

**North Branford Intermediate School**  
**NBIS News – May, 2018**

- The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) has granted exemplary "Positive Climate Status" to North Branford Intermediate School. The accolade was awarded following a rigorous application and review, and makes NBIS one of only seven middle schools in the state with the rating. In Connecticut, just 27 schools now carry CAS Positive Climate Status.
- NBIS students are currently engaged in taking our end-of-year i-Ready benchmarks and the Smarter Balanced Assessment. These assessments will provide the school and district valuable information, which help gauge overall student learning, identify knowledge gaps, reveal student needs, and inform curriculum development/instructional design.
- Scarlet Banner printed a "Special Edition" giving students important dates and prep talk from the Student Council officers and will begin working on the fourth edition of the newspaper.
- TV Club is producing daily live morning announcement show; creating inspirational mini videos; working on different video and meme projects.
- Student Council sponsored a successful 1980's themed dance and are planning a 1990's dance for May 4<sup>th</sup>; working on new PRIDE decorations for the cafeteria; creating inspirational posters to promote positive school climate for upcoming assessments; sponsoring a "hat day" fundraiser for Matt's Mission.
- Middle school students have an opportunity to join a new school Social Studies-related after school club. In Current Events Club, students work together to select interesting topics and conduct research. Then, students engage in lively discussions. The club provides students with a safe, comfortable environment to explore issues as well as to learn how to actively listen to their classmates and to construct meaningful arguments. An example of a recent exciting debate: Is Marxism a philosophical dream or a potential political reality?
- The Robotics Club continues to work with second graders at JHS three days a week. On average, 12 club members go to JHS each day and work with 2 to 3 second graders constructing and testing a robot. The second graders then compete in an obstacle course, driving the robot for an eraser as a prize. The Robotics Club continues to meet on Thursdays, working on various robotic designs to compete in competitions.
- Sixth grade Theatre Arts students are learning the basics of story structure and plot, and creating their own original short skits to present to the class. Their presentations will segue into a unit on performance basics. Seventh grade Theatre Arts students are being introduced to monologues. They were presented with pictures of a variety of houses and asked to choose one, and tell its stories and personal history in a monologue form. Eighth grade Theatre Arts students are in the middle of a unit on theatre criticism. They are coming up with their own definition of good theatre, and using it as a springboard to write their own critical review paper. They are reading several reviews from a variety of newspaper, magazine, and online sources.
- Theatre Games and Improv Enrichment Program is well under way. Students are preparing for their performance on June 6th.
- April has been a great month for the NBIS Music Department. The grade 8 students in Chorus performed in the Choral Spectrum Concert on April 26th. The Band and Chorus students are working on the music for their upcoming concerts. The General Music students in grade 6 are continuing on their piano lessons. The Piano and Guitar students continue to progress on their instruments.
- During April, Future Problem Solvers has continued to meet and work on skills that the students feel they need to improve upon in preparation for next season.