

The Ramblings

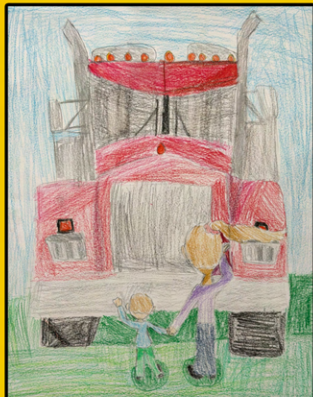
Paid for by McBain Rural Agricultural School

MCBAIN RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

MEEMIC ART CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to 7th grade artist, Jovi Roderick, who was selected as one of just 25 winners in the 11th Annual Meemic Masterpieces Art Contest! This year's contest celebrated the theme "For the Love of Automobiles," and Jovi's artwork stood out among entries from across the state. As part of the award, the McBain School District received a \$500 grant to support classroom learning, and Jovi received an Amazon Fire 8 HD tablet, a framed certificate, and the opportunity to have her original artwork displayed in a special public gallery at the 2026 AAA Auto Expo in Dearborn this September.



2ND GRADE FIELD TRIP TO HARTWICK PINES



On Friday, May 8, 2026, the second graders went to Hartwick Pines. The students were able to hike through the forest and learn about the trees and the surrounding ecosystem. The students also toured a replica lumber camp and learned about life during that era. The children asked questions. They saw the equipment that was used to cut the trees and move the lumber. They also learned that children worked at some lumber camps and were called, "Cookies." They ended the trip with lunch and playing on the playground. It was a great experience!

STAY CONNECTED
STAY INVOLVED WWW.MCBAIN.ORG

McBain Schools	Main Line	231.825.2165
107 E. Maple St.	Elementary	Opt. 1
McBain, MI 49657	Middle School	Opt. 2
	High School	Opt. 3
	Superintendent	Opt. 5

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



It has been another incredible school year at McBain Rural Agricultural Schools. Thank you to our students, staff, families, and community for your continued support and encouragement throughout the year. It truly is a privilege to serve in a community that cares so deeply about our schools and the success of our students.

This summer, we are excited to continue improving our facilities to benefit students for years to come. The major projects this year will be replacing the flooring throughout our elementary wing, including both hallways and classrooms. Some of the current flooring was originally installed in 1998 – just imagine how many little feet have walked across that carpet over the years. We are able to make these improvements from the gracious support of our community and our sinking fund dollars.

We also want to take a moment to recognize and congratulate three outstanding retirees with almost 90 years of combined service to McBain Schools!!

John Vongphasouk - Custodian (43 years)

Dixie Nelson - Kindergarten Teacher (40 years)

Lisa Bronkema - Athletic Secretary (20 years)

Dixie, Lisa, and John have each dedicated many years of service to McBain Rural Agricultural Schools and have made a lasting impact on countless students, families, coworkers, and our community. Their care, commitment, and investment in kids have helped shape what makes McBain special. We are incredibly grateful for all they have done and wish them nothing but the very best in retirement. They will all be greatly missed!! As summer gets started, I hope everyone has a chance to slow down a bit, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy everything that makes a Michigan summer special. Thank you again for a great school year and for the continued support of our schools. Have a safe and fun summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall, ready for another great year at McBain.

Wheels Up, Ramblers! The Good to Great Journey Starts Here!

Mr. Scott Akom
Superintendent

OUTSTANDING PERSON IN EDUCATION

McBain's Education Association is proud to honor Sharon Taylor as our 2025/2026 Outstanding Person in Education. Sharon has taught in McBain for 33 years, mostly in first or second grade. Sharon believes her job is to teach the content and guide children to understand it. Sharon is married to her high school sweetheart, Marc Taylor, and has three children, all graduates of McBain. Sharon's dedication to her students and to McBain make her an outstanding teacher and a tremendous asset to our community. The MFA is proud to recognize Sharon Taylor as our Outstanding Person in Education this year.



Mrs. Sharon Taylor

SOPHOMORE CARNIVAL

The Class of 2028 would like to thank their business sponsors, parents, school staff members and especially the families that attended this year's Sophomore Carnival in April.

This night is one of the main fundraisers for our high school students and will provide a very nice deposit in their class account helping pay for senior year expenses .



DONATIONS

Baas Design Company
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McBain Family Chiropractic Center
McBain Family Pharmacy
McBain Grain Company
McBain Hardware
McNally's Party Store
Quality Built Cabinets
Quiet Creek AFC Home



MCBAIN UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM PLAYS AT LITTLE CAESARS ARENA

Basketball has always been an important part of the tradition and identity of McBain Schools, bringing our community together and teaching generations of students the values of teamwork, perseverance, and hard work.

Over the past two years, students have become part of that proud tradition through Unified Basketball. The program brings together students of all abilities as teammates, promoting inclusion, friendship, and sportsmanship. This season, the team had the unforgettable opportunity to travel to Little Caesars Arena in Detroit, where they played on the same court as the Detroit Pistons before staying to watch the Pistons play.

We are incredibly proud of our Unified Basketball athletes and everything they have accomplished. Their enthusiasm, determination, and teamwork show that the true legacy of McBain basketball is about more than wins—it is about belonging, opportunity, and making sure every student feels included. Thank you to everyone who has supported and encouraged our Unified Team along the way.



A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Dear McBain Families and Community Members,

As we close another school year, I want to take a moment to thank our students, families, staff, and community for your continued support, partnership, and commitment to our high school.

I also want to extend a sincere thank you to our teachers and staff for the care, dedication, and hard work they invest in students each and every day. Their commitment to creating meaningful learning experiences and supporting students beyond the classroom makes a lasting impact.

To our families and community members, thank you for your encouragement, involvement, and trust. Strong schools are built through strong partnerships, and we appreciate the many ways you support our students and programs.

As we celebrate the Class of 2026, we congratulate our graduates and wish them success in all that lies ahead. They leave behind a legacy of leadership, perseverance, and school pride.

While summer provides an opportunity for rest and recharge, we also look forward with excitement and optimism to the opportunities ahead next school year. We remain committed to high expectations, student engagement, academic achievement, and creating a school culture where every student can succeed.

Thank you again for a wonderful school year. I hope everyone has a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Becky Rodenbaugh

becky.rodenbaugh@mcbain.org

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM



McBain School will once again be participating in the Summer Food Program. This program is for children and teens 18 and under. Pick up will be held from 4:30-5:30 PM every Tuesday except the week of July 14th. Please order by Thursday evening at 6:00 PM so we can have a better idea how much to order each week. You can do this by going to mcbain.org or through *ParentSquare*. A parent or guardian must pick up the food. Last year, we fed over 30,000 meals for the summer. If you have any questions, please feel free to email tami.eisenga@mcbain.org or call 231-825-8330 ext. 1350. You can also text "FOOD" or "COMIDA" to 304-304 and receive the most up to date site information.



MEET UP  EAT UP

SUN 
MEALS

2026 SENIOR SCHOLARS

Congratulations to this year's Class of 2026 top ten students!

Brock Austin, Avery Gilde*,
Yamileth Hernandez-Mendoza, Ivy Mills,
Logan Oeverman, Ethan Quist, Bailey Schihl*,
Garrin Schneeg, Molly Taylor, Max VanHaitsma

**Finishing with a perfect 4.0 GPA*



YOUTH ADVOCACY DAY 2026

Members of the McBain Wellness Center's Youth Advisory Council, Maisie Grames, Hannah Roberts-Pendrys, Claire Agema, and Kaitlyn Pontz along with adults Debi Beerens and Amanda Cole participated in the 2026 Youth Advocacy Day in Lansing on April 28.

With guidance from the School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan (SCHA-MI) students traveled to the state capital and were equipped to meet face to face with their representatives. Hannah, Claire, and Kaitlyn used their voices to share their experiences and the advantages of having a school-based health clinic at McBain. They invited Senator Ken Borton to visit the McBain Wellness Center and encouraged lawmakers to support funding for continued services along with making sure each county in Michigan has a Child and Adolescent Health Center (CAHC).

Maisie has been serving on the state youth advisory council and addressed the whole group in attendance for the day. She was on the platform to present Congressman Bergman his Legislative Champion Award. At the end of the day Maisie, with three other students from across the state, shared the stage with Gov. Whitmer as they presented her with the Lifetime Legacy Award. The Governor even snapped some selfies with the students at the event.



SENIOR PERSONAL FINANCE CLASS

Mrs. Utecht's seniors in Personal Finance recently completed the Dave Ramsey Foundations in Personal Finance curriculum, studying topics such as budgeting, saving, credit and debt, banking, insurance, taxes, investing, and career readiness. After spring break, students transitioned into Foundations of Entrepreneurship, where they learned about marketing, economics, finance, and business management while creating and presenting their own business plans.

Students overwhelmingly shared that the class gave them practical skills and confidence for life after high school. Many said the course changed the way they think about debt, budgeting, college decisions, and future financial goals. Several students noted that the class helped them avoid unnecessary student loans, apply for scholarships, and better prepare for adulthood.

One student shared that the class "gave me a sturdy foundation for my future plans," while another said it "helped me realize that owning a business is possible." Others emphasized how valuable it was to learn real-world topics that are often not taught in traditional classes.

Students strongly recommended that future classes continue using the Ramsey curriculum because of the lasting impact it has on financial literacy, decision-making, and preparing students for real-world responsibilities.

Athletic Hall of Fame Looking for Nominees

The McBain Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is looking for nominations for the 2nd class of members for 2026! Our first class saw the induction of three remarkable Rambler Legends (Harvey Lucas, Jim Racignol and Bruce Brumels). We are looking for former outstanding Rambler individual players in any sport(s), coaches, highly successful teams or any individuals who had a profound impact on McBain athletics. All nominations should be received by September 1st. Nomination forms can be found on the McBain Website page at [www.mcBain.org](http://www.mc Bain.org). Go to the Athletics Tab and click on Athletic Hall of Fame.



Yearbook Cover Winners

We are excited to share some wonderful news! Recently, both our elementary and middle school held yearbook cover contests, inviting students to showcase their creativity and school spirit through original artwork. The response was truly incredible.

We received so many thoughtful, imaginative, and beautifully designed submissions that choosing a winner was no easy task. Each entry reflected the talent, pride, and unique perspective of our students, making the selection process both inspiring and challenging.

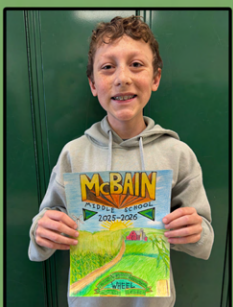
Congratulations to this year's book cover contest winners:

Elementary Winner:

Ellie Grammatico (4th grade)

Middle School Winner:

Weston Howey (8th grade)



Potato Olympics

This winter, Mrs. Westdorp's third graders spent time learning about the history, traditions, and spirit of the Olympic Games. They explored teamwork, perseverance, sportsmanship, and the importance of supporting others. To celebrate all they learned, students wrapped up the school year with their very own "Potato Olympics" project! Each student created and decorated a potato athlete, represented a country, and competed in a variety of fun Olympic-inspired events. From the opening ceremony to exciting competitions to the closing ceremony, students showed creativity, collaboration, and lots of Potato spirit! The Potato Olympics was the perfect way to combine learning and fun while making lasting end-of-year memories together!



BE THE GOOD M.S. RETREAT

McBain Middle School students recently attended a retreat at Timber Wolf Lake centered around our school theme, "Be the Good." Through team-building activities, games, shared meals, and group discussions, students strengthened relationships and built a greater sense of connection with one another.



One of the most meaningful moments of the trip came when students wrote nearly 1,000 cards thanking people in their lives and working to repair relationships that may have been hurt by past words. The retreat had an immediate positive impact on students and school culture, with many calling it the best field trip they have ever experienced.

We are especially grateful to the anonymous donors who made this unforgettable opportunity possible for all students.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



This school year has been a tremendous year of growth in our Middle School. We are proud of the positive culture our students and staff continue to build together each day.

Recently, we hosted a very successful middle school dance that gave students a fun opportunity to celebrate the school year together. Throughout the year, students have also earned a record number of positive behavior tickets, showing the outstanding character and leadership being demonstrated throughout our building.

We are especially proud that over 50 middle school students were selected to help with the elementary field day. Their willingness to serve as leaders and role models speaks highly of the students in our school community.

Student attendance continues to improve, and we recognized 40 students with certificates for having two or fewer absences this year. Academically, our students continue to excel as well. We proudly handed out 156 honor roll certificates, representing over half of our middle school students.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the implementation of our new math curriculum, created by our three middle school math teachers. This curriculum will provide additional support for struggling learners while also creating opportunities to accelerate and challenge advanced students.

We would also like to recognize our new staff members, Mr. Milligan in English and Mrs. Kirt in the office, for the tremendous job they have done supporting our students and staff this year.

As we continue to grow, we look forward to expanding opportunities and electives for students, including the addition of our own broadcasting class.

Finally, we wish our 8th grade students the very best as they transition to high school, and we are excited to welcome our incoming 6th graders to the middle school next year.

Mr. Troy Finstrom

troy.finstrom@mcbain.org

6th GRADE SCIENCE

The 6th grade science classes recently completed a six-week embryology unit led by Kayanne Myers from the Michigan State University Extension. During the unit, students dissected raw eggs, placed chicken and duck eggs in an incubator, and observed their development each week by candling the eggs with flashlights. Students also learned about chick farming and meat processing. Out of all the eggs incubated, only four did not hatch successfully. Thank you to Mrs. Myers and the MSU Extension for providing this engaging and educational experience for our students!



A MESSAGE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL



Hello Parents and Community Members,

We have had a great year in the elementary school, and it's hard to believe that it's over! As we finished out the year, we were able to take several amazing field trips. Classes went to Mackinac Island, Hartwick Pines, Center Lake, and even Cow Camp! The kids had a great time, and we're thankful to be able to go on these trips year after year.

Our elementary building is getting new carpet and flooring this summer, and I can't wait for you all to see it! Please plan on attending open house in the fall to meet your teachers, bring in supplies, and see the new updates! Our open house is scheduled for August 18th, and you can find the 2026-2027 school calendar on our website.

You may or may not have heard that the state passed legislation about cell phones and Smart-watches in school. While our handbook has always prohibited these devices, it is now law for schools in our state. Over the years, I have seen both kinds of devices creeping into school, so please know that this law will be included in our handbook and followed as a school policy. Please plan to continue to communicate with us via Parent Square and calling the office.

I hope you enjoy a relaxing and fun summer, and we'll see you in the fall!

Mr. David Wissner

david.wissner@mcbain.org

MRS. NELSON RETIRES

After 40 incredible years of teaching, McBain Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Dixie Nelson is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of love, learning, and lifelong memories. For four decades, Mrs. Nelson has welcomed generations of students into her classroom with kindness, patience, and a passion for helping young learners grow. Her creative lessons, warm smile, and nurturing spirit have made kindergarten a magical experience for countless children and families in our community.

Mrs. Nelson's impact reaches far beyond the classroom walls. She has inspired fellow educators, built lasting relationships with families, and helped shape the hearts and minds of hundreds of students throughout her career. While she will be greatly missed at McBain Elementary, we are so grateful for the dedication and joy she has shared over the years.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Nelson on her well-deserved retirement and wishing her many happy adventures in this exciting new chapter!



Mrs. Nelson and substitute teacher/former student, Analiese Fredin.

BRUSH YOUR TEETH RAMBLERS!

McBain Kindergarten students recently had a wonderful opportunity to learn all about dental health from two special Rambler Moms, Kelly Hesselink and Mary Rees, who both work as dental professionals. The students enjoyed hands-on activities, fun demonstrations, and important lessons about keeping their teeth healthy and strong.

Kelly and Mary taught the kindergartners proper brushing and flossing techniques, healthy habits for protecting their smiles, and the importance of regular dental checkups. The children especially loved seeing the dental tools and practicing how to care for their own teeth.

We are so thankful to Kelly Hesselink and Mary Rees for taking time to visit our classrooms and share their knowledge with our young learners. Their engaging presentation helped make dental health education both fun and memorable for our kindergarten students!



Library Update

Mrs. Diane Eisenga, Head Librarian

McBain Community Library is a school/public library that offers new book and movie releases for all ages as well as free access to the Libby App – an e-book, e-magazine and e-audio book app. We also have STEM kits that are available for checkout for all ages and hotspots available for check out for adults. If you have not done so already, please stop in and sign up for a library card.

January - March the library hosted the Battle of the Books program. This was a program for 4-6 graders. Seven teams participated. The kids who participated did an awesome job. Looking forward to 2027 Battle!

May 19th was the library's last preschool story time. Turnout this past year was awesome and I am hoping that continues when we start up again in the fall.



Summer Library Hours
 Mon – Thursday 10-5 and Friday – 10-4
 Saturday 9-12

THIRD GRADE TRIP TO MACKINAC ISLAND



The 3rd grade took their annual trip to Mackinac Island on May 8th. It was chilly, but that did not stop the kids from having a great day!



The Foundation's support of our students continues to make a tremendous impact on the future of McBain graduates. During this year's Honors Night, the McBain Rural Agricultural School Foundation awarded an incredible 51 scholarships totaling more than \$155,000 to graduating seniors.

Since 1999, the Foundation has helped Rambler graduates take the next step after high school by supporting students attending universities, community colleges, and trade programs. Scholarships ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000 are awarded to students who demonstrate strong character, work ethic, and a desire to succeed.

These scholarships are only possible because of the generosity of McBain alumni, community members, and donors who continue to invest in the future of our students. We are extremely grateful for the continued support and commitment to helping Rambler students pursue their dreams beyond high school.

The Foundation is always looking for new donors who would like to help support the future of Rambler students. Those interested in learning more about the Foundation can visit MRASF.org, contact any Board Member, or email at foundation@mcbain.org.



The Class of 2026 Foundation Scholarship Recipients

GIRLS TRACK TEAM WINS CONFERENCE 10 YRS. STRAIGHT

The McBain Girl's Track & Field team won the Highland Conference Championship for the 10th year in a row! Not only winning the Highland Conference Meet 10 years in a row but going undefeated in all double duals for 10 straight seasons from 2016-2026, skipping the 2020 season.

Our team's tradition and culture has been handed down year after year from elite athletes like the O'Malley sisters, to the Fredin girls, to the Rozeveld gals, to Peyton Grant and the Hoitenga twins and so many more athletes. It has been a blessing and privilege to coach so many exceptional athletes with the support of our outstanding coaching staff, Rambler families, school staff, meet volunteers, and the whole community.

Many school records have been broken in these last ten years, numerous athletes have gone on to compete at the Div. 3 State Finals earning All-State & All-Academic honors, and countless ladies have gone on to compete at the collegiate level to continue their athletic careers.

We just want to say thank you to the community, school, and families for coming out and showing these girls your continued support. Thank you Rambler Fans!

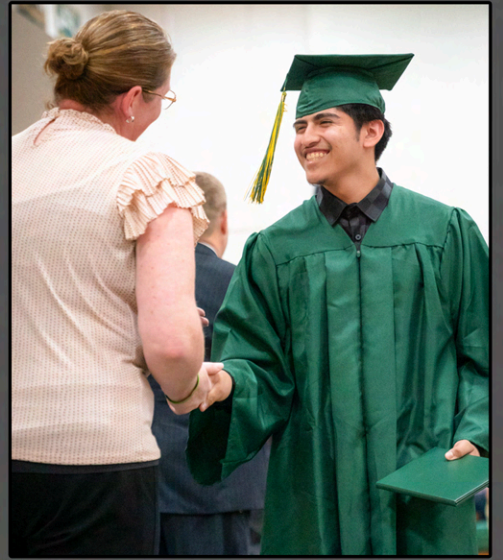
Mrs. Susan Maloney - Head Coach



MCBAIN HIGH SCHOOL

GRADUATION 2026

Photo credit: Judy Gilde Photography





We Are McBain!

High School HighLiter Show



Photo Credit: Judy K. Gilde Photography



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