

North Branford Intermediate School
NBIS News – January, 2019

- On December 1st, 17 NBIS students auditioned at the Connecticut Music Educators Southern Regional Festival at Fair Haven School in New Haven. This audition included over a thousand students and had representation from districts in the southern portion of Connecticut for grades 6-8. Five instrumental music students were accepted into the festival, and 8 choral students were accepted. These selected students will perform in March with the festival, which will be hosted at NBIS.
- The NBIS Spotlight Players are in full swing with their production of *Seussical the Musical*. Tickets have gone on sale and performances are on February 1st at 7 p.m. and February 2nd at 3 p.m.
- The NBIS 2018-2019 National Geographic Bee Finals were held in the Library on January 10th. All students participated in a preliminary competition in Social Studies classes.
- 8th grade Science teacher Ms. Kathy Granfield and the Tech Department created a "Distance Learning" unit that included a video uplink through our high-speed internet connection. This technology allows for students who are unable to attend school (for a variety of reasons), to virtually "attend" the class.
- As has become tradition, Mary Ann Valentino's 8th grade Math classes participated in the SIFMA Foundation's *Stock Market Game* in the fall. Two of Mrs. Valentino's teams placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the middle school competition (out of 217 teams total) in Connecticut. In addition, these teams placed 6th, 24th, and 25th overall in the State (out of 1,307 teams from college, high school, middle and elementary levels). Mrs. Valentino and the students on the top two teams have been invited to attend a *Stock Market Game* awards ceremony in Hartford in May.
- Social Studies teachers, Mrs. Carrie Sabetta and Mrs. Patricia DePalma, recently incorporated an online historical simulation game into their unit on the Revolutionary era. This game, produced by WNET in conjunction with historians from the City University of New York, was one which Mrs. Sabetta and Mrs. DePalma play-tested during their Woodrow Wilson HistoryQuest Fellowship in July. The online simulation, combined with classroom activities, engaged students in looking at the events in Boston in the 1770s through multiple perspectives, analyzing historical documents, and supporting claims with evidence.
- Student Council meets during lunch once each week to plan future events like the upcoming activities/dance in January. We held a Pajama Day fundraiser for CT Children's Hospital, raising almost \$300 in this voluntary activity. We have initiated a music with lunch program where eighth grade students can request school appropriate music to listen to while eating their lunch. This program is run by the student council officers.
- The Robotics Club is designing new robots and working with Jerome Harrison second graders. A volunteer offering will be provided to 8th graders at Jerome Harrison for the community service initiative.
- The NBIS Yearbook cover has been chosen and our photographers are actively capturing events and student life.
- A new Shoreline Middle School/Intermediate School Library Media Specialist Roundtable has been established. The first meeting will be held on January 29, 2019 from 4:00 - 5:00 in the NBIS Library Media Center.
- In Art, sixth grade students have been working on creating collages using the style of Roccio Montoya and using the elements and principles of design to create pattern, form and color in the background of their collages. Seventh grade students are in the middle of a unit on one-point perspective. They are working on two different projects using a vanishing point and orthogonals that line up the vanishing point. Eighth grade students have just finished a unit of study on color mixing using the primary colors to create a dynamic line design painting.
- Health students in sixth grade learned about Adolescent Growth and Development. Students were educated on how proper hygiene is important in order to take care of their bodies as they grow through adolescence. They were also educated on the changes their bodies go through during the adolescent time frame. Seventh grade has started their unit on Communicable Diseases. We are discussing different types of communicable diseases, how they cause illness to the human body, and the different pathogens they are made up of. Eighth grade students have begun working on their CPR/Safety Prevention unit. They have been learning the proper techniques and strategies for CPR on a mannequin, as well as using an AED training device in case an emergency ever occurs. Students also are educated on what to do in the event of someone choking and how to give abdominal thrusts, as well as what an EpiPen is and why it is used.