



Outstanding Program Component “Footsteps”

Quest High School
North Branch Area Schools
North Branch, Michigan

Since its inception in 2004, the alternative education program in North Branch Area Schools has strived to support every student in their *Quest* for a diploma and brighter future. The *Footsteps* program component is a culmination of Quest High School’s efforts to “create a culture that is inviting, safe, and a place where students look forward to coming each day”. Among many program components: *Footsteps* is opportunity to participate in a local alternative education sports league, community service projects including building and maintaining a disc golf course named after the school, lunch time Olympics, off campus field trips to museums and colleges, guest speakers from the career trades, military and colleges, school shirts and multiple ‘swag’ items, a full color yearbook, several class pets, and plenty of volunteer work in their community.

While all of these *Footsteps* have an influence on the outcome, in the words of the district superintendent, “no *Footstep* has quite as great an impact as the various capacities in which we serve the community through volunteer work!” I’m sure many of you can relate to the fact that many community service experiences are reserved for the “good kids”. Superintendent Jim Fish begs to differ with this selection process: “Little do those know whom overlook our students, they are missing out on some of the most giving, hardest working, pure-hearted students in our school system.”

Quest student Adam Back highlighted some of his favorite parts of the *Footsteps* program in his letter of support. He described the value of team building exercises in this way: “They help us come together and learn to use the advantages that we do have to make up for the disadvantages that we can’t control.” In his words, the program has helped him “realize that opportunities are available to me, and that it is up to me to use those to better myself and become a leader.”

CONGRATULATIONS Quest High School!