

A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

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AT A GLANCE

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Way to Go Class of 2017!

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IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

Special Call Meeting

Tuesday, June 20, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Board of Education Offices

Budget Hearing

Tuesday, June 27, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, June 27, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Summer School Registration Deadline

High School

Monday, June 26, 2017

First Day of School For 2017-18

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOLS FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As we reflect on the 2016-17 school year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Northville Public Schools and for entrusting us with your children each day. I am honored to be a part of a school community committed to building on a *Tradition of Excellence* and Opening a World of Possibilities for and with each of our students, and am continually inspired by the incredible work of our students, our

families and our teachers and educators as we strive to deepen a Culture of Learning and Leadership in each of our schools. We are grateful for the incredible support of the Northville community. As we close out the 2016-17 school year and prepare to launch 2017-18, I want to take this opportunity to share updates in a number of areas, highlight our summer programs, and celebrate some of the great things happening in our schools.

FACILITY REVIEW/BOND STUDY COMMITTEE SHARES RECOMMENDATION WITH BOARD OF EDUCATION

I am pleased to report that on June 6, 2017, the district's Facility Review/Bond Study Committee shared with the Northville Board of Education its recommendation for upgrading the district's educational facilities to support learner-centered school communities that meet the vision and goals of the school district.

Board of Education members met again on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, to discuss the Study Committee recommendations in greater depth, with the goal of bringing a bond proposal before school district voters in the November 7, 2017 General Election. The Board anticipates making a final decision regarding the scope of the potential bond proposal, and ballot language at its July 11, 2017 Board of Education meeting.

While the Building Site and Sinking Fund millage – first approved by voters in 2011 and renewed in 2015 – has been essential in addressing the district's most critical facility repairs, the district's aging buildings, shifting student enrollment and the desire to modernize facilities to address the needs of today's and tomorrow's learners have made facility planning a top priority for the school district. (For more information on the district's upcoming Sinking Fund projects, see the story on page 2.)

You may recall that the Northville Board of Education and district leaders formed the **Facility Review/Bond Study Committee** in March comprised of district stakeholders including students, teachers, staff, school parents, community members, district and school administrators, and Board of Education members. The Study Committee's charge – acting as a good steward of the community's resources – was to review, analyze and provide input into a plan for upgrading Northville Public Schools' aging educational facilities and transforming classrooms and other learning spaces across our school buildings into flexible learning studios. In this work, the Study Committee was guided by the district's Purpose, Vision and Goals, specifically District Goal 5 – Organizational Effectiveness, Key Action C-8: *Continue to explore the most effective use/reuse of district buildings and properties to support programmatic and administrative needs now and in the future.* The Study Committee was also asked to be mindful of the district's desire that any bond proposal brought before the community not result in an increase for taxpayers over the current 3.64 mills.

The Study Committee's recommendation followed more than 450 hours of intense study, including seven Study Committee meetings, the crafting of guiding principles, two Community Engagement Sessions, tours of facilities in neighboring school districts, results from an EPIC-MRA survey of registered voters, and the development and analysis of various ideas, concepts and cost estimates.

In its final report to the Board of Education, the Study Committee recommended the school district bring before voters a bond proposal not

to exceed \$105 million that would result in a zero increase to the current millage rate for taxpayers. Components of the Study Committee's recommendation include:

- Critical and essential infrastructure improvements along with technology upgrades, and the purchase of replacement buses.
- Partial renovation and major addition to Hillside Middle School that would include renovation of the far west end of the current building that would connect to a new two-story building where the parking lot is currently located
- A prioritization of program improvements for the district that would enhance student learning experiences including transforming classrooms across the district – along with media centers and other extended learning areas – into modern learning spaces, as well as other fitness, athletic, common area, toilet room, and main entrance security enhancements at the various schools.

Along with these projects, the bond proposal includes funds to renovate and restore the historic Old Village School to house our Early Childhood Program, with space for Central Office. Initially slated to be paid for through a number of district funding sources, district leaders have decided to include the project in the overall facility bond request in order to protect the district's General Fund dollars for student learning. The district recently conducted a parking/traffic flow study to ensure that the proposed use of Old Village has adequate parking and drop-off/pick-up areas for Early Childhood families. Additionally, some selective demolition and abatement has taken place at Old Village School to facilitate further design work and implementation of the project targeted for completion in August 2018.

On behalf of the Board of Education and district administrators, I want to thank the 29 members of the Study Committee for their commitment of time, energy and expertise as they weighed the needs across our school buildings, the research on modern learning environments, and input from our community, staff and families, to bring forward a recommendation to the Board of Education. The ability of the Study Committee to build consensus over time led to a thoughtful and comprehensive recommendation presented to the Board of Education.

The Board is giving consideration to the Study Committee's extensive research, the input received during several community engagement sessions, the facility assessment information, and the findings of the EPIC-MRA community survey as they make a final decision regarding the bond proposal to bring before the community on the November 7, 2017 ballot.

There will be many opportunities for the community to provide input, ask questions, and understand the impact of the bond proposal should the Board go forward with a ballot question. Look for updates on our District website at www.northvilleschools.org over the course of the summer!



WAY TO GO CLASS OF 2017!

It was my great privilege recently – along with our teachers, principals, staff, administrators, Board of Education members, families and friends – to share in a significant milestone in the lives of our Northville High School and Cooke School Class of 2017 graduates.

The Northville High School Class of 2017 had a lot to be proud of as 576 students received diplomas during the June 4, 2017 Graduation Ceremony at the USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth. The class includes a record 40 National Merit Scholar honorees, 31 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidates, 160 Phi Beta Kappa recipients, and more than \$16 million in scholarship offers, including a prestigious appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. We also honored and celebrated 14 Core Academy graduates, each of whom overcame significant challenges and beat the odds to earn the honor of walking across stage, and who have post-secondary plans in place. From National Honor Society members, to Scholar Athletes, Eagle Scouts and Gold Award Girl Scouts to those contributing thousands of hours of community service, the Class of 2017 has left its mark on Northville Public Schools and the entire Northville community.

On June 14, 2017, I likewise had the honor of recognizing our Cooke School Class of 2017 graduates from our special education center program, serving students from age three to 26. In a moving ceremony each student, his or her family, caregivers, teachers and staff had the opportunity to reflect on the student's growth, as well as the powerful lessons learned from and with each of our graduates. Our Cooke students, families and staff challenge us to go beyond what many may see as impossible, to stretch beyond limitations, to break new ground in learning and growth. We see the meaning of courage and perseverance each day.



To our entire NHS and Cooke Class of 2017, thank you for being a part of Northville Public Schools, for enriching our lives and challenging us to become better educators and better human beings.

SUMMER 2017 SINKING FUND PROJECTS

The district has some \$3 million in much-needed repairs and improvements slated for our school buildings and facilities over the summer months that will be funded under the first year of the district's Building and Site and Sinking Fund millage renewal approved by voters in May 2015. Projects to be completed include:

- Some flooring replacement at Northville High School.
- New classroom security hardware at Moraine, Thornton Creek and Ridge Wood elementary schools.
- Track resurfacing at Tom Holzer Ford Stadium that will include new asphalt surfaces. (Note: Due to safety concerns the stadium track will not be accessible to the community during construction, which began in early June and is expected to be completed in early August.)
- Resurfacing of the entire Thornton Creek parking lot, along with the front (main) parking lot at Moraine.
- HVAC improvements at Winchester Elementary School including replacing the water-cooled chiller with an air-cooled chiller, and segmenting the school office cooling system to its own roof-top unit.

- Emergency and exit lighting and public address system improvements at some schools.
- Partial roof replacement at Meads Mill Middle School.
- Upgrade underground storage tanks located at the district's Transportation facility including relocating the emergency stop.

In addition to these Sinking Fund projects, the district also will use General Fund dollars this summer to paint selected areas at Northville High School. With the passage of the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency enhancement millage in November 2016, the district will also purchase approximately \$1 million in classroom furniture and equipment with the goal of transforming kindergarten through second grade classrooms across the school district into modern learning environments that meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's students. (See item on page 1 regarding a bond proposal recommendation being considered by the Board of Education that would include similar program improvements for fourth and fifth grade classrooms, as well as at our middle and high schools.)

THORNTON CREEK ACHIEVES THE LEADER IN ME LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL STATUS

For the second time in just two months, it is my honor to share with you that yet another Northville elementary school – Thornton Creek – has achieved *The Leader in Me Lighthouse School* status. You may recall that Winchester Elementary School was named a Lighthouse School in April. *The Leader in Me* model for schools is based on Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and is a framework for fostering the growth of leadership capacity with students, and across the school community. Of the more than 3,300 *The Leader in Me* schools worldwide, Thornton Creek is the 342nd to achieved Lighthouse School status. There are 284 Lighthouse Schools in the United States, and just 18 in Michigan, including five in Northville – Moraine, Silver Springs, Ridge Wood, Winchester, and now Thornton Creek.

and helps our staff create opportunities for students take initiative and set goals, prioritize their time, present their viewpoint persuasively, value differences, resolve conflicts, and find creative solutions. The Lighthouse designation represents a significant benchmark in *The Leader in Me* journey that recognizes outstanding results in school and student outcomes across all areas.

The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformational framework – developed in partnership with educators – that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. It is based on the principles and practices of personal, interpersonal and organizational effectiveness. *The Leader in Me* starts with the powerful premise that every child possesses unique strengths, and has the ability to be a leader and have a voice in their learning. It integrates leadership development into existing school programs, curriculum, and traditions;



FOUR NORTHVILLE EDUCATORS JOIN GALILEO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

I'm also excited to share that four Northville educators were accepted recently into the 2017 Galileo Leadership Academy, a prestigious, two-year seminar series designed to develop teacher leaders. They are:

The Leadership Academy, which is celebrating its 20th year, is part of the Galileo Consortium, an innovative leadership development program, which includes educators from 25 school districts – including Northville Public Schools – three colleges and community colleges, and three intermediate school districts. To date, 58 Northville educators have completed the Galileo Leadership Academy including the most recent graduates from the 2015-17 cohort:

- Ashleigh Apostolovski, Northville High School math teacher
- Karen Besek, Northville High School math teacher
- Amy Baditoi, Northville High School English teacher
- Deanna Bryan, Northville High School English teacher

- Pam Schulman, Silver Springs Elementary School resource room teacher
- Regan Cowger, Amerman Elementary School resource room teacher
- Kristi Mauer, Meads Mill Middle School sixth grade teacher
- Tonya Traylor, Meads Mill Middle School sixth grade teacher



In addition to our Galileo Leaders, Northville Public Schools also has four educators who recently completed the first year of a new two-year teacher leadership academy at Wayne RESA:

- Jason Dean, Northville High School
- Sonya Kalasho, Thornton Creek
- Katie Pinkelman, Amerman
- Sarah Stovall, Winchester

The Galileo and Wayne RESA leadership academies address educational and leadership issues, with instructional strategies based on the principles of collaboration, inquiry, problem-solving, reflection,

informational systems, and technology. Teacher leaders learn from national experts, case studies, dialogues, field investigations, team building, study groups, readings, reflective journaling, and action research. The goal is to foster educational leadership, which results in improved learning for all students. Our Galileo leaders have made significant contributions over the years in the area of leadership within our school buildings, as well as across the district, by sharing their experiences, engaging in action research and data-driven decision-making, leading professional development opportunities, and serving as springboards for innovative ideas.

THANK YOU RETIREES!

At its June 13, 2017 meeting, the Northville Board of Education had the honor of recognizing 30 retiring Northville Public Schools staff members, including 12 educators, 10 paraprofessionals, two para educators, one physical therapist, two support staff, and three Food Service workers. A reception took place prior to the Board meeting for retirees and their families, friends and colleagues. Collectively, the following individuals have served our students, families and community for nearly 600 years.



Patti Appleford
Mary Barkoski
Sandra Bloom
Jean Calabrese
Arlette Comben
Julie Dalton
Linda Doinidis
Melodie Ely
Janice Fox-Davis
Linda Goodman

Vicki Honeycutt
Denise Hinrichsen
Elizabeth James
Cynthia Johnson
Chris-Anne Kelly
Debra Kirk
Lillian Knoth
Patricia League
Janet Lemke
Jill McMullan

Kathryn Moser
Karen Motz
Michele Moulds
Janice Nagle
Martha Salvatore
Karen Schubert
Linda Stein
Cynthia Thompson
Candace Tylutki
Cheri Warner



I want to take this opportunity to thank each of these individuals for the important contributions they have made during their years of service in furthering the excellence of Northville Public Schools. We thank each of them for the opportunity to learn from and with them as colleagues, students, parents and community members, and wish them well as they take on this new adventure in life.

IMPORTANT SUMMER REMINDERS

- **District Summer Hours** – Elementary and middle school offices will be open through Wednesday, June 28, 2017. Middle school offices will reopen for the 2017-18 school year on Monday, August 7, 2017 and elementary school offices will open on Monday, August 14, 2017. The Northville High School office will remain open throughout most of the summer, from 6:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 6:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. on Fridays. Our Board of Education/Central Office will be open throughout the summer, Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., and Friday from 7:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. beginning the week of June 26th through the week of August 7th.
- **Summer School** – The registration deadline for the district's Summer School program is **Monday, June 26, 2017 for high school students.** (Note: The deadline to register for elementary and middle school classes was Thursday, June 15, 2017.) All in-class high school and middle school courses will take place at Hillside Middle School and elementary classes

- will take place at Ridge Wood Elementary School. In-class high school courses being Monday, June 26, 2017, and in-class elementary and middle school classes will take place July 17-20, 2017. High School online courses began on June 5, 2017. English as a second language classes will take place June 26-29, July 3-7, and July 10-13, at Hillside for elementary and secondary students. For more information, visit [Summer School](#) on the district website.
- **Community FYI ListServ** – The popular Community FYI ListServ published by the district each Wednesday detailing events and programs from across the Northville community will move to an every other week publication during the summer months, starting Wednesday, June 28, 2017 through Wednesday, August 23, 2017. Weekly publication of Community FYI will resume on Wednesday, September 6, 2017. For more information, visit [ListServ and Flyers](#) on the district website.

TENTATIVE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AVAILABLE ONLINE

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 will be the first day of school for the 2017-18 school year for Northville Public Schools students. Due to the district's ongoing bargaining with employee groups, it is not known whether the first day of school will be a half-day or a full day for students. Parents and students will be informed as soon as possible over the summer as soon as the information is

available. To view the tentative 2017-18 calendar, visit [School Calendar](#) on the district website. The final Northville Public Schools 2017-18 calendar will be available once the negotiation process with each of the school district's employee groups is completed.



IT'S FULL STEAM AHEAD IN 2017-18 FOR THE NORTHVILLE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Northville Educational Foundation (NEF) is moving full STEAM ahead for the 2017-18 school year! The Foundation has committed \$57,500 in funding toward STEAM-related initiatives at Northville Public Schools, including the annual Northville STEAM Fair; Innovative Grants for Teachers; implementation of the Project Lead the Way curriculum at all six elementary schools and both middle schools; the sixth grade Detroit Zoo partnership; and The Village Workshop cooperative. In addition, the Foundation is hoping to raise another \$75,000 next year for a STEAM Lab at

Northville High School. The \$75,000 would go toward furnishings and equipment to enhance the high school's STEAM curriculum.

Along with these STEAM initiatives, NEF is contributing an additional \$17,000 in funding toward student financial assistance, coaches training, teacher professional development, the third grade Victorian Festival program, a new Saturday tutoring program, the Community Lecture Series, Parent Camp, and the National Merit Scholar and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Recognition Breakfast. Another \$17,000 will go to support programs at the Cooke School special education center program. Altogether, NEF will provide Northville Public Schools with more than \$91,500 in funding for the 2017-18 school year, including the \$75,000 for the NHS STEAM Lab.



Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to each and every donor – including parents, local businesses and community members – who make these contributions to the district possible. Thank you to all who donated throughout these many years. If you are interested in learning more about NEF or contributing to one of these programs, 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 activities, our students and teachers from across Northville Public Schools give us much to celebrate. Here are some recent highlights.

- The Meads Mill Middle School and Northville High School Science Olympiad Teams pulled off an incredible feat recently, with both teams finishing fourth in their grade-level group in the **Science Olympiad National Tournament** at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. This marks the highest finish ever for the NHS team in the national competition. The Science Olympiad National Tournament is the pinnacle of achievement for 120 of the country's best Science Olympiad teams representing more than 2,000 students. The Meads Mill and NHS teams both placed first in Michigan's statewide competition to advance to the national tournament.



- The Student Lighthouse Team at Moraine Elementary School, in collaboration with fellow students and the Moraine staff, recently hosted a creative and innovative **Maker's Faire**, where all leaders synergized and began with the end in mind to create, design, re-design, engineer, and problem solve a variety of STEAM-focused workshops. The daylong event actually consisted of three mini Maker's Faires stationed throughout the school each with student developed and student facilitated workshops that integrated and celebrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Leaders at all grade levels had the opportunity to interact, think win-win, and experiment around STEAM-focused projects that included designing tinfoil boats and testing them out in water, painting with everything from a feather to a potato, powering an electric keyboard using a cucumber, creating bookmarks out of colorful duct tape, building things using cardboard boxes, taking the water bottle flip challenge, solving jigsaw puzzles on an iPad, and working on Ozobot and Star Wars coding activities. The idea for the Maker's Faire came from a *The Leader in Me* Student Leadership Conference the Student Lighthouse Team attended in Novi early in the school year and evolved into a yearlong initiative organized in collaboration with Moraine's Staff Lighthouse Team. To help with materials for the various STEAM workshops the Student Lighthouse Team applied for and received a \$2,100 grant from the Moraine PTA. According to Lighthouse team member and fifth grader Elizabeth Felosak, the team thought the *Makers Faire* would fit in well with Moraine's Leadership theme for this school year - *Full STEAM Ahead* - and serve as a great culminating event during the school's Leadership Week. Way to go Penguin Leaders!

- The **Le Grand Concours** (French National Exam) results are in and Northville High School students received seven medals. The three silver medal recipients are **Alex Jund, Lauren Masse, and Sanjana Kannikeswaran**, all participating at Level 4. **Madison Wickett, Shazeen Biviji and Clarissa Xu** received bronze medals at Level 5, and **Nicholas Bhandari** won a bronze medal at Level 3. As they say in France...*Magnifique!*

- Northville High School senior **Lawrence Zhao** has been recognized as a **WXYZ (Channel 7) Brightest and Best**. In addition, Zhao, and Northville seniors **Ancheng Da, Shachi Salvi, Kyle Wierzbicki, Austin Xie, and Amy Zhao** were honored as the **Hometown Life newspaper 2017 Top 6 Students from Northville High School**.

- The administration of the **Detroit Jazz Festival**, along with the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, has identified the **Northville High School Jazz Ensemble** as one of the premier youth jazz ensembles in Michigan. Because of this honor, the NHS Jazz Ensemble has been chosen to perform at the **Detroit Jazz Festival on Sunday, September 3, 2017, from 12:30-1:00 p.m.** on the Waterfront stage. This is the 41st time the band has been chosen for this honor. Congratulations NHS Jazz Ensemble!



- The Northville Public Schools' **Academic Games Team** brought home four national team championships and two individual championship titles in the 52nd Annual Academic Games Tournament in Wheeling, West Virginia. The Mead Mills Eighth Grade Team of **Andy Jiang, Ahmad Raayan, Oliver Wu and Jeffrey Zhang** was the **Middle School Equations National Champion**; and the Hillside Middle School Seventh Grade Team of **Bianca Brie, Dillan Lau, Joshua Chacko, Sambhav Gupta and Winston Wong** won the **Middle School Wff'N Proof Championship**. The Meads Mill Sixth Grade Team of **Rajeev Budaraju, Vanish Kapoor, Tanmay Kundapur, Jivin Yalamachilli and Lucas Kim** won two national championships in the elementary level - **Wff'N Proof and On-Sets**. **Jeffrey Zhang** also was an **Individual National Champion in Equations** and **Andy Ziang** was an **Individual National Champion in Propaganda**. Well done!



- Congratulations to the **Northville High School Girls Tennis Team** which tied Midland's Dow High School to share the **Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) State Tennis Championship**. The team won the state title outright in 2015 and was runner up in 2016.
- Our **Boys Varsity Baseball Team** had a historic season with their first-ever trip to the final four, finishing their season as **Runner-Up in the MHSAA 2017 Division I State Baseball Championship!** Congratulations to **Coach John Kostrzewa**, who was named the Michigan Division I Coach of the Year, and to **Billy Flohr and Kevin Morrissey**, who were selected for 2nd team All-State honors!



- Also, congratulations are in order for the **Girls Lacrosse Team** on winning its first-ever regional title. We look forward to honoring each of our teams and athletes who qualified for competition at the State level at the June 27, 2017 Board of Education meeting. **Go Mustangs!**
- The **2016 Northville High School Yearbook** staff earned the following individual awards in the **Michigan Interscholastic Press Association** contest for the NHS yearbook titled *Legacy*:
 - First Place for Endsheets (Sam Lu and Rohan Patel)
 - Third Place for Sports Reporting (Rohan Patel and Colin Latta)
 - Third Place for Academic Writing (Katie Webster)
 - Third Place for Sidebar Coverage (Liz Minna and Riley Huggins)
 - Third Place for Colophon (Sam Lu and Rohan Patel)
 - Third Place for Sports Feature Photography (Jaya Thyagarajan)



- The Northville High School Design and Bridge Building Team of Disha Satapathy, Pranav Rakkappan and Rishab Lanka recently took second place in the 2017 National American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Bridge Design Competition in Portland, Maine. The competition is designed to promote an interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The program enhances math and science instruction and introduces students to engineering through hands-on, real-world applications. The competition consists of five phases – design a bridge using Model Smart and Bentley software; build a physical model of the bridge; develop a portfolio; conduct a presentation for a panel of judges; and test the bridge for strength-to-weight ratio. More than 300 schools and teams nationwide participate in the competition each year.
- Northville students had another outstanding year in the nationally sponsored PTA Reflections Program, with 15 entries placing at the state level. This includes in Dance Choreography – Emily Makowski, Northville High School, Honorable Mention and Libby Morante, Moraine Elementary School, Award of Merit. Film Production – Julia Huang, Meads Mill Middle School, Award of Excellence and Nidhi Kumar, Amerman Elementary School, Honorable Mention. Music Competition – Sarah Gallagher, Hillside Middle School, Honorable Mention and Saamaja Krishna, Amerman Elementary School, Award of Excellence. Literature – Mahita Parulekar, Thornton Creek Elementary School, Outstanding Interpretation Award and Sienna Lauffer, Ridge Wood Elementary School, Award of Merit. Photography – Julia Huang, Meads Mill, Honorable Mention; Phillip Zhavoronkov, Ridge Wood, Outstanding Interpretation Award; Griffin Backus, Moraine, Outstanding Interpretation Award; and Malcolm Wang, Northville High School, Award of Excellence. Visual Arts – Hana Ichikawa, Hillside, Award of Merit; Mary Elle Hall, Silver Springs Elementary School, Award of Merit; Josh Vertrees, Amerman, Outstanding Interpretation Award; and Nicole Zhong, Amerman, Honorable Mention. All Northville Public Schools Reflections participants whose entries won at the state level were honored at a special ceremony at the Northville Art House in May, where their work was on display for the community to view. Thank you to all these talented students for sharing their incredible artistic ingenuity with us! The theme for next year's Reflections program is, *Within Reach*.

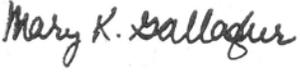
- Northville Public Schools alumni Luke Wilcox, Class of 1997, currently a math teacher at Kentwood High School in Kentwood Public Schools and recent recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching Award, has been named the 2017-18 Michigan Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Department of Education. State Superintendent Brian Whiston noted, "Luke is a dynamic example of our Michigan teachers. He sets a high standard not only for himself, but for his students and fellow educators. He strives to be a catalyst that ignites these teachers with that inspiration and motivation to continue their reach for greatness." Luke credited his teachers and counselors for providing the necessary supports to get him past difficult obstacles that impeded his learning, and noted that, "Their examples provided me with the drive to later become the successful public educator that I am today."

We are honored to welcome Luke Wilcox 'home' to Northville for our All District Staff Opening Day Ceremony in August, where he will serve as our key note speaker, welcoming our teachers and staff back to school!

We continue to reflect on all that we at Northville Public Schools have to be grateful for, including our innovative and compassionate teachers and staff who open the world of possibilities for our students; our incredible school families and community members who value the education of our young people in both their words and their actions; and, most importantly, our more than 7,400 students who come to school every day ready to learn and be an active part of our learning community. Their voices are an integral part of the learning process, and to our ongoing growth and success as a community.

As I've said before, we are called to reflect on, and improve our practice of educating children, to give one another feedback, to work collaboratively and to deepen our efforts to unleash each and every child's potential. We continually seek to apply best practice instruction and to empower students to be active participants in their learning. There is no greater work than impacting the lives of our students in powerful and meaningful ways, and we are committed to creating the best possible learning environment in our classrooms, in our schools, and in all that we do as we seek to advance our *Tradition of Excellence* and truly open *A World of Opportunities* for and with each of our students. We are grateful for our partnership with parents, families and the Northville community in this effort.

For those families enrolled in our summer programs – whether through our Summer Connections program, the Cooke Summer Program, or Summer Kids' Club – we look forward to seeing your children engaged in meaningful learning over the course of the summer. We wish each of our students, families and staff the gift of time spent with family and friends, and for all who have suffered hardship or loss, the gift of love, support and healing.

Sincerely,

 Mary K. Gallagher
 Superintendent

