

Healthy Schools - School Wellness Award

Dear Members of the School Board,

I am proud to share that New Buffalo Middle School has been officially recognized by the Michigan Healthy Schools program with the 2026 School Wellness Award at the Bronze Level.

Our application, which was completed and submitted in May 2026, evaluated our school's existing health, nutrition, and physical activity policies and practices. Earning the Bronze Level signifies that New Buffalo Middle School is successfully meeting foundational standards for establishing a healthy, supportive, and active learning environment for our students and staff.

What This Award Represents:

- **Commitment to Student Health:** Recognition that our school prioritizes the physical and emotional well-being of our students alongside academic excellence.
- **Validated Framework:** Acknowledgment that our school wellness policies align with state-backed healthy school initiatives.
- **A Stepping Stone:** Achieving the Bronze Level provides us with a clear roadmap and baseline data to continue improving.

Next Steps:

While we celebrate this meaningful milestone, our work doesn't stop here. Moving forward, we will rebuild a school health team. Review the "Pathway to Gold" framework provided by the Michigan Healthy Schools program. We aim to build upon this year's success, bridge any remaining gaps in our wellness programming, and strive for Silver or Gold level recognition in future school years.

Thank you to the dedicated staff, food service team, physical education instructors, and community members whose daily efforts make a healthy environment possible for our students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bowen