

**NORTH BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 138
NORTH BRANCH AREA EDUCATION CENTER, BOARD ROOM, ROOM C120
38705 GRAND AVENUE
NORTH BRANCH, MN 55056
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
AUGUST 28, 2025
5:30 PM**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Superintendent's Report 2
- V. Work Session Topics
- A. Update on High School Schedule 14
- VI. Adjournment

Superintendent Update

August 28, 2025

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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: Blake Lelm

"Our manufacturing workforce is just aging out, and we're not replacing them," Wentz said.

"So we're running at a deficit of manufacturing workforce. That's where our outreaches to high schools and the ACE program comes in. But if we don't have enough people, the people we do have have to be more efficient, and that's where the upskilling comes in."

ST. PAUL » EDUCATION

'UPSKILLING' MACHINISTS



PHOTOS BY JON WALTON — PROCEEDINGS

As University of St. Thomas sophomore Blake Lelm looks on, graduate student Michael Think takes a measurement of a cutting head during a summer boot camp on machining and Computer Numerical Control optimization at the university in St. Paul on Tuesday. Hosted by St. Thomas' School of Engineering, the "upskilling" event is intended to improve attendees' efficiencies in the manufacturing field.

By Nicholas Nebamas

New York Times

WASHINGTON — Members of the Department of Government Efficiency uploaded a copy of a crucial Social Security database in June to a vulnerable cloud server, putting the personal information of hundreds of millions of Americans at risk of being leaked or hacked, according to a whistleblower complaint filed by the Social Security Administration's chief data officer.

The database contains records of all Social Security numbers issued by the federal government. It includes individuals' full names, addresses and birth dates, among other details that could be used to steal their identities, making it one of the nation's most sensitive repositories of personal information.

The actions by the whistleblower, Charles Borges, underscores concern that have led to lawsuits seeking to block young software engineers at the agency built by Elon Musk from having access to confidential government data. In his complaint, Borges said DODIT members explored the data to an internal agency server that only DODIT could access, forging the type of "independent security monitoring" normally required under agency policy for such sensitive data and creating "enormous vulnerabilities."

Borges did not indicate that the database had been breached or used inappropriately, but his disclosure stated that as of late June, "no verified audit or oversight mechanisms" existed to monitor what DODIT was

DOOD COMPLAINT - PAGE 12

MINNESOTA



Welcoming new teachers



Strengthening Special Education Together



Last week we proudly launched another Registered Apprenticeship program, K-12 Special Education dual licensure in Autism and Emotional/Behavior Disorders.

- This is a critical area of need, and we are incredibly fortunate to have three exceptional education assistants stepping up to this opportunity!
- Pictured are our dedicated EAs alongside members of our admin team and journey teachers—working together to build brighter futures for our students.

A Picture-Perfect Finale

The final North Branch Summer Concert in the Park was bursting with hometown pride!

- Over 45 children took part in the Chalk Drawing Contest
- The evening also featured Supt. Sara Paul, who read “Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses” to a group of eager listeners.
- A fantastic live performance from our very own AJ Spoff!

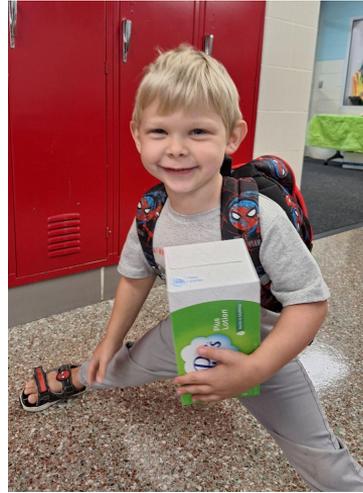
Special thanks to the NBAEF for sponsoring the evening’s entertainment and for their continued support of events that bring our community together.



Welcome Days are here!

Welcome Days are the official “kick-off” to the school year!

Energy and excitement were high across the district.



Safety Through Shared Responsibility



- Full Time School Resource Officer and strong partnership with North Branch PD
- Clarity of expectations provided through Parent-Student Handbook
- Welcome Days provides a personalized start to the school year
- Standard Response Protocols from the "I Love U Guys" Foundation provide a strong foundation for emergency response
- People noticing and speaking up is essential
 - If something feels off, say something
 - Safety includes physical, emotional, and relational awareness
 - Partnership and communication are our most powerful tools

Grand champion robot on display at fair



North Branch has a grand champion FTC Robot plus some blue and red ribbon winners.

- Watch these robots¹⁰ in action on Aug 29, 30, 31.
- Demos are at 10 am, noon, and 3 pm in the Education Building.



Viking JROTC addressing aviation shortages



Aviation Career Pathways at NBAHS

Why Aviation?

Major industry shortages:

- **30,000+** aircraft maintenance techs needed in North America in the next decade
- FAA short **~3,000 air traffic controllers** (avg. salary ~\$150K) – 90% of facilities understaffed
- High demand for pilots, avionics techs, engineers, airport operations specialists

Viking Aviation Opportunities

Exploring Space (Freshmen option)

- Gateway into aviation activities before Ground School

Aviation Honors Ground School (Sophomores+)

- Covers aviation careers beyond flying
- Field trips, control tower visits, guest professionals



The High School Schedule as a Blueprint for Opportunity



We believe the schedule is not just about what students do during the day, it's a reflection of who we are and what we believe about them.

When we embed tiered supports, open access to college-level coursework, and structures for exploration and personalization, we're¹² saying to students: your future is not left to chance. You get to choose. And we've built the system to support that choice.







Aligning Time with What Matters Most ¹⁴

Understanding the NBAPS Schedule.....



In this presentation we will share...

- Choice Not Chance and the Bold Vision of the Big Blur
- History of Carnegie units/credits
- Overview of state requirements, registration and scheduling process
- Timeline of events that lead to creating school schedule
- Navigating system change
- Norse Redesign Update
- Discussion





History of Carnegie Unit

- **Origin (1906):** The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching established the **Carnegie Unit** as a way to standardize high school education and define eligibility for college admission.
- **Definition:** A Carnegie Unit represented **120 hours of instruction** over the course of a school year (about one hour per day, five days per week, for 36 weeks).
- **Purpose:** Created to ensure consistency across schools and to provide a measurable way for colleges to judge student readiness. 16
- **Impact:** Became the **foundation for high school credits**—students needed a set number of units across core subjects to graduate.
- **Expansion:** By the mid-20th century, nearly all U.S. high schools and colleges used Carnegie Units to track progress and set graduation requirements.
- **Criticism:** Over time, educators argued the system emphasized “**seat time**” over mastery of skills and learning outcomes.
- **Modern Shifts:** Many states and districts are moving toward **competency-based education** or **credit flexibility**, but Carnegie Units remain the default framework in most schools.



Choice Not Chance In action

- **New Bell Schedule** that supports CNC:

NBAHS 25-26 7-PERIOD DAY		
1	7:55-8:43	
2	8:48-9:36	
3	9:41-10:29	
4	10:34-11:22	
5	11:27-12:45	
LUNCH A	LUNCH B	LUNCH C
LUNCH 11:27-11:52	CLASS 11:27-11:52	CLASS 11:27-11:52
CLASS 11:57-12:44	LUNCH 11:52-12:17	LUNCH 11:52-12:17
CLASS 12:00-12:45	LUNCH 12:22-12:45	LUNCH 12:22-12:45
6	12:50-1:38	
7	1:43-2:31	

NBAHS 25-26 WED/THURS BLOCK		
W	TH	
1	2	7:55-9:22
3	ADV	9:28-10:55
5	4	11:01-12:58
LUNCH A	LUNCH B	LUNCH C
LUNCH 11:01-11:34	CLASS 11:01-11:34	CLASS 11:01-11:34
CLASS 11:39-12:34	LUNCH 11:34-12:29	LUNCH 11:34-12:29
CLASS 12:39-12:58	CLASS 12:29-12:58	LUNCH 12:29-12:58
7	6	1:04-2:31

- **Advisory period** - Once a week 20 min gives space for learners to work inside SchoolLinks (College and Career Readiness Tool)
- **Anchor Time** - Each week students are provided with 60 minutes of time (Extension, Intervention, Passion Projects, Worktime, or just have Fun!)
- **SchoolLinks** - Comprehensive College and Career Readiness Tool

Choice...Not Chance

The high school experience is all about transitioning from a teenager to a young adult. During this transition the ownership of choices that you make on a regular basis now shifts from the adults in your life to YOU! Successful people take time to reflect on their own strengths and interests. When you come to realize what these are, your future path becomes more clear. You no longer feel like school is something that is done TO YOU; it is something that you now have some ownership and control over. I like to call this "Choice, Not Chance."

In this registration guide, you will find a blend of courses that you are required to take and a plethora of elective courses that you have the opportunity to take. Do not take this opportunity lightly, as you take ownership of your future. Here at NBAHS, we have nearly 20 courses that you can earn college and high school credits for at no cost to you. We also have a growing number of Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses that allow you to learn specific career skills. Finally, we have an expanding Work Based Learning Program called Viking Bridge where you can earn high school credits, get paid AND get real life experience while interning with one of our dozens of local industry partners.

As educators, our chief goal is to prepare each of you to be College and/or Career ready. If your career interest leads you to a 2 or 4 year institution, military or directly to the work force, we have courses here at NBAHS to prepare you for that path. The choice is yours! Ask questions, seek advice, the future is right in front of you. Seize it!

SKOLI!



Clint Link
Principal NBAHS



State Requirements For Graduation



Credit Requirements (Minnesota Statutes § 120B.024)

Minnesota public high school students must complete a **minimum of 23.5 credits**, distributed across specific subject areas as follows:

- **4 credits in English Language Arts**, covering all ELA academic standards
- **3 credits in Mathematics**, including Algebra II or an equivalent that meets math standards
- **3 credits in Science**, which must include:
 - Earth and space science
 - Life science
 - Chemistry or physics
- **3½ credits in Social Studies**, including US history, geography, government & citizenship, world history, and economics. For students who began 9th grade in **2024–25 or later**, this includes **at least 1 credit in government and citizenship** in grades 11 or 12
- **1 credit in the Arts**, meeting applicable standards
- **Physical Education**—credit amount and standards set at the **local district level**
- **Health Education**—credit amount and standards set by **local districts**
- **7 elective credits**, allowing for flexibility and student choice





School Daily Schedule

Teachers - Teach 6 of 7 periods each day (Prep the other period)

Students - Attend and pass classes that are required for graduation (student could receive a maximum of 7 credits per year or 28 total credits)

Require Courses

- 9th graders - (Core 4, Viking Seminar, and 2 electives)
- 10th graders - (Core 4 and 3.5 electives)
- 11th graders - (Core 4 and 3 electives)
- 12th graders - (1.0 English, 1.0 Social Studies)

CLASS OF 2026 NORTH BRANCH AREA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CHECKLIST

Name: _____ Student ID: _____

4 Year Plan:
Fill in the Courses you will take each year

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English 9	English 9
Math	Math
World History	World History
Physical Science	Physical Science
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

10th Grade

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English 10	English 10
Math	Math
Biology	Biology
Geography	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

11th Grade

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English	English
Math	Math
Chemistry/Physics	Chemistry/Physics
Social Studies	Social Studies
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

12th Grade

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
English	English
Social Studies	Social Studies
Elective	Elective

Directions: Put the letter grade in the appropriate box after meeting that requirement. All white boxes must be filled in for graduation. Anything filled in a subject area in the gray boxes will count as elective credits.

Subject Graduation Requirements	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Grade 13	Grade 14	Grade 15	Grade 16	Grade 17	Grade 18
English										
Math										
Physical Science										
Biology										
Chemistry or Physics										
World History										
Geography										
US History										
American Government & Citizenship										
Economics										
Art										
Health										
Electives										



Schedule Timeline

- October/November - **New Course Proposals and Removal of Old Course**
- November/December - **Registration Guide Work (Updates)**
- January - **Student and Family Communication and Registration**
- February - **Sections of Course** (Which courses are we running and which are we not. How many sections of each, bring dept leads into this conversation)
- March - **Preliminary Schedule Built**
- April - **Discussion with Dept Leads Proposed Schedule**
- May - **Scheduling of Students**
- June - **Communication of Schedule with Staff**
- August - **Release of Schedules to Students**

Teacher Testimonial

Having been able to work on as a team in implementing a new bell schedule as well as the Master Schedule inside this bell schedule, school staff having earlier access to the information has been helpful for everyone by giving extra time to plan and get ready for the year ahead. Students and families having the opportunity to see schedules and make adjustments prior to the end of August will allow for a smoother start to the school year as the majority of schedule changes were made prior to September and the start of the year.²¹



- Rachel Bailey, Special Education Teacher

Teacher Testimonial

Beginning in October, a group of high school staff began researching various schedules used at high schools around Minnesota. We intentionally looked at schedules that were quite different, listed their benefits and drawbacks, and thought about how each might work to meet our needs and goals. We reached out to staff at some of the schools whose schedules we were considering and asked them for their thoughts on their schedule, focusing on successes and challenges. Overall, this process was lengthy, but resulted in our group coming to a recommendation with a schedule we hope will be best for student learning.

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- Laura Roth, Social Studies Teacher



Successful Change Management

- Collaboration at our Core
 - Establish Viking Voyageurs Team
 - Bringing in department leaders to help shape the schedule
 - Making this part of the every month work and not an event
- Upcoming First Day of School:
 - NBAHS has been in a redesign process for the past five years
 - We continue to make progress towards our bold Choice not Chance Vision
 - While we have added many courses over the past five years that open doors for student exploration and college credits, singleton courses require individualized scheduling. This used to take up the first two weeks of school.
 - To begin this year, **95%** of our students have full schedules for both semesters
 - **100%** of our students have full schedules for Semester 1
 - This allows our counselors to **be counselors**, not focused on schedule adjustments, right from the first day of school

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Other Exciting Changes For Upcoming School Year

- Enhancing Tier 2 and 3 Supports with addition of Engagement Coach and Addiction Coach.
- Addition of Healthcare Career Pathway beginning 2nd Semester!
- Launch of SchoolLinks with our industry partners, families, students and staff.
- Introduction of Anchor Time into our weekly schedule.

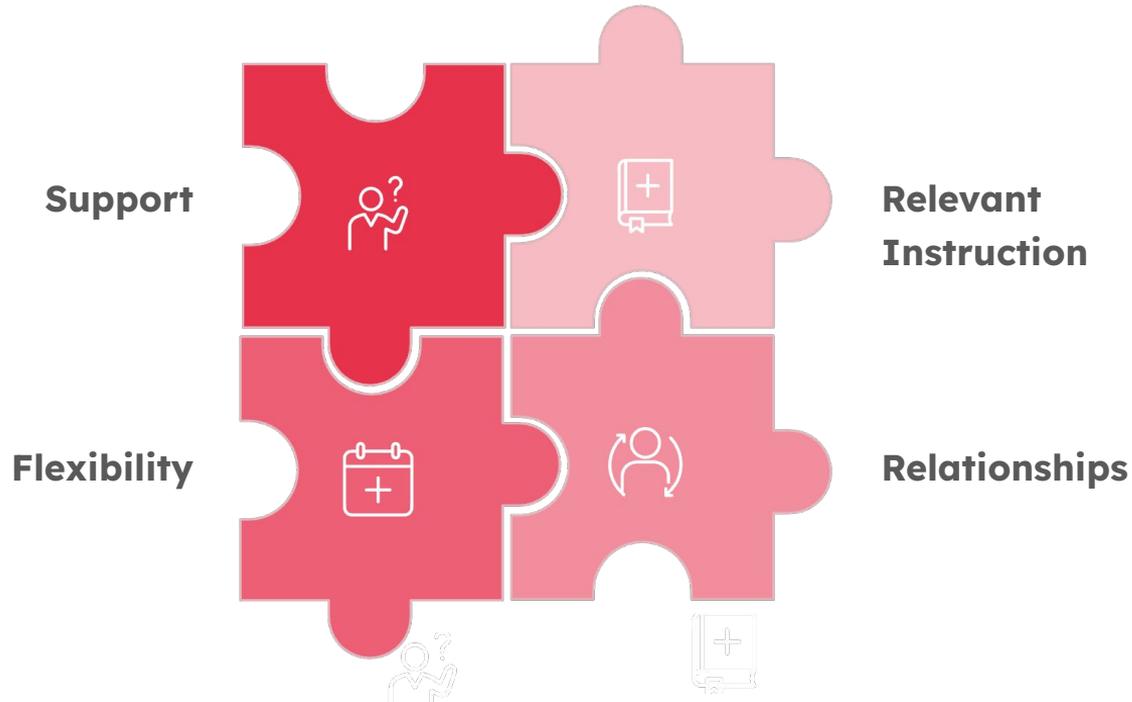
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Norse Redesign Update



Students engage in hands-on, high-interest learning that builds real-world skills and meaningful academic engagement through small-group instruction, project-based learning, and individualized plans. We pair high expectations with high support, empowering students to excel academically, prepare for life after graduation, and thrive in a safe, respectful environment.



Discussion

