

Anchor Bay North

Principal's Corner

James Thiede



IMPORTANT 2025-26 DATES

August 27th– First day of School– 1/2 day

August 28th– Second day of school and first full day

August 28th– Pictures during school day

September 3rd– Open House 5:00-6:30pm

September 8th– Begin NWEA testing

September 26th– North Stride Walk a thon

October 8th– Starbase begins

October 23rd– Picture retake

November 4th– Election day– No School

November 20th and 21st– Final exams—1/2 days

November 24th-28th– Thanksgiving break-No School

December 1st– 5th– North Pole Santa Shop

December 6th-Anchor Bay Christmas

December 11th– Band concert @ ABHS 7:30pm

December 22nd-January 4th- Christmas Break-no school

August 28th, 2025

A Strong Start at North!

The first days of school at North have been a huge success! Students are quickly becoming acclimated to middle school life—learning how to manage lockers, find their classrooms during passing time, and settle into their daily routines.

A special thank you goes out to our amazing staff, who have been all hands on deck to help ease this transition. From before school with lockers, to assisting during passing time, and guiding students safely to buses after school, their efforts have made a tremendous difference. Our students have truly been warmly welcomed aboard our ship!

We began the year by building our own North team spirit with a **staff team-building BBQ**. Staff were also treated to a wonderful luncheon provided by **Neimans** and the **best cookies ever** from **Sweet Bees**—a great way to come together and start the year strong.

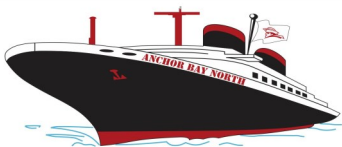
Our students were welcomed on the very first day with **donuts, music, and a warm greeting from Watermark Church**, which set a positive tone and helped launch the year on the right foot.

Today was a big milestone as students had their pictures taken and received their student ID badges. It was no small task capturing photos for nearly **800 students in just one day**, but thanks to great organization and cooperation, it went smoothly. Students also experienced their first full day of classes, complete with their very first **North Lunch and recess**. They enjoyed fresh air and exercise as they walked the track for recess, and we are looking forward to officially opening our brand-new playground next week.

We're also very pleased with how smoothly morning drop-off has gone. To keep it safe and efficient, I will continue directing traffic each morning. Please remember to pull as far forward as possible and have your student ready to exit quickly—this helps ensure a safe and steady flow for everyone.

We are off to a fantastic start, and we're looking forward to a wonderful year ahead at North!

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SAIL THE SHIP!

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School Safety

As we begin the 2025-26 school year, I want to take a moment to remind you of the importance of having conversations with your son or daughter about making appropriate choices, especially when it comes to the words they use. More than ever, comments or actions that could be perceived as threatening or inappropriate can create serious consequences for everyone involved.

In the coming weeks, our **Director of School Safety** and our **New Baltimore School Resource Officer** will be speaking with students about the importance of making good decisions, as well as the potential consequences of poor choices.

Throughout my years as an administrator, some of the most difficult situations I have faced involved students who made threats—whether they intended them seriously or not. Unfortunately, these situations often resulted in expulsion from school and, in many cases, legal consequences.

Recently, **Macomb County Prosecutor Lucido's office** released the following:

"The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, in collaboration with local police, continues to offer educational programs in schools that inform students and staff about the legal ramifications of school threats, violence, and bullying. The office remains committed to ensuring that students understand that such actions can lead to serious charges, including terrorism threats, bomb threats, and malicious use of electronic devices—crimes that carry penalties ranging from misdemeanors to felonies, potentially resulting in jail time and long-term impacts on future educational and employment opportunities."

Threats to Macomb County schools are causing financial losses for local governments, and that his office will hold both students and parents accountable for any costs incurred. Parents may be financially liable if law enforcement agencies seek compensation for responding to and investigating incidents involving school threats, violence, or weapons. In early 2024, a police agency in Macomb County requested over \$12,000 in restitution after a student made a school threat."

Without a doubt the best way to possibly prevent a student from making a poor choice comes from parental support. Please make a point to address this with your son/daughter.

School Safety at North

The safety and security of our students and staff is our number one priority at North. We are proud to share several updates that strengthen our commitment to creating a safe learning environment.

Security Cameras

We had **30 security cameras** installed throughout the building—both inside and outside last year. These cameras are an excellent resource to help us monitor activity and further enhance school safety.

School Security Personnel

Anchor Bay North is staffed with a dedicated team focused on maintaining safety every day. Our school has a **full-time armed Fortis Security Guard**, a **Hall Monitor**, and strict procedures to limit building access. These procedures include the use of **ID badges**, a **secure pick-up and drop-off vestibule**, and multiple **emergency drills** conducted throughout the school year.

New School Resource Officer

We are very happy to announce that **Officer Brian Chadwick** from the **New Baltimore Police Department** will be serving as our new **School Resource Officer**. This marks the **first time North has had a full-time SRO on campus**, and we are excited about the additional support, security, and positive relationships this role will provide for our students and staff.

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NWEA Testing

Our students will begin our yearly NWEA testing cycle on September 8th and will conclude on October 3rd. Please see information below describing what NWEA testing is used for.

NWEA Information and Reports

NWEA describes its company as follows:

"NWEA is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators world-wide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency—and provide insights to help tailor instruction. For 40 years, NWEA has developed Pre-K–12 assessments and professional learning offerings to help advance all students along their optimal learning paths. Our tools are trusted by educators in 145 countries and more than half the schools in the United States."

Our school uses testing data from NWEA to adjust curriculum and offer interventions for our students. We also measure growth from one testing cycle to another. I have listed some information from the NWEA website to help you interpret reports. For further questions, please visit the NWEA website at : <https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>

What is a RIT Score?

After each MAP Growth test, results are delivered in the form of a RIT score that reflect students' academic knowledge, skills, and abilities. Think of this score like marking height on a growth chart. You can tell how tall your child is at various points in time, and how much they have grown between one stage and another.

The RIT (Rasch Unit) scale is a stable, equal-interval scale. Equal-interval means that a change of 10 RIT points indicates the same thing regardless of whether a student is at the top, bottom, or middle of the scale. A RIT score has the same meaning regardless of grade level or age of the student. You can compare scores over time to tell how much growth a student has made.

How do teachers and schools use MAP Growth Scores?

MAP Growth helps schools and teachers know what your child is ready to learn at any point in time. Teachers can see the progress of individual students and of their class as a whole. Principals and administrators can see the progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district.

Since students with similar MAP Growth scores are generally ready for instruction in similar skills and topics, it makes it easier for teachers to plan instruction. MAP Growth also provides typical growth data for students who are in the same grade, subject, and have the same starting performance level. This data is often used to help students set goals and understand what they need to learn to achieve their goals.

NEW FOR THE 2025-2026 School Year at *Anchor Bay*



AWAY-FOR-THE DAY DEVICE POLICY

Beginning in the fall of 2025, Anchor Bay Schools will be implementing a "cell phone free" policy for all students during the school day. Under the new Away-for-the-Day requirements, students will need to put their personal electronic devices in their locker or cubbies at the start of the school day where it will remain until the final bell. The district's goal with this policy is to minimize distractions in the classroom, encourage face-to-face interactions, and enhance overall student engagement in learning.

Key Policy Details:

- Personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight in lockers or cubbies during school hours.
- The term "device" includes cell phones, personal laptops, smartwatches, earbuds, headphones, and other wireless communication devices.
- The policy applies to all students, with legal exceptions for those covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individualized Education Programs (IEP), Section 504 Plans, or students with documented medical needs.

Benefits of a Device Free Policy:

- ✓ Improved Academic Performance – Fewer distractions lead to better focus, comprehension, and engagement in learning.
- ✓ Enhanced Social Skills & Face-to-Face Interaction – Encourages stronger peer relationships and communication skills.
- ✓ Reduced Cyberbullying & Social Pressure – Limits exposure to online harassment and negative social media influences.
- ✓ Better Mental Health & Reduced Anxiety – Reduces screen time, stress, and fear of missing out (FOMO) from social media.
- ✓ Encourages Responsibility & Time Management – Helps students develop self-discipline and independence.
- ✓ Less Classroom Disruption – Minimizes interruptions from notifications, calls, and texting.
- ✓ Promotes Physical Activity & Engagement in School Life – Encourages participation in extracurricular activities and real-world experiences.

By eliminating the presence of personal electronic devices during the school day, Anchor Bay Schools aims to foster a more focused and interactive educational environment. Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss this policy with their students and help ensure a smooth transition when the policy goes into effect.