

Connections



Volume XXVII No. 3

Summer 2009

Board of Education approves cost reductions amid dire outlook for state's economy

Michigan's faltering economy continues to present extraordinary challenges for Northville Public Schools' operating budget and the efforts of district leaders to protect — to the extent possible — the learning that takes place in the classroom.

Taking budget and enrollment factors into account, the school district will experience a shortfall of approximately \$1.1 million for the 2009-10 budget — more if there is a cut in per pupil funding when the state approves its budget in the fall.

The district's budget projection is based on the same number of employees, adjusted for retirees and estimated salary and benefit increases, and totals about \$2 million in increased expenses over the 2008-09 budget. These

increased expenses may be partially offset by an anticipated increase in enrollment of 25-50 students.

The Northville Board of Education and district officials have gone about the very difficult task over the past several months of making \$1.1 million in budget reductions for the 2009-10 school year.

"The dire economic situation in our state is causing heavy revenue shortfalls in the state budget including the School Aid Fund, which Michigan public schools rely on for 90 percent of their annual funding," said Northville Superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski. "This is putting extreme financial pressure on our school district, and school districts across the state, as

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ON THE JOB TRAINING

Business Internship program offers students real-life career experience

Northville High School junior Megan O'Malley has always thought she would like to pursue a career in health care. And after spending 45 hours last semester helping patients and families coming into the emergency room at Providence Park Hospital in Novi, Megan is even more sure about her career choice.

"I liked that every day was different and I learned something new every day," Megan said. "Right now I'm thinking about working in radiology, which is fascinating, or as a registered nurse because I really like interacting with people."

Megan is just one of more than 240 Northville High School students who had the opportunity this past school year to get real-world career experience — and earn high school credit — through the high school's Business Internship program. Open to high school juniors and seniors in the past, the internship program will be offered to only seniors next year.

"I want to go off to college with an idea of what I want to do in life and my Business Internship class has really helped," Megan said. "Everyone at Providence Park was so nice. They took the time to talk to me about their job, how they got into it, and the steps they had to go through to get there."

Megan enjoyed her time at Providence Park so much that she will continue to help out as a volunteer at the hospital this summer.

The Business Internship program places students with area businesses

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A Bright Future

During these challenging times, the Northville High School Class of 2009 offers hope for a brighter future as the 564 graduates received diplomas during the May 30 graduation ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth. Above, class speaker Stacy Sutter heads to the podium to deliver her address as class officers Josh Buoy (right) and Kelli Ford look on. See pages 6 and 7 for more graduation coverage.

Photo by Steve Fecht

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Are you leaving or joining Northville Public Schools for 2009-10?

Energy conservation initiative saves school district \$250,000 in its first year

Northville Public Schools has saved more than \$250,000 in one year by turning off lights, shutting down computers and regulating building temperatures among many other energy conservation steps.

In 2008, the school district hired the Dallas-based Energy Education, Inc., a private company that specializes in energy conservation by monitoring and analyzing energy use and changing habits. The company projects Northville could save as much as \$3.5 million over seven years and promises to refund the difference if the actual savings falls short of the goal.

“Amid a state-funding crisis and soaring energy costs, this type of significant cost savings means the district can keep critical resources in the classroom where student learning takes place,” said Northville Assistant Superintendent Dave Bolitho.

As part of the Energy Education program, the district hired Richard Welch as its part-time energy manager to monitor energy use across the district’s 11 school buildings and the Board of Education office, and train employees and other building users on energy-saving techniques. In turn, Welch receives extensive, ongoing training and support from Energy Education’s team of mechanical and electrical engineers.

Welch uses sophisticated computer software to monitor natural gas use in each building as well as to program heating and cooling systems and adjust building temperatures (lowering temperatures in the winter and increasing temperatures in the warmer months) when the buildings are not in use. The software also includes a master switch that enables Welch to override the program and keep temperatures at unoccupied levels in all the buildings in the case of snow days or other emergency closings.

“Managing the decades old heating and cooling systems that are in place in many of the district’s school buildings has been a huge challenge,” Welch said. “We continue to tweak the programs and look for ways to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs.”

To this end, Welch walks the halls and classrooms of each building either before or after school hours at least once every two weeks to listen for sounds (such as vents that are not closing), note hot and cool spots in the building, and look for computers and lights that have been left on. He works with district and building electricians, HVAC technicians and the custodial staff to make adjustments and repairs and alerts principals and staff about equipment and lights that are left on during unoccupied hours.

“The custodians in all the buildings have been amazing about making sure that lights, computers and office equipment is turned off as they go about cleaning in the evenings,” Welch said.

In addition, Welch has met with the staff at each school to educate them about how they can help conserve energy and reduce costs.

“The education component of the program is important because it impacts human behavior and that is how you create long-term change,” said Welch, who also works as a full-time paraprofessional for the district providing test support for the Northville High School Assisted Learning Department. “Every single person in the school district is a part of making this work.”

Once people understand that doing all the little things can add up to huge savings it makes a big difference in changing behaviors, Welch said. For example, the district, which has more than 7,000 computers, can save as much as \$12,000 a year if every computers gets turned off at the end of each day.

Other efforts underway as part of the district’s energy conservation initiative include:

- Using a team cleaning process that brings together custodians from across the district to clean unoccupied school buildings one at a time during the summer months so the other buildings can remain in shutdown mode until it’s their turn. This year, six of the district’s school buildings will be part of the team cleaning process.
- Switching from incandescent to fluorescent interior lighting, installing occupancy sensors and reducing the number of bulbs in lighting units in hallways and classrooms that are over lamped.
- Replacing the nearly 200 personally owned or outdated refrigerators (that can each cost \$75-\$80 a year to operate) located throughout the district’s school buildings with 42 full-size energy star refrigerators (at an annual cost of \$36 each to operate) strategically placed for easy access and use.
- Buying natural gas and electricity on the open market at reduced costs.
- Involving students in energy saving efforts by educating them about how they can help.

“This has been an incredible learning experience for me,” Welch said. “I was a bit skeptical at first that the program could have a big impact. I’m definitely a believer now.”



Connections is a publication of
Northville Public Schools.

We would like to hear your comments and suggestions.
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You also can find *Connections* on the district’s
website at
www.northville.k12.mi.us.

Budget *Continued from page 1*

we struggle to reduce costs in a budget that has already been trimmed to the bare-bones.”

Cost reductions instituted by the Board of Education in approving the \$66 million 2009-10 balanced budget on June 23 include:

- Eliminating permanent substitute teacher positions at Hillside and Meads Mill middle schools and Northville High School (NHS).
- Replacing retiring media specialist positions at Hillside and NHS with paraprofessionals and having the Meads Mill media specialist rotate between the three schools.
- Reducing office clerical staff at the middle schools, NHS, Cooke School and Central Office, and reducing building assistants at the elementary level, in many cases by not filling positions left vacant due to retirement or job change.
- Eliminating five elementary teaching positions, one middle school teaching position, one elementary social work position, in many cases by not filling positions left vacant due to retirement or job change.
- Eliminating the use of custodial substitutes and reducing overtime for maintenance staff on weekends and during evening athletic events.
- A voluntary pay freeze for all Central Office administrators for the 2009-10 school year.
- Reducing transportation costs by no longer permitting students who do not qualify for transportation service to “walk back” to a bus stop in order to ride the bus to school.

“The dire economic situation in our state is causing heavy revenue shortfalls in the state budget including the School Aid Fund, which Michigan public schools rely on for 90 percent of their annual funding,”

—Northville Superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski

This means that transportation service will be available only for elementary students who live one mile or more away from their elementary school of attendance and for middle and high school students who live 1.5 miles or more from their secondary school of attendance.

- Reducing transportation costs by limiting bus transportation for middle school away sporting competitions to one bus per event. This will impact no-cut sports at the middle school level including swimming and track and field.

- Reducing contracted services for athletic field maintenance.

- Reducing mailing costs and other office expenses across the district.

In addition to these cost reductions, the district continues to pursue other cost saving and revenue generating initiatives. Some of these efforts include an energy efficiency

program that saved the district \$250,000 in its first year (see related story on page 2); asking for support from school and community groups, such as the PTAs; and applying for federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Plan) money in areas where the district qualifies.

“Predictions are that an upswing in the state’s economy is still several years away, and even then, it is unclear to what extent the state will be able to fund public schools,” Dr. Rezmierski said. “For this reason, it is critical that we continue to look for creative and innovative ways to support and improve our outstanding educational programs.”

At best, the State of Michigan is expected to provide public school districts with the same foundation allowance in the upcoming 2009-10 school year as they received in 2008-09. However, there also has been talk in Lansing in recent weeks of a possible cut in the per pupil allowance for 2009-10.

And while the state may use some of the federal Stimulus Plan money it receives to help offset any cuts, this is merely a short-term solution, as Stimulus Plan money will only be available for two years.

Adding to the uncertainty in these tough economic times is the difference between the state-mandated June 30 deadline for public school districts to approve balanced budgets and the September 30 deadline for the state legislature to settle the state’s budget and decide on school funding levels.

“The budget and cost reductions approved by the Northville Board of Education on June 23 reflect the best information we have at this time about state funding levels and student enrollment,” Dr. Rezmierski said. “We will continue to monitor the situation throughout the summer and fall and make the necessary adjustments while maintaining our focus on supporting student learning and safety.”

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Study committee shares full-day kindergarten option findings

A detailed analysis of the feasibility and potential impact of offering a full-day kindergarten program was presented to the Northville Public Schools Board of Education in June.

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of Michigan school districts offering full-day kindergarten, as well as an increased focus by the state legislature. With this in mind, the Northville school board requested a study of the impact and value of offering a full-day kindergarten option as one of six district goals for 2008-09.

The district currently offers half-day only kindergarten at its six elementary schools, with the option for parents to enroll their children on a fee basis in Wondergarten, an additional half-day program specifically designed to complement the half-day kindergarten program.

As part of the six-month analysis, the Partial-Day/Full-Day Kindergarten Study Committee, comprised of educators, district officials and parents from across the district, reviewed research on the impact of full-day versus partial-day kindergarten programs on academic achievement; collected parent and other stakeholder input; and conducted a cost/benefit analysis. The committee also examined the strengths and challenges for the district of three kindergarten programming options — half-day only, full-day only, and a combination of full-day and half-day.

Key findings of the study include:

- Many factors play a role in student success in kindergarten — including academic and non-academic readiness, socioeconomic status, funding sources, and whether enrollment in full-day versus part-day is contingent on eligibility criterion — making it difficult to generalize about the impact of partial-day versus full-day kindergarten on student achievement. The committee cited data showing full-day kindergarten students outperform their half-day peers in literacy development during the kindergarten year. However, studies indicate that the effects quickly dissipate — either prior to first grade, during the first grade year, or completely disappear by third grade — depending on the research study. The review of research also cited a lack of sufficient research on the impact of full-day kindergarten programming in districts where most students demonstrate high levels of non-academic school readiness.
- There is likely significant interest in the availability of full-day kindergarten programming on the part of many parents. Each year, the district enrolls about 10-15 percent more first graders compared to the number of children attending kindergarten during the prior year. Eleven percent of the parents of first graders new to Northville Public Schools in 2008-09 indicated that their children

attended private kindergarten programs in Northville and 75 percent of the parents of new first graders indicated that their children attended full-day programs. In addition, about 40 percent of the district's kindergartners are enrolled in Wondergarten each year and it is likely that the vast majority of these families would elect a full-day program if offered.

- Additional costs related to classroom set-up, staffing and programming would be required to implement a full-day kindergarten program in the district. For example, if the district enrolled 13 percent more kindergartners as a result of offering full-day kindergarten, the estimated cost of implementation would be \$586,000, taking into account the additional revenue generated from enrolling more students as well as potential transportation savings resulting from the elimination of the noon hour transportation for the current half-day kindergarten program. This figure does not include the one-time start up costs of equipping additional kindergarten classrooms, or any additional transportation needs resulting

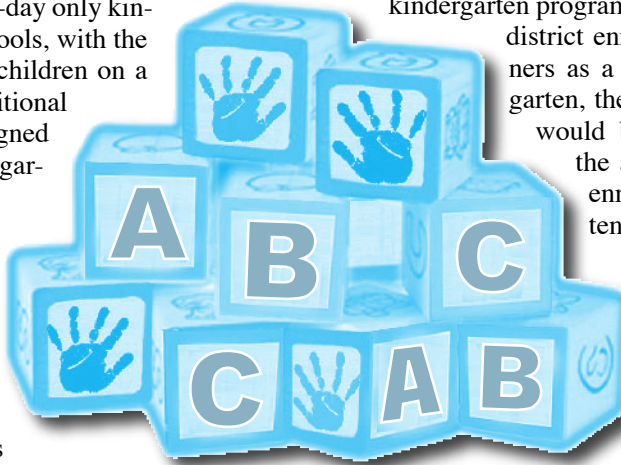
from the increase in students riding buses at the beginning and end of the day.

- Likewise, there would be a shortfall in the number of classrooms needed to accommodate full-day kindergarten as compared with the number of available classrooms in the district. If full-day kindergarten was implemented across the district, the committee noted further study of options such as a boundary change, the addition of portable classrooms, etc. would be necessary.

“There are benefits and challenges to each of the kindergarten programming options considered during the study,” said Northville Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Mary Kay Gallagher, who led the study committee. “As pointed out in the review of the research, the most pressing question we as a district must ask in evaluating the feasibility of implementing a full-day program is whether the long-term benefits warrant the reallocation of resources necessary for implementation.”

At present, school districts in Michigan receive a full per pupil allocation for students enrolled in kindergarten, as long as the instructional hours total at least 50 percent of the hours required for 1st-12th grade students. No additional funding is provided for the implementation of full-day kindergarten. School Aid legislation passed by the Michigan legislature in August, 2008 included language indicating that schools would need to increase the instructional hours in kindergarten to by 2010-11 in order to continue to receive full-funding for kindergarten from the state. However, current legislation under review indicates the provision requiring additional hours

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Cooke School Principal Marilyn Bachorik retires after more than 35 years of touching students' lives

After more than 35 years as an educator, Cooke School Principal Marilyn Bachorik can sum up what she loves about her job in one story.

When Bachorik started at Cooke, a special education center program that is part of Northville Public Schools, in 2000 she remembers meeting a first year student who was unable to talk. Now, nine years later as Bachorik prepares to retire — and the student prepares to leave the Cooke program — that same student is able to talk and communicate very effectively thanks to the team of teachers, staff and family members who have helped and encouraged him along the way.

“When I walk into his classroom now and he says, ‘hi Marilyn’ it touches me,” Bachorik said. “His speech is crystal clear and he talks in complete sentences. His desire to communicate is so strong.”

While Bachorik began her education career as a high school English and social studies teacher, and later a reading consultant, at Livonia’s Churchill and Stevenson high schools, she was soon drawn to special education. She worked at the Western Wayne Skill Center, which provides special education work experience, before joining Cooke.

Cooke is one of two special education center programs located in Northville — the other is Old Village School. Both programs are staffed by Northville Public Schools’ educators and funded through the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. Cooke serves about 150 students from 14 local school districts in Western Wayne County. The population includes students who are severely cognitively impaired, severely multiply impaired, and dual-diagnosed students who are both cognitively and emotionally impaired. Cooke students may attend school through age 25, when they transition to post-secondary programs and are connected with adult agencies for services.

As she looks back on her tenure at Cooke, Bachorik is proud of how the program has evolved over the past nine years to meet the needs of individual students, as well as the changing world. She attributes this success to the excep-

tional staff, students, parents, caregivers and community members that she affectionately calls the “Cooke family.”

“Together we have built a school community that inspires growth and values integrity,” Bachorik said. “We don’t focus on what our students can’t do, we look at what they can do, and we build on those strengths. Our staff and families are closely connected, and our students feel safe and at home here.”

For example, in recent years as expectations and laws have changed, the Cooke program has placed more emphasis on the academic, social and daily living skills that will help students as they interact in their communities.

There also has been a change in the



Marilynn Bachorik cherishes most the time she has been able to spend with Cooke students.

philosophy about managing student behavior, away from physical intervention and toward verbal instruction and altering the situation to encourage positive interactions.

“Our goal is to create a school environment where our students feel welcome, safe and successful,” Bachorik said.

Bachorik also is proud of the ever-increasing opportunities her dedicated staff has created for Cooke students to participate in the local community and with their general education peers.

Many Cooke students practice social and communications skills and learn key work and daily living skills by participating in service learning programs at Northville area businesses and community organizations. The students help with simple, yet important, tasks including cleaning, stocking shelves

and welcoming visitors.

In 2003, Cooke opened two satellite classrooms at Northville High School where Cooke students have the opportunity to share the high school experience with their peers. They travel the hallways, eat in the cafeteria and participate in some general education classes, such as ceramics. In turn, high school students learn about their disabled classmates by volunteering to help in the Cooke classrooms during their seminar time.

“The Cooke students and staff have been warmly welcomed at the high school and have taken advantage of many opportunities to integrate into the general education program,” Bachorik said.

In addition, Cooke has a satellite class at the Western Wayne Skill Center in Livonia and, for the first time this past school year, at Schoolcraft College in Livonia where Cooke students can participate in college courses.

“Marilynn has been a pioneer in crafting programs and opportunities for special education adolescents and young adults,” said Director of Special Services Lynne Mossoian. “The high school satellite classrooms, the post-secondary program at Schoolcraft College, the service learning initiatives, and the transition program at Cooke are reflections of Marilyn’s influence. As an administrator Marilyn works in partnership with her staff to create a vision and then empowers them to carry the vision forward and make it a reality.”

Bachorik plans to stay busy during retirement. She and her husband will spend time exploring one of her favorite spots in the world, Lake Superior. She also hopes to stay involved in education by mentoring beginning teachers and possibly teaching a section or two of the Exceptional Child class, a required course for all teaching degrees, at one of the local universities.

“Marilynn’s commitment has always been to prepare her students for productive lives that make a positive difference in their communities,” Mossoian added. “Whenever she talks about her Cooke students, she lights up.”

Class of 2009 Offers Hope for a Brighter Future



The NHS Class of 2009 was awarded a record \$12.6 million in scholarship funds.

the course of history through goodness, kindness, intelligent decision making and creative acts of humanity.”

Dr. Rezmierski presented the 2009 Superintendent’s Award — which goes each year to a graduating senior who has succeeded despite difficult, life-impacting events — to Angie Zuo. Angie was unexpectedly diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in March 2007 and missed a great deal of school while undergoing treatment. However, with the support her family, friends, teachers and administrators Angie was able to make up all the missed classes and school work to graduate on time with exceptional grades and an exceptional ACT score. She will attend the University of Michigan in the fall.

“The strength of Angie’s will and spirit has been magnified during her high school career,” Dr. Rezmierski said. “She is deserving of this special honor.”

In addition to the Northville High School graduates, 11 Cooke School students completed the special education center program this year and have successfully transitioned to their post-secondary programs. Part of the Northville school district, Cooke School is funded by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency and staffed by Northville educators.

Evan Watkins shows off his diploma to the crowd.

Photos by Steve Fecht

During these challenging times in our state, our country and our world, the Northville High School Class of 2009 offers hope for a brighter future as the 564 graduates received diplomas during the May 30 graduation ceremony at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

Twenty-seven students qualified as National Merit Scholars and the class was awarded a record \$12.6 million in scholarship funds.

“We all have great concerns about what this world and life holds,” Superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski told the class. “You are, however, the best examples and ambassadors of hope.

“Remember you have the power to do great things. You have the power to change





Drew Hiner (center) with Superintendent Dr. Rezmierski was one of 11 students honored at the Cooke School graduation on June 18.



Northville High School graduates Julie Davison (left) and John (Tripp) Dunn.



Philomela Gan gives a wave as she gets her diploma.

The NHS Class of 2009 by the Numbers

- 16 National Merit Scholar Finalists
- 10 National Merit Scholar Commended Students
- 1 National Achievement Scholarship Student
- 87 students graduating Phi Beta Kappa
- 84 students graduating Summa Cum Laude (GPA 3.8-4.0)
- 119 students graduating Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.5-3.79)
 - 177 students graduating Cum Laude (GPA 3.0-3.49)
- 170 President's Award for Educational Excellence honorees
 - 404 Michigan Promise Awards
 - \$12.6 million in scholarship awards



From left, David Yanagi, Megan Sklut and Andy Vernacchia celebrate after the ceremony.



Connor Rice displays his Red Wings pride.

Silver Springs teacher named American Legion Teacher of the Year

Silver Springs Elementary School fifth grade teacher David Wayne has been honored as an American Legion Department of Michigan 2008-09 Teacher of the Year for his patriotism and for the community service efforts he has led on behalf of America's veterans. Wayne and his students organized an All-American Fun Fair to raise money to help rebuild the Yankee Air Museum in Ypsilanti, which was destroyed by fire in 2004. He and his students also have organized other fund-raisers to support the Honor Flight Michigan, which sends WWII veterans to the nation's capital to see the World War II Memorial. Each year, Wayne's students also participate in an oral history project where they interview veterans about their war experiences.

"David Wayne has a passion for teaching and learning and a strong commitment to remembering our military veterans and the sacrifice they have made on behalf of all Americans," said Northville Superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski. "The bridges he builds between past generations and current students will positively impact the lives of these young people for years to come."



David Wayne (right) with Silver Springs Principal Scott Snyder.

Northville Science Teacher Scott Szukaitis honored as Wayne County RESA High School Teacher of the Year

An admired and trusted teacher and colleague, Northville High School science teacher Scott Szukaitis is a Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) 2009 High School Teacher of the Year.

Selected from among nominees from Wayne County's 34 school districts, Szukaitis, along five other Teachers of the Year — two each at the elementary and middle school levels and one other at the high school level — were honored in May at the Wayne RESA 2009 Celebration of Excellence in Education at Laurel Manor in Livonia. Teacher of the Year candidates are nominated by their local school districts and those written nominations are then reviewed and scored by a formal screening committee.

"Scott sets himself apart as a teacher by connecting directly with students and understanding their individual learning needs," said Northville Superintendent Dr. Leonard R.

Rezmierski. "Each and every day in his classroom he goes beyond expectations in terms of how he personalizes the high school science curriculum to offer opportunities for learning success for all students.

"This recognition is well deserved. We are all — students, staff and parents — fortunate to have Scott as part of our team."

In particular, Northville High School Principal Rob Watson recalls an opportunity he had earlier this year to observe first-hand Szukaitis's outstanding commitment to his students.

A learning disabled student in Szukaitis's Michigan Natural Resources class was having tremendous difficulty processing one of the projects required for the class. The assignment called for students to identify an environmental issue and offer a solution, including citing articles, in a written report. The student's idea was to create a fire suppression system for the barn located at nearby Maybury State Park using a water tower to pull water from a local creek. It was an extremely innovative and well-thought-out concept. However the student was having great difficulty conveying his idea in writing.

"Sitting in the conference room outside my office, Scott worked side-by-side with the student as he drew a picture of his concept and explained how it would work," Watson said. "As I watched the assignment play out and the interaction between Scott and the student, I was at a loss for words.

"Scott directly connected with the student's strengths in a way that allowed the student to experience success and feel good about himself. It was a great reminder for me of the incredible difference we as educators can make in the lives of our students."

As a teacher, Szukaitis actively shares his passion for the environmental sciences with his students through experiences that enable them to see first-hand how they can make a difference. He regularly takes advantage of the school's proximity to Marbury State Park and Maybury Farm. Working in partnership with the farm's staff, Szukaitis and students in his Michigan Natural Resources and Advanced Placement Environmental Science classes develop, plant and maintain the 15,000-square-foot organic garden at Maybury Farm.

Skilled in global positioning system mapping, Szukaitis also works with his students to coordinate the planning and implementation of the popular corn maze enjoyed each fall by visitors to Maybury Farm.

In addition, Szukaitis has published numerous research articles and has served as a consultant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service.

A self-proclaimed member of the video game generation, Szukaitis is keenly aware of all the high tech distractions teachers must compete against in reaching students today. This is why he has thoroughly integrated technology into his

Continued on next page

Newsmakers



Scott Szukaitis shares his passion for the environmental sciences with his students.

teaching. In addition to the use of visuals, video, PowerPoint and multiple media in the classroom, Szukaitis's classroom is available "24/7." All handouts, lectures, review materials, MP3 sound files and other resources are available for students on-line for "anytime, anywhere" learning. And, while students use their textbooks as a resource, Szukaitis encourages students to take advantage of what he calls the "most powerful research tool man has ever known" — the Internet.

"Technology presents creative ways to reach students with multiple learning styles while simultaneously providing external stimulus to capture and hold each student's attention," Szukaitis said. "Today's classroom doesn't need to be a video game, but it does need to challenge the distractions present

in students' everyday lives in order to capture and hold their attention."

Szukaitis's commitment to his students often stretches well beyond the traditional school day. As the boys' varsity track and field coach he oversees more than 100 athletes coordinating practices, meets and invitationals. In the off-season, he serves as an athletic coordinator for the high school Athletic Department supervising athletic events from cross country, to swimming, to hockey. In past years, he also has coached the high school's Science Olympiad Team.

"I believe students are motivated to try harder, both in the classroom and at home, and are more receptive to constructive criticism, when they feel that their teacher genuinely cares about their achievements as individuals," Szukaitis said. "As a student, I remember each of my former teachers that I saw in the crowd at an extra-curricular event of mine and I know how much it meant to me. I try to do the same for all my students."

And he does, says Watson. "It is obvious both in and outside of school that students see Scott as someone who respects them, believes in them, and has their best interest at heart," Watson said. "For students, this kind of unconditional support can only translate into success in school, and in life."

And he does, says Watson.

And he does, says Watson.



Northville Public Schools retirees who attended the May celebration are, (front row from left) Susan Spaniol, Barbara Ibach, Annette Arcuragi, Helen Williams, Sue Coulter, Celeste Smallwood and Wayne Durbin. Back row from left are Joy Donnellon, Nancy Arnold, Marilyn Bachorik, Ron Meteyer and Steve Romba.

Retiring educators and staff honored

Northville Public Schools honored its 2008-09 retiring educators and staff at a celebration in May. Honorees include:

- Annette Arcuragi, para-educator, Old Village School
- Nancy Arnold, math teacher, Northville High School (NHS)
 - Marilyn Bachorik, principal, Cooke School
 - Jackie Bain, para-educator, Cooke
 - Susan Coulter, administrative aide, Cooke
- Joy Donnellon, special education teacher, Old Village
 - Wayne Durbin, custodial leader, Operations
 - Camille Ellis, para-educator, Old Village
- Elizabeth (Betty) Heath, cafeteria assistant, Hillside Middle School
- Barbara Ibach, media specialist, NHS
- Ronald Meteyer, science teacher, NHS
- Steve Romba, foreign language teacher, NHS
- Celeste Smallwood, special education teacher, Cooke
 - Susan Spaniol, media specialist, Hillside
 - Helen Williams, para-educator, Cooke

Northville Educational Foundation – 2009-10 Corral Club Memberships – Renew or Join!

Join today! Your contributions will go toward enhancing our schools educational excellence!

Donors who contribute \$175 or more to the Northville Educational Foundation will be enrolled in a Corral Club family membership.

Member benefits include:

- Reserved Parking Pass – NHS Home Varsity Football Games: September 3 & 18, October 2 & 23.
Your donation reserves a parking space for regular season Northville High School varsity home football games. The Corral Club parking lot is reserved for only Corral Club members with an attendant to direct you.
- Membership in the Northville High School Mustangs Boosters Club with Family Sports Pass: Northville Mustangs Boosters Sports Passes will permit members of a donor’s immediate family entry into all regular season NHS sporting events including hockey throughout the 2009-10 school year (a \$100 value).
- Member Reception and Reserved Priority Seating - NHS Holiday & Spring Choir Concerts and Spring Musical. Purchase reserved tickets with priority seating at selected performances of the NHS Winter Holiday Choir Concert, NHS Spring Choir Concert and NHS Spring Musical. The Foundation will host a reception for Corral Club members prior to selected performances with light refreshments.



The Northville Educational Foundation is recognized as a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization supporting Northville Public Schools. The Northville Educational Foundation attracts, manages and distributes charitable gifts to provide educational opportunities that enhance Northville Public Schools’ commitment to educational excellence. NEF fundraising programs support a variety of academic and enrichment programs offered by Northville Public Schools that cannot be supported by the district’s operating funds.

New members are encouraged to apply for membership along with current members renewing their memberships for the upcoming school year. For more information or questions, contact Jan Purtell at (248) 344-8458 or e-mail NEF@northvilleschools.org or visit the NEF website at www.northville.k12.mi.us/district/educational-foundation.asp. Please complete the form below and send your donation of \$175 or more payable to the Northville Educational Foundation by August 15, 2009. Memberships will be assigned in the order qualifying donations are received up to 125 families. After we receive your donation, sports passes and parking passes will be mailed to your home address prior to the first football game. Later in the school year you will receive more information via e-mail regarding purchasing tickets to selected concert and musical performances.

Northville Educational Foundation Corral Club 2009-10 Membership Form

Member Last Name: _____
(please print or type)

Membership Status: _____ Renewal _____ New Membership

Sports Passes: _____ None required _____ # passes (number of people in immediate family – list members below)

List Family Adult Names: 1. _____ 2. _____

List Student/Child Names: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home: () _____ Work/Cell: () _____ (optional)

E-mail address: _____

Donation Amount: _____ \$175 (Corral Club Membership includes family sports passes) _____ \$85 (no sports passes)

\$ _____ **Additional Donation to Northville Educational Foundation**

Donations that exceed the value of donor benefits received are deductible to the full extent permitted by the law.

Please send this form with your donation payable to the “Northville Educational Foundation” to
Northville Educational Foundation, c/o Northville Public Schools, Jan Purtell – NEF Facilitator, 501 W. Main St., Northville, MI 48167

Four Northville educators join Galileo Leadership Academy; Educational Foundation provides funding support

Four Northville Public Schools educators have been accepted into the Galileo Leadership Academy, an innovative two-year leadership development program that includes educators from 16 area school districts, three community colleges and three regional educational service agencies in southeastern Michigan.

The Northville representatives in the 2009 Galileo class are: Teri Scott, first grade teacher, Ridge Wood Elementary School; Cheryl Sepich, second grade teacher, Silver Springs Elementary School; Janet Gillies, seventh grade teacher, Hillside Middle School; and Laura DeMarti, seventh grade teacher, Meads Mill Middle School.

Funding for the Northville 2009 Galileo participants is provided in part through a \$1,500 grant from the Northville Educational Foundation. The foundation is recognized as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization whose mission is to attract, manage and distribute charitable gifts to provide educational opportunities that enhance Northville Public Schools' commitment to excellence.

"This is the first time the foundation has contributed to professional development opportunities for Northville educators," said Northville Educational Foundation Vice President Michael Poterala. "We are certain that these Galileo leaders will gain valuable information and skills so that many students will benefit from what these teachers learn and bring back to their classrooms."

Funding for the foundation's Galileo grant was made possible through charitable contributions from Northville Public Schools employees, parents, community members and businesses.

"The generous support of the Northville Educational Foundation has helped ensure that this unique leadership opportunity continues to be available to our staff," said Northville Superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rez-

mierski. "We look forward to continuing to learn with and from each of our Galileo leaders and look forward to their contributions to the students, staff, and families of Northville Public Schools as teacher leaders."

To date, 37 Northville educators are graduates of the Galileo Leadership Academy, the two-year seminar series designed to develop teacher leaders. The curriculum addresses educational and leadership issues and themes that include collaboration, inquiry, problem solving, reflection, informational systems and technology.

Galileo teacher leaders learn from national experts, videos, case studies, dialogues, field investigation, team building, study groups, readings, reflective journaling and action research. In turn, each Galileo participant engages in an action research project within his or her own classroom or school to enhance learning in a specific area and shares the results with colleagues.

The members of the 2009 Galileo class were introduced at the May 12 Northville Board of Education meeting. At the same meeting, the members of the 2007 class, who recently completed their Galileo experience, were honored for their work and commitment to ongoing leadership. Members of the 2007 Galileo class are: Denise Brockman, district consultant for Autism Spectrum Disorder; Donna Case, vocational coordinator, Cooke School; Shannon Cullen, sixth grade teacher, Meads Mill; and Hubert Rast, foreign language teacher, Northville High School.

For more information about the Northville Educational Foundation visit the web site at www.northville.k12.mi.us/district/educational-foundation.asp or

contact Jan Purtell at 248.344.8458 or email NEF@northvilleschools.org.



Northville representatives in the 2009 Galileo class are (from left) Cheryl Sepich, Laura DeMarti, Janet Gillies and Teri Scott.



Northville Educational Foundation Vice President Michael Poterala presents Board of Education President Ken Roth with a \$1,500 grant from the foundation to support the Galileo program.

Interns

Continued from page 1

in one of six career pathways, depending on the student's career aspirations, including health sciences; business, marketing and technology; engineering; human services; arts and communications; and (new this year) teacher cadet. Students work unpaid at the businesses during the 12-week internship for a total of 45 hours. They are either released from school the last class block every other day for their internship or report after school for four hours a week, depending on the schedule that works best for the student and business.

"The Business Internship program is a great way for students to get first-hand experience in a career they think they may be interested in," said Northville High School business teacher Leigh Stearns, who coordinates the internship program along with fellow business teacher Paula Stamoulis. "They also learn how to conduct themselves in a professional environment."

Before being placed in an internship, each student is interviewed by Stearns or Stamoulis to determine their career interests and ensure they understand the requirements and responsibilities of the program.

Students also attend a Business Internship class six times during the semester where they hear from guest speakers, learn interviewing skills and get tips on how to dress in the work place. Students must complete several projects as part of the program including preparing their resume, creating a brochure about the business, and doing a PowerPoint presentation about the career they have chosen.

The businesses also complete two job performance evaluations for the student interns during the semester and either Stearns or Stamoulis visits each intern at the worksite to observe him or her in action.

Northville senior Monica Palushaj served as a teacher cadet last semester in Mrs. Crisp's kindergarten classroom at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School

in Northville. She helped grade papers, assist students with lessons, and read stories to the kindergartners, among other duties.

"I really wanted to see how teaching works and my Business Internship gave me a chance to work right alongside a teacher in the classroom," Monica said. "Teaching takes a lot of hard work and organizing, which is something I didn't realize before my internship."

The teacher also took the time to offer advice to Monica on how to approach students and how to adjust to different learning styles.

"I wasn't sure if I wanted to teach elementary or secondary," Monica added. "Now I know I want to be a kindergarten

"These companies are great about mentoring our interns and exposing them to all aspects of a career. They really love working with the students."

*—Leigh Stearns,
Northville High School Business Teacher*

teacher. The students improved so much in their writing and reading. It was so fun to see them learn."

Monica will attend Concordia University in Ann Arbor in the fall.

More than 60 area businesses open their doors to Northville interns each year including local police and fire agencies, attorney offices, accounting firms, hospitals, medical and dental offices, funeral homes, newspapers, radio stations, art galleries, schools, hotels, restaurants, event planners, hair salons and spas, and theaters.

"These companies are great about mentoring our interns and exposing them to all aspects of a career," Stearns said. "They really love working with the students."

At the same time, the student interns often provide these businesses with an extra set of willing hands to help with projects and tasks around the office while they learn the ropes of a career.

"I've had some of our students who are now in college call me and tell me how much they value their internship experience," Stearns said. "It's a real-

life career experience that they can put on their resume and they have professionals in the field they are pursuing who can serve as references and offer advice."

Sometimes what students discover through the internship experience is that the career they thought they wanted to go into isn't for them.

"And that's OK too," Stearns said. "Better that they find it out now, rather than when they are half-way through college or out in the working world."

The City of Northville Police Department is one of the organizations that participates in the internship program. The interns work with the parking officers, do ride-a-longs in the squad cars, help with paperwork, search databases, and learn about the laws and regulations that govern police work.

"The students do something new everyday," said Shawn Caldwell, a dispatcher and clerk who mentors the students. "Whatever I am doing that day, I show them every step in the process. If someone comes in from off the street, I will show the intern how to take care of the needs or concerns of every city resident."

"The biggest surprise for the students is always how much paperwork is involved in police work — everything must be documented. It's not like on TV where the police officers spend all day chasing down the bad guys."

At CVMedia, located in downtown Northville, interns get real-world experience in every aspect of media production, said Jan Mnich. They help manage the company's 7,000-client database, help create marketing and e-mail promotions to segments of the database, design graphics, edit, and serve as production assistant on shoots.

"It's a great opportunity for students to get experience in media production and it's also a big help to us," Mnich said. "They help with some of the smaller projects and allow us keep costs down for our clients."

Several of CVMedia's past interns have gone on to college in media production, and some have even come back to help out in the summer.

"Business Internship is a great program

See INTERNS on page 14

Northville students have record-breaking
Reflections *year*
 — *and a national winner*

Northville students had another record-breaking year for participation and the number of winners in the nationally sponsored PTA Reflections program.

In total, Northville students from elementary through high school submitted 787 entries (the second highest in

the state behind Rochester Schools) with 145 winning at the local level and moving on to the state competition. Twenty-three of those entries earned state level awards, and six went on to the national competition.

And one entry, by Silver Springs Elementary School kindergartner Lauren Atkinson, was selected to receive a national PTA Reflections Program Award of Merit in Film/Video Production for her piece titled “My Wow Dad.”

In addition, Amerman Elementary School fifth grader Maria Kuznetsova received the Michigan Best of Theme award for her music composition, “Russian Soul.” Of the 24 state winners in the music composition category, Maria’s entry was chosen as the one that best reflected this year’s theme of “WOW!”

Other students whose entries went on to the national competition include Noah Luikart, Amerman, music composition; Annelie Hermann, Hillside Middle School, music composition; Valerie Zhang, Amerman, visual arts; and David Summers, Northville High School, photography.

Each year, K-12 students from across the country enter the PTA-sponsored arts competition. Work can be entered in six categories: literature, music composition, visual arts, photography, dance choreography and video production. As the title of the program implies,



Fourteen of the state Reflections winners attended the April Board of Education meeting. They are (front row from left) Lauren Atkinson, Silver Springs Elementary; Kristin Lam, Silver Springs; Harrison Asher, Silver Springs; Noah Luikart, Amerman Elementary; Valerie Zhang, Amerman; and Rachel Holmes, Amerman. Back row from left, are Billy Pritchard, Northville High School; Jonathan Zaremba, Silver Springs; Ashley Weber, Winchester Elementary; James Xue, Amerman; Aliya Kahn, Meads Mill Middle School; Michaela Yamine, Thornton Creek Elementary; Sonia Prabhu, NHS; and Adam Pond, Hillside Middle School.

entries must “reflect” that year’s theme. Entries are submitted in four age groups — lower elementary, upper elementary, middle school and high school.

“A special congratulations to all these students,” said Sue Laabs, a Northville parent and the district-wide PTA Reflections chair. “We are so proud to have a national winner, a well as a state Best of Theme award winner. These students are young and have many years ahead of them to develop their talent.”

All 23 of the state level winners were honored at a Northville Board of Education meeting in April. Next year’s Reflections theme is “Beauty is...” It’s not too early for students to begin preparing their entries.

Lauren Atkinson, winner of the National PTA Reflections Award of Merit in Film Production.



Northville Public Schools Contact Information

| | | |
|--|--------------|--|
| Central Administration | 248.349.3400 | Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski, Superintendent Administrative Services Business and Finance |
| Instructional Services | | |
| Special Services | | |
| Human Resources | | |
| HIGH AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS | | |
| Northville High School | 248.344.8420 | Robert Watson, Principal |
| Hillside Middle School | 248.344.8493 | Jim Cracraft, Principal |
| Meads Mill Middle School | 248.344.8435 | Sue Meyer, Principal |
| ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS | | |
| Amerman Elementary School | 248.344.8405 | Stephen Anderson, Principal |
| Moraine Elementary School | 248.344.8473 | Denise Bryan, Principal |
| Ridge Wood Elementary School | 248.349.7602 | Alicia Parsons, Principal |
| Silver Springs Elementary School | 248.344.8410 | Scott Snyder, Principal |
| Thornton Creek Elementary School | 248.344.8475 | Sharon Irvine, Principal |
| Winchester Elementary School | 248.344.8415 | Patricia Messing, Principal |
| Early Childhood Education & Extended Day Programs | 248.344.8465 | Eileen Freeman, Coordinator |
| SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM | | |
| Cooke School | 248.344.8489 | |
| Old Village School | 248.344.8460 | Arthur Fischer, Supervisor |

Kindergarten

Continued from page 4

in kindergarten will likely be delayed until at least 2012-13 due to the current economic challenges facing the State of Michigan.

The Board of Education thanked the Kindergarten Study Committee members for their hard work and detailed analysis. There are no plans currently to implement a full-day kindergarten program in the district. The board will take the study findings under advisement as they examine this and other district programming priorities within budget, facility, enrollment and legislative considerations.

To view the entire Partial Day/Full Day Kindergarten Study Committee Report to the Board of Education visit the district website at www.northville.k12.mi.us.

Interns

Continued from page 12

that benefits everyone,” Mnich said. “I would encourage every company to open their doors to these students.”

Providence Park Hospital in Novi trains about 18 interns each semester. The students transport patient to different areas of the hospital, help on patient units stocking rooms and getting water for patients, and serve as concierges welcoming visitors and escorting them to their destination.

When the interns transport patients they get to see all the different areas of the hospital including emergency, labor and delivery, recovery, pediatrics and radiology.

“They have the experience of interacting one-on-one with patients and

they get to observe and work alongside a variety of different health care workers,” said Kathy Zaguroli, manager of Volunteer Services at Providence Park.

And sometimes students discover a career they weren’t aware existed. Zaguroli recalls an intern who transported a patient to Diagnostic Radiology. The radiologist invited the intern in to observe the procedure and see how the equipment was used. The student was fascinated to learn about the job.

“The interns who come to us really want to learn,” Zaguroli said. “They have a lot of energy and enthusiasm. Many stay on as volunteers for us after their internship is over.

“We see these students as employees of the future,” she added. “If they have a good experience here they might consider coming back to Providence Park when they’re looking for employment.”



Northville Public Schools K-12 Calendar 2009-2010 School Year

| | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| Teacher Professional Days | September 1 & 2* | Tuesday & Wednesday |
| Teacher Work Day | September 3* | Thursday |
| Labor Day Recess | September 4 & 7 | Friday & Monday |
| First Day of Classes | September 8 | Tuesday |
| Teacher Professional Day | November 3* | Tuesday |
| Thanksgiving Recess | November 26 & 27 | Thursday & Friday |
| Winter Recess Begins End of Day | December 18 | Friday |
| Classes Resume | January 4 | Monday |
| End of Semester | January 28 | Thursday |
| Teacher Work Day | January 29* | Friday |
| Mid Winter Recess Begins End of Day | February 12 | Friday |
| Classes Resume | February 16 | Tuesday |
| Teacher Professional Day/MME Testing | March 9* | Tuesday (no school for any students except high school juniors) |
| NHS ONLY: MME Testing/ NHS Teacher Professional Half-Day | March 10** | Wednesday (Juniors attend school at regular time for MME testing. Late start for Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors) |
| NHS ONLY: MME Testing/ NHS Teacher Professional Half-Day | March 11** | Thursday (Juniors attend school at regular time for MME testing. Late start for Freshmen, Sophomores and Seniors) |
| Spring Recess Begins End of Day | April 1 | Thursday |
| Classes Resume | April 12 | Monday |
| Memorial Day Recess | May 31 | Monday |
| Last Day of Classes | June 17 | Thursday |
| Teacher Work Day | June 18* | Friday |

* Students do not attend school on Teacher Professional Days or Teacher Work Days, with the exception of high school juniors on March 9, 10 and 11 for Michigan Merit Exam test periods.

** School in session for full day for all elementary and middle school students on March 10 and 11.

Northville Public Schools Board of Education

501 West Main Street • Northville, Michigan 48167

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
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TO SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

High school, middle school 2009-10 orientation dates

NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

- **Seniors** **Monday, August 24, 8-11 a.m.**
A-L report at 8 a.m.
M-Z report at 9:30 a.m.
- **Juniors** **Tuesday, August 25, 8-11 a.m.**
A-L report at 8 a.m.
M-Z report at 9:30 a.m.
- **Sophomores** **Wednesday, August 26, 8-11 a.m.**
A-L report at 8 a.m.
M-Z report at 9:30 a.m.
- **Freshmen** **Thursday, August 27, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**
Full day program (dance in evening)
- **Make Up Registration (all grades)**
Monday, August 31, 8-10 a.m.
First day of school, September 8, 7 a.m.

HILLSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- 8th Grade 8-10 a.m.
- 7th Grade 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 6th Grade 1:30-3:30 p.m.

MEADS MILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

MONDAY, AUGUST 24

- 8th Grade Last names A-K at 8 a.m.
L-Z at 9 a.m.
- 7th Grade Last names A-K at 10:30 a.m.
L-Z at 11:15 a.m.
- 6th Grade Last name A-K at 1:30 p.m.
L-Z at 2:15 p.m.

Are you leaving or joining Northville Public Schools for 2009-10?

Do you have a student(s) who will be leaving Northville Public Schools or are you a new family in the community with a student(s) who will be joining the school district for 2009-10?

If either of these situations applies to your family, Northville Public Schools officials need your help.

- If you haven't already notified your child's school, and your family is moving out of the Northville Public Schools district before the start of the 2009-10 school year or your student(s) will not be attending Northville Public Schools for 2009-10, please notify the district as soon as possible by sending an e-mail to NPS@northvilleschools.org. Include your student(s) first and last name, the grade he or she will be entering in fall 2009 and the Northville school he or she would have attended for 2009-10. (Please note: Your student's transfer out of the district will be completed once an official request for his or her school records is received from your student's new school.)
- If you are a new family in the community with school-age children who will be joining Northville Public Schools in the fall (or if you know of a new family) please contact the Human Resources Office at 248.344.8451 as soon as possible to begin the registration process. This is only necessary if the family has not previously been in contact with the school(s) the children will be attending.

"Having the most accurate information possible about student enrollment is critical as district officials and building principals plan for the upcoming school year," said Director of Human Resources Don Thomas, "We appreciate this input from school families and community members about students leaving and joining the school district."

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education and the School District not to unlawfully discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, height, weight, marital status, handicap or disability. Concerns or questions may be directed to the following offices at 248.349.3400. Title IX and Title VI, the Office of Instructional Services; and Section 504, the Special Services Department. (See Board Policy No. 1440.93.)