

# North Tonawanda City Schools



## 2021 Top Ten

### Emily McNeill *Valedictorian*

**Parents/Guardians:** Jill McNeill and the late James McNeill

**Activities:** Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Indoor/Outdoor Track, Varsity Cross Country, Amnesty International, National Honors Society, Youth Court, Altar Serving, ACE Mentorship program

**Honors:** Valedictorian, NYSPHAA Scholar-Athlete, AP Scholar with Honor, Mayflower Award, National Honor Society – President.

**Future Plans:** Attending SUNY University at Buffalo to study Biomedical Engineering.



### Sarah DiNardo *Salutarian*

**Parents/Guardians:** Steven and Janette DiNardo

**Activities:** Varsity Tennis Captain, Science Olympiad Vice President, Model UN President, National Honor Society Historian, Amnesty International

**Honors:** Salutarian, Scholar-Athlete, AP Scholar, 1st place in a Science Olympiad competition, High Honor Roll all 16 marking periods, Niagara County “Do the Right Thing” award, three times Student of the Month, Niagara Frontier League All-Star Girls Varsity tennis.

**Future Plans:** Attending University at Buffalo Honors College of Pharmacy to study Doctor of Pharmacy.



## Message from the Superintendent



CONGRATULATIONS to the class of 2021!

Never more have the words, "you've earned this", been truer. You had a senior year like no other. From masks, social distancing, temperature checking, and hand sanitizer, you endured all the obstacles that were thrown at you. Despite it not being an ideal situation, you have successfully reached the finish line.

We are never truly prepared for what life might throw our way, but you have proven that nothing can stop you. As you start your adult lives, be sure to reflect on this past year and cherish the little things in life. Your friends and family will provide much-needed support as you go off from the halls of NTHS and begin a new path for yourselves. Go off proudly knowing you are prepared for the next stage of life with the solid support of your family and community.

Take pride in being a Lumberjack and being from North Tonawanda. As you go off into the world to make it a better place, remember to try and give back when you can. Remember to treat others as you would want to be treated. Always pay it forward and be kind to one another. WE ARE PROUD of you all and are looking forward to a bright future for every one of you.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent



*Top Ten continued on page 2*



# 2021 Top Ten

continued from page 1

## 3. Casey O'Bryan

**Parents/Guardians:** Kelly O'Bryan and Todd O'Bryan.



**Activities:** Varsity Golf and Baseball, Internship at Hot Corner Athletics, Academy of International Studies, National Honor Society

**Honors:** WNY Scholar-Athlete

**Future Plans:** Attending Niagara University, studying Biology/ Pre-Med Track and playing baseball.

## 4. Scott Gerber

**Parents/Guardians:** Alan and Cheryl Gerber

**Activities:** Tech Club, Soccer



**Honors:** NT Soccer Lumberjack Award for 2018 and 2019, National Honors Society, Tri-M Music Honors Society

**Future Plans:** Attending Rochester Institute of Technology studying Engineering.

## 5. Kaitlyn Samsel

**Parents/Guardians:** Jim and Leah Samsel

**Activities:** Varsity Swim, Varsity Softball, Travel softball, Chorus, Drama Club, National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society



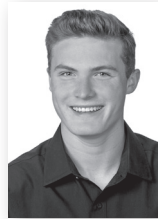
**Honors:** Ladyjacks Award (JV softball freshman year), Most Improved swimmer(sophomore), State Education Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence, Frank E Wright Memorial Scholarship, John N Carnduff Athletic Scholarship

**Future Plans:** Attending SUNY Geneseo for Biochemistry on a Pre-Med track.

## 6. Nolan Anson

**Parents/Guardians:** John and Patricia Anson

**Activities:** JV Soccer, Varsity Soccer, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track, DECA, National Honor Society



**Honors:** JV Soccer Lumberjack Award, Outdoor Track Rookie of the Year, Indoor Track Rookie of the Year, Coach's Award for Outdoor Track, Captain of Indoor Track, Captain of Outdoor Track, Captain of Varsity Soccer, Lumberjack Award for Varsity Soccer, National Honor Society member

**Future Plans:** Attending Syracuse University to study Sports Management.

## 6. Tobias Cruz

**Parents/Guardians:** Margot Hayes and José Cruz

**Activities:** National Honor Society, Amnesty International, Senior Class



**Honors:** Senior Class Top 10, High Honor Roll, Student of the Month

**Future Plans:** Attending Penn State for Biochem on a Pre-Med track.

## 8. Jessica Hanes

**Parents/Guardians:** Michael and Kelly Hanes

**Activities:** Varsity Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field, Varsity Soccer, Outdoor Awareness, Health Sciences Academy, Foreign Language Club, National Honor Society, Junior class representative, Senior Class Vice President



**Honors:** Junior Class Athletic representative, National Honor Society, Scholar-Athlete, Lady Jacks Award

**Future Plans:** Attending Niagara University for Nursing.

## 9. Stephen Fronczak

**Parents/Guardians:** Paul and Terri Fronczak

**Activities:** Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra, Yearbook, Dance at Sam Smith School of Dance and work at The Market in the Square



**Honors:** Student of the Month, Tri-M Music Honor Society, National Honor Society, All County Band (three years), High Honors every marking period, Student of the Year Award from the Exchange Club of the Tonawanda's and Number 9 in class rankings

**Future Plans:** Attending Niagara University to study Mathematics, with a minor in Statistics.

## 10. Joshua Trenchard

**Parents/Guardians:** Tennille and Jeffery Trenchard

**Activities:** Varsity Volleyball Captain, All State Band and Chorus musician, Drama club, National Honor Society Treasurer, Niagara County Youth Court



**Honors:** Scholar Athlete, AP Scholar with Distinction, 1st Team All-NFL Varsity Volleyball

**Future Plans:** Attending University of Pennsylvania to study Neuroscience and Biochemistry on a Pre-Med track.



# 21 North Tonawanda High School 21

## Class of 2021

Tony Joseph Agueci Jr.  
Garrett Ryan Allan  
Emily Grace Allan  
Tyler Sage Allen  
Anthony Paul Andolina  
Olivia Barrie Annunziato  
Nolan Michael Anson  
Angelina Victoria Augustine  
Emily Elizabeth Barnes  
John Paul Barone II  
Maddison Nicole Beattie  
Micah Jacob Becker  
Eliana Renee Benzing  
Gavin John Bertini  
Emma Jane Blaszcak  
Paige Elizabeth Book  
Isaiah Charles Brooks  
Victoria Bruce  
Joshua Brumley  
Lymiek Kyron Brunson  
Alexandra Violet Buckley  
Walter Angelo Budziszewski  
Eammon James Burke  
Stephanie Paige Burton  
Gary Allen Burton  
Ryan Joseph Carney  
Chandler Elizabeth Carr  
Ian Adam James Caskie  
Elina Simone Castek  
Branden Joseph Chiappone  
Jackson Theodore Chlebowy  
Gianna Marie Christopher  
Faith Marie Clark  
Evan William Clausen  
Donavan Wright Cleaver  
Judah Glenn Collins  
Robert James Conte  
Alexia Ryann Coughlin  
Gavin Michael Crago  
Tobias Roman/Stefan Cruz  
Elizabeth June Daddis  
Elizabeth Rose Davila  
Evan Scott Davis  
Jessica Lynn DeJesus  
Braeden Michael Dempsey

Ian Michael Denniston  
Nicholas Scott DePaolo  
Michael Paul Devonshire  
Jenna Rose DiBesco  
Johnathan Alexander  
DiDomizio  
Cassie J. Diliberto  
Sarah Jane DiNardo  
Ashleigh Elizabeth DiRosa  
Sebastian James Taureen  
DiTillio  
Sean Patrick Dolan  
Hallie Marie Dooley  
Ethan Taylor Drajem  
Max Lucas Eichorst  
Caleb James Elmore  
Nickolas Albert Endres  
Ryan Christopher Evarts  
Aidan Paul Ferry  
Jason Carl Francis  
Seth William Franusiak  
Stephen Paul Fronczak  
Savannah Marie Fry  
Maxwell Douglas Fuster  
Danyil Gargun  
Kyle Garrison  
Mariah Kaitlynn Gaze  
Isabella Luciana Geraci  
Scott Michael Gerber  
Madison Marie Gold  
Lauren Elizabeth Gondek  
Sean Edward Graves  
Benjamin Michael Grawe  
Jeremy Scott Gregoretti  
Devin Riley Griffin  
Matthew Raine Gudleski  
Kelsey Grace Guido  
Ryan Patrick Hall  
Jessica Elizabeth Hanes  
Ethan William Hannah-Albon  
Bailey Rose Harms  
Owen Richard Haynes  
Antoinette Rachelle Henhawk  
Hailey Lynn Hill  
Joseph Michael Hoffman

Aiden Johnathon Hubbell  
Laurel Elizabeth Hudson  
Christopher James Huntley  
Amenah Satar Hussein  
Bogdanna Nicole Ilyenko  
James Arthur Johnson III  
Jonathan Frederick Johnson  
Tony Weston Johnson Jr.  
Andrew Thomas Judy  
Derek Robert Karski  
Katherine L Karyazhin  
Allyson Rene Keleher  
Timothy Andrew Keleher  
Deanna Marie Kelly  
Joseph Edward Kelly  
Elliott William Kennedy  
Christopher Michael Kinney Jr  
Ethan Vincent Klaes  
Matthew Alexander Kloch  
Clarissa Jane Kornacki  
Zachary Thomas Krathaus  
Gina Marie Krolewski  
Kaitlyn Lorraine Krzystek  
Kayleigh Grace Kuebler  
Elijah Leonard Kunze  
Wesley Robert Licht  
Vincent Matthew Linza  
Hayden Michael Litten  
Seth Patrick Little  
Zachariah Caleb Jordan  
Litto-Covey  
Kailey Mae Ludlow  
Chase Deven Luly  
Christopher Paul Lyons  
Miranda Elizabeth Makey  
Ayden Giovanni Manzare  
Cheyenne Katherine Marranca  
Parker Thomas Marshall  
Nikita Eve Mazurek  
Michael Steven McCrossan Jr  
Madison Jean McGloin  
Riley Noelle McNamara  
Emily Marie McNeill  
Andrew Edward Mielowski  
Joseph Salvatore Milioto

Luke Daniel Miller  
Joseph Michael Mineo  
Gabriella Victoria Mojica  
Brenden John Mors  
Franklin David Moses  
Timothy John Neal Jr  
Riley Philip Nelson  
Damien Alexander Nicharico  
Ryan Christopher Nicharico  
Jonathan Peter Ndayishimiye  
Niyirora  
Casey James O'Bryan  
Dylan Andrew O'Hara  
Megan Elizabeth Orrange  
Blake Matthew Ostrander  
Mary Isabella Palmer  
Danielle Christine Papke  
Sierra Rose Parham  
Skylar Alexis Parris  
Haley Marie Parsell-Bentler  
Alyssa Michelle Pawlak  
Brandon Alexander Pelczynski  
Owen Daniel Penfold  
Natalie Kay Piwtorak  
Aidan Robert Pless  
Nicholas Steven Poliniak  
James Duncan Porter  
Nichole Michele Porter  
Naomi Elizabeth Ramos  
Joshua Connor Ray  
Joel Michael Reed Jr.  
Emily Ann Reid  
Christopher Joseph Reynolds II  
Joseph Michael Riley  
Allison Marie Roberts  
Zachary Dylan Roeser  
Ryan Patrick Routhier  
Caleb Patrick Royer  
Ethan Aivory Russell  
Kaitlyn Abigail Samsel  
Noah James Sanderson  
Shane Helmut Schafer  
Justin Patrick Schmadel  
Margaret Grace Schwagler  
Paul Walter Schwandt III

Nicholas Salvatore Sciandra  
Sophia Elaine Scime  
Quinton Trey Serrano  
Izack William Shamrock  
Hansen  
Conrad Robert Shaw II  
Alan Mohamed Shwani  
Aman Mohamed Shwani  
Jacob Edwin Simone  
Ryan Mark Skoney  
Kayla Marie Smith  
Mallory Smith  
Brandon Lee Spencer  
Aden Michael Spina  
Ashley Lynn Sprenger  
Adam Michael Steingasser  
Melanie Rose Stroh  
Jack Tyra Stynes  
Anthony Joseph Swan  
Jemini Marie Szabad  
Caitlyn Elizabeth Szabo  
Angelina Rose Tallarico  
Grace Mae Taylor  
Katelyn Florence Thiel  
Stevyn Michael Thomas  
Jaylin Marie Thompson  
Caleb Noah Thoms  
Stephanie Irmari Torres  
Joshua Eldyn Trenchard  
Tyler Nicholas Troyer  
Jessica Chase Tyrrell  
Keith Larry Vantino  
Jared Mitchell VanVolkenburg  
Emily Claire Veihdeffer  
Olivia Alice Virgilio  
Brayden Michael Weiss  
Michael Lee Weyant  
Keefe Shawn Wilmott II  
Walter Joseph Wisniewski IV  
Shay Lauren Woodard  
Jillian Lee Young  
Kelsey Ellen Zalewski  
Daniel Zea  
Grant Robert Zehler  
Shawna Nicole Zelasko



# Things Are Blooming at Ohio Street



The kindergarten students in Mrs. Seguin's and Mrs. Brady's Ohio Elementary class worked together to create a science project that incorporated Earth Day.

With the help of Mrs. Kolbe, the students reused laundry caps and beverage holders to create a classroom garden. Each student planted four flower seeds, and they have been caring for their projects ever since. The students are observing and documenting the growth and changes of their plants in the room and look forward to sharing their plants with their families.



# 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Members of the Class of 2021 earned more than \$40,000 in scholarship awards from local businesses and families. The North Tonawanda City School District thanks the local business community and families for their support of the academic excellence and community involvement of our students. Here is a list of scholarship award winners:

## Alex Pichette Memorial Scholarship

Miranda Makey

## Allison Marie Clark Memorial Scholarship

Ethan Drajem

## American Legion Stephen Sikora Post #1322 Scholarships in Honor of John R. Baronich Sr.

Ethan Drajem

Emily McNeill

## Arlene A. Wallak Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Tyrrell

## Carl Fretthold Memorial Scholarships

Gina Krolewski

Ethan Drajem

## Claudia Price Bunny Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Tyrrell

## Cynthia Barrett Prelewicz Memorial Scholarship

Eliana Benzing

Faith Clark

## DeGraff Critical Care Nursing Scholarship

Cheyenne Marranca

Allyson Keleher

## Dennis J. Wiess Memorial Scholarship

Ethan Drajem

## Elliott Golach Memorial Scholarship

Evan Clausen

## Exchange Club of the Tonawandas

Stephen Fronczak

## Friends of Drake School Scholarships

Stephanie Burton

Jackson Chlebowy

## Gene Donner Memorial Scholarships

### Sponsored by the NTHS Multi Class Reunion

Ethan Drajem

Megan Orrange

## George J. Woloszyn Jr. Memorial Scholarships

Allyson Keleher

Jessica Tyrrell

## Jim Chiarello Memorial Scholarship

Nickolas Endres

## Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarships

Allison Roberts

Sophia Scime

Keith Vantino

## Joey Brochey Memorial Scholarships

Christopher Lyons

Gina Krolewski

## John N. Carnduff Athletic Scholarship

Kaitlyn Samsel

## Jordan D. Bunker Athletic Scholarship

Megan Orrange

## Leocadia (Lee) M. Ozimek Memorial Scholarship

Joel Reed Jr.

## Lt. Keith A. Maitland Memorial Scholarship

Faith Clark

## Meadow Alumni Scholarships

Owen Haynes

Shay Woodard

## Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Leadership Memorial Scholarships

Nolan Anson

Emily McNeill

## Niagara County Sheriff's Office All Star Program Scholarship

Joshua Trenchard

## North Tonawanda Catholic Club, Inc. and Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Ethan Drajem

## North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarships

Owen R. Haynes

John P. Barone II

Tobias R. Cruz

Nickolas A. Endres

## North Tonawanda School Administrators' Association Scholarship

Sarah DiNardo

## North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarships

Emily Brochey

Lydia Schultz

Jessica Hanes

Sophia Scime

Alexandra Kiedrowski

## NTHS Academy of Engineering and Architecture Scholarships

Jonathan Johnson

Emily McNeill

Scott Gerber



# 2021 Scholarship Recipients

## **NTHS Boys Varsity Soccer: Laurie Mourgas & Jerry Sullivan Scholarships**

Nolan Anson  
John P. Barone II

## **NTHS Girls Varsity Soccer Scholarships**

Jessica Tyrrell  
Jessica Hanes

## **Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarships**

Sean Graves  
Eliana Benzing

## **Rev. Frank E. Wright Memorial Scholarships**

Emily E. Barnes  
Ethan T. Drajem  
Gina M. Krolewski  
Kaitlyn A. Samsel

## **Ruth H. Collard Memorial Scholarship**

Casey O'Bryan

## **Spruce Parent Teacher Organization Scholarships**

Megan Orrange  
Sophia Scime

## **Stephen Holesko Memorial Scholarship**

Gina Krolewski

## **Superintendent's Scholarship**

Nickolas Endres  
Keith Vantino

## **Sutherland Lodge #826 Free & Accepted Masons Scholarships**

John P. Barone II  
Jessica C. Tyrrell

## **Sweeney Hose Company, Inc. #7 – Frank Family Memorial Scholarship**

Eliana Benzing

## **Sweeney Hose Company, Inc. #7 – Robert & Laura Kinzley Memorial Scholarship**

Nickolas Endres

## **Sweeney Hose Company, Inc. #7 – Robert Semple Memorial Scholarship**

Stephanie Burton

## **Third Warder's Social Club – Glen Gray Scholarship and Athletic Honor of Excellence**

Alexander Wagner

## **Third Warder's Social Club – John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial Scholarship**

Emily McNeill

## **Third Warder's Social Club – Glen Gray Scholarship & Athletic Honor of Excellence**

Jessica Hanes

## **Third Warder's Social Club – Francis "Frank" Sumi Memorial Service Scholarship**

Sophia Scime

## **Timothy G. Serwinowski Memorial Scholarship**

Evan Clausen

## **Walter P. Sy, M.D. Scholarship**

Seth Fransusiak

## **Wegmans Scholarships**

Nickolas Endres  
Owen Haynes  
James Johnson III

## **Triple "C" Awards**

Jeremy Gregoretti  
Gina Krolewski

## **The State Education Dept. Scholarships of Academic Excellence**

Emily McNeill  
Sarah DiNardo  
Casey O'Bryan  
Scott Gerber  
Kaitlyn Samsel  
Nolan Anson

# Drake Students' Artwork Displayed for Earth Day



Visual Arts Educator John Szablewski shared some exciting news with Drake Elementary students. Senator Rob Ort was so impressed with some of their Earth Day poster contest entries, he displayed some of them on his website.

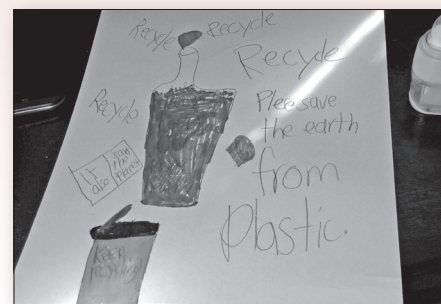
Mr. Szablewski says he thought the contest would be a great idea for students to utilize their creativity and create a message that they believed was important. "The project connected art with activism, one of the New York State Standards in Visual Arts. It also allows students to see that art can be everywhere, not just in a gallery or in a classroom. I am very proud of these students for their entries into this contest. I am also very happy that these fully remote students are still able to participate in art lessons and community engagement, even when they are not in school with us this year."

Congratulations to the students who are featured on Senator Ort's website:

Kah'ron Dupree – Kindergarten

Maverick Mroz – Second Grade

Alaina Dickey, Liam Christian Rickard and Lillianna Aiken – Third Grade



# Wall of Honor

The Career Center at the High School recognized their graduates with a special wall of honor. Good luck and well wishes to all our 2021 graduates!



## Spruce Designers Wow Judges with Pantry Vision

Art teacher Alexandra Gerbec tasked her Spruce students with a project – designing some artwork to put on the wall of Spruce’s pantry.

The submissions were so amazing that the judges had a very hard time deciding on the top three. Congratulations go to: Priya Shepardson (First Place), Harper Cowell (Second Place) and Sophia Gullo (Third Place). Great job everyone!



(LtoR) Ms. Gerbec, Sophia Gullo, Priya Shepardson and Harper Cowell.

## Drake Safety Patrol



It was nice to see Safety Patrols Charles Czaja and Avery Hall on the job at Drake Elementary!

## German Student Receives Prestigious Scholarship

Congratulations to high school senior Sophia Scime, who was awarded the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship, valued at over \$16,000! Sophia will be spending next year studying in Germany as a result. She is in Mr. Lucas' German 4 class at NTHS. Each year the United States Congress, in conjunction with the German Bundestag, awards scholarships to students throughout the U.S. These scholarships fully fund a one-year study abroad program in Germany through AFS Intercultural Programs. The recipient of this scholarship will leave for Germany in August 2021 and return to the United States in July of 2022.

This year, Sophia won this prestigious scholarship, for a second time. Sophia actually won the scholarship last year as well, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the exchange was canceled. To be eligible again this year, Sophia had to reapply for the scholarship and go through the lengthy application and interview process, and once again, she prevailed. Should the exchange be canceled again, Sophia plans to attend Dennison University in Granville, Ohio for International Studies.

This is a very competitive scholarship, and Sophia is the 9th NTHS student to win!



Sophia and Mr. Lucas.

## Physics Class Explores Military Options

Mr. McClary's Physic class at the High School recently learned about Naval careers. Guest speakers MMN1 (SW) Parrella and NCI Truett did a presentation on the Navy's Nuclear Engineering program.





# Jacks Prove Victorious in T-NT Classic

Looks like the Lumberjacks did not miss a step even though the football team wasn't able to take on their rivals the Tonawanda Warriors until May. After a tough battle, the Jacks went on to a 33-20 victory on May 7th in the 111th edition of the T-NT Classic that was held at Clinton H. Small Stadium.

Congratulations Head Coach Rick Tomm and the mighty Lumberjacks!



# Doing Swimmingly

It was great to see the Girls Swim team back in the water.

Here are sisters Meredith and Alaina Roberts getting ready to take a few laps.



# NTI Gets Moving!

During the month of March, Mr. Cunningham ran a Moving in March campaign at North Tonawanda Intermediate.

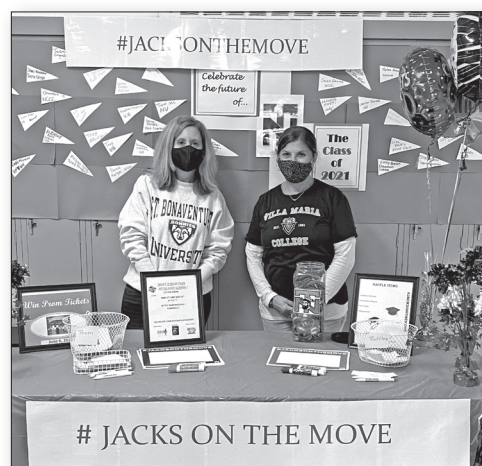
Students who participated logged their daily physical activities, and then were entered into a raffle. For every thirty minutes of exercise, an entry was given. Our Junior Jacks ran, walked, danced, and played team sports throughout the whole month. Prizes included Buffalo Sabres memorabilia, basketballs, footballs, volleyballs, gift cards and so much more!



Sixth grader Noah Bryk and Physical Education teacher Mr. Cunningham.

# National Signing Day

North Tonawanda High School celebrated "National Signing Days" on May 4, 5 and 6, 2021. Seniors, #jacksonthemove, signed their future plans after graduation which include 4 year colleges, 2 year colleges, military, trade schools, and employment. Students also entered raffles for gift cards donated by Tim Horton's and Good Guys, college paraphernalia, and prom tickets. Pictured are Jennifer Schultz, School Counselor and Lori Graves, Career Center Mentor, at the signing table, and seniors Tobias Cruz and Sarah DiNardo, with their signs.





# New Mentoring Program at Ohio Huge Hit

Miss Mauro's and Mrs. Lequeux's Ohio Elementary third graders were matched up with a student from the Middle School's chapter of the National Honor Society for a new mentoring program. The program supports character education and provides students with a positive role model.

The class meets with their mentor weekly on teams to read and discuss books, work on skill practice and get advice on being good students and community members. The teachers say it has been a fantastic program and their kiddos love it!



# All Together Again!

Staff, students and families were thrilled to have classes back to four days a week in-person in North Tonawanda.

April 26th students started reporting back to classes and the staff was happy to see them back in their seats. "We are all so very happy to see them here," says Drake Elementary Principal Janet Matyevich. "This is the first time since last March that we have had all the students back in class together. We are very excited!"

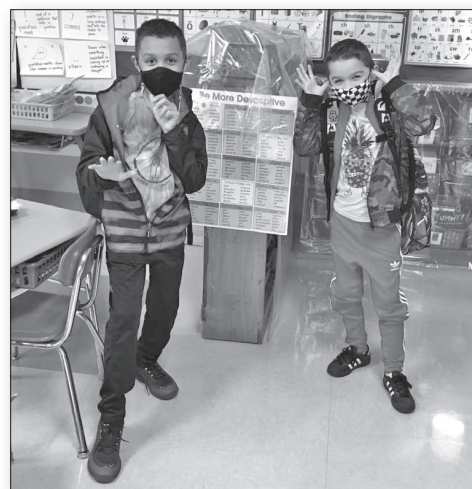


The schools are taking every precaution they can to keep students safe and Wednesdays will still be virtual days, so the schools can deep clean.

## ABC Countdown Inspires Spruce Elementary

As the days to summer start to come quicker, Spruce Elementary School organized an ABC Countdown to summer. The last 26 days of school were each assigned a letter from A to Z, with a theme that goes along with it! There was everything from dress up, to activities and academic assignments school wide! Some of the Highlight were "A" for Animal Day, "D" for Dance Party where the students were able to show off their moves on the way into school and in the classroom, "H" for writing about what makes us Happy, "M" Mismatch, "O" Occupation, and "P" for Play Outside!

"It was great to see all the students engaging in a school wide activity that represents a positive school climate, to end this unique and unpredictable year," says School Counselor Christopher Zon. "Students and staff all had fun with this, making it a great ending to the school year and beginning to summer."



*Issaih and Aiden from Mrs. Moore's 2nd Grade class on Mismatch Day!*



*(LtoR) Adalyn Musielak, Mrs. Kiedrowski, Avery Ayers, Brooklyn Leshar, Ruby Ellman, Adalynn Whetstone, Principal Mrs. Adler, Leila Jane Zimmerman.*



# FLES Student Meets with Ohio Class for First In-Person Lesson

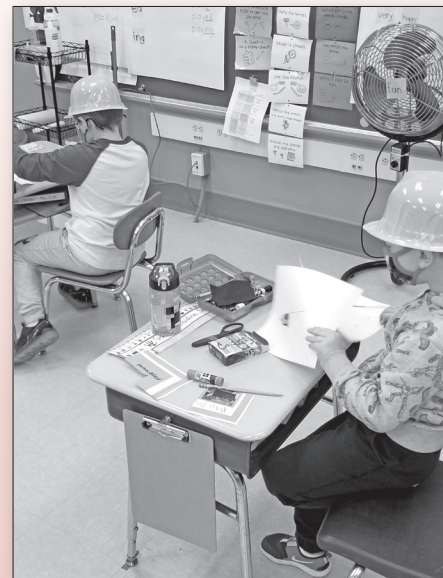
Junior Ally Privitera wasn't going to let the pandemic stop her from participating in Susan Cholewa's FLES (Foreign Language at the Elementary School) program.

"I teach French at the High School, but the FLES course attracts French, Spanish and German students who wish to teach younger students what they have learned," explains Ms. Cholewa. "When many of the students found out that there was no in-person teaching, they dropped out of the program. Ally embraced online teaching when the traditional weekly visits became impossible with COVID protocols."

Ally made iMovies of Spanish lessons and sent them over to Ohio Elementary. She did attempt to teach virtually, but found it too difficult to coordinate times with the class. "I am so proud of Ally," says Ms. Cholewa. "She stayed and prerecorded her lessons and they were sent weekly to Mrs. Hasley's class. She was so happy when she was able to meet with the teacher and students for the first time recently and she got to teach in person. What an amazing moment! The pandemic changed a lot of things but not our spirit. Go NT!"



# First Graders Build Vowel Town



Mrs. Cich's first-grade class, at Spruce Elementary, celebrated the end of their Phonics unit by using everything they have learned about letter sounds and vowel teams to build Vowel Town. The students illustrated and labeled different parts of their make-believe town to show off their new knowledge.





# First Responders Day

The Career Center at the High School had a very successful First Responder's Day.

Students were able to enter the gymnasium in small groups and interact with members of the military, law enforcement, fire department and Mercy Flight and talk about potential careers.



(LtoR) North Tonawanda Police Department Lieutenant Loncar, Lieutenant Snopkowski, student Leah Gardiner, Lieutenant Iwanicki and Lieutenant Roberts.



Student Grace Knox with members of the North Tonawanda Fire Department: Firefighter Raymond Mallone, Assistant Fire Chief Eric Gamp, and Assistant Fire Chief Edward Yaminski.



(LtoR) Student Jacob Falbo, US Customs and Border Protection Agent Cali and student Jared Fields.



# New Playground Unveiled at Spruce Elementary School

On April 23rd, the playground at North Tonawanda's Spruce Elementary held its grand reopening. The three year project to replace and redesign the space has been a labor of love for the school's Parent Teacher Organization, administration and school community.

In summer of 2018, Spruce Parent Teacher Organization (SPTO) then Co-Secretary Tara O'Brien and SPTO Co-President Jillian Swan were lamenting about how unattractive and unsafe the playground had become. "There was exposed metal and rust all over it," says Mrs. O'Brien, who is now a Co-President of the SPTO. "There were cracks around the bolts in the tunnels, cracks in the slide and missing pieces replaced with boards. It was really heartbreaking."

Looking at first to repair the damage, they decided to have a fundraiser and decided on collecting change. Brittany Zandi, Spruce Parent and current Co-Secretary for the SPTO, volunteered to look for grants that could also assist in the cost. The SPTO was thrilled to have raised \$2,813.02 in their penny drive that fall and started to consult with playground companies for prices and ideas. They soon learned that what they collected was not even close to what they needed to make the updates – the price tag was over \$35,000. They held three more Pennies for Playground fundraisers in fall 2018, spring 2019 and spring 2020 and collected an additional \$1,968. They also received word in 2019 that they received a generous grant from the East Hill Foundation, but the stipulation was that it had to be used within a year.

The SPTO approached NTSCD Superintendent Greg Woytila and the Board of Education and showed them what they had raised and the photos of the playground to see if they could help with costs to make the repairs. The Board of Education directed them to start designing and construction of a new playground. The Playground committee, which included the School Principal Patricia Adler, sent home surveys to find out what their families would like to see on the playground. The committee looked through catalogues and met with Parkitects, a Western New York playground builder, after they had their survey list which included swings, climbing equipment, glider, etc. They also emphasized they wanted a tree theme to fit the school's name. "We met with Ben Frasier from Parkitects and he took all our ideas and



gave them to one of their architects and she came up with an amazing design," says O'Brien. "We had multiple delays because of the pandemic, but now it is installed and it is all worth the wait."

The whimsical tree theme and brand-new play structures features accessibility and clearer sightlines for supervising guardians for the children and is a huge hit with the community. When members of the SPTO, administration and school families arrived for the ribbon cutting there were a lot of smiles and laughter. "Every bump in the road, every hour we spent collecting and counting coins, applying for grants, meeting, planning, emailing, calling, and following up was worth it," says O'Brien. "The Spruce Parent Teacher Organization is so grateful for the grant from the East Hill Foundation that helped finance and moved forward the whole project. But this playground would not have been built without the support of the Spruce community, Mr. Woytila, the School Board, everyone in the district that helped make this happen, and especially Mrs. Adler, who supported and encouraged the SPTO and the playground project both as a Principal and as a Playground Committee member from the very first fundraiser through to the final installation. The SPTO is hugely grateful to all of them and to Parkitects for designing and installing a beautiful and exciting Spruce-themed playground that our kids and the community will be able to enjoy it for many years to come."





NORTH TONAWANDA  
CITY SCHOOLS  
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North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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## What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?

Spruce students were certainly inspired when deciding what to wear for Occupations Day at the school.

Principal Mrs. Adler and her staff were truly impressed with the students' future career aspirations.



(LtoR) Mrs. Adler, Carater McGee, Aria Tasca, Mackenzie Formaniak, Elway Driskel, Enaya Herrera-DeJesus, Harper Pendergast, Layla Henddlesten and Gavin Zandi.