

The Ramblings

Paid for by McBain Rural Agricultural School

MCBAIN RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

FALL 2025

SAFETY AROUND WATER PROGRAM



Every year, the YMCA offers their SAW program. SAW stands for: Safety Around Water. This is a program specifically for 4th grade students, and it is offered to McBain as well as the surrounding school communities. For eight weeks, our students attend an hour class at the Y to learn about water safety, basic swimming skills, and ways to help themselves or others if they are in danger in the water. It is fun to watch students learn about the water and grow in their ability to swim and move in the water. The students enjoy the opportunity, and we're thankful that we can partner with the Y for this program. Special thanks to Mr. Fredin, Mrs. Avery, Mrs. Maloney, and Ms. Smith for organizing this and chaperoning the trip each week.

8th Grade Agriculture Career Day

Our 8th graders recently participated in Agriculture Career Day, an exciting opportunity to explore the wide range of job possibilities in the agricultural industry. Students visited Lucky 7 Farm, Benthem Brothers Farm, and Yonkman Farm where they learned firsthand about the many skills and careers connected to modern agriculture.

This hands-on experience was made possible through our valued partnership with MSU Extension and 4-H. Students had a great day discovering how agriculture impacts our community and the variety of career paths available in this vital field.



STAY CONNECTED
STAY INVOLVED WWW.MCBAIN.ORG

McBain Schools
107 E. Maple St.
McBain, MI 49657

Superintendent .. 231.825.2165
Elementary 231.825.2021
Middle School 231.825.8041
High School 231.825.2412

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Hello McBain,

I hope this letter finds you well.

This summer has been a busy one at McBain Schools, and I am excited to share a few updates with you.

Our roofing project has moved along a little slower than we had hoped, but we are grateful to now have a new roof in place—fully replaced and under warranty. This important upgrade was made possible by the sinking fund dollars that our community generously approved. Having this support has truly been a blessing for our district.

We also made some exciting improvements to our playground. Thanks to donations from the McBain PTO and McBain Active Kids, we were able to install brand new playground equipment. In addition, Biewer Sawmill and Bazuin Trucking provided wood chips, which were spread with the help of VV Heritage's equipment and a team of hardworking volunteers. Moving those wood chips was no small task, and we are thankful for every hand that pitched in. This new surface and the playground updates are a wonderful improvement from the stone we had before and will be enjoyed by our students for years to come.

Inside our buildings, we kept the momentum going with fresh paint. We've moved beyond the elementary wing, completing the middle school hallway and the central hallway leading to the high school. Our middle school and high school gyms, as well as the multipurpose room, also received a fresh coat of paint—brightening and renewing the spaces where our students learn, grow, and compete.

It has also been wonderful to welcome students back into the building. Summers can feel a little lonely here, and I am always amazed at how much our kids grow—not only in height but in maturity—over just a few months. The building is such a happier place when it is once again filled with the energy, laughter, and spirit of our students and staff.

As we look ahead to the new school year, we are embracing our new motto: "Wheels Up, Ramblers – The Good to Great Journey Starts Here." This is more than just a phrase; it's a mindset. It's a reminder that we never settle for "good enough." Instead, we keep pushing forward—together—on our journey toward greatness.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our schools. These projects and improvements would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of our community. We are proud to partner with you as we elevate excellence at McBain Schools.

Blessed to be a Rambler,

Mr. Scott Akom

scott.akom@mcbain.org

SUMMER PROJECTS



National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

On August 25th the National Honor Society hosted their annual induction ceremony. Twenty-six new members were accepted into the group for the 2025-2026 school year. National Honor Society students are looking forward to traveling by train to Chicago. They will be going to Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium, Sky Deck, and seeing the Broadway Show "Six."



Check out whats happening at the McBain Community Library



The McBain Community Library was a busy place this summer with our Summer Reading Program going on. We had over 40 plus kids at each event. Thanks to parents and caregivers for supporting this program by bringing the kids to the library. Also, thank you to Meijer of Cadillac for providing the library with \$150 in gift cards to hand out to participants.

The library's preschool story time program is on Tuesdays at 10:30 during the school year. If school is canceled story time will also be canceled.

Reminder - If you have a library card you will have access to the Libby App. This free app will give you access to e-books, audio books and 100's of magazines. If you need help accessing the app please stop in or give us a call and we will gladly assist you.

In December information about the Battle of the Books program will be handed out to students in 4th, 5th and 6th grade. This is an awesome program for students to participate. Kickoff is January 10th and will be one Saturday a month until March where it will be two Saturdays. This is a free program for the participants and a great way to encourage reading during the winter months.

Information about our library including access to our library catalog can be found at www.michlibrary.org. The library also has a face book page where updated information is posted. Phone number is 231-825-2197 or email mcbainlibrary@gmail.com.

Library hours are as follows:

Monday - Thursday - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Friday - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Saturday - 9:00 AM to Noon

A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Welcome back Rambler Families and Friends!

We have had a great start to the 25-26 school year here in the high school. We have a nice routine in place and continue to focus on our WHEEL expectations as well as providing a rigorous and rich curriculum for our students. We welcomed 95 freshmen into the high school and have enjoyed getting to know them and we were so happy to see our upperclassmen again for another great year!

There always seems to be something going on in the high school and we love to have our students involved! We have about 120 students participating in our fall sports, our National Honor Society had an induction ceremony and welcomed in 26 new members and has already held our first Blood Drive, our band has been working on their marching music and performing at our home football games and our choirs gave a Fall Choir Concert on October 15! We have some really talented, hard working students in McBain and I am so proud of them!

We are so thankful to our community for your support for our school! Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Becky Rodenbaugh

becky.rodenbaugh@mcbain.org

ArtPrize Field Trip

*Mrs. Elizabeth Mills
HS Art Teacher*



*High School Art students
inside Arborialis.*

Art Prize is more than a field trip, it is an experience. Art Prize is a perfect example that art doesn't have to hang in a museum to be important. It can live on the streets, in parks, on buildings, and in conversations. ArtPrize helps students see how creative expression brings people together, starts conversations, and helps us see the world—and each other—more clearly.

One of the most unforgettable parts of our visit to ArtPrize was walking through Arborialis, an immersive installation created by Architects of Air. Once students stepped inside, they entered another world. The entire structure was made of inflatable tunnels and domes, filled with glowing, colored light that shifted as you moved. The air was filled with soft, ambient sounds that echoed gently through the space, making everything feel calm and dreamlike.

Overall, ArtPrize wasn't just a field trip. It was an experience that shows the power of art and how it can connect with people in unexpected ways. We left Grand Rapids feeling more inspired, curious, and appreciative of the creativity all around us.

Lars Fredin Inducted into the BCAM Hall of Honor



Basketball has been a lifelong passion for Lars Fredin, a 1994 McBain graduate who scored over 1,000 points in high school. Since 1999, he has coached middle school basketball at McBain—26 years with 8th grade boys and 17 years with 8th grade girls—reaching over 300 career wins and 11 undefeated seasons. Known for making sure every player got on the court, Lars has focused on developing skills and preparing students for the next level.

Beyond coaching, he has officiated basketball and volleyball, called games on 107.9 CDY and Rambler Review, and organized community morning basketball for nearly three decades. Nominated by Hall of Fame Coach Bruce Koopman, Lars credits his fellow coaches, athletic directors, supportive parents, the McBain community, and his family for their encouragement throughout his career.



OUR CONCESSION STAND ROCKS!

On Friday, September 19th during the home varsity football game against Beal City, Kirtland Community College and The Rock Station 105 and 95.5 crashed the senior class concession stand. Mrs. Rodenbaugh, the HS principal, nominated our school and we were chosen to receive a \$500 donation check for our senior class. Cartman and Guy Dark from The Real Rock Station along with Cesalee from Kirtland College worked filling popcorn bags and selling hot dogs! It was a beautiful night for a football game. A big thank you to KCC and The Real Rock Station for coming to McBain and crashing our concession stand!



A MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Wheels Up, Ramblers! Your Good to Great Journey Starts Here! 🚀

We're off to a fantastic start to the school year! The middle school has a fresh new look with updated paint, creating a welcoming space for learning and growth.

We're thrilled to welcome Mrs. Cook, our new English teacher, to the team. We're also building exciting new community partnerships, including Agriculture Career Days and collaboration with MSU Extension 4-H, giving students meaningful, real-world learning experiences.

Students continue to earn prizes and recognition for demonstrating our **WHEEL** expectations:
Welcome – **H**onest – **E**ngaging – **E**mpathetic – **L**eaders

We're proud of our Ramblers and excited for the many great learning opportunities ahead. Wheels Up, Ramblers—let's make this year our best one yet!

Mr. Troy Finstrom

troy.finstrom@mcbain.org

PASSING THE TORCH

by Brandy Baas - transportation

Scott Dunham has ran the McBain School Transportation Department for over 25 years. In that time he has acquired a multitude of memories from drivers crying during training to stuck buses. Scott estimated he has trained over 40 people in his years at McBain. He has appreciated his time as the bus garage's fearless leader, however he is looking forward to fewer hours at the garage and new adventures. Fortunately for us, he has taken the position of bus mechanic and will still be involved. Congratulations on your semi-retirement Scott!

With 14 years being the wheel of a school bus, combined with 25 years of owning and operating a construction business, Russ Rodenbaugh felt like it was time for new challenges. Taking on the role of transportation director felt like what he was looking for. Russ enjoys working with people and feels like McBain has a good group of bus drivers. His interactions with a diverse group of people has given him the opportunity to develop problem solving skills, flexibility and good communication. Russ has the safety of students and drivers first and foremost. He hopes to continue developing a strong and diverse team with a positive attitude, continue to encourage, communicate and lead by example. So far, Russ is off to a great start! Congratulations to Russ on his new position. We are happy to have you as the new director!

The Transportation Department and director are vital roles that keep McBain Schools running smoothly. We are thankful for this hardworking team of individuals.



Mr. Russ Rodenbaugh (L) and Mr. Scott Dunham (R) working together to keep the transportation department running smoothly.

LITTLE WHEELS PRESCHOOL



THE STAFF
@ LITTLE
WHEELS

Little Wheels Preschool is now in session for our 5th year!! We have three classes of 4 year olds of which all 4 year old students get free tuition, thanks to the Free PreK for All initiative! We also have one class of 3 year olds, which is tuition based.

Our first day of preschool was September 2nd, and we welcomed 57 students! We are so very excited to get to know our new friends and to watch them learn and grow. You can expect our school days to consist of play-based learning, along with structured learning and assessment. Not to mention, our program includes daily meals and snacks. We currently have 3 open slots for our free program! Come join us!!



PTO Annual Craft Market

The PTO is once again hosting our Holiday Craft Show on November 29. We are asking for donations of the following items to help offset the expenses for the luncheon.

Name brand cans of pop

Cases of water (16.9 oz)

Donations may be dropped at any school office or sent with your child anytime before Friday, November 21. Thank you for supporting the McBain PTO!

McBAIN • PTO

McBAIN PTO'S ANNUAL
Holiday
CRAFT MARKET
SAT. NOV. 29, 2025
9AM TO 3PM
McBAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL
107 EAST MAPLE STREET
McBAIN, MI 49657

175 booths of hand crafted items!

LUNCH AVAILABLE • RAFFLE DRAWING • FREE ADMISSION

FRESHMEN CLASS TRIPS

The Freshman class has had a busy start to their high school career. On September 23rd they traveled to Eagle Village in Hersey to work on team building and had some fun. On October 7th they participated in Manufacturing Day where they were split into three groups and visited AAR Mobility Systems, Akwel and Cadillac Castings. Thank you to these local manufacturers for hosting our freshman class!



A MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL



Hello everyone!

We have had a great start to the year in the elementary building, and I hope you're enjoying a great year so far, too. It has been so fun to see everyone back for Open House and to have students back in the building.

We return almost all of our staff this school year which is such a blessing. We do have one new staff member: Heather Barkman is joining us as our upper elementary special education teacher. She served in our building substitute role last year, so she knows the school and our students well.

If you've been to the school, you may have noticed that we have some new playground equipment! The equipment is rated for all students, so everyone has been able to access it. Thank you to Mrs. Sluiter, Mrs. Huttenga, and Mrs. Agema for coordinating this. We were able to use funds raised through McBain Active Kids and the PTO Holiday Craft Show to get the new equipment. Special thanks goes to Biewer Sawmill and Bazuin Trucking for helping with the wood chips. Finally, thank you to the staff for hauling and spreading the wood chips in the summer heat!

We continue to support student behavior and learning by "Feeling the Wheel" through our PBIS framework. This year, we are also using a social-emotional curriculum called Friendzy. Each month has a theme that focuses on building skills in students to help them practice self-regulation, perseverance, and kindness, just to name a few traits. This month's theme is "We Need Each Other."

Make it a great day, Ramblers!!

Mr. David Wissner

david.wissner@mcbain.org



Since 1999, the McBain Rural Agricultural School Foundation has been helping Rambler grads take the next step after high school. Whether it's college, community college, or a trade program, scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$4,000 are available each year.

We're looking for students who show great character, a strong work ethic, and the drive to succeed. Applications are due the Friday before Spring Break and need to include proof of acceptance, two recommendation letters, and a short statement of financial need. Scholarships are awarded at graduation and paid out after students complete their first year of school with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. These scholarships are possible thanks to the generosity of McBain alumni and community members. We're always thankful for new donors who want to help support our students' futures!

For more information, please visit www.mrasf.org or scan this QR Code.

SENIOR FOCUS DAY



On Friday, September 12th our senior class took a trip to Mid Michigan College for Senior Focus Day. This event was to encourage our seniors to consider their future, explore available options and create a plan to achieve their goals beyond high school. Students were also able to tour Mid's Technical Education Center and Welding Lab. McBain seniors were able to connect with colleges and local employers for more information. This is an annual event put on by Mid Michigan College and Clare-Gladwin RESD CTE.

CHEER CLINIC RECAP!

The 2025 Annual McBain Youth Cheer Clinic was a great success, bringing together 55 youth participants, 25 Pop Warner cheerleaders, and 11 high school and middle school cheerleaders on the sidelines during our final home game on October 3rd.

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, participants proudly wore pink to honor fighters, survivors, and loved ones affected by the disease.

The clinic focused on building confidence, learning stunt fundamentals, and inspiring a passion for cheerleading among young athletes.

On behalf of the entire McBain Cheer Program, we would like to thank all of the youth and Pop Warner cheerleaders, along with their parents, for their participation and dedication. Your enthusiasm and commitment to our program are deeply appreciated. We look forward to continuing this tradition and welcoming everyone back next year.





We Need Your Help!

McBain Rural Agricultural Schools is in the process of updating and adding new athletic banners in our gymnasium to honor district, regional, and state tournament achievements. These banners showcase the long tradition of Rambler pride and excellence, and we want to make sure that all accomplishments are recognized.

One of the challenges we face is that past records can be difficult to track down. That's where we need your help! If you have verified information about championships or tournament appearances that may be missing from the list below, please share it with us. Verification could be in the form of yearbooks, news clippings, photos, or other reliable records.

In addition to updating existing banners, we also plan to add banners for **Highland Conference All-Sports Winners** to celebrate Rambler success across all sports.

Below are the accomplishments we currently have recorded:

Football

- District: 1991, 1993, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2010, 2015, 2023
- Regional: 1991, 1993, 2001
- Final 4: 1991, 1993, 2001
- Runner-Up: 1993, 2001

Volleyball

- District: 1994, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Regional: 2007, 2009, 2021, 2022
- Final 4: 2009, 2021

Boys Cross Country

- Regional: 1995, 1996
- State Champions: 1996

Girls Cross Country

(Records needed – please share if you have them)

Girls Basketball

- District: 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2021, 2022
- Regional: 1984, 1985, 1986, 1994, 1995, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014
- Final 4: 1984, 1985, 1986, 1994, 2009
- Runner-Up: 2009
- State Champions: 1984



Boys Basketball

Note: McBain was in the Paul Bunyan Conference (1951–1967), Timber Conference (1967–68), and Independent (1969–1972).

- District Championships: 1931, 1941, 1942, 1956, 1957, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1979, 1983, 1984, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Regional Championships: 1964, 1994, 2002, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2016, 2021, 2024, 2025
- Conference Championships: 1957, 1963, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Semi-Final Appearances: 2002, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2024
- State Finals:
2002 – State Champions
2011 – State Runner-Up

Highland Conference All-Sports Champions

- 1991–1992
- 1992–1993
- 1993–1994
- 1994–1995
- 1995–1996
- 1998–1999
- 1999–2000
- 2000–2001
- 2001–2002
- 2003–2004
- 2010–2011
- 2015–2016
- 2016–2017
- 2017–2018
- 2018–2019
- 2022–2023
- 2024–2025



If you have additional dates or verification for achievements not listed above, please reach out to the school office. Your help ensures our banners reflect the full legacy of Rambler athletics and that our current and future students can take pride in the traditions of excellence that came before them.

Go Ramblers – Wheels Up!



We Are McBain!

Elementary FUN TO BE FIT!



If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing list, please call or text 313-509-7028.



McBain Rural Agricultural School
107 East Maple Street
McBain, MI 49657