



The Norsemen Pride

August 2023 | Issue 33

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Muskegon County Law Day 2023

NM fourth graders participated in the art contest for Muskegon County's Law Day 2023. This year's theme was Civics, Civility, and Collaboration. Students created posters to express those values. Lily Miller took 4th place, Elsie Oliveira took 2nd place, and Eli Marschner took 1st place. The three students and their families were invited to celebrate on May 12th at the Lake House with a nice meal, a certificate, and a gift card. Mrs. Bouman was very proud of all of our students who participated and learned about becoming positive, productive citizens!



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GO NORSEMEN!

A Message From Our Superintendent!



Welcome Back Norsemen Family!

It is with great excitement that I welcome everyone back from what I hope has been a very relaxing and fun summer! The 2023/24 school year is just

about to begin – get ready for a wonderful school year at NMPS.

As tradition proves - our students, staff, parents and greater school community are going to make this an amazing year at NM. I am so proud of the incredible collaboration we have here at NM! Also, stay tuned for a community communication coming soon introducing our incredibly talented new staff members!

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 school's 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 2023/24 school year.

The tradition of excellence continues! It is a GREAT day to be NORSEMEN! It is always a GREAT day to be NORSEMEN!

With Pride,
Curt Babcock
Superintendent

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

Go Norse!

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POSITIVE VIBES - JUNE 2023



Our North Muskegon art and music students came together to share an evening of creativity, music, and community at the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year! Several groups and individuals performed music showcasing their vocal and instrumental skill. Students shared their artistic skill, displaying art pieces from various classes and age groups. Community members enjoyed a beautiful evening and delicious food while celebrating another great year at NM! Thanks to Mrs. Beth Slimko, Mrs. Angela Corbin, and Mr. Chip VanderWier, along with the support of the NM Fine Arts Boosters, school staff and administration, and many volunteers for this special event!



#BeHereTomorrow

When a group of middle school students gets an idea to support something they are passionate about, there is no stopping them. This school year a dedicated group of 6th - 8th grade students in Interact set their minds to getting a positive message of support to anyone thinking about suicide. Their goal was to get every middle school and high school student AND every staff member a simple yellow shirt with the message #BeHereTomorrow. The motto, belonging to and used with permission by suicide survivor Kevin Hines, keeps it simple by stating "Be here tomorrow... and every day after that."

The students then proceeded to reach out to our wonderful community to ask for sponsors and make a video to support suicide prevention. They were organized, consistent, and SUCCESSFUL in purchasing 850 shirts!



View the Video



5th Grade Musical 2023 - "Newsies!"

Our fifth grade students performed "Newsies" as their traditional musical this year. Their performance was energetic and exciting! Congratulations to the fifth grade class, their teachers and staff, and the parent volunteers who contributed to the musical's success.



North Muskegon's GONE BOARDING: A CLASS LIKE NO OTHER..

By Mr. Tony Jarvis

With their goals to engage, inspire, and empower students, Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Vander Wier have watched the fledgling Gone Boarding program take flight this year! All students lucky enough to participate in Gone Boarding built a longboard, then worked together in groups to research, design, and create either a throwback snowboard, standard snowboard, skimboard, or surfboard.

"Gone Boarding allowed me to solve unique problems in creative ways everyday."

Mim Wilkie-Jones

We are attempting to rebrand what coming to school is all about. "If you want to improve and change outcomes you need to design and think differently...I've been trying to do this my entire teaching career and I feel we are modeling this to our students, showing them to dream big," states Mr Jarvis. This class challenges the feeling many of our students have of just coming in, punching a time clock, and looking forward to what they will be doing after the school day. Gone Boarding gives NM students something they can be excited to come to school about!

"I look forward to Gone Boarding everyday - the time flies by! I enjoyed watching my project come to life, and having the opportunity to help others reach their goals is awesome too."

Evan Atkinson-Miller



The average day in Gone Boarding is far from average and never looks the same. Incredible engagement, productivity and excitement builds and eventually spills outside for students to test their custom creations.

"I felt very accomplished because I had no idea I could create something so awesome and then riding it was awesome!" Noah Peoples



Gone Boarding students with Vans legend, Steve Van Doren

**Please consider donating
as all our materials and shop costs
are raised by students.**



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Influencer: \$500- \$999 - *Joel and Kathie Jarvis
Champion:\$1000 - \$4999
Benefactor: >\$5000 - *Rad Dads Tacos and Tequila

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NM's New Quiz Bowl team!

Due to the expansion of the West Michigan Conference, we were invited to join the Quiz Bowl league in the new WMC. Each contest is exciting with a moderator asking questions of a panel of four players who have to buzz in with the correct answer. Points are awarded to correct answers and then an opportunity for three extension questions is offered.

Our varsity letter winners for QB1 (Team One) are:

Lucy Fricke	Tyler Lindell
Riley McEvoy	Jude Meldrum-Roy
Jaley Schultz	Parker Maciejewski
Lily Smith	Allie Friesner
Georgia Skujins	Emma Krichbaum
Jackson Wiles	Jack Erne
Jackson Fuller	Anna Toebe
Jack Casey	

Parker Maciejewski and Lily Smith were named to the All Conference team. The team was coached by Jenn Schultz and Mike Schanhals. We had a great time and look forward to building a tradition of quiz bowl excellence!



Lights... Camera... Action!

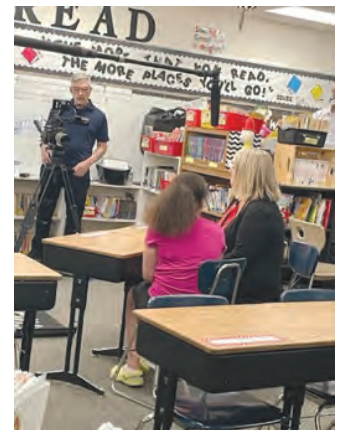
By Mrs. Terri Fortmeyer

On May 19th, the halls of NME were filled with cameras, mics, lights, and a professional film crew of 7. The Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) Math Essentials team chose to film Mrs. Bentley-Kittel's 5th grade and Mrs. Fortmeyer's 4th grade classrooms. Their goal was to capture students at work in order to provide video examples of the Math Essentials in action. They were specifically looking for



4th and 5th grade student-centered classrooms to film teachers using inquiry-based, open-ended questioning techniques during math instruction. With this type of questioning, students are cognitively engaged in math

tasks and are able to carry on a math talk amongst themselves while sharing their thinking and strategies in a thoughtful, respectful way.



The film crew spent the morning in 5th grade and the afternoon in 4th grade setting up cameras, lighting, and sound checks. The cameras and lights filled the classrooms and the boom mic picked up students participating in substantive conversations with each

other about the different strategies they used for problem solving. Afterwards, Mrs. Bentley-Kittel and Mrs. Fortmeyer were interviewed, along with several of their students, by Mrs. Carrie Carlson, a MAISD math coach

who has worked with many NME teachers and students in strengthening math practices in our elementary classrooms.



Energy was high, and the room was filled with excitement! One 4th grader said, "I was really nervous at first, but then it was just fun, and really, really hot!" The goal of this project is to develop a framework of evidence-based mathematics instructional practices to be used as support and training videos for teachers in Michigan. NME is honored to have been a part of this important work for Michigan educators.

Elementary Read-a-Thon March 2023

This year the elementary school's PTO chose the theme "Reading Is In-Tents!" for the Read-a-thon Fundraiser they hold in March during the National "March Is Reading Month" celebration!

There were MANY special events scattered throughout the month, including the door decorating contest that livened up our halls; giveaways for students from local businesses like Ruth Ann's Ice Cream and Earth's Edge; Mystery Readers who surprised students with their favorite books; a 4th grade presentation of their Poetry Cafe; and the 5th grade celebration, Camp Read-A-Lot. The decorations in the library got Mr. Allen all psyched up to Camp IN the library when our students were able to raise their \$15,000 goal!!!

The PTO loved combining such a special and important emphasis on reading for the month while also being able to raise money for our students and staff to use for many good things throughout the year.

Mrs. Bouman's 4th grade class raised the most for the fundraiser and received a S'mores Party!

Ms. Cutler's 3rd grade class were the top readers for the month and won a party at the outdoor classroom on Bear Lake!

These teachers also received free Scholastic books for their classroom!

And among the MANY fun camping themed prizes given to students for both their time spent reading and their



money raised, kids also earned gift certificates to spend at our school book fair that was held in April.

The PTO appreciates the generous donations and support given during our second and final fundraiser of the year! We are so excited to be able to continue providing fun and memorable events for the kids and be able to help and support our teachers and staff!



Our Top Reader Awards went to the following students:

DK - 1st grade winners:

1st place: Henry D.

2nd place: Ty C.

3rd place: Cy A.

2nd - 5th grade winners:

1st place: Elsie O.

2nd place: Isaiah M.

3rd place: Maya G.

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."

~Jacqueline Kennedy~



North Muskegon Fourth Grade Music Students Rock with the West Michigan Symphony!

By *Zabrina Santiago-Lindsay*

Beginning its 19th year of school partnerships, the West Michigan Symphony (WMS) joined with state-wide elementary schools for the “Orchestra ROCKS” program on May 9, 2023, back after a several-year pandemic hiatus. Our own fourth graders participated through their music specials class, learning to play the recorder, sing and move to orchestra pieces– and they sure ROCKED!

The West Michigan Symphony Link Up program (a nationally recognized curriculum by Carnegie Hall) brings music and melody to classroom students. Link Up draws on concert repertoire and culminates with students performing in person at the Frauenthal Theater, along with thousands of other students from across the state.

A unique feature of the Link Up program is



that a music mentor is assigned to participating schools. Kip Hickman, West Michigan Symphony Principal Trombone, came as a celebrated guest to our fourth-grade music classes on two occasions, providing pointers on playing the recorder, sharing his journey to becoming a professional musician and performing solo pieces. Students were thrilled when he

played familiar themes from Star Wars. At the concert, they clapped and cheered for their mentor on stage, when he and other mentors were recognized. He had become their trombone rock star!



To prepare for the concert, students practiced for months, learning “Simple Melody,” an orchestral piece commissioned for the Carnegie Hall Link-Up program. The WMS Children’s Choir, WMS Debut Strings and WMS Premier Strings also performed, in which many of our North Muskegon choir and orchestra students also took part. Students shared that some of their favorite parts of the experience were being able to sit up in

the balcony to see the full orchestra, the surprise performance of the Mona Shores High School Drum Ensemble and the grand finale ending with confetti shot high into the air!



The WMS Link Up concerts would not be possible without the support of sponsors and the commitment of the symphony leadership, especially Music Director Scott Speck and Director of Education, Karen Vander Zanden. In true Norse spirit, the fourth-grade students wrote handwritten thank you notes to show their appreciation.

Next year’s WMS Link Up Concert will be on May 14, 2024 with the theme “Orchestra Moves.”

NORTH MUSKEGON

Past, Present and Future Stewardship

About the Project:

The environmental science classes have taken this initiative to contribute to the environment and the community. The students made a start by renovating community and school gardens, including the Walker Library Sensory Garden and the Oak-Savannah (Karner blue butterfly) garden. Students added informational brochure boxes on poles. An informational sign was also put up near Walker Park that educates the community about the plants that are included in the pollinator garden.

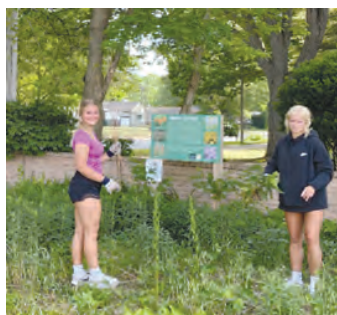
The students added steps to the Norse Nature Area Barrier-free Trail to increase the number of entrances to the outdoor classroom. They also planted dune grass in both the fall and spring to decrease erosion of the trail. The students met with the elementary principal and maintenance personnel about where to add a fence in order to keep younger students safe as they use a nearby playground.

The environmental science classes designed an informational sign that will be put up at the top of the trail. This sign was fully created by North Muskegon High School students to help inform people of the latest addition to the Norse Nature Area, the barrier-free trail, which allows access to everyone.

The sign includes some history of the property dating back to the 1930s, which students discovered in their research. It also has the list of community donors that have helped students meet their goal of increasing student and community experiences outdoors with the trail.

The students feel that it has been rewarding knowing that all their hard work has made an impact in the community and they hope that their work is maintained for years to come.

Teachers: Tony Jarvis and Deb Johnson.



“Students must have initiative; they shouldn’t be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves and be free.” - Cesar Chavez

The incorporation of nature and outdoor projects allowed students to innovate and create a sense of teamwork and community. Students learned the power of being stewards of their environment and creating opportunities for others to enjoy Muskegon’s natural beauty.

Community Partners:

Dr. Curt Babcock - School Superintendent
 Harry Wierenga - Architect
 Mark Disselkoen and Jake Kurtzhal - City of North Muskegon Public Works
 Philip Croff - Lead Librarian, NM Branch
 Jonathan Allen - Elementary Principal

Spring 2022: Students help with the material selection and design of barrier free trail, identify and remove invasive plants and maintain previous projects.

Thank you to our trail project sponsors!

JLA Family Fund
 North Muskegon Public Schools
 Downer Family
 Community Foundation Environmental Endowment Fund
 Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
 NMHA Environmental Club
 Timothy Thill
 Susan Burmeister in honor of Marianne Lucas



Why I Love NM!



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!



NORSE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

THANK YOU 2022 DONORS!

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Jessica Wiseman
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Spring 2023 Grant Highlights

DK Puzzles



DK Puzzles



#Be Here Tomorrow



Website:
NMP.S.NET/NEF

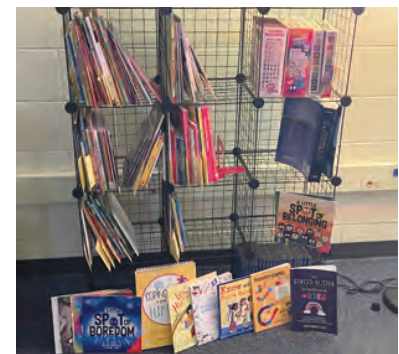


Like and Follow Norse Education
Foundation on Facebook

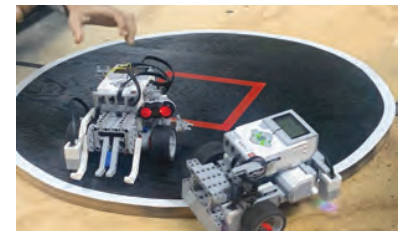
3rd Grade Sphero Bolt



MS Robotics Color Sensors



Social Emotional Library



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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

NORSE BEATS 2023

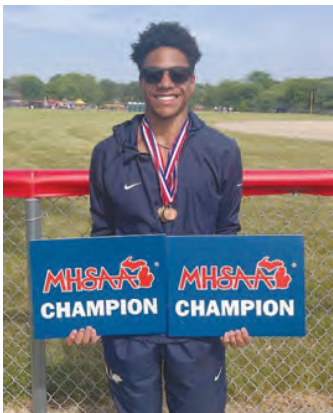
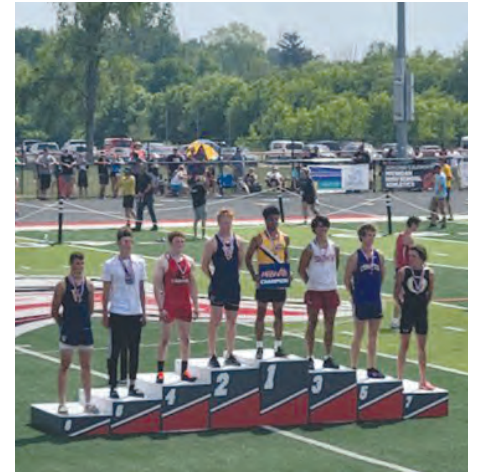
North Muskegon Choirs proudly presented “Norse Beats 2023” with over 20 uniquely costumed and professionally choreographed songs performed by over two hundred 6th-12th grade singers. “Music is life, and that’s why our hearts beat!”. Norse Choirs lit it up on stage April 20-21 at the beautiful Frauenthal Theater. A huge thank you to all our sponsors and those who donated and volunteered to help make these shows possible!!!



NM SIBLINGS - RUNNING TO WIN!



North Muskegon's track team scored many successes this season, and NM juniors Abbie and Jerry Wieggers had many personal wins to celebrate! Abbie broke the school record in the 400-meter dash with a 59.16-second time. Jerry also achieved a school record in the 400-meter dash, and then re-broke his own record with a 49.63-second time. Jerry and Abbie support each other on the track and in the classroom, and maintain their academic success in the middle of training and meets. They credit their team and coaches' support and help in motivating them to achieve at their highest level. Both students have so much excitement and pride in each others' accomplishments, and they help one another identify their strengths and weaknesses as they set goals for ongoing improvement. Congratulations to Abbie and Jerry - Go Norse!



The North Muskegon
Athletics Calendar
is available online at
www.nmps.net/athletics

Schedules are regularly updated to reflect necessary changes

Softball Success!



Congratulations to the North Muskegon 9U girls softball team on an undefeated season! They finished the season 14-0 outsourcing their opponents 94-12 to bring home the WMASA 9U League Championship. Go Norse!

North Muskegon Public High School



Class of 2023

84 students - 80 graduates
2 exchange students
2 Early College year 4 students
1 graduating junior at credit

Enrolled in College/ University Fall 2023	70 students	88% grad class
Attending 4-year institution	43 students	54% grad class
Attending 2-year institution	29 students	36% grad class
Attending In-State	66 students	94% college-bound
Attending Out-State	4 students	6% college-bound
Attending Public Institutions	55 students	79% college-bound
Attending Private Institutions	15 students	21% college-bound

Enrolled in Trade/Career/Technical School 3 students

Enlisting in the Armed Services 2 students

Entering the world of work 4 students

Gap Year/Missionary 1 student

Anticipated career pathways

Arts/AV Tech & Communications, Business Management & Administration, Education, Finance, Government & Public Administration, **Health Sciences**, Human Services, IT, Law/Public Safety, Marketing, **STEAM**, & Transportation

**Majority areas in bold*

Anticipated future careers

Aviation, Biochemistry, Biology, Health & Society, **BioMedical Engineering**, **BioMedical Science**, Biomolecular Science, Computer Engineering, Digital Marketing & E-Commerce, Elementary Education, **Engineering**, Finance, Fine Arts & Print Media, Forensic Psychology, Graphic Design, Maritime Science, Marketing, Nursing, Pharmaceutical Engineering, Political Science, Political Theory, Secondary Education, Social Work, Supply Chain Management.

**Predominant majors in bold*

The graduating class of 2023 has accrued over \$1.5 million dollars in merit and athletic-based scholarships.

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★ Students of the Month ★

April Student of the Month



Kyle Huff is the son of Steve and Michelle Huff. He is a member of National Honor Society and Norse United. He was a captain of the football team and the Reeths-Puffer co-op Lacrosse team. Kyle enjoys hunting, fishing, being outdoors, and spending time with family and friends. This fall, Kyle will be attending Muskegon Community College and studying General Education. He hopes to transfer to a four year university the following year.

Riley McEvoy is the daughter of Dawn and Keith McEvoy. She is the Executive President of Student Council, President of the Environmental Club, President of Choir Council, Treasurer of the Norse United Club, and a member of NHS. She is also a member of the golf and soccer teams. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, musical theater, and walking her dogs. After graduation, she plans to attend the University of Michigan while pursuing a major in political science on the pre-law track.



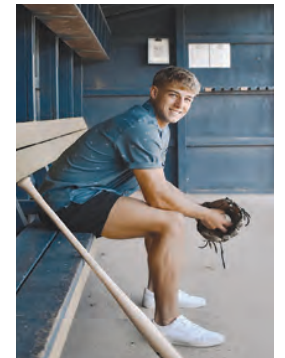
May Student of the Month



Allison Sanocki is the daughter of Dr. Steve Sanocki and Mrs. Jennifer Sanocki and the older sister of Jack and Kiley. She is a member of NM Choir, Varsity Girls Tennis, and National Honor Society. She enjoys watching baseball, playing tennis with friends, playing with her dog Cosmo, and spending time with family and friends. This fall, she will be attending Muskegon Community College for 2 years with the Muskegon Promise. She then

will transfer to a 4 year university and plans on earning a bachelor's degree in statistics and computer science to eventually use those skills to work as a baseball data analyst.

Denny Belmonte is the son of Michele and Michael Belmonte. He is a member of National Honor Society and Norse United. He is a three sport athlete in baseball, football, and basketball. He enjoys hanging out with friends, working out, helping the youth, playing with his two dogs, and boating. After high school, he plans on attending Hope College to study and major in Exercise Science and continue his athletic career playing football.




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Your advertising dollars help offset the cost of The Norsemen Pride. Your advertising allows North Muskegon to effectively reach the community with important information about our students and our schools.

Call Mark Williamson today at 231-766-3038, or email him at mark@orshaldproductions.com to reserve your ad in the next edition of The Norsemen Pride!

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Congratulations North Muskegon Class of 2023!

Kelsey Michelle Adamczak ***+	Jackson Connor-Allen Fuller	Parker Paul Maciejewski ***+	Kaitlin Renee Smith **+
Lillian Fay Atkinson-Miller *+	Garrett Grant Galdeen	Pierce Luke Marczak ***	Lillian June Smith ***+
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Dennis Trammell Belmonte **+	Madeline Elizabeth Hibbard **+	Lucas David Metz	Dana Lovell Taylor
Carolyn Elizabeth Bennett ***+	Grayson Thomas Hinton **	Carsen James Moat	Anna Rose Toebe ***+
Joslynne Marae Bogner *+	Benjamin Robert Hoffer ***+	Alicia Nicole Oviedo	Logan Scott Tyson *+
Tajah Marie Botbyl *	Kyle Andrew Huff **	Natalie Ann Pannucci ***+	Mia Ileana Valderrama-Garcia **+
Grace Lorene Buchmiller ***+	Samantha Kay Johnson *+	Luc Benjamin Peterson ***+	Francine Louise Vinson **+
Ava Renée Butzow ***+	Chase Leon Kiel *	Isabella Rose Picard	Eva Catherine Walsh ***
John Michael Caliendo *+	Sydney (Spencer) Kathryn Kreigh	Seth Martin Poulin	Jordan Mekhi Washington
August Grace Carefelle *+	***	William Anthony Ripple **+	Lainey Alexa Weatherbee
Lidia Ann Lee Carty ***	Emma Runa Krichbaum ^	Xavier Nicholas Roberts	George Robert West Jr.
Jack David Casey **+	Yaiza Llamas ^	Jasmine Doreda Rottman	Jackson Conrad Wiles ***
Noah Carl Cobb **+	Macy Lee Lasser	Dylan James Rudicil	Brandon James Winter *
Christopher William Corbett ***+	Gabriel Martin Lenius	Elijah James Rudicil	*** <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>
Jacob Anthony Cotner	Tyler Lawrence Lindell	Brandon Michael Rypstra ***+	(4.0 - 3.895GPA)
Isabel (Luka) Roselies Dadd	Alexia Jade Lopez	Allison Mary Sanocki **+	** <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>
John Bruce Davis	Cristian James Lopez	Jaley Sue Schultz ***+	(3.894 - 3.745GPA)
Jacarri Odis Craig Edwards	Alexandra Josephine Lowczyk ***+	Taya Breonna Scraver *	* <i>Cum Laude</i>
Jackson Ellery Erne ***+	Bradley Stuart Windsor Lowe *+	Georgia Jeannette Skujins **+	(3.744 - 3.495GPA)
Lucy Jayne Fricke***+	Tatum Renae Lynn	Benieceo Ramon Smith	+ <i>National Honor Society</i>
			# <i>Early College</i>
			^ <i>Exchange Students</i>



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In May, local author and NM parent, Heather Brewer, stopped by Mrs. Bahorski's 8th grade ELA class. Mrs. Brewer is not only a published author, she has also worked for a publishing company, so she was able to share multiple aspects of the writing and publishing process with NM students. We are so fortunate to have such talented parents and community members who are willing to share their expertise with our students!



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