



*The*

# Norsemen Pride

May 2023 | Issue 32

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## NM Girls Varsity Cheer 2022-2023

The girls' Varsity competitive cheer team had their banquet recently. Our girls were named the Division 4 Academic All-State Team, with an average GPA of 3.82.

The two foreign exchange students on the team made a tearful speech, talking about how much they loved being on the team and have made such great friends. One said she recently had a 2-hour conversation with her parents, trying to figure out how she could stay in North Muskegon longer!



I'm so proud of these girls for representing our school so well academically, athletically, and personally. It makes me glad that our two bonus cheerleaders will go back to Europe and have such wonderful stories to tell about their time in our corner of the world. Go Norse!

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**GO NORSEMEN!**

# A Message From Our Superintendent!



## Greetings Norsemen Education Family!

Wow - what a winter - crazy weather, for sure! As much as my family and I enjoy the winter season, it is wonderful to be experiencing the warmer days. I hope you and your family had a great winter

and are enjoying our start to spring.

The end of the school year is such an exciting and busy time. Please be sure to take in some of our students' performances, athletic events and other activities. We are very fortunate to have so many incredibly talented young people in our community – it is a joy to watch them excel in their areas of interest. Several of those talented students will be moving to the next chapter in their lives very soon – congratulations to the Class of 2023!

The Norsemen pride is alive and well as depicted in the pages of this newest edition!

***It is also represented in this video:***

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWHH4b6Kjvk>**

If you haven't had a chance to watch and share it with your friends and family, please take the time to do so - you will be glad you did! Now, get ready to enjoy your spring edition of the Norsemen Pride!

As always, please contact me if you have ideas on how we may continue to make this an effective communication piece for our community. I hope to see you soon! It is a GREAT day to be Norsemen! It is always a GREAT day to be Norsemen!

Enjoy!

Curt Babcock, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



# DK Students Explore a Coral Reef!



Our DK students went “Under the Sea” and created their own Coral Reef! Our 5th grade reading buddies joined us for a Coral Reef Party, complete with goldfish crackers, Swedish fish and blue juice. The 5th graders read each of the DK students Coral Reef books and completed a Coral Reef scavenger hunt.



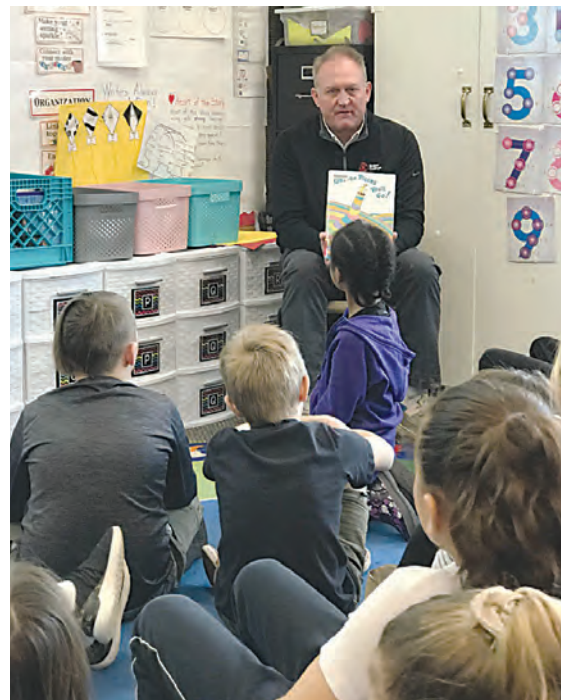


MI State Representative (87th House District)  
Will Snyder shared a favorite story with us!

# Special Storytime in Second Grade!



NM Police Chief Ed Viverette  
joined Mrs. Schumacher's class!



We loved reading books with Dr. Babcock and Mr. Allen!



## Jeffery L. Williamson Skilled Trades Education Fund

Supporting the skilled trades programs at the Muskegon Career Tech Center

*Skilled Trades Tuition Scholarships to Muskegon Community College  
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For more information on the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, visit [muskegonfoundation.org](http://muskegonfoundation.org)



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*Together We Can Strengthen Our Community*





The Third Grade presented their "Elfis" live holiday musical!

# Happy Holidays from NM Elementary!

Our Holiday season was full of festivities! Selected 5th grade students participated in a readers theater performance of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Students were chosen by their classroom teachers, practiced at lunch times, and performed for office staff and DK students. The Grinch even made an appearance just before Holiday break!



Ms. Cutler's class snuggled with a stuffed "buddy" in their comfy pajamas!



Mrs. Charles' second grade students warmed up with PJs and hot chocolate!

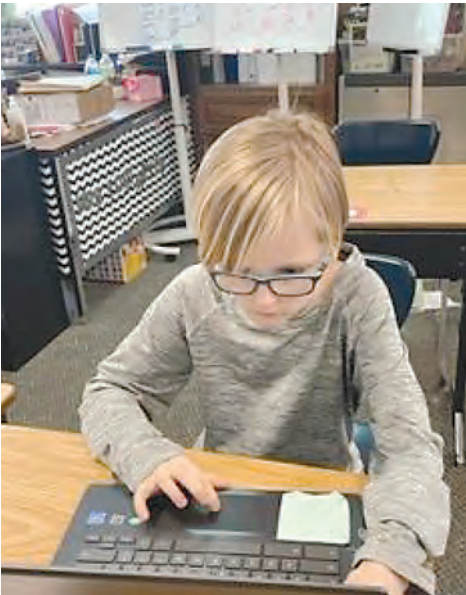


5th grade students enjoy the reader's theater.



# 4th Graders Place 2nd in Statewide Math Competition!

The students in Mrs. Fortmeyer's 4th grade class entered a Michigan Math competition through SumDog.com, which is an online math site that offers statewide and nationwide competitions throughout the year. This statewide competition ran from Friday, March 10 through Thursday, March 17. On the day before the contest ended, North Muskegon moved from 6th place to 2nd place, competing against over 1,000 students from other schools in Michigan, grades K - 8th grade. On March 14, our 4th graders won the high score of the day!



As the deadline approached, our NM students began frantically answering math questions to move up on the leaderboard, but then so did every other school. The competition was fierce, but NM kept inching forward question by question. Our final score was 625, for a strong 2nd place finish! Students reviewed grade level concepts in all five math domains covered in our 4th grade Michigan curriculum and learned that math IS fun!

The overall winners were the classes that scored highest through the contest. The top three classes were:

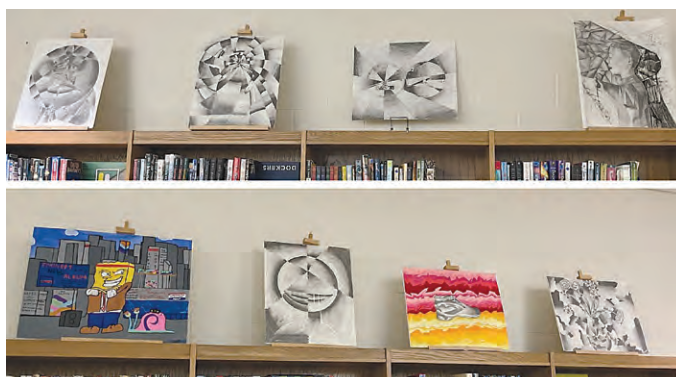
Position	Class	School	Score
1st	Mikka 2022-23	Mattawan Early Elementary	722
2nd	Fortmeyer 2022-23	North Muskegon Elementary	625
3rd	Fetner 2022-23	Hartland Round Elementary School	404



# Art Show for Youth Art Month Showcases Student Talent

By Brett Howard

This March we marked Youth Art Month with our annual student art show in the MS/HS Library. Students from Chip Vanderwier's art classes had their work displayed for the school community. Our talented artists had displays including a Product Design Project to develop a new product to make their lives or the lives of others better. Students made a mockup of the item, and designed a brochure to deliver information about the product. The other project was called Shattered Images. Students used a full range of drawing pencils to achieve different values, create a contour line drawing, and add lines to create a shattered effect. Independent student projects were also displayed. NM student artists are amazing!



## NORSE LEARN ABOUT THE NEWS!

In January we started something new in Mrs. Theisen's class! We are now using a curriculum called News 2 You. This curriculum is very engaging. Students are able to connect with the world by reading current events in the newspaper. This program includes many activities that target different academic areas. The current events change weekly and this program also includes a weekly recipe, science experiment, and/or crafts.

So far our topics have included The Super Bowl, The World's Biggest Aquarium, The Gilder Center, The Ocean Clean-Up and March Madness. We have made goal posts, paper plate aquariums, butterflies, ocean slime and many other snacks.

Above are some pictures of our learning fun!



## NORSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

### 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.

### IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you wish to donate your RMD to charity, you may be able to take advantage of the Qualified Charitable Distribution provision available to Traditional and Roth IRA owners (or beneficiaries after the death of the owners) who are age 72 or older. If eligible, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution of up to \$100,000 in the aggregate per year directly from your IRAs to an eligible organization without incurring any adverse federal income tax consequences. The distribution counts for the purposes of the RMD from IRAs, but is not included in calculating the individual taxpayer's limitation on charitable deductions in the year the donation was made. Your Wealth Advisor can provide more information.

### 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

*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.*

## NEF Grants Awarded Spring 2023

Congratulations to the 13 applicants that received Norse Education Foundation grants in March! NEF offered \$500 mini grants. A total of \$5000 was granted to support the following Enhancing Education learning projects in the Elementary, Middle, and High school buildings.

Lori Vanderweele - Wish for a Book, Amanda Theisen - News 2 You, Stephanie Cutler - Bringing History to Life, Julie Johnson - DK Classroom puzzles, Terri Fortmeyer - Beginning Bolt Robotics, Theresa Seaberg - Elementary Social Emotional Library, Angela Lamiman, Charlie Vanderwall & Elizabeth Lenkiewicz - Mentor Texts for Reading, Writing and Science Instruction, Heidi Houseman - Cooking class & kitchen safety for middle school students with cognitive impairments, Kristen Carlson - Robotic Sensors, Danielle Risley - #Beheretomorrow, Al Karaba - AP Exam Review Packets, Chip VanderWier - Project Runway and Lisa Cobb - HeartMath emWave

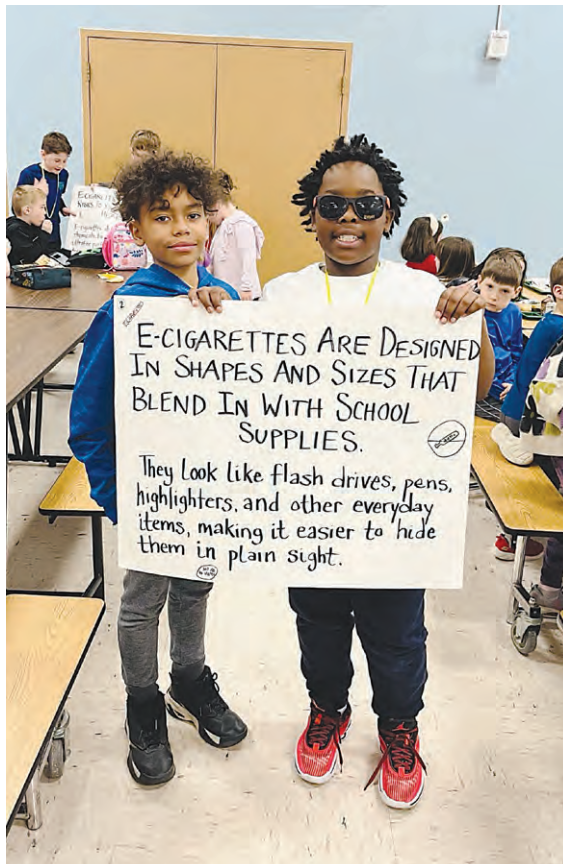
**Check out our Website:**

**NMPS.NET/NEF**



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Foundation on Facebook**





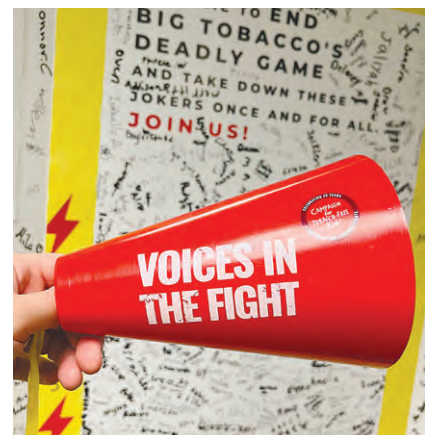
# NM Students “Take Down Tobacco!”

One of our 5th grade parents, Aimee Taylor, serves as a Tobacco Reduction Case Manager at Trinity Health in Muskegon. Ms. Taylor reached out to Ms. Stephanie Marietti, one of our 5th grade teaching team, to coordinate a “Take Down Tobacco” education day for our NM students grades DK-12. Ms. Marietti’s students acted as Student Leaders,

and received education and training from Trinity Health staff prior to our event on Wednesday, March 29. They helped to educate their peers, participated in setting up the displays, and acted as assistants to the Trinity Health staff during the event. Using visual displays, small group instruction, and interactive games, the team shared age-appropriate



information about the impact of tobacco use, the ways that tobacco is marketed to young people, and how every person can be a compassionate advocate for avoiding tobacco and encouraging good health. We appreciate the Trinity Health staff and our 5th grade Norsemen for their leadership in creating a healthier community!



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# Choral MS/HS Solo & Ensemble

Every student who finds themselves in Choir is challenged not only to read and translate music into sound, they are also challenged with interpreting that music and making it their own. Twice a year, MSVMA holds a Solo and Ensemble event where students go before a judge and perform two contrasting pieces not only to display their skill but also to challenge themselves to better themselves as musicians. On February 11th, North Muskegon had 35 middle school and high school students take on this challenge.

Many of the performances received the highest rating possible, with a couple of performances receiving perfect scores.

Some of our students have qualified and chosen to perform at state Solo and Ensemble.



# NORTH MUSKEGON MILITARY WALL

The American veteran is special. From the bitter temperatures of Valley Forge, Chosin reservoir, and the Bulge, to the tragedies at River Raisin, Wounded Knee, and Malmedy - the United States soldier, sailor, marine and airmen has persevered. In the most difficult time in our history, the Veteran has stepped up to the call of our country to execute the foreign policy of our nation. The unwavering commitment and selflessness to the United States Constitution and to our nation should be recognized and honored for those who have served our country, especially the ones who gave their lives. The Military Wall at North Muskegon High School was created to recognize all veterans from North Muskegon High School, to honor the men and women who served our country and made the ultimate sacrifice, and continue this project for future generations.

The creation of the Military Wall was inspired by the students of North Muskegon High School. With the help of the social studies department and Richard Mullally (Class of 1963), students researched records from a variety of sources to create a master list of alumni who have honorably served in the military. Although the list of veterans at North Muskegon High school is far from complete, the research continues. One of the events that helped to launch this student driven project was our awards ceremony on November 11th, 2019. During this ceremony, in collaboration with our local Veterans of Foreign War Don Rea Post #8846, our school body respectfully listened to numerous engaging speakers. One of those speakers was retired Rear Admiral John Hutson.

John Hutson graduated from North Muskegon High School in 1965. Mr. Hutson spoke to the student body about his time at North Muskegon and the wonderful memories made here as a student. He spoke of one particular classmate, John Laning. Mr. Laning

was a friend and classmate of Mr. Hutson, who gave his life in Vietnam in 1967. Mr. Laning was a Navy corpsman attached to Company D, First Battalion, Fourth Marines. In the Con Thien region of Vietnam, the numerically superior North Vietnamese Army had begun to overrun the perimeter. Without hesitation, Mr. Laning jumped to the medical aid of wounded Marines. While saving the lives of several Marines, he was cut down by enemy fire. He was posthumously awarded the silver star. John Laning's personal sacrifice is the embodiment of pure patriotism. Unfortunately, Mr. Laning is not the only student from North Muskegon to lose their young life in the service of our country. Our military board across from the high school office is dedicated to such sacrifice.

This student driven project is far from complete. We will continue the research and connect with the



community to complete our military wall. We would welcome the following support:

- Financial support - currently we have just over \$200 in our account. Each plaque we add to the board costs \$10 each. Throughout the school year, we try to run short fundraisers to pay for plaques and expansion of our project. Any contribution will help!
- Contribute through eFunds: (see school website: <https://www.nmps.net/>)
- Contribute cash or check to Kristie Hall (Superintendent Secretary): [khall@nmps.net](mailto:khall@nmps.net), or
- Contact Phil Friesner (Teacher): [pfriesner@nmps.net](mailto:pfriesner@nmps.net)
- NM Veteran Information
- We are looking for information in regards to former alumni of North Muskegon High School who have served in the military.
- This would include pictures, DD 214's, rank, unit, etc.
- Please submit to Phil Friesner: [pfriesner@nmps.net](mailto:pfriesner@nmps.net)

According to the United Census Bureau, less than 7% of our total population have served in our great military. These men and women have chosen to

be deployed all across the globe, given up holidays with families, and missed important events in their individual lives. With the help of our students here at North Muskegon High School, we will continue to develop our Military Wall, remember and share inspiring stories from veterans, and connect with our community for financial support and information. Freedom is not free. Please thank a veteran for their service.





# NM Varsity Wrestling Returns!

By Jonathan Allen

The 2022-2023 winter sports season marked the return of Varsity Wrestling to North Muskegon High School, after a lapse of approximately 45 years. While North Muskegon has had a middle school team the last four years and some small co-op high school programs shared with Holton and Muskegon Catholic Schools, the Norse began to host their own independent, completely in-district program this past season! The squad of approximately 15 male and female athletes quickly made a name for themselves by outworking opponents and growing more competitive every single week.

Season highlights included the sole home meet where the Norse dominated both Holton (54-11) and Oakridge (51-22) for their fans, the Grand Haven Big Buc Tournament where nine wrestlers earned medals, and the razor-thin loss to District Champion Ravenna (37-39) in the postseason.



The home meet was actually spotlighted on a local sports network Catchmark, seen here:



Head Coach Jonathan Allen, also the Elementary Principal, could not be prouder of his team. "It's impossible to know exactly what to expect when you start a new program - especially one as

unique and challenging as wrestling. The kids on my team and my assistant coaches exceeded my highest hopes. These kids know how to work! They already show a level of poise and aggression that usually takes wrestlers years to grow. With the foundation they have put down our first season, what we build from here...the sky's the limit!"

The team is still looking for sponsors to help support the purchase of a second wrestling mat as well. If interested in donating, please email Coach Allen at [jallen@nmps.net](mailto:jallen@nmps.net).



**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



## SNOWCOMING STAFF VS. STUDENTS!



NM staff and students celebrated Snowcoming with a Powderpuff Volleyball game - Staff vs. Seniors! Congratulations to our "old school" staff members on their win, and our Seniors for their sportsmanship!



## Talent Show MS/HS

On Saturday, January 21st, nineteen North Muskegon students chose to share their talents with the North Muskegon community. The talent show included a wide variety of acts ranging from a comedy skit to a guitar solo, genres ranging from musical theater to rock. The performers challenged the judges by each putting their best performance out on the stage. At the end of the talent show, the judges choose a solo act and a group act to represent North Muskegon at the West Michigan Showcase in the performing arts category. The solo act representing North Muskegon is Ella Mallon performing a comedy skit with the use of impressions. The group chosen to perform included Lily Atkinson-Miller, Evan Atkinson-Miller, and Aidan Wehner playing the guitar, drums, and bass. These students gave excellent performances at Showcase, presented at the Frauenthal Center in downtown Muskegon. Congratulations to all of our talented students!



# Students of the Month



## November Student of the Month

**Lucy Fricke** is the daughter of Zach Fricke and Kristin Braun. She is an active member of Environmental Club, Norse United, and is Secretary of National Honor Society. She enjoys playing on the varsity softball team

and is a captain of the girls varsity basketball team. Outside of school, Lucy works at Hobo's Tavern and enjoys spending time with family and friends, listening to music, reading, working out, and being outdoors. After graduation, she plans on attending a university to study something in the math and science field.

**Grace Buchmiller** is the daughter of Jen and Shane Buchmiller. She is a member of National Honor Society and Executive Vice President of Student Council. Outside of school, Grace enjoys teaching a morning French class to second and third-graders, spending time with family and friends, working out, traveling, cooking, and playing card games. After graduation, she plans to attend Grand Valley State University to study Elementary Education.



## December Student of the Month

**Anna Toebe** is the daughter of Christian Toebe and Theresa Schiltz. She is on the tennis team, Executive Secretary of Student Council, and a member of National Honor Society and Norse United. In her free time,

Anna works at Muskegon Luge and volunteers through her church. She loves reading, traveling and studying, spending time with her friends and family, and working out. After graduation, Anna hopes to

attend a four-year college to study Pre-Law to become a business or estate lawyer.



**Jaley Schultz** is the daughter of Jennifer and Adam Schultz. She is a captain of the varsity volleyball and girls soccer teams, President of Interact Club, Class Treasurer, and an officer of NM's Norse United Club. Additionally, she is an active member of National Honor Society, Environmental Club, and West Michigan Osteoscholars. In her free time, she enjoys reading, babysitting, shopping, and spending time with friends and

family (specifically her best friend, Sam Johnson). After graduation, Jaley plans to attend a four year university and study biomedical sciences on the pre-med track.

## January Student of the Month

**Natalie Pannucci** is the daughter of Jennifer and Vincent Pannucci. She is on the soccer and volleyball teams, and is a member of National Honor Society, Norse United and Environmental Club. In her free time, Natalie works at Hobo's Tavern and plays travel volleyball. She enjoys traveling to warm places, skiing, hanging out with friends, working out, and going to the beach. After high school, Natalie plans on attending Hope College, in which she will continue her volleyball career and major in Pre-Med.



**Madeline Hibbard** is the daughter of Natalie and Charles Hibbard Jr. She is a member of the varsity girls soccer team, National Honor Society, choir, and Norse United. Outside of school, Madeline enjoys reading, hanging out with friends, exercising, and spending time with her animals. After high school,



Madeline plans to attend Muskegon Community College via the Muskegon Promise, earning her associates degree in science. She will continue her studies at Ferris State University in the Honors Program majoring in biochemistry with plans to pursue a career in radiation therapy.

## February Student of the Month

**Sam Gallo** is the son of Rod and Tina Gallo. He is a member of National Honor Society and Norse United. He is a three-sport athlete in football, baseball, and basketball and a member of the powerlifting team. He is an active member in the choir program and a three-year participant competing in Solo & Ensemble. In his free time he enjoys working out, golf, playing guitar, spending time with friends, watching movies, and playing with his dog Woody. After high school, he plans to attend Concordia University Ann Arbor to major in nursing and continue his football career.



**Georgia Skujins** is the daughter of Brenda and David Skujins. She is a member of National Honor Society, Environmental Club, Norse United, and Treasurer of the National Art Honor Society. Georgia also plays on the Girls Varsity Basketball team. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, cooking, hiking, and playing guitar. After graduation, Georgia plans to attend

Muskegon Community College for two years, then transfer to another University in order to complete her Bachelor's degree. She plans on pursuing a career in Environmental Science.

## March Student of the Month

**Ava Steketee** is the daughter of Julie and Rich Steketee. She is a member of the Environmental Club, Norse United, National Honor Society, and Girls Varsity Tennis. Outside of school Ava works at the Muskegon Country Club as a lifeguard. She also enjoys swimming, hanging out with her friends, and spending time with her family. After graduation, Ava plans to attend Michigan Technological University to major in biomedical engineering and minor in mathematical sciences. She hopes to use this education to become a stem cell engineer.



**Brandon Rypstra** is the son of Chuck and Chris Rypstra. He is a member of Environmental Club, Norse United, and National Honor Society. He plays football and basketball. He enjoys hanging out with friends and playing golf. He plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall to study Environmental Science.



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**Why I Love NM" Video Presentation**

Please take a moment to watch our new video, "Why I Love NM!" Many of our staff, students, alumni, and community members shared their thoughts as to how North Muskegon Schools has had a positive impact on their lives, their families, and our larger community. We encourage you to share this link with others!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWHH4b6Kjvk>

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