

North Branford Intermediate School
NBIS News - October, 2017

- NBIS was treated to an all-school concert by the U.S. Marine Corps Parris Island Band on September 28th.
- The NBIS Student Council was busy this September. The new officers have become comfortable on the morning announcements. We are in the process of selecting "team representatives" to serve as positive role models for our school. We sponsored a Hat Day on September 22nd and proceeds were donated to the Red Cross to aid hurricane victims.
- Guidance is starting fall group sign-ups.
- TV Club is up and running daily morning announcements. The first meeting of the year was September 21.
- Newspaper Club is collecting information for articles to be used in our first edition. The first meeting of the year was September 26.
- Sixth grade Art students have just finished working on a Picasso inspired self-portrait. The students created a portrait where half was completed realistically and the other half was done using cubism and symbolism. Seventh graders have just finished working on a Georgia O'Keeffe inspired flower. The students used either warm or cool watercolors to create an abstract view of a flower. Eighth graders have just finished working on a positive and negative space project using construction paper. Students learned about how positive and negative space work within a composition and created their own designs to represent this relationship.
- In Health class, students from all three grade levels have been focusing on important topics regarding healthy lifestyle choices. Sixth grade has been learning about nutrition and making healthy food choices by being educated on vitamins and minerals, portion sizes, how to read nutrition labels, and creating their own healthy meals for a day by following the MyPlate guidelines. Seventh grade has been learning about the effects of tobacco through facts and statistics. They are also creating an Anti-Tobacco brand of their own stating research of their own findings. Eighth grade is working on an Alcohol unit focusing on the dangers and effects of binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, drunk driving, and the effects it takes on our body and mind.
- During the first month of school, students in 7th grade Spanish experienced their first exposure to studying a World Language! Students have been exploring the facets of learning a new language and all that makes up a language. We've begun exploring the Spanish alphabet and researching some famous Hispanics to celebrate and understand Hispanic Heritage Month. Students in 8th grade have begun their year learning how to tell time in Spanish and are also researching a famous Hispanic to celebrate and understand Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15th - October 15th.
- Future Problem Solvers had their first meeting on October 1st. We will be starting the process of learning the steps required to solve challenges for 2017-2018 which include Spread of Infectious Disease, Toxic Materials, Disorders, and Cloud Storage. We will also introduce new members to the terminology used to solve challenges as well as work on the skills necessary to work together as a team.
- Sixth grade Theatre Arts students are completing a unit on staging a scene, learning the basic principles of blocking and stage movement. They are learning how to write stage direction as well, and this will ultimately segue into a project about performance basics. Seventh grade Theatre Arts students are beginning a unit on costume design. They are learning about the field of costume design, and what it is like to be a Broadway costume designer. They will soon create their own costume designs based on an emotion word, using watercolor pencils and basic fashion design techniques. Eighth grade Theatre Arts students are currently writing movie reviews.

They are learning about how a theatre/movie critic writes with authority, earns credibility, and expresses their opinion in a fair and meaningful way.

- NBIS Spotlight Players are very excited to begin work on their upcoming production of *The Music Man* (February 2018). Auditions were held on October 4.
- Once again, seventh grade Social Studies students are excited to be participating in the Creative Connections ArtLink Program. This program fosters a cultural exchange, through the creation of original art pieces, between American students and students from an international school. This school year, Ms. Ardine's and Mrs. Sabetta's students are partnered with students from India's Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Educare.
- Over the summer, the Math Department used the Smarter Balanced blueprint document to examine the current curriculum, ensuring that the focus of lessons is aligned appropriately. The department also incorporated sample SB items into lessons (from SB item specifications documents). This year, the department will be working to review course materials in an effort to enhance our curriculum.
- Seventh grade students have recently completed a marble roller coaster project in their Science classes. Students designed, constructed and modified marble tracks in the project that focused student learning on potential and kinetic energy and energy transformations.
- All grade eight students were given a letter to take home explaining fees for class dues and the Boston trip. The letter explains the procedures for payment as well as contact information.
- The Music Department has had a great start to the school year. The Band and Chorus classes, along with the Jazz Band are preparing their concert songs for the upcoming December concert. General Music students have started an introduction to guitar, and the piano and guitar students are learning new concepts and songs.
- Students were welcomed back and introduced to the Physical Education staff for the 2017-2018 school year. All students were given a copy of the Physical Education Program Philosophy which included rules and our grading procedure. Throughout the month we practiced various types of invasion games that included: capture the flag, matball, longball, container ball, and bowling pin knock down. These activities helped hone the skills of catching and throwing. Our lessons also incorporated running and bodyweight exercises throughout the warm up and gameplay to prepare us for the Physical Fitness Test which is approaching. Students critical thinking and problem solving skills were also challenged in these activities as they worked together to formulate strategies to be successful. Some strategies involved positioning players in specific locations and weighing risk vs. reward throughout the game. Schools athletic teams (cross country, volleyball and field hockey) began their seasons and are experiencing early success.
- The NBIS Interact Club held its first meeting of the school year on October 10th. The club will be focusing on the theme of "service over self", and encouraging positive interactions with members of our community and elsewhere. Possible projects will be discussed, and we will begin planning our "Holiday in a Shoebox" project which will take place in November and December.
- Robotics Club began meeting in September. Meeting topics included going to Hand High School to compete in an upcoming competition and a schedule for future meetings.
- The Library hit the ground running in September! Orientations are currently underway. Classroom teachers are scheduling class time in the Library space and Media Lab, circulation has begun, and there are many participants coming to the Library after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- The NBIS Yearbook is in the early planning stages, our first meeting will be scheduled shortly, and we anticipate a large group of enthusiastic participants.

- NBIS 8th Graders will participate in the upcoming T-Bird Fair October 16th-17th.
- NBIS will once again host the 28th Annual North Branford Community Round-Up on October 28th. This event will mark the start of “Spirit Week” at NBIS.
- NBIS will host the 4th Annual Hawks Walk Walkathon on Friday, November 3rd. 20% of the monies raised will be donated to a local charitable organization.
- The Student Government presents the 1st annual 6th/7th Grade Halloween dance on Friday, October 27th. The event is also sponsored by the NBIS PTO.