



*The*

# Norsemen Pride

August 2022 | Issue 30

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## Hello North Muskegon!

My name is Jonathan Allen and I am absolutely delighted, incredibly excited, and totally geeked to introduce myself as the new Principal of North Muskegon Elementary School!

Personally, you may know me from my time coaching wrestling, coaching youth soccer, or you might instead recognize my four-legged partner, Maisy the Norse Therapy Dog. I also have three children attending North Muskegon: Brennen (9th grade), Audra, (7th grade) and Leland (2nd grade) that I have the pleasure of seeing at school and at home! My wife Tracy and I live in North Muskegon and are so appreciative to be part of this community.

As far as my professional background goes, I have worked in public education since 2003 when I graduated from Grand



Valley State University. After ten years of teaching in other districts, I found my home at North Muskegon as a middle & high school math/science teacher in 2013. Since then I have earned both my master's degree in educational professional development and my administrative certification. In 2018 I became the School Improvement Specialist, which is an administrative position focused on supporting all staff in a variety of ways district-wide.

I am bursting with anticipation to have an amazing year with our students! I'm thankful that I can work with them in a new capacity as

the building leader at the elementary school. Joining me is an amazing team of staff members that will help give our kids the very best opportunities to learn and grow together.

Thank you all for your welcome and for all your support as I embrace this new opportunity. Go Norse!

Yours,  
Jonathan Allen  
North Muskegon Elementary Principal



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# A Message From Our Superintendent!



## Welcome to the 2022/23 School Year!

Hello Norse Nation! Welcome to the start of the 2022/23 school year! I am hopeful you had a wonderful summer with much time enjoyed with friends and family!

I am very excited for what I am confident is going to be another amazing year at NMPS!

As with most school years, you will see some changes in our staffing. We will be introducing our new staff (and staff in new positions) at our beginning of the year events and in our communication pieces, so keep an eye out! These new teachers and other staffing changes, along with our existing staff, parents and greater school community are going to make this an amazing year for our students. I am so proud of the incredible collaboration we continue to embrace here at NM!

So, get ready, because here we go...another year of high academic expectations, wonderful performances, fun athletic events, an incredible sense of school community and so much more. I am truly honored and feel privileged to be our district superintendent. Please do not ever hesitate to contact me regarding any questions, concerns and/or celebrations you may have. Together we will make this a wonderful 2022/23 school year.

Sincerely,  
Curt Babcock  
Superintendent

*"We are an Educational Community that gives our BEST  
and expects the BEST."*

**Go Norse!**

# 2nd Grade Adventures in West Michigan!

By Mrs. Ronda Pek

Second graders enjoyed a culminating educational trip to Downtown Muskegon. During their trip they visited the Hackley and Hume Homes, the Scolnik House (learning about the depression era), the Fire Barn, Muskegon Museum of History and Science, and the Muskegon Heritage Museum with a presentation about pioneering. They enjoyed lunch in Hackley Park with several parents joining us. Then, during the last week of school, the second grade students participated in our traditional class trip to Dutch Village in Holland, Michigan!



# 5th Grade's Camp Read-a-Lot



Our NME 5th Graders spent a day relaxing comfortably in the Elementary Library with lots and lots of good books!

Special thanks to Mr. Ken Byard for joining us as a guest reader!



## Law Day Winners!

This year, Mr. Reeths' fifth grade class worked on creating artwork that would be entered into a contest for Law Day, sponsored by the Muskegon County Bar Association. The topic was, "What is your favorite Amendment to the Constitution?" We had two winners, Charlotte Peterson and Miles Plantz! The awards were presented to them on Friday, April 29, at the Muskegon County Bar Association luncheon. Charlotte and Miles were attended by their art teacher, Ms. Christine Livingston. Congratulations to our Law Day winners on your creative and informative work!

# Where are the students? ...Gone Boarding!

Written By: Mia Valderrama-Garcia, Grade: 11th



With the hopes of creating innovators and engaging students, Gone Boarding class brings new ways to learn math, science, art, and engineering. Michael Schanhals, Tony Jarvis, and Chip Vanderwier brought this class to North Muskegon with those ideals in mind. They wanted to bring a new way for students to learn and grow beyond the ordinary. Students research, design, build, and eventually ride longboards and throwback snowboards. The students of the class come from different skill set backgrounds. Some are very well versed in how to use power tools, while others are novices. In this class, students build the deck of their longboard from scratch, make their own design, and apply their trucks and wheels.

I have never used power tools so learning how to was a bit of an adjustment. My teachers were always there to help and encourage me when I got frustrated with certain parts of the process. They gave suggestions on ways to make the process easier, and how to make sure you made the best board possible. This class taught me new skills and made me more confident about my ability to build things. I learned skills that I can use in my life outside of class. Additionally, my fellow classmates are also always ready to give a helping hand and give advice on how to better do things.

It's not just me who got a lot out of this class, so did my fellow classmates. This class helped them with their artistic expression and gave them opportunities to express themselves. Several students shared their thoughts on the class with me. Jude Meldrum-Roy said, "I think this class was a lot of fun and I hope to be able to do it again next year." Lily Atkinson-Miller shared, "I think it's a really good way to have multiple



creative outlets and it opens up new opportunities for people. I am really grateful for this class." Bella Picard affirmed, "I think this class is a fun way to come together and learn from each other. It was a great experience to be able to create something I can use in the future."

This class encourages students and teachers alike to go outside of their comfort zone to learn new skills. We get to learn skills we can use outside of the classroom in a fun and hands-on way. We are able to express our creativity in a way that is both beneficial to us and fun. I am grateful to have experienced this class, and highly recommend it for other students to try!

*(This class is made possible by monetary support from the Norse Education Foundation, RadDad's Tacos and Taqueria, and other donations. If you are interested in partnering with Gone Boarding Contact Mr Jarvis or Mr Byard)*



# Back to Nature with Discovery Kindergarten!



Mrs. Atchison's Discovery Kindergarten has been busy learning about nature and how they can help our Earth remain beautiful for years to come! The students visited Weesies Farms during a recent field trip. They also learned about and discussed Earth Day, then went for a walk along the front of our school building and picked up litter along the way. They filled a grocery bag with trash on their walk!





# So Much Fun at Sixth Grade Camp!



## FUN AT FIELD DAYS!

Thank you to the NM PTO, Mrs. B., our NM Staff, parents, high school student helpers, and Elementary students for making our 2022 Field Days a huge success!





NORSE  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

*The Norse Education Foundation has lots of good news to share. We are hoping this newsletter keeps you informed about the purpose of NEF as well as ongoing activities.*

## Grants Awarded Spring 2022

Congratulations to the six applicants that received grants in March. NEF offered \$250 mini grants. A total of \$1500 was granted to support the following learning projects in the Middle, High and Elementary buildings:



### Entrepreneur Business Project

- Heather Claussen - Applied Business class Entrepreneurship project. The goal was to build their own small business with another classmate.

The objective was to create a product or service to offer to the public. The students created a business plan and pitched their business to a group of adults from the business world. (Mini "Shark Tank").

### Beautification of Elementary

**Bathrooms-** Lindsey Bentley-Kittel - The Elementary bathroom stalls will be painted this summer and inspirational quotes will added.

### MS/HS Nonfiction Book Update -

Brett Howard - Nonfiction books were purchased to update the nonfiction book area.



**Unity Day - Unity Day Team** - NEF was able to provide sidewalk chalk and markers for all MS/HS students during Unity week to write messages around and inside the school.

### Wish For A

**Book** - Lori Vanderweele Was able to give out gift cards to many students, so all kids were

able to purchase books during the book fair. NEF also purchased bags for all the students to leave the bookfair with a Norse Education Foundation Sling bag.



**Safety First** - Debra Johnson & Phoebe Schroeder -Safety glasses were purchased to enable more testing and experiments.

We hope everyone had an awesome summer and you're ready to start a new school year!

## EVERY CHILD RECEIVED A NEF BAG WITH THEIR BOOK PURCHASE AT THE ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR

### NEF Mission

The mission of NEF is to enhance the educational experiences of our students by funding excellence in teaching and learning beyond what is provided through operating funds.

### NEF Board

If you have more questions, reach out to your fellow community members who serve as the NEF Board: Dorsey Sherman, Mary Moulton, Sheli Vanderlinde, Kerry Stewart, Carolyn Nedeau, Stephanie Dye, Kimberly Senkow and Kristie Hall. Advisory Member: Curt Babcock

Check out our Website:  
[nmps.net/nef](http://nmps.net/nef) NEF webpage



Like and Follow Norse Education Foundation on Facebook



## Our New Favorite Bench

Here are a few pictures of my students enjoying a new red bench that was donated by the NME PTO. The kids love to sit in this chair.

It is a nice addition to our Intensive Resource classroom and we are so fortunate to have the support of the PTO! - Mrs. Amanda Theisen, Special Education Teacher





# Best Wishes to our newest NM Retirees!

The North Muskegon School District, students, parents, and community members wish to express our appreciation to four of our staff who are retiring this year: Jim Bozell (Maintenance and Physical Facilities Management), Chuck Wahl (Math Teacher), Michell Liegeois (Food and Transportation Director), and John Slocum (History Teacher). Your contributions to our district have made a tremendous difference in the lives of our students, staff, parents, and community. We wish you the very best in your well-earned retirement! Congratulations!

## First Congregational Church

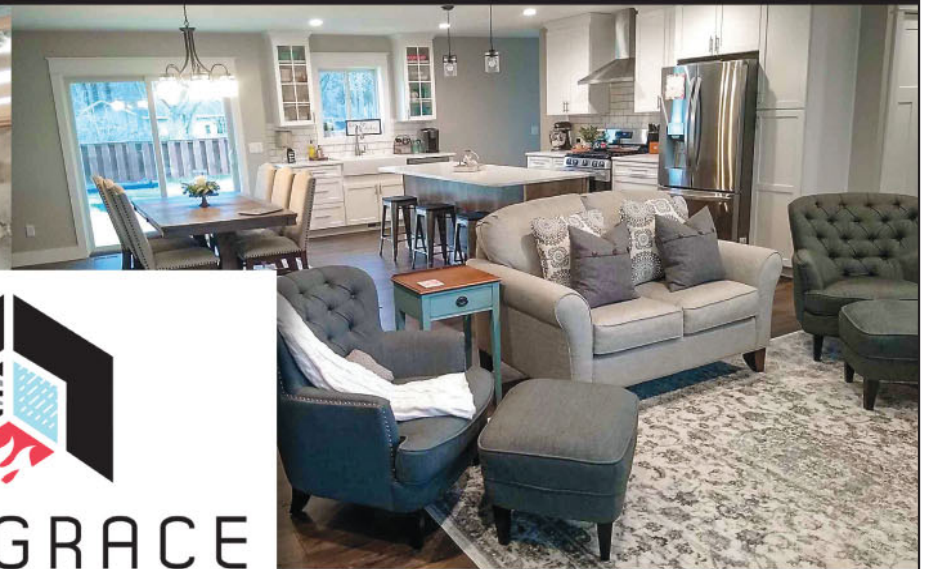


First Congregational Church Muskegon gratefully participated with a booth at the Muskegon Pride festival! Stay tuned to our website for information on upcoming LGBTQ+ forums and activities. Come see us in person or check us out online for services Sundays at 10:30AM. We embrace into our full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender

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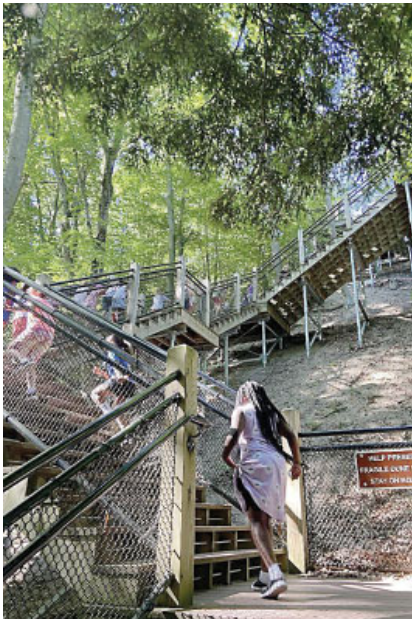
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# Norse Summer Programming 2022



Thanks to prudent use of Federal ESSER grants - money tagged specifically to offset the impacts of COVID on students - North Muskegon Elementary was again able to offer Summer Programming to its students! This year, any student that was in grades DK through 5th during the 2021-2022 school year was invited to join. In total, about 140 students are enrolled and have come to grow academically and socially - and have fun!

In addition to “regular class,” students also spend lots of time outside, go on field trips, and some students also receive additional support time with our math and reading interventionists. Field trips have been to places like the USS Silversides, the Muskegon Museum, and Hoffmaster State Park! We are very thankful for our staff and families so that we could offer this opportunity to our kids again this year!



# “Reading is Magical” at NM Elementary!



The North Muskegon PTO supported a “magical” reading program to celebrate March is Reading Month at NM Elementary! Here are some standout statistics:

Students in DK, K and 1st grade read a total of 3795 books!

Students in 2nd - 5th grades read 84,830 minutes!

The Top 3 Readers in DK, K, and 1st grade:  
Ty Clarke  
Cy Aerts  
Bentley Gallegos

Top 3 readers in 2nd - 5th grades:  
Theodore Chumley-Jarvis  
Grayson Meldrum  
Lux Peterson



Top Readers in each class - these students received a \$10 Book Fair Gift Card

Johnson - Isaac Atchison  
Atchison - Ty Clarke  
Hogan/Bouwkamp - Averie Willea

McAree - Pierson Thompson  
Lamiman - Evelyn Sruba  
Vanderwall - Bentley Gallegos  
Lenkiewicz - Finn Nickle  
Charles - Sebastian Thompson  
Pek - Meredith McClain  
Schumacher - Tess Glamzi  
DeLong - Logan Clark  
Cutler - Reed Southworth  
Budzinskiy - Abri Anderson-Martin  
Bouman - Willem DeBoode  
Fortmeyer - Theo Chumley-Jarvis  
Zonnebelt - Carter Pleimling  
Bentley-Kittel - Lux Peterson  
Reeths - Alexa Dausman  
Winicki - Aubree Jensen



Students enjoyed a month-long celebration of READING, including magical prizes and incentives, extra reading time, and new books!

The PTO also raised an incredible \$22,292!! These funds are used for student events, classroom needs, teacher grants, and much more.



Top Class/Grade with the most reading minutes - these classes received a donut party:

DK: Mrs. Atchison  
K: Mrs. McAree  
1st: Mrs. Lenkiewicz  
2nd: Mrs. Charles  
3rd: Mrs. Budzinskiy  
4th: Mrs. Fortmeyer  
5th: Mrs. Bentley-Kittel

Class with the top fundraising - Mrs. Cutler with \$2,230! Mrs. Cutler’s class received a character book party, as well as \$100 to the Book Fair for the classroom library!

Class with the most minutes read - Mrs. Fortmeyer with 19,603!! Mrs. Fortmeyer’s class received a pizza party!



Thank you to the NM PTO for their support, and congratulations to our Elementary students!



# NM GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER'S STELLAR SEASON!



Our NM Girls Varsity Soccer team had an outstanding season! The team was ranked No. 4 in Division 4, and carried off the West Michigan Conference, district, and regional championships! They ended their season with a 16-4-1 record. They consistently displayed sportsmanship, athleticism, courage, and commitment to each other and the team. Congratulations to our skilled, hard-working, dedicated NM Girls Varsity Soccer team on their high achievements!

*Photos courtesy of Rhonda Kinahan Photography*



**The North Muskegon  
Athletics Calendar  
is available online at  
[www.nmps.net/athletics](http://www.nmps.net/athletics)**

Schedules are regularly updated to reflect necessary changes

# Super Summer Girls Basketball Camp!

Thanks to Ms. Sarah Knuth for organizing fun, instructional, enjoyable Summer Girls basketball camps for our NM students this summer! We appreciate the support of our many staff, parents, and helpers, who coached our young ladies and helped them develop new skills and interests.



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Jon Johnson

# ★ Students of the Month ★

## March Student of the Month



**Molly Stewart** is the daughter of Mike and Kerry Stewart. She is a captain on the Girls Varsity soccer team and has participated in volleyball, basketball, and soccer throughout High School. She is secretary of National Honor Society and a communications officer in Norse United. She is also involved in Environmental Club and Interact. Outside of school, Molly loves hanging out with her friends and family, going for drives around North Muskegon,

traveling, and sailing. In the fall, she plans on attending the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in computer science or mechanical engineering.

**Jasmine Duncan** is the daughter of James Duncan III and Tressa Liba. She is a member of the Environmental Club, Norse United Club, National Honor Society, and Volleyball. She is also a former team member of the basketball team and tennis team. Outside of school, Jasmine likes to travel, spend time with her family and friends, and make memories. In the fall, Jasmine plans to attend Claremont Mckenna College to pursue a degree in International Relations and minor in Latin Studies.

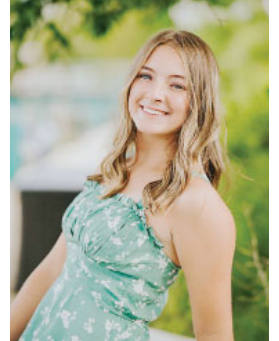


## April Student of the Month



**Katie Simonson** is the daughter of Thomas and Kharna Simonson and sister of Kylie Simonson. She is president of the High School Pride Club and a member of the National Honor Society. Katie enjoys volunteering at Noah Project Shelter. She is also a part of NM and a member of Muskegon Civic Theater. She also collects antique glass bottles. This fall she will be attending Michigan State University to study Anthropology.

**Natalie Lorenz** is the daughter of Bill and Laura Lorenz. She is a member of National Honor Society and Norse United. She was a captain of the Muskegon Mona Shores co-op swim team and also plays tennis and golf. Natalie enjoys going to the beach, shopping and spending time with family and friends. This fall, she will be attending Michigan State University majoring in Kinesiology in the hopes to one day become a physical therapist.



## May Student of the Month



**Brenna Staley** is the daughter of Rob and Emily Staley and older sister to Keira, Rowynn, and Emmet. She is a new student at North Muskegon this year. She is a member of Interact, National Honor Society, and Environmental club. Brenna is also a member of the girl's varsity tennis team. She enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends, eating good food, watching funny movies, and going for boat rides. This fall,

she will likely be attending Michigan State University with a major in creative advertising.

**Gabriella Wingard** is the daughter of Pamela and David Wingard and the older sister of Analea Wingard. She is the President of Interact and a member of National Honor Society, Environmental Club, and Harmonics. She has competed in Cross Country and Track for four years and was co-captain for both sports this year. During her freshman year, she was able to compete at States for Track and competed at States two years in a row for Cross Country, making All-State her junior year. Gabriella enjoys spending time with her family and friends, whether it is going to the beach or grabbing a coffee to work on homework. This fall she will be attending Loyola University Chicago with the intention of double majoring in Secondary Education and Mathematics.



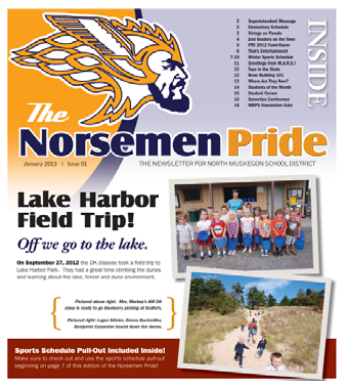
# Congratulations North Muskegon Class of 2022!

Brady James Lorenz Babcock  
 Noah Matthew Bamberg  
 Adam Jeremiah Batch\*+  
 Laura Katherine Batch\*+  
 Abigail Darby Bayne\*+  
 Trevor Chase Bell  
 Isaac David Bevans  
 Kelden Andrew Blastic\*\*\*+  
 Michael Richard Boertman  
 Jason Allen Bogue  
 Noa Isabelle Bowen\*\*+  
 Dylan Scott Boyd  
 Andrew Stephen Brown  
 Whitney Lee Byard\*\*+  
 Matthew Aidan Colbert  
 Josee Faith Cooke\*\*\*+  
 Iliza Rorie Crawford\*\*+  
 Nicholas Kenneth Dana\*+  
 Jasmine Rae Duncan\*\*+  
 Andrea Figueroa\*\*+  
 Jena Mae Francis\*\*\*+  
 Kelsey Nicole Fuller\*\*+

Gabriella Dianne Gaston\*\*\*+  
 Gavin McCoy Glomb\*#  
 Alex Gabriel Gomez  
 Karli Anne Gregg\*+  
 Gavin Steven Grimm\*+  
 Trystan Bella Schrebe Guerrero\*\*+  
 Brielle Janae Hall\*\*+  
 Onna Phane Heikkila\*\*\*+  
 Benjamin Clifford Hendrickson\*  
 Carra Cerrise-Renee' Hilliard\*+  
 Loren Makenzie Hoffman  
 Megan Elaine Houseman\*\*\*+  
 Jack Philip Injerd\*  
 Alexis Grace Jandt\*  
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 Emily Brynn Judd\*\*\*+  
 Quinn Howard Kersman\*+  
 Hunter Douglas Koekkoek\*\*+  
 Ethan Robert Koman\*\*+  
 Alexandra Laura Lindsay\*\*+  
 Keira Shae Lindstrom\*+  
 Natalie Jeanette Lorenz\*\*\*+

Nolan Isaac Mallory\*+  
 Adrian Marie Martinez\*\*\*+  
 Olivia Fallon Moulton\*\*\*  
 Maverick Vaughn Mylenek\*+  
 Samuel Phillips Nedeau\*\*+  
 Tyler Aaron Newville  
 Lethaniel Louis Nickoloff\*\*\*+  
 Jackson Shannon Oliphant  
 Serenity Rae Pastor  
 Ryan Thomas Peoples\*\*+  
 Lauren Marie Peterson\*\*\*+  
 Elizabeth Jane Piper\*+  
 Juan Camilo Quintero Cano  
 Devereaux Vaughn Richards  
 Chase Alexander Robinson  
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 Cole August Rust  
 Dylan Scott Schultz  
 Joshua Darrell Lawrence Shafer  
 Katie Ana Simonson\*\*\*+  
 Samantha Lee Slayton\*#  
 Helena Marie Soelberg\*+

Nathan Michael Sroka  
 Luke Patrick St. Germain  
 Brenna Pauline Staley\*\*\*+  
 Molly Louise Stewart\*\*\*+  
 Tyler Jay Tjapkes  
 A'mya LaChe' Latrice Todd  
 Ginger May VanAntwerp  
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**Mission Statement: committed to equipping students with the tools they need for academic, personal and social achievement.**

**MRS. AMANDA CHARLES -  
A "COOL TEACHER!"**

Mrs. Amanda Charles was nominated for a WGVU Cool Teacher award by one of her students, Roman Budzinskiy, this year. Roman said he nominated Mrs. Charles because "she makes learning fun and exciting, and never lets us down." Mrs. Charles said that she loves teaching because she believes education is so powerful, and that she loves to empower students so that they can achieve their goals. Mrs. Charles and her class were filmed and featured on television and YouTube, and enjoyed a pizza party afterwards! You can view this video on YouTube using this web address:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WojiDFzOYM>

***Congratulations Mrs. Charles!***

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