment to bring “Light of Day” to school data and information to help improve elementary and secondary education.

For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/beatingtheodds.

High School Art News

The following student's art work was on display at the Red Lotus Gallery at 825 W. Western in downtown Muskegon during the month of October as part of the Muskegon Area Arts and Humanities Festival. Congratulations Norse artists! For the high school: Devon Baker, Kennedy Davis, Joel Hardy, Katie Hoopes, Erin Hughey, Sommer Lawrence, Lilly Persicke, and Austin James West. For the middle school: Connor Durow, Brock Freeman, Kaylee Herbert, Wesley Steven Fuller, Makayla Keur, Julia Maguire, Garrett Poulin, and Kylie Simonson.

Several Norse artists will have their artwork on display at the Nuveen Community Center for the Arts in Montague. Congratulations to the following artists : Maggie Karaba, Sena Precious, Erin Hughey, Cal Preston, Avery Lowe and Ellie Wilson. Their artwork will be on display from December 1- January 14th

Leadership Class

The leadership class has been hard at work this fall with several worthwhile projects. Our students have been raising money to donate art supplies and to help with driving costs to a family needing to go to DeVos Childrens' Hospital in Grand Rapids; gathering over 1,000 articles of clothing to donate to the Mission for Area People; helping NM Elementary with school supplies and helping local military families and deployment members with services and material support. Leading up with these projects have been Taylor Fris, Brianne Plumhoff, Sara Landstrom, Morgan Lindback, Morgan Seaberg and Natalie Witham. The leadership class is taught by John Slocum. Congratulations Norse students!

Alumni News

The Bellringer, starting with the next edition will be adding an alumni page to each edition. If you are an alumnus of NMPS, please send us an update about yourself including your full name (what your name was in high school, if it has changed since then), the year you graduated and a brief announcement about yourself. Thanks!



On Wednesday, October 5, 2011 North Muskegon Public Schools took part in the Apple Eating World Record contest in Walker Park along with other schools in our county. These included Montague, Whitehall, Fruitport, Reeths-Puffer and Mona Shores schools. All schools had students taking a bite of an apple at the same time.

Fall Sports Round-Up

A big thank you to Radium Photograph for use of the sports teams photographs and the Senior Rock photo!

Notes from the Coaches:



Jeremy Tjapkes, Boys Soccer Coach

This season the Boys Varsity Soccer Team finished 3rd in conference, won the Grand Rapids Freedom Christian Soccer Tournament, and lost in districts to the State-Runner Up. For their efforts, Drew Chandonnet, Anthony Smith, Spencer Wallis, Jesse Dunn, Luke Sischo, and Zach Rummery were named to the All-District Team. Zach Rummery was also named to the All-Regional Team and also was Named All-State 2nd Team. Zach Rummery and Luke Sischo were named to Muskegon Chronicle Dream Team, while Anthony Smith and Spencer Wallis were named to the Muskegon Chronicle 2nd Team and Drew Chandonnet and Jesse Dunn were named to the Muskegon

Chronicle Honorable Mention. Earning All-Conference awards were Zach Rummery, Luke Sischo, Spencer Wallis, and Jesse Dunn. Drew Chandonnet was

also named All-State Academic with a GPA of 3.613.

Gary Neal and David Waterstradt, Cross Country Coaches

Both the North Muskegon Boys and Girls Cross Country teams enjoyed a successful 2011 season. The boys team won the West Michigan Conference for the third consecutive year. They were the GMAA city champions for the third consecutive year. They took second place at the Regional meet, and finished third at the State Meet on November 5, 2011. Jacob Chovaz, Mathias Waterstradt, and Alex Benham were named to the

All-State team. The other runners on the team include, Jeremy Bos, Wesley Collins, Matt Hanley, Martin Leon, Thayer Lowe, and Avery Sroka.

The girls team won the West Michigan Conference for the second consecutive year. They were the GMAA city champions, marking the first time a girls team from North Muskegon has won the City Meet. Emily Witham (11th grade) was the individual City Champion. They were second at the Regional Meet, and they were the Division 4 runner-up at the State Meet on November 5, 2011, the highest finish in school history for the girls team. Ginny Hoch, Emily Witham, and Abby Vermeulen were named to the All-State team. Other runners include Hannah Meier and Avery Lowe, both of whom were All Conference, and All Region, and, Katie Hoopes, Brielle Johnson, Allison Mahn, Kat Tyson, and Ellie Wilson.

Swim Team Results

North Muskegon and Muskegon Catholic Central's Co-op Swim Team had an amazing year. They placed 1st in the Polar Bear Classic, 2nd place at the Girls Coastal Swim Conference meet and placed 18th at the MHSAA State Meet, Division 3. The team is made up of Co-Captains-- Alissa Jones, Aubrey



Meier, and Carolyn Neville, and fellow team members Amy Cashbaugh, Lara Clever, Alissa Jones Jade Johnson, Alexa Meier, Emily Morgenstern, Jenn Vanderlinde, Alyssa Adamczak, Cassidy Butler, Erin Carpenter, Andrea Fairfield, Victoria Bernhardt, Veronica Burr, Kara Komarek, Hailee McKenna, Chandler Peterson, and Kyra Pikowitz. They are coached by Mick Homan and Kim Arnold.

At the 2011 MHSAA D3 State Meet the following swimmers results were:
200 Medley Relay 28th Place 2:02.41 (Aubrey Meier-Jenn Vanderlinde-Kara Komarek-Alexa Meier)

200 Free Relay 17th Place 1:44.82 (Alissa Jones-Jenn Vanderlinde-Erin Carpenter-Carolyn Neville)

400 Free Relay 14th Place 3:48.83 All State Honorable Mention (Alissa Jones -Aubrey Meier-Erin Carpenter-Carolyn Neville)

Carolyn Neville (Jr/NM)
200 Free 5th Place 1:58.28 All -State
100 Free 8th Place 54.18 All-States

Alissa Jones (Sr/MCC)
50 Free 11th Place 25.23 All State Honorable Mention
100 Back 42nd Place 1:07.23

Varsity Football

Awards for the football team included: All Conference, Offensive lineman, Jon Ackley and Blocking Back, Chase Raymond, All Area, Jon Ackley with Chase Raymond and Jason Jackson,

Honorable Mention. They and their fellow teammates are coached by John Slocum.

Joe Gentle, Boys Varsity Tennis Coach

In spite of losing 9 of 12 players from last year's starting lineup, the 2011 Varsity Boys Tennis Team had another excellent season. The team faced tough competition all-season playing 13 teams and ultimately qualified for the State Final tournament in their division

at the end of the season. The competition helped prepare the team for a strong finish, including a 2nd place finish in the City Tournament, 3rd place in the new tennis conference, 3rd in the Regional and 11th in the State Tournament. The team finished with an overall 5-2-1 dual match record.

Members of the team received numerous rewards. John Snider was

selected as the team's most valuable player, and the number one doubles teammates Levi Hardman and Brock Dobb were selected as the most improved players. John Snider was selected to the all-state and all-area 1st teams. John Snider and Marshall Scheldt were selected to the all-conference 1st team. Andy Chen, Levi Hardman and Brock Dobb were



selected to the all-conference 2nd team. In addition, the team was made up of very good students and who once again received an Academic All-State award with an average 3.5 GPA. Team members:

Seniors: John Snider, Marshall Scheldt and Ben Collier
Juniors: Tom Munroe and Jack Stack
Sophomores: Levi Hardman, Stephen Pallante, Reese McCamant, Ryan

Compeau, Sam Robinette and Jon Chacon
Freshmen: Brock Dobb, Paul Johnson and Cal Preston
Exchange Student: Andy Chen





NM Choir students went to support their fellow freshman choir member, Deziray Taylor, in Muskegon Civic's performance of Hairspray. We were all so proud of her!



This fall our kindergarten students helped beautify our elementary entrance gardens by planting tulip bulbs. Next spring, please stop by and see the kindergarten students gardening skills. Our elementary PTA formed a committee that has been weeding and planting in the garden areas in front of our elementary office. Thank you!



Students last spring experienced a week long educational adventure at Camp Pendoulan in Twin Lake. Each year, the 6th grade students, their teachers, the elementary principal, high school students and parents participate in an outdoor education. Due to budgetary constraints, the program is now self-funded. Parents and community members willing to help donate to this worthwhile cause are asked to contact the superintendent's office for details on contributing directly to this fund. You may reach Kristie Hall at 719-4100 regarding this fund. Various fund raising opportunities will be held throughout the year to help cover the cost of sending each student to camp.



N.M.H.S. Theater - Arsenic and Old Lace



The NMHS Theater department under the direction of teachers Jeff Reeths and Toni Seyferth produced this fall's production of Arsenic and Old Lace by playwright, Joseph Kesserling. Students also presented a short preview to the Women's Club in downtown Muskegon at their November luncheon. Congratulations!

Physics and Muskegon Lake

Chuck Wahl, High school physics teacher



Our senior physics class had the opportunity to learn about an experiment that has the potential to change how electricity could be generated in the future. Phil Andrie of Andrie Inc. graciously connected us with Grand Valley State University’s Alternative and Renewable Energy Center (MAREC) to make the trip possible. He transported all of us to the WindSentinel buoy on Muskegon Lake. Among other things, we learned that the buoy not only measures wind speed, but water temperature and bird activity as well. Mr. Arnold (Arn) Boezaart, the director of MAREC, answered questions and informed us about the buoy and how it will affect our understanding of wind speed using laser technology. Our class will

soon be learning about energy and this opportunity could not be ignored, as it gave us the hands on learning experience about how wind speed is measured on water.

The buoy is currently on Muskegon Lake undergoing validation testing to make sure that the instrumentation is working properly. The next step is to deploy the buoy on Lake Michigan four miles out for “sea trials”. Assuming the buoy performs as designed; it will be relocated to the middle of Lake Michigan next spring. We are all very thankful to have had this experience and now feel more informed about the buoy. Thank you to Phil Andrie and Andrie, Inc. for this opportunity!

For more information see the article in the Muskegon Chronicle at this link: http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2011/10/north_muskegon_high_school_sci.html

Kids’ Food Basket



The North Muskegon High School Student Council has recently been involved in volunteering at Kids’ Food Basket, an organization set up to alleviate childhood hunger in Grand Rapids. Kids’ Food Basket packs approximately 4,500 nutritious brown-bag meals every day that students-in-need bring home for dinner. Our student council wanted to learn more and help Kids Food Basket. We spent two hours packing lunches two separate Mondays and also brought over 53 lbs.

of juice boxes, crackers and snack bars donated by our fellow students. The Student Council is hoping to bring the healthy and helpful ideas of Kid’s Food Basket back home to North Muskegon and the greater Muskegon area. The student council is coached by teacher, Debra Johnson.



Students of the Month

Seniors are selected as Students of the Month based on the characteristics of a minimum 2.5 GPA, good character, and excellence in one or more of the following; academics, leadership, school and or community service and award recognition. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected so far this school year.



Bruce Fout

September



Brianna Ballew

October



Erin Zettell



Kathleen Pallante



John Snider

November



Allison Mahn

December



Taylor Bluhm



Sydney Preston

National Honor Society

National Honor Society at NM is an active group with two annual blood drives and projects such as raking the leaves of yards of community members amongst a few of their projects. Based on leadership, service, character and scholarship the group recently held its inductee ceremony where the featured speaker for the evening was John Snider II, County Commissioner and Curt Babcock, the NM Superintendent. The newest members are Alexandria Bogner, Jessica Bogner, Christine Buchanan, Jacob Chovaz, Georgan Fisher, Laura Hardy, Ginny Hoch, Aya Johnson, Jade Johnson, Morgan Lindback, Hannah Meier, Matthew Meier, Thomas Munroe, Jessica Nagel, Dani Obenauf, Gina Pernesky, Morgan Seaberg, Heather Smith, Jack Stack, Jenn Vanderlinde, Jessica Viraldo, Allison Wierda, Kelsey Wilks and Emily Witham. They join fellow members Taylor Arends, Brianna Ballew, Kathryn Benedict, Kristen Bleakley, Taylor Bluhm, Madison Clark, Steven Clark, Kylie Davis, Kammi Eacker, Taylor Fris, Bruce Fout, Sydney Hansen, Katherine Hoopes, Anna Kiefer, Spencer Krannitz, Kayla Lynch, Allison Mahn, Kayla Massey, Aubrey Meier, Carolyn Neville, Kathleen Pallante, Sydney Preston, Gabriella Reihanian, Irving John Snider, IV, Andrew South, Abigail Staton, Curtis Taylor and Erin Zettell. NHS advisor is Mike Belmonte.

North Muskegon Board of Education

- Anne Tyson 744-6757
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- Mark Zettell 744-6515
- Darlene Witham 744-1992
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- Curt Babcock, Superintendent 719-4100
- Heidi Sunderhaft Christiansen,
MS/HS Principal 719-4110
- Steve Sanocki,
Elementary Principal 719-4200

Find us on-line at www.nmps.k12.mi.us
 The Bellringer is published three times a year from North Muskegon Public Schools 1600 Mills, North Muskegon, MI 49445
 Veronica Muscat, Editor
 Jeff Hedges, Graphic Design



NM Choir Caroling
 In early December, the NM Choir Council went caroling at Christian Care Nursing Center and then had their annual holiday party which was a great evening of service and fellowship.

Dates to remember

Tuesday, Jan 3rd, School Resumes
 Monday, Jan. 16th, Staff Professional Development Day—No School for students
 Wednesday, Jan. 25th, NHS Winter Feb.17-20th, Mid-Winter Break

Get Your Wings

Diane Stubbs, of Mission for Area People called North Muskegon to enlist students in helping with the Toys for Tots program. Students unloaded a truck of toys from Grand Rapids and Muskegon, then sorted the toys into categories such as boys, girls, stockings items, games, and stuffed animals. They, also, helped count the items to tabulate data for documentation for the Toys for Tots program. Margaret Jandt, coordinator of Toys for Tots, was impressed and appreciative of the students’ work ethic, polite attitudes and efforts. The following students volunteered as a part of a service project for NM’s GET YOUR WINGS: Bruce Fout, Aryn Patricio, Sydney Hansen, Gabby Rehanian, Steven Clark, Matt Eikenberry, Sierra Johnson, Eric Cady, Kelli Boes, Toni Harrison, Lisa Marinelli, and Sinnamon Talbot.



Box Tops for Education

Box Tops for Education now has an online program for purchasing products. The website is btfе.com and enter the school’s zip code, 49445 to register. Click marketplace and shop. Points are credited to the school. The BTFE program raised \$4,226 for the school last year which placed it 32 out of the 5,074 participating schools in the state of Michigan. There is a drop box outside the elementary office for those community members who wish to drop off the label from purchased, participating products. Thank you North Muskegon!

On-Line Only

Please remember that due to budget cuts, The Bellringer will only be available via the internet. There will not be any mailed copies to the community this year. Thanks for your support!

Scrip

There is a new email address for Scrip at nmmbscrip@gmail.com. Just a reminder to families to please email orders as we place orders each Monday morning. Sales are Wednesdays 5-6 p.m. at the high school office and Fridays 7:30-8:30 a.m. in the superintendent’s office. Special orders must be placed by 5 p.m. Sunday evening. Family accounts may be used for anything school related. If they have questions, they can email Laura Bos at anytime. Thank you for your support!