



## 2 New Classrooms Innovating Education at NENE

The school year kicked off with students at Northeast North Elementary School visiting two new places in the building. The school created a new writing lab and a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Agriculture, and Mathematics (STEAM) transformation room.

The writing lab is designed to be a place for creative writing. Students will write stories and create books; some will create comic books. Students will work through the writing process, including editing, illustrating, and publishing. We will explore writing letters, poetry, reports, and all types of writing. Once the students finish their books, they will be on display in the "write place." Each semester NENE will invite their authors to share their books at the Author's Tea with families joining for tea.

New themes throughout the year will transform the STEAM room, including math bowl-a-rama, a fractional pizza restaurant, science: bats, spiders, and things, dinosaurs, and a camp read-a-lot zoo. Students will be doing hands-on activities as well as project-based learning. During the bowl-a-rama, students will be creating a bowling birthday party (creating guest lists, invitations, designing a bowling lane to scale, and figuring out the cost of food and favors.) When we set up the pizza restaurant, students will set the table, create menus, take orders, create pizza (paper design), and ring up customers on a real cash register.

Transformations of the classroom will help students with the employability standards as well as STEAM.



## Automotive Technology at NCHS

After a shortage of maintenance mechanics in the automotive industry, approximately 8 years ago, North Central started offering Automotive classes again at the High School level.

The program took off, and 3 years ago, the school corporation redid the Thunderbirds shop in a 1.1 million dollar project to offer a state-of-the-art shop and Automotive Technology (AT) program.

AT is a 3-period class consisting of mostly juniors and seniors. Approximately 30% of the class time is spent in the classroom, where they learn theories and hear lectures on their current and ongoing projects. The other 70% of class time is spent with hands-on learning in the auto shop.



The Automotive Technology program is part of the Technology Pathway option for Indiana high school diplomas.

Students enrolled in the program receive dual credit through Ivy Tech Community College. Each semester that students are enrolled, they can receive three college credits per semester. Upon graduation, AT students can end up with 12 college credits.

The North Central shop isn't open to the public. Therefore, the school is not taking business away from local businesses. Project vehicles are provided by staff members, teachers, students, coaches, etc.... The shop focuses on engines, transmissions, and maintenance. Vehicle owners pay for parts, and the labor is free.

The auto shop is self-contained, giving students access to all tools and equipment provided by the school and generous donors. Class sizes are kept to 15 or fewer students to give special attention to every student. Northeast School Corporation is proud to be one of the very few small schools with an automotive program, especially considering they have dwindled out of big cities.

Instructor Joe Kutch has been in the auto industry for over 30 years. He started at Chrysler in 1989 and eventually ended up at GM. Kutch previously taught automotive for Ivy Tech for 7 years and later worked with Northeast School board members to plan the automotive program from scratch. With the help of the school board, Kutch also reached out to his connections at Indiana State University and Ivy Tech to create a successful program.

In addition to teaching in the shop at NESC, Kutch is also a working manager at Sullivan Automotive Group, where he submits warranty claims. He has hired a few students directly out of his class, but he encourages kids to go on for an associate's degree at a trade school.

Looking forward, Kutch would like to create a "life lessons" class. An opportunity for students to learn how to do their own vehicle maintenance, change their own tire, etc.... He would also love to do a beginners class, a one-hour class where students could learn to check their oil, change tires, check breaks, an opportunity for students to know what they need when their vehicle needs work.





## High Ability Program in Full Swing at NEEE

Northeast School Corporation recognizes that high-ability students need differentiated programming to achieve their potential. To identify high-ability students, all elementary students are assessed in Kindergarten, 2nd, and 5th grade by a screener to determine their ability level. If students get a certain score on the screener, they are then tested further for an opportunity to be part of the high ability program. Teachers can also recommend a student receives further testing. The goal of the assessment is to help advance all students along their optimal learning paths. This is done by providing intervention groups for students needing extra help and enrichment programs for students needing a more rigorous curriculum that will develop the identified abilities.



NESC employs High Ability Coaches in each building to assist administrators, classroom teachers, and students in meeting the needs of high-ability learners. East Elementary coaches Jenna Redman, Jessica Kamman, and Jennifer Strahle meet with their students once a week for 30 minutes and incorporate some special, occasional half-day lessons.

High-ability grant dollars are hard at work at NEEE school. NEEE teacher and High Ability Coach Jennifer Strahle said, "High ability students remain in the regular classroom for their core learning experiences and instruction. Small groups of identified students are gathered at each grade level to provide peer support and meet high-ability students' needs both academically and socially. The inclusion program utilizes differentiated instruction with the support of the Indiana State Standards and resources provided by NESC."



## Free breakfast & lunch

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended waivers allowing Northeast School Corporation to continue serving Free breakfast and lunch trays to our students for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition to the tray, North Central Jr/Sr High School also offers a grab & go option for breakfast.

T-bird Academy virtual students can also receive free school meals. Virtual students must place an online order each day by 8:30 am. Online

ordering allows for sufficient quantity and helps cut down on food waste. Families with students in multiple buildings have the option of selecting one pick up location for all of their meals. Pick-up times at the elementary schools are from 10:00 - 11:00 am and 12:15-1:00 at North Central. Virtual student meals will follow the in-school lunch menu as much as possible with grab & go consideration.

All meals must meet the USDA standards for the National School Lunch Program.

**NESC Upcoming Dates**

**Monday, September 6th**

*Labor Day - No School*

**Friday, October 8th**

*End of 1st grading period*

**Monday, October 11th - Friday,**

**October 15th**

*Fall Break - No School*

**Wednesday, November 24th - Friday,**

**November 26th**

*Thanksgiving Break - No School*

**Friday, December 17th**

*End of 1st semester*

**Monday, December 20th - Friday,**

**December 31st**

*Winter Vacation - No School*

**Monday, January 3rd**

*Classes Resume*



**Back on Track, Full Steam Ahead**

Northeast School Corporation considers the circumstances of the time student’s missed in the classroom. The bulletin board above reminds them of their plan at NENE: “Back on Track Full Steam Ahead!”

“We have reviewed last spring's NWEA data and have created intervention groups with our Instructional Assistants working intensely with students in the areas of reading and math. Assistants work with students on high-frequency word list reading, fluency reading passages at the student's level, math facts, and math skills that need to be retaught from the previous grade level. The intense work takes about 10 minutes for each student, but it is targeted at the child's specific needs. We hope to get everyone "on track" at grade level after the loss due to covid 19,” says NENE principal Dawn McKillop.

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[www.NESC.K12.IN.US](http://www.NESC.K12.IN.US)

**HOURS:**

Administration Office....M-F 7:45 am - 3:30 pm

North Central .....M-F 7:45 am - 3:30 pm

North Elementary.....M-F 7:45 am - 3:30 pm

East Elementary.....M-F 7:45 am - 3:30 pm

