

Superintendent Update

April 10, 2025



At the forefront of educational excellence



WHAT WE INTEND TO CREATE

*Inspire dreams, build integrity and instill hope
in our students, our staff, our families and our communities.*

OUR PURPOSE

Partner with students, staff, families and communities to challenge all
students to achieve their greatest potential and become informed and
engaged citizens.

Viking Spotlight: Dameion Palmer completes rigorous Ford ACE Program



Dameion Palmer has become the fifth individual in Minnesota to successfully complete the Ford ACE Program!

- Vince Crudo completed the program earlier this year

SKOL! and congratulations to Dameion!

Viking Spotlight: Esget is 2025 Athena Award winner



Dakota Esget is NBAHS's 2025 Athena Award winner!

- The Athena Awards honor one senior female athlete from each school and brings them together at a formal banquet in April.
- Head girls track coach Norm Nagel, said,

"As a dedicated student athlete, Dakota has set the standard high in the classroom and in athletics at North Branch High School. Being a 4.0 student and achieving multiple awards and high honors in her time at North Branch makes Dakota one of our top athletes to wear the Viking red and white. Her dedication and drive to her craft, depending on what season it is far superior to none."

- Dakota will attend the University of St. Thomas, majoring in biology. She will be recognized along with 47 other member schools' recipients at the 31st Annual St. Paul Athena Awards event on Wed., April 16.

DAKOTA ESGET
ATHENA AWARD WINNER

North Branch Area High

Cross Country
Varsity

Volleyball
Varsity

Gymnastics
Varsity

Track and Field
Varsity

School Activities
Varsity

Community Volunteer
Varsity

Scholastic Achievements
Varsity

Post Graduation Plans
Varsity

St. Paul Athena Awards

2025
ATHENA
AWARD
WINNER

DAKOTA ESGET

17 ALL-STATE GYMNASTICS AWARDS
2023 MSHSL UNEVEN BARS CHAMPION
2024 MSHSL UNEVEN BARS CHAMPION
2024 MSHSL ALL-AROUND CHAMPION
3X TRUE TEAM PARTICIPANT
9X MSHSL STATE TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANT
ALL-AMERICAN STATUS 4X200M RELAY
4.0 GPA, NHS MEMBER

Welcoming our Class of 2038 Vikings



Kindergarten enrollment for the 2025–2026 school year is NOW OPEN!

- Supportive enrollment process
 - <https://www.isd138.org/o/nba/page/kindergarten-enrollment>
- Families who have questions or want to complete enrollment by phone, can call 651-674-1220.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

2025–2026 School Year

Children who are 5 on or before Sept 1, 2025 are eligible for kindergarten! Register today to join the Vikings class of 2038!

Enroll Now

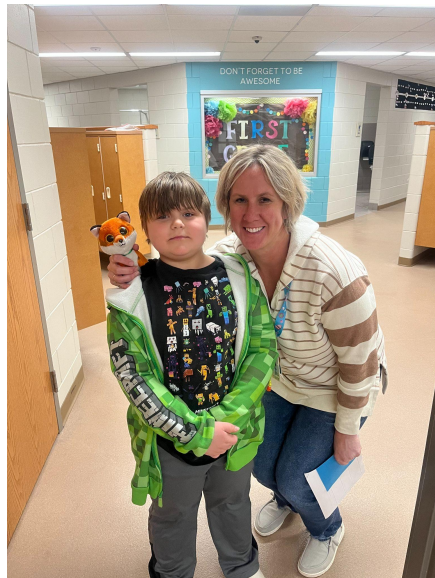
Ways to enroll:

-  www.isd138.org
-  651-674-1220
-  ebjerketvedt@isd138.org





Joy of Learning at Sunrise



Global Connections: Students Discover African Game of Dara



Students in 8th Grade World Cultures recently learned how to play Dara, a traditional Nigerian strategy game played across all of Northern Africa.

- Students learned how traditions are passed on through storytelling, and that's how this game has been passed from generation to generation.
- In Africa, kids dig a grid in the ground, find some stones and sticks, and play against each other that way. Our students played with paper and colored blocks.

Addressing Safety Concerns



Yesterday, a gas line was struck near Lincoln Trail and Grand Avenue.

- We are so grateful for the quick response and expertise of the North Branch Fire Department and local utility crews who were on site immediately monitoring the situation.

Initial monitoring indicated no safety concerns to nearby schools, businesses, or residents. However, as crews continued to collect data later in the afternoon, new information led emergency responders to make the real-time decision to close the roadway just minutes before school dismissal to ensure everyone's safety.

- While the timing of the road closure didn't allow for proactive communication to all families, we fully respect and appreciate the fire department's leadership and their commitment to keeping our community safe.

This situation reminds us how critical our partnerships are with local emergency responders. We're grateful for their work yesterday — and we remain committed to working together to strengthen communication and safety protocols for the future.

Thank you again to all emergency crews working to keep our students, staff, and community safe!

Bond rating improves to A1



NBAPS achieved a significant financial milestone: a bond rating upgrade from A2 to A1 by Moody's Investors Service

- reflects strong financial health, responsible leadership, and a commitment to public trust
- Improved rating is a major leap from the district's Baa2 rating in 2019, and signals confidence in NBAPS's ability to meet its financial obligations while maintaining fiscal stability.

In 2020, the NBAPS School Board adopted a fund balance policy targeting 10% to 15% reserves in the unassigned general fund—a move designed to protect district operations during economic uncertainty and strengthen long-term financial planning.

- The district not only met that target, but also achieved five consecutive clean audits under the leadership of Director of Finance and Human Resources Todd Tetzlaff and the business department, including Accountant- Jenna Battaglia, Human Resource Specialist- Jody Spofford, and Bookkeepers- Christine Lundberg, Angela Nelson and Jennifer Thompson.

The higher bond rating means lower borrowing costs, stronger investor confidence, and greater flexibility for future capital improvements, saving money for taxpayers and creating stability for district operations



Legislative Advocacy and the win-win of partnership

Call to action- please contact legislators this week.

- [Advancing Registered Teacher Apprenticeships](#)
- [Investing in community spaces that strengthen families, workforce and health](#)

Viking staff coming together to raise money for student scholarships



NBAPS staff will again be bagging groceries at County Market to raise scholarships for graduating seniors seeking to continue their education.

Saturday, April 12
10 am - 4 pm

Save the date and plan to do your grocery shopping on April 12 and partner with Viking staff to support our 2025 Viking graduates!



Floral class providing corsages for prom



NBAHS ADVANCED FLORAL CLASS

Prom Flower Sale



Sale Runs until
4/17/25 on GOFAN

Proceeds fund student opportunities in the NBAHS Agriculture program

Advanced Floral Students is offering prom corsages, boutonnieres and bouquets to NBAHS students this year!

- Flowers will be created to industry standards and ready for pick up Friday, 4/25 after school until 5 PM.
- Options include: Wrist Corsages, Hand-tied Bouquets, Boutonnieres, Couple's Sets, and a DIY Design Studio option for students who wish to create their own.
- Details can be found on the GOFAN page: https://gofan.co/event/3498054?schoolId=MN19629_2
- Questions can be directed to: acook@isd138.org. Sale ends 4/17/25.

NBAEF hosts Purse and Yeti Bingo



The NBAEF is hosting Designer Purse and Yeti Bongo on Sunday, April 27

- Where: Lent Town Hall
- When: doors open at noon
- Event is unlike other purse bingo events; the winner has the choice of purse, Yeti, cash, or combo!

Proceeds from the event will be used to enhance the educational opportunities of NBAPS students. Thanks NBAEF!

**DESIGNER PURSE
AND YETI®**

B I N G O

YOUR CHOICE: PURSE, YETI, CASH, OR COMBO!
Sunday April 27th, 2025 Lent Townhall - Stacy, MN

- Package Sales Only
- 11 Games
- \$30/\$45 Packages
- Must go Coverall for Cash up to \$1,000!
- The Fuse will be hosting a Cash Bar & Snacks for Purchase

Doors Open AT 12:00pm
Sales Open AT 1:00pm
Bingo Starts AT 2:00pm

Cash Only Event!
Saving Seats IS Allowed

MK MICHAEL KORS **kate spade** NEW YORK **YETI** **COACH**

Fundraiser proceeds go to support our Mission: Dedicated to enhancing opportunities to achieve excellence for students in the North Branch Area Public School District ISD #138

NBAEF
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
DEDICATED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 2008

Choice not Chance in Action

- Full day of activities
 - Each student has a passport to guide them through activities and choices
 - Debrief with advisory and turn passport in for prizes provided by sponsors
- 3 different session that students will rotate to learn about careers of their choice
 - Classroom visits of career presentations
 - 40 presenters at each rotation
 - Panel Presentation in Auditorium
 - Transferable skills that prepare students for the workplace
 - Vendor Fair with interactive activities to learn more about industry opportunities; Have over 60 vendors signed up to attend
- All school barbeque
- Community Building Activities
 - Car Show
 - Sidewalk Art show
 - Cornhole Tournament and other events



Auto Show as part of Future Forward Day



NBAHS Auto Shop is planning its first car show on May 5 for all students to attend!

- Looking for anyone interested in sharing their cars at this event.
- The event flier has more information and a link to the sign up form

North Branch Area High School 38175 Grand Ave, North Branch, MN 55056

FIRST ANNUAL AUTO SHOW 2025

Join us at North Branch Area High School to share your enthusiasm and expertise in the world of cars with our students.

**EVENT
DETAILS**

May 5, 2025

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

North Branch Area High School

APPLY NOW

<https://forms.gle/u9u7HEgKpvp9v9227>

This is a free event open to all, and awards will be presented based on student votes across multiple categories. While attendance is free, we kindly request that you sign up using the link so we can keep track of participants. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with additional details on the event's time, location, and other important information. We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions: tsorgert@isd138.org



Walk and Roll to School Day



**Wednesday
May 7**



**North Branch
Area Library
(6355 379th St.)**

**Meet at 7:05 am
Walk/bike starts
at 7:15 am**



NBAPS, the City of North Branch, and Chisago County SHIP are again hosting a spring Walk and Roll to School event!

- This spring's event will start at the NB Library at 7:05 am, Wednesday, May 7.



Walk and roll to School

- Spend time with friends
- Get exercise
- Have fun!



Community Service Day is May 29



May 29 has been selected for this year's Community Service Day.

Community Service Day is a wonderful way for students and staff to give back to the communities that support them each year.

If you know anyone in the community who could use a little help this spring, please contact Pat Tepoorten at ptepoorten@isd138.org, or 651-674-1018.



