I continue to be honored to be the Superintendent at Northern Bedford. At least once every week I am told how well our students conduct themselves at school, on field trips, during community events, at band/chorus festivals, and athletic events. It is a testament to the parents of the district. I have read two books called *Growth Mindset* and *Grit*, respectively. The two books focus on what it is that creates success. Simply put, not afraid to fail and never giving up. When a person recognizes they are going to fail at things but it is part of the learning process, they will accept more challenging problems to solve and when tied to the idea of never giving up leads to greater accomplishments. Overall, NB students exhibit these two ideas; I am sure you have read in the newspaper, on the school FACEBOOK pages, or the school website the achievements of NB students. We will continue to push students to think, accept challenges, problem solve, research, and achieve.

School year 17-18 is shaping up to be another great year. The middle/high school building introduced PBIS program which is a school wide positive behavior program. Even though our students are consistently at the top behaviorally, NB has never been one to accept “good enough”. The principals report the program has had a tremendous positive affect in the building and it will be expanded to the elementary next year.

Northern Bedford has their very own boys and girls District Five Cross Country Champions and with their grit mindset may very well bring the titles back next year. Our football team won the District Five Championship this year stopping a long drought. At the football banquet, select seniors talked about the team and season; although they did not realize it, the common theme was the *Growth Mindset*. They worked together, encouraged each other, didn’t care who scored as long as we did score, worked relentlessly in the off season to be prepared, and never gave up.

**Superintendent’s Message**

Northern Bedford has their very own boys and girls District Five Cross Country Champions and with their grit mindset may very well bring the titles back next year. Our football team won the District Five Championship this year stopping a long drought. At the football banquet, select seniors talked about the team and season; although they did not realize it, the common theme was the *Growth Mindset*. They worked together, encouraged each other, didn’t care who scored as long as we did score, worked relentlessly in the off season to be prepared, and never gave up.

**State Testing**

Beginning with the current year (2017-2018) the state is no longer using the SPP; PDE will now measure school performance with the PA Ready Index. The weighting applied to each category has yet to be finalized as of this writing.

Looking at 16-17 SPP results, the Altoona Mirror again ranked schools by the SPP score of each building that had Keystone Test results. Our building is grades 6-12 (PSSA and Keystones) when the majority of schools listed have a building of grades 9-12 (Keystone Test only). If the Mirror was to investigate further, they would recognize that middle school PSSA scores in general are much lower than the high school Keystone scores. If we were to isolate an area within the SPP categories, like academic performance, we
would rank among the highest scores. Below is information that would compare schools on a level playing field based on academic performance.

Our high school student Keystone performance scores for 2017 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>NBC</th>
<th>State Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>79.1</td>
<td>65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>63.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our elementary student PSSA performance scores for 2017 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>NBCES</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>54.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>46.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>43.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>68.6</td>
<td>64.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>79.7</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>74.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our middle school student PSSA performance scores for 2017 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>NBCMS</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31.4</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>32.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>82.1</td>
<td>63.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>77.6</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>71.8</td>
<td>52.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see based on our academic performance, we are above the state average in thirteen of seventeen categories. Administratively we are reviewing our math curriculum and providing professional development for our teachers to improve our math scores. Several of our eighth grade students took both the PSSA test for eighth grade and the Keystone algebra I test for high school. The students performed better on the high school Keystone exam than the eighth grade PSSA test.

According to *Education Week*, standardized testing in the United States cost $1.7 Billion dollars annually. One has to wonder with the deficits in our federal and state budgets if the return is worth the investment.
Budget Information for 18-19 School Year

Overview

The winter 2018 Northern Bedford County Newsletter provides information concerning the budgetary processes of the district. The article touches on Act 1, where the district receives its revenues, expenditures, fund balance, taxes, and budget projections. It will also highlight our 16-17 budget surplus and how it will be used, and what the major expenditures are that drive the district budget.

At the January board meeting, the Northern Bedford County Board of School Directors passed the resolution to not raise taxes above the index which is set at 3.5%. As we begin the budget process again this year, you can be assured that the principals and I will present a budget to the board that will be fiscally sound. This means the proposed budget is administratively scrutinized and then reviewed with the budget committee. The highlights will be reviewed publicly with the board in April, tentative approval in May, and final budget approval in June. We must approve the school budget before the state approves theirs which means we are taking an educated guess on how much educational money we will receive. Currently 67% of our funding comes from state subsidy.

Below are some relevant questions and answers that you as a member of the school district may have in regards to the fiscal operations of the district.

What are NBC’s Revenues?

NBC receives 3% of the revenue from the federal government; 30% from local/property taxes, and 67% from the State. The State revenues come in various forms and can change from year to year but include basic educational subsidy, reimbursements related to social security tax and retirement, transportation, and special education subsidy.

The state legislature approved a new educational formula in 2016. The “hold harmless” formula means that no district is to receive less state subsidy in any fiscal year than what was received in fiscal year 2014-2015. Unfortunately with declining enrollment, as with many districts in the western half of the state, we may never receive more than 14-15 subsidies. With continued increases in expenses, we shall remain ever vigilant in our finances so that we can continue to provide a quality educational experience for our students. It is important to remain informed of the educational impact our state representatives can have on public education and let your voice be heard. For example, if they would remove the “hold harmless” caveat, NBC would be in a very difficult financial situation. Please check our website and our FACEBOOK pages for periodic information on school related topics.

What are NBC’s Major Expenditure Drivers?

The major drivers are salaries, retirement, health care, transportation, and cyber school. Retirement costs have risen by 25% over the past eleven years. It is projected to remain over 32% until 2035. The state pays approximately half of the retirement costs for each employee; the increase in the retirement rate has a large impact on both state and local budgets. This directly impacts how much money can be used for instruction and education programming.

NBC continues to explore ways to reduce the impact of health care costs over the years to come through negotiating various health care options. NBC is a member of the Bedford Somerset Health Consortium, a member school district consortium which pools its resources in order to negotiate lower premium rates for the member districts.

Wages and benefits are determined by negotiated bargaining agreements. The current collective bargaining agreement for professional employees (teachers) is in effect until 2020. The CBA for the support staff is in effect until June 2018. Bargaining for the support staff CBA will begin in February of 2018.

Cyber Schools cost NBC $9,400.00 dollars for a regular education student and $16,900 dollars for a special education student. Although the majority of our state politicians think this is a great deal for Pennsylvanians, NBC can use an on-line program through Edgenuity using their teachers for $3,000 dollars per student. Using cyber charter schools is not cost effective considering the results of their test scores.

Transporting students to and from school is also a major expense. Currently the state subsidizes 70% of the costs, but during the 17-18 state budget talks, Governor Wolf had cut 50 million in his budget for transportation. Fortunately for NBC, the money was retained in the budget, but would create a financial crisis if it would be drastically reduced in future budgets.
How Has our Conservative Budgeting Fared During This Uncertain Climate?

We were able to achieve an $859,000 dollar surplus at the end of the 16-17 school year due to several things such as filling positions at a lower cost, changes in governmental reimbursements, less spent for supplies, and less travel expenditures. The surplus stems from items budgeted for expenditure but not expended. 7.2% of the surplus is from salaries and benefits for positions budgeted at one level and expensed at lower levels due to resignations. The district conservatively budgets to allow for potential contingencies. The addition of the biomass boiler, which provides heat for all three buildings on campus, and a mild winter has helped the district save on heating expenses. This is true across all of the remaining budget areas from custodial supplies to software to dues and fees. The district also took advantage of refinancing the debt service. By doing so, the district will save almost 2 million dollars in interest over the next twenty years.

If We Saved So Much, Why Consider Raising Taxes?

Although $859,000 dollars sounds like a big number on a personal level, it pays an average of three weeks’ worth of bills in our district based upon a 13 million dollar budget. Looking at it from a business perspective, this is not much of a cushion. Additionally, operating costs continue to rise and we are never sure what the state will do with the education budget. Eliminating property taxes will give the state total control of financial decisions and will ultimately cost the average person more on sales tax and EIT.

Does Northern Bedford Do Budget Projections Into the Future?

Absolutely! Current projections show a deficit budget of $800,000 in 2021-2022. The surpluses obtained over the past three fiscal years aids in our fund balance (savings account) preservation for future years. The projection model uses as much actual information known for years going forward such as salary and retirement rates and makes conservative estimates for all unknown variables.

What is the District Doing With Surplus Monies?

We will be putting $500,000.00 in our PSERS Stabilization Rate Fund. We know retirement is expected to increase to 36% by 2023. NBC does receive approximately half of this amount back from the state. The purpose of this fund is to alleviate the impact the increased PSERS contributions will have upon future budgets. We will put the remaining $350,000 dollars in our capital reserve fund which is used for major building/mechanical repairs or building upgrades. The money from this fund once designated cannot be used for other reasons.

What is the end goal for NBC School District?

Northern Bedford’s goal is to have a fiscally sound school district that is able to provide an appropriate amount of opportunities for students to develop their skills to think critically and be productive citizens when they graduate.

Weather Calls

We all know that weather can be very finicky and that the forecast is not always on target. I have been asked as recently as December how delays or cancellations are determined. First, are the roads passable and acceptable for buses? Second, will conditions improve or stay the same in a two hour block of time? If the first answer is yes and two hours will not change the conditions then we go on time. If conditions would change significantly, then I would delay. If the answer to the first question is no and conditions are not going to improve then I will cancel school. I look at the latest information from multiple weather sites and have communications with our bus contractors, township personnel, school maintenance supervisor, and principals as necessary about our road/school conditions to make a decision. I am making the decision for NBC not any other school. The issues that cause another school to delay may not be an issue for us.

Early dismissals will be determined by the intensity and timing of a storm. PennDOT has shift changes at 12 noon and our early dismissal time is 1:00. Therefore, an early dismissal may not be advantageous for NBC. A regular dismissal may be the more appropriate decision to allow time for the state and township to properly plow and treat the roads.

Some schools delay due to temperature. I look at the temperature change from 7:00AM to 9:00AM and would only consider delaying if there was a significant improvement in the temperature. Otherwise, we go on time unless significant cold temperature/wind chill dictates closing for exposed skin, fuel issues with buses, or school issues.
Athletic Department Update
by Jeff Batzel, NBC Athletic Director/District 5 Vice-Chairman

PIAA ENROLLMENT CLASSIFICATIONS
FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS EXPLAINED

Why are we Single-A in football and Double-A in basketball? Many times I’m asked questions similar to this by interested fans regarding how PIAA sports classifications are determined.

The process actually begins in the fall of each odd numbered calendar year when schools are asked to compile their male and female enrollments for grades 9-11 as of October 1.

Once these numbers are submitted by every school in the state the PIAA office runs a report for every male and female sport the state offers and lists schools from highest to lowest enrollment. The schools who sponsor a particular sport are then divided fractionally by the number of championship playoff classifications in that sport.

As an example, Football and Basketball (both boys and girls) have six classifications. The top 1/6 becomes “Class 6A”, the second 1/6 based on enrollment becomes “Class 5A” and so on until the lowest enrollment 1/6 constitutes the “Single A” Classification.

In Wrestling and Track and Field (Boys and Girls) there are only two classifications so the pool of schools sponsoring each sport are divided in 1/2 to come up with Classes “AA” and “AAA”.

Is it as simple as the enrollment numbers in each individual school? No it is not. There are two other factors that can affect your enrollment numbers. The first is home schooled and cyber-schooled students who are eligible to play sports in your school. You must add 10% of those students to your enrollment numbers. The second primary enrollment-changer is cooperative sponsorship of a sport. We are involved in one active cooperative sponsorship agreement and it is golf with Tussey Mountain. As Tussey is the sponsoring program, they must use their enrollment plus 50% of our enrollment to use for their golf enrollment number.

At Northern Bedford, we reported 93 male and 109 female students on October 1. With 10% added to this number to account for home and cyber-schooled students our final numbers were 94 and 110. The only changes we will see in the next (Fall 2018-Spring 2020) cycle are in Boys Basketball and Baseball where we drop from “AA” to “A”. Our Girls Basketball and Softball programs, due to our higher female numbers and being categorized in the second from the lowest 1/6 among all schools in the state, will both remain “AA”.

For more information or to check out information for a particular sport you are interested in go to our state interscholastic athletic association website at www.piaa.org
Get the Facts
about Flavored Milk

Flavored milk contains the same
great nutrient-rich package as white
milk, including vitamin D, calcium,
and potassium. Drinking low fat or
fat free flavored milk can help adults
and children get their three daily servings of milk
as recommended. The best milk for anybody is
the one they will drink. Below are myths and
facts about flavored milk.

Myth #1: Flavored milk isn’t as nutritious as
regular milk.

Reality: Flavored milk contains the same
nine essential nutrients as
white milk. Flavored milk
counts as a serving of dairy –
and most Americans fall far
short of the recommended
three servings. Milk drinkers
consume more calcium, phos-
phorus, magnesium, potassi-
um, and vitamin A than non-
milk drinkers do.

Myth #2: Flavored milk contains a high
sugar content like soft drinks.

Reality: Research shows that flavored
milk contributes just 4.3% of added sugars to
the average diet. Added sugars is a legitimate
concern, but milk is not the culprit. Not all of
the sugar you see on the label is “added sugar.”
Some of the total grams are naturally occurring lactose.

Myth #3: When flavored milk is removed
from schools, kids will drink regular milk. If
there’s any dip in consumption, it will rebound.

Reality: A study showed eliminating fla-
vored milk from elementary schools resulted in a
dramatic drop in milk consumption (35%), which
means many children will miss essential nutri-
ents that milk provides.

Myth #4: Just offering one nutritious
choice is the best way to encourage kids to drink
more milk.

Reality: Offering nutritious choices, like
fat free and low fat white and flavored milk helps
kids learn food and nutrition lessons. Research
suggests “choices” helps boost kids’ overall in-
take of nutritious foods. For example, Cornell
University researchers found that children ate
more carrots when they were offered a choice
between carrots or celery, compared to when
they only were provided carrots.

5 Reasons Flavored Milk Matters
for our NBC Students!

Big nutrients! Big benefits!

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the
2015 Dietary Guidelines recognize the positive
role flavored milk can have in schools. They
acknowledge that the palatability and appeal of
nutrient-rich foods, such as low-fat flavored milk,
can be enhanced by a small amount of added
sugars within the daily calorie limit.

Nine essential nutrients!

Low-fat flavored milk contains the same nine
essential nutrients as white milk, including calci-
um and vitamin D – nutrients of concern that
many kids don’t get enough of.

More consumption, less waste!

A 2017 memo from USDA Food and Nutrition
Services outlined the new position for the 2017-
18 school year, stating the hope that more avail-
ability of flavored milk “...will increase fluid milk
consumption as well as overall participation in
School Meals Programs.”

More meal flexibility!

The same USDA memo described above went
on to state that “schools needs the flexibility to
offer additional milk options to ensure children
receive the nutrients provided by milk.

Kids love the taste!

Milk provides nutrients essential for good
health and kids drink more when it’s flavored.
Kids love the taste, and choice helps boost kids’
overall intake of nutrients.
Are You Getting Enough Sleep?

Learn how much sleep you need for good health. People will often cut back on their sleep for work, for family demands, or even to watch a show on television. But if not getting enough sleep is a regular part of your routine, you may be at increased risk for obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, coronary heart disease and stroke, poor mental health, and even early death. Even one night of short sleep can affect you the next day. Not surprisingly, you’re more likely to feel sleepy. On top of that, you’re more likely to be in a bad mood, be less productive at work, and to be involved in a motor vehicle crash.

How much sleep you need changes as you age. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the Sleep Research Society recommend:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Recommended Hours of Sleep Per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant 4-12 months</td>
<td>12-16 hours per 24 hours (including naps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler 1-2 years</td>
<td>11-14 hours per 24 hours (including naps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school 3-5 years</td>
<td>10-13 hours per 24 hours (including naps)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Age 6-12 years</td>
<td>9-12 hours per 24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teen 13-18 years</td>
<td>8-10 hours per 24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult 18-60 years</td>
<td>7 or more hours per night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Habits to Improve Your Sleep

There are some important habits that can improve your sleep health:

- Be consistent. Go to bed at the same time each night and get up at the same time each morning, including on the weekends.
- Make sure your bedroom is quiet, dark, relaxing and at a comfortable temperature.
- Remove electronic devices, such as TVs, computers and smart phones from the bedroom.
- Avoid large meals, caffeine and alcohol before bedtime.
- Avoid tobacco/nicotine
- Get some exercise. Being physically active during the day can help you fall asleep more easily at night.

What About Sleep Quality?

Getting enough sleep is important, but good sleep quality is also essential. Signs of poor sleep quality include feeling sleepy or tired even after getting enough sleep, repeatedly waking up during the night, and having symptoms of sleep disorders (such as snoring or gasping for air). Better sleep habits may improve the quality of your sleep. If you have symptoms of a sleep disorder, such as snoring or being very sleepy during the day after a full night’s sleep, make sure to tell your doctor.

More Information:
- Sleep and Sleep Disorders (https://www.cdc.gov/sleep/index.html)
- Get Enough Sleep [PODCAST—3:53] (https://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=8640488)
- Prevalence of Healthy Sleep Duration among Adults—United States, 2014 (MMWR 2016) (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6506a1.htm?s_cid=mm6506a1_w)
Summer time is a very busy time for the custodial staff from the day the students leave for summer break until the morning the students return. All the classrooms are emptied out, HVAC units serviced, walls washed, floors scrubbed or stripped, several coats of wax applied, all the furniture scrubbed and set back in place. Any other maintenance needed in each room is also completed for the students’ return in late August.

Tyler Hrivnak reunited Michelle Straight with her class ring she lost over 20 years ago. It was found while removing the lockers in the girls’ locker room during summer renovations. Michelle graduated in the Class of 1996. She was very happy to get it back. She said she remembers waiting a few weeks to tell her parents that she lost it.

The boys’ and girls’ locker rooms received a new look this summer. The original 1962 lockers were removed and replaced with lockers that were purchased from Forest Hills School District last winter. The locker rooms are much more open like commonly seen in newer facilities. The original wooden benches were also covered in vinyl. Senior Scott Cogan and Tyler Hrivnak unloaded lockers on to skids for the project. Scott completed his senior project with the maintenance staff. Bill Fisher operated a jack hammer to remove the concrete pads that the original lockers sat on.
Phase two of the kitchen project was completed by the maintenance staff this summer. A new configuration was completed to allow a flowing kitchen. Several new pieces of equipment, additional storage areas, and larger work areas were included in the renovation of the 1962 kitchen. A new two burner stove replaced the original stove. Head cook Carol Smith said “I am very thankful for the work the maintenance staff did. The kitchen is much easier to work in and is more efficient.”

The high school gym also received a facelift this summer. Newer bleachers also purchased from Forest Hills were installed in the gymnasium. The bleachers were sanded down and refinished after being installed prior to the start of fall sports season. The new bleachers increased seating capacity and also accessibility. A new gym curtain replaced the old wooden gym divider. The old divider was removed and lowered one section at a time to the floor for removal.

Mr. Brian Frederick’s BCO class learned the fundamentals of masonry work this fall around the district’s little league facilities. The class graded the ground, built forms and finished concrete walkways around the dugouts and backstop areas.

Rodger Wright applied a fresh coat of paint to walls of the reconfigured dry food pantry. This was the first coat of paint in the room since 1962.

Kelly Sparks and Bill Fisher finished the final touches to the new LED lighting installed along the new parking areas in front of the high school building. All work was completed by the maintenance staff.
**New Faces for NB Faculty and Support Staff**

**Lewis Elias** joins our elementary staff as an Elementary School Counselor. He attended East High School in Erie, PA and obtained his B.A. in Criminology from Indiana University of PA and M.S. in School Counseling from Capella University.

His hobbies include spending time with his wife and two children, playing drums with his church praise band.

Lewis says, “I am thankful for the opportunity to work with the students, staff and community in the Northern Bedford County School District.”

**Vanessa Wiand**, graduate of NBC High School joins the elementary staff as a Learning Support Teacher. She and her family reside in Martinsburg.

Vanessa hold a bachelors degree in elementary education from Penn State University and a Masters in Special Education from Western Governor’s University. Previously she worked as a learning support teacher in Bedford Area School District and was the junior high throwing track coach for two years.

Her hobbies include reading, scrapbooking and jogging. She commented, “I am very excited to have the opportunity to give back to the school and community where I was raised. I look forward to investing in the lives of the students at Northern Bedford County School District.”

**Coryn Snyder** joins our teaching staff as a Secondary Art Teacher. She is a graduate of Central High School and attended Indiana University of PA where she obtained a B.S. in Art Education.

She enjoys trail running, hiking, spending time in the outdoors with family and friends.

She commented, “I am very excited to be a part of the NBC family. I can’t wait to share my love of art with my students.”

**Walter Szymccek**, a resident of Martinsburg, joins our maintenance support staff as a MS/HS Night Custodian.

He is a 1980 Alumnus from Central High School and attended Altoona Area Vo-Tech for small engine repair. He comes to the district with experience as a self-employed plumber and he worked in maintenance at Homewood in Martinsburg.

Walter enjoys hunting and fishing and has been involved for many years in band at Central HS with his granddaughter who graduates this year.

He comments, “It has been a pleasureable experience getting to know all the people at NBC.”

**Rachel Shumaker** joined the elementary teaching staff for the 2017/18 school year as a long-term substitute teacher.

She is a graduate of Chestnut Ridge High School, and received a B.S. at the University of Pittsburgh in Johnstown.

Miss Shumaker’s hobbies include reading, spending time outdoors, gardening, and spending time with her family and friends.

She says, “I’m so excited to begin the year at NBC in Kindergarten. NBC has felt like home since the first day I started substituting here. I’m so excited to be a Panther!”
Brett Keith, a graduate of Tyrone Area High School joins the NBC staff as a Secondary Music Teacher, grades 6-12 in general and choral music.

Brett holds a B.A. in Music from Penn State and previously taught general music, choral, band and drama for 6 years at Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School.

In his spare time, he is the musical theatre director, conductor, music coordinator and director at the Second Avenue United Methodist Church in Altoona.

He commented, “I am extremely excited to be joining the faculty at NBC. I look forward to working with our great students to carry on the tradition of excellence that NBC is known for in the community. I also am extremely excited to make top-notch music with our talented student body!”

Brandi Dibert joins the NBC family as a part-time food service worker.

Brandi is an alumni of Northern Bedford County High School and attended Southeastern Bible College in Lakeland FL. She resides with her family in Roaring Spring.

Her hobbies include crafts, woodworking, baking and watching her children play sports.

Heather Dibert, a resident of New Enterprise, joins the elementary support staff as a Part-Time Instructional Assistant.

She is a graduate of Northern Bedford County High School and holds a B.S. in Accounting from Penn State University.

Her hobbies include her family, cooking and baking, crocheting, spending time outdoors, church activities, PTO and she is an assistant Coach in PYSA Soccer.

She commented “ I’m excited to begin my journey as an employee at NBC. I already know many of the staff at the elementary, and they are some of the nicest people I’ve ever met.”

Andrea Yarmer joins the elementary support staff as a Part-Time Instructional Assistant.

She recently moved to Bedford from Kansas, where she attended Russell High School in Russell, KS and worked as an elementary secretary in Oakley, KS.

She enjoys working on her farm and taking care of the cows. She loves being outside and hunting and fishing. She says it’s a little different in PA than Kansas. She also enjoys a good book, quiet time and watching Friday night football with family during her favorite time of the year.

Andrea commented “Thanks for welcoming me to this wonderful community!”

Welcome To Our
The new year brought some of the coldest temperatures we have seen at NBC for quite some time. The district’s biomass boiler has handled the cold easily and efficiently providing heat 24 hours a day for the district’s 180,000 square foot campus.

During the eight day cold stretch the boiler burned just 82 tons of wood chips which averages out to 854 lbs/hr or $19.64/hr. This is far more efficient and warmer than the oil furnaces that would drink approximately 600 gallons a day just to provide heat during the school day.

Shown above are freshly delivered wood chips and the computer screen that shows system data of the biomass boiler operating with temperatures outside of -4 and a wind chill of -17.

On January 19th, middle school students were encouraged to put teams together at $20/team to play in a PRIDE dodgeball tournament. There were 17 teams of 6, 7, and 8 graders who signed up to play.

The rest of the student body paid $1 to watch the competition. The photos show the winning 8th grade boys team named Black Licorice and other participating students of the tournament.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Northern Bedford County Dance-A-Thon
March 28, 2018—9:00 pm

Everyday Heroes

3rd Annual Adult Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt will be held at PCS—March 17 / 6:00 PM

Contact Garry Black at gblack@nbcsd.org for donations and volunteer sign-up
Basic Math Fact Competition
Back in Full Speed!

Math Mania is back!! The Basic Math Fact Competition was held in the elementary lobby in late November, with much anticipation and enthusiasm to be heard. The Elementary’s Little Panthers looked quite sharp showing off their basic math fact memorization and speed during the Grades 2, 3, 4, 5 competitions between grade level homerooms. Grades 2 and 3 competed in addition facts and grades 4 and 5 competed in a mix of addition and subtraction facts.

The Competition runs like this...one student at a time from each homeroom faces off against another student from an opposing homeroom. (Basic facts can be shown horizontally or vertically.) The student that first answers the basic fact correctly wins and remains in the competition while the other student is eliminated and sits down. The objective is to be the last class with students standing. Winning homerooms in the grade level compete against other triumphant homerooms until one class is determined to be the overall grade level Champ.

Tasty ice cream cups were rewarded to the Champs along with the beloved Math Competition banner hung in the winning grade level homeroom window. Pictures of the winning homerooms are displayed in the library window of the elementary school and also on the elementary facebook page and school web page. Go check out these smiling Champs pics!

The next Math Competitions will be held in January. Grades 2 and 3 will be competing with subtraction facts, while grades 4 and 5 will be challenged with multiplication facts.
Student/Staff Recognition
Congratulations to Each of You for Your Accomplishments!

Northern Bedford County Middle School was selected as one of only two schools to participate in the first Penn State Altoona Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and the Arts program on Friday, 11/3/17. This pilot program focuses on exposing junior high girls who are exceptional in math and science to the world of opportunities available to them in the Technology and Engineering industries of the STEM fields. Girls participating in this program will experience real-world applications of computer science, data analytics, and engineering, will get hands-on with puzzles and experiments performed with faculty members, and will tour the campus engineering labs. They will also start a project proposal process that will carry them through to the spring and summer events, where they will start designing/creating their own STEM-related projects.”

Elementary Computer Teacher, Mrs. Bonnie Dilling applied for and received a FirstEnergy STEM Classroom grant in the amount of $900. Beverly Green from FirstEnergy visited the school to present the check to Mrs. Dilling and a few of the fifth grade coding students.

The Grade 7 Career Education and Work (CEW) Skills term 1 class chose to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey for their Make A Difference (MAD) project. They raised $750 by selling candy and donated all proceeds to the Houston Food Bank.

The 2017 Middle School Spelling Bee was held on Thursday, December 21st. Participants of the spelling bee are in grades six through eight. We had 50 participants this year (our highest participation ever). Mrs. Kristi Musselman and Mrs. Jennifer Klavuhn are the advisors. The students attended an informational meeting and run-through before the day of the bee to polish their spelling skills. For the third straight year and a school record, Clara Frye (grade 8) was the winner spelling the words linguistically and macadamia correctly. Reaghan Grimes (grade 6) was the runner up and Cody Campbell (grade 8) came in third place. The top three places received a cash prize compliments of the Middle School PTO.
Ten Northern Bedford County FFA Students Received Keystone Degree. The Keystone Degree is the highest award an agricultural education student can earn within the state of Pennsylvania. The Keystone Degree is the culmination of a three or four year effort recognizing excellence in leadership development, SAE and involvement in FFA school and community activities. The following students are recipients of the Keystone Degree:

Jordan Helsley, daughter of Mary Helsley of Roaring Spring

Brianna Wiest, daughter of Brian and Lacey Wiest of Martinsburg

Kaitlyn-Musselman, daughter of Shawn and Jessica Musselman of Hopewell

Alex Kichman, son of John and Carrie Kichman of New Enterprise

Kelli Wyles, daughter of Shawn and Nicole Wyles of New Enterprise

Chase Eller, son of Levi and Dot Eller of Roaring Spring

Nathan Clapper, son of Mark and Becky Clapper of Hopewell

Madison Over, daughter of Kelly and Stephanie Over of Woodbury

Shelby Over, daughter of James and Karla Over of Woodbury

Rachel Lingenfelter, daughter of Andy and Bevete Lingenfelter of Woodbury

Shared Values of NBCSD

1. Learning is a lifelong process.
2. Parents or primary caregiver are a child’s earliest teachers and remain critical influences.
3. All children can learn.
4. Every child deserves the best educational opportunity the school district can provide.
5. The developmental processes of pre-school children are enhanced through school-based early childhood program services.
6. Learning is a shared responsibility among students, teachers, parents, and community.
7. School is a focal point of the community.
8. The school is a moral force that both shapes and reflects community values.
9. A safe, orderly, and disciplined environment is essential for learning.
10. Curriculum and instruction must address the differing needs and learning styles of each student.
11. The high school diploma represents the acquisition of a core of academic skills.
12. The school strives to lead the community in the use of technology.
13. The school fosters an environment which builds positive relationships among all students.
14. The school stresses appreciation of the varied cultural influences which shape the world.
15. All school personnel serve as positive role models.
16. The school provides a caring influence which promotes emotional stability.

VISION

We see: A school district where all students receive a quality education emphasizing skills, knowledge and character development.

We see: A school district where all employees continue to improve their skills, knowledge and procedures to meet the needs of all learners.

We see: A community of well informed citizens who support educational excellence and work in a partnership with the school community to achieve quality educational results for all students.
FCCLA COMMUNITY PROJECTS

FCCLA, which stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, is a national, nonprofit organization designed to help people in the community. The Northern Bedford FCCLA is made up of Brianna Foor, Amanda Wiest, Rachel Mickle, Sabrina Long, Danika Reed, Jenna Drake, Monica Miller, Megan Beam, and advisor Mrs. Marlene Betts. We are organized by President Brianna Foor, Treasurer Amanda Wiest, and Secretary Sabrina Long. Our goal is to live our motto “Toward New Horizons”. To do this, we participate in various community oriented projects. Among our projects was the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive that we conduct in our school. We encourage students to bring in food items for families that may need help getting together a meal in time for Thanksgiving. We’ve also made Christmas packages for kids in our elementary school.

We make up bags that include toiletries, school supplies and books. In previous years, we’ve provided breakfast for all participants in our annual Dance-A-Thon. The money raised from Dance-A-Thon goes to The American Cancer Society and to sponsored families, in the community, that have a medical need. FCCLA is not just a service organization, it’s also a social organization. We meet twice a month to discuss future plans but we also use this time to socialize and show our support for each other. FCCLA has been a fun, learning experience, and I would recommend this organization to everyone.

By Brianna Foor, FCCLA President

NBC AUTO CLUB SERVED THANKSGIVING DINNER TO THE RESIDENTS OF HOLLIDAYSBURG VETERANS HOME

On Wednesday November 15, 2017 the NBC Auto Club students served Thanksgiving dinner to the residents of the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. The Auto Club has been doing this activity over the past 18 years. The students act as the waiters/waitress for the residents and their families. The students of Northern Bedford County School District have a great reputation at the Veterans Home. Not only do the residents enjoy the students but the staff appreciate the extra help during the dinner.

As part of our visit the students get to hear stories from the residents. The residents tell them stories about their lives and how things were years ago. We also help transport residents from their room to the banquet. The students get to meet resident family members and get to hear stories of what life was like when their loved one was stationed overseas. It is a great experience.

In closing, we will be serving Easter dinner to the residents. The students are excited to participate and looking forward to going back.

By Ken Dibert, Automotive Teacher/Club Advisor
Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a date in December as National Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day. This past year it was held on Saturday, December 16, 2017.

WAA is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2007 to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. WAA’s mission—Remember, Honor, Teach—is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington, as well as at veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Taking part in last year’s event at Arlington National Cemetery was senior Evan Cottle (Interact President), Mrs. Teresa Crawford (MS/HS Guidance Counselor), Ms. Starla Snyder (School Nurse and Interact Co-Advisor), Rotary foreign exchange students, Tanja Kunz (NBC/Switzerland) and Krispin Kucera (SCSD/Czech Republic) and host parent, Gale Reeve.

By Starla Snyder, Certified School Nurse/Interact Co-Advisor

The Cove Community Club somehow finds a way to have Santa Claus visit the NBC Elementary preschool and kindergarten classes each year right before Christmas. Pictured here are the club members that escorted Santa to each classroom and provided students with a present, cookies, and milk.
Scenes from the 2017/18 HOMECOMING

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Parade/Pep Rally
Upcoming School Events

February 11 ............................... MS Chorus & HS Band Concert
February 15 ................................ Midpoint Marking Period 3
February 16 .............................. School In Session (Make-Up Day for 1/5)
February 19 ............................... No School (Make Up Day #4; Presidents’ Day)
March 2 ................................. Read Across America Day
March 11 ............................... HS Chorus/MS Band Concert
March 16 ............................... Strawbridge Spring Pictures (Elementary, MS and HS)
March 19 ............................... Blood Drive sponsored by Student Council
March 21 ............................... End of Marking Period 3
March 29 ............................... No School (Make Up Day #7)
March 30 ............................... No School (Good Friday)
April 2 ............................... No School (Make Up Day #5; Easter Monday)
April 3 ............................... No School (Make Up Day #3)
April 27 ............................... Two Hour Early Dismissal (Act 80 Teacher In-Service)
May 1 ............................... 5th Grade Chorus Concert (MS/HS Auditorium)
May 11 ............................... Prom—Altoona Grand Hotel
May 14—22 ............................... Spring Keystone Exams
May 16 ............................... No School (District 5 Track Meet at PCS; Make Up Day #6 w/ 2HR ED)
May 28 ............................... No School (Memorial Day)
May 29 ............................... Academic Awards Assembly
May 29 ............................... Baccalaureate (MS/HS Auditorium)
May 31 ............................... Last Day for Students (2-Hour Early Dismissal/Graduation)
June 1 ............................... Teacher In-Service Day