

North Tonawanda City Schools



2019 Top Ten

Laney Wieclaw
Valedictorian



College Plans: University at Buffalo

Major: Engineering

Favorite High School Subjects: I've never been a fan of ambiguous answers which is why my Math classes were always my favorite part of the day. In Math, it's easy to know whether you are right or wrong since there's (usually) one right answer.

College major and/or occupation: As for my future aspirations, I am still deciding; I plan to study Engineering and will pick a more specific type in college, hopefully get an engineering job and see where it takes me!

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically. One of my most prideful accomplishments academically was earning a 4 on the AP Chemistry exam. I can't even count the number of hours I spent preparing for one of the hardest AP exams so to receive a 4 felt very rewarding.

Personally. A goal of mine over my high school career was to reduce/manage my stress while still challenging myself. I've come a long way since my freshman year and I still have a way to go but personally, attaining this goal is one of my most treasured accomplishments.

Extracurricular Activities: Over the last four years, I have been involved with National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Pep Band, various class offices, Science Olympiad, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee), LYNC (Leadership Youth Niagara County), Lumberjack Connection, Outdoor Awareness Club as well as Varsity Volleyball, Basketball, Indoor Track, Softball and Outdoor Track/Field teams.

Message from the Superintendent



Congratulations to all our 2019 graduates! This year seemed to fly by. It seems like just yesterday we were opening the doors to our newly reconfigured buildings here in NT. I am sure the parents of our graduates are feeling the same way thinking "Wait, wasn't I taking them to kindergarten just a few years ago?"

Life keeps moving and now our graduates will be entering the next stage of their lives with college, work, family, and friends. We look forward to hearing about their future successes and wish them only the best in their very bright futures. No matter what path life takes you on, we hope you will remember your time in the halls of North Tonawanda Schools with fond memories.

Remember to give back to the community when you can and to treat others with kindness and respect as you start this new chapter in your life. You really did learn the most important things in kindergarten:

- Always share
- Play fair
- Clean up
- Learn some
- Think some
- Take a nap
- Have fun
- Make good friends

From all of us at the NT School District, we wish you all much success and happiness as you graduate!

Sincerely,

Mr. Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent



Volunteer Experiences: A large part of my life was spent playing softball. After having all of the amazing coaches during my years, I had the opportunity to pass on my knowledge volunteering as a softball coach with my best friend. It was such a wonderful experience not only teaching young girls softball skills but also strength, determination and how to have fun through sports!

Favorite High School Memory: Having participated in numerous clubs and activities, it's difficult to pick just one memory that is my favorite. If I had to choose one, I would say spending my extra time in Mrs. Stawisuck's room (most likely bothering her) because she was always able to put a smile on my face and be a strong and extremely positive role model.

Parents/Guardians: Linda and Chris Wieclaw.

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2019 Top Ten

continued from page 1

Salutatorian

David Messana

College Plans: Kettering University in Michigan

Major: Applied Mathematics - Actuarial Science /Math

Favorite High School Subjects: My favorite subject in high school is Math because it allows me to understand how certain things work in a way in which I excel. However, I really enjoy English because it allows me to think critically even if I struggle.

College major and/or occupation: I plan to work with statistics as an actuary.

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: My proudest academic accomplishment was scoring a perfect 800 on the Math portion of the SAT exam.

Personally: My proudest personal accomplishment has been wearing cute, colorful clothes. Although it may sound silly, it has brought me a new confidence while also bringing smiles to people's faces. It taught me courage and confidence.

Extracurricular Activities: I've been involved with Outdoor Awareness, Foreign Language Club, Gardening Club, National Honor Society and Improv Club.

Volunteer Experiences: I have volunteered at school events and Meals on Wheels. This afforded me the opportunity to realize helping others can come in many forms.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory was turning my thoughts into creations in digital media arts.

Parents/Guardians: Carrie and David Messana



3. Bridget Wilson

College Plans: Case Western Reserve University in Ohio

Major: Nursing

Favorite High School Subjects: My favorite subject is Science because it allows understanding of how and why the natural world functions the way it does.

College major and/or occupation: I am majoring in Nursing and I would like to pursue a career as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.



Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: My proudest academic accomplishment is finishing third in my class.

Personally: My proudest personal accomplishment is being chosen as a captain of the Varsity Soccer team when I was a sophomore.

Extracurricular Activities: JV and Varsity Soccer, Basketball, Softball teams, National Honor Society, Outdoor Awareness Club, Model UN, Hotdog Committee, Prom Chairperson.

Volunteer Experiences: St. Luke's Mission, the Food Bank of WNY, St. Amelia's Vacation Bible School, NWAA Youth Soccer coach, Kenmore Presbyterian Church – these experiences were meaningful because I liked the feeling of doing something beyond myself and it showed me the importance of giving back.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory is TNT week because it creates a positive and fun atmosphere and the whole school comes together.

Parents/Guardians: Dawn and Eric Wilson

4. Isabella Fortunato

College Plans: University at Buffalo

Major: English with a minor in Theatre

Favorite High School Subjects: My favorite classes were always my Art and English classes because I always really enjoyed the free expression that I was granted in those classes.

College major and/or occupation: I am majoring in English with intent to become a writer – nothing makes me feel more alive than a pen in my hand and a blank page waiting for ink.

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: I was awarded the UB Presidential Scholarship and feel very grateful for such an honor from a university I love.

Personally: In my personal life, I would say I'm most proud to have completed all the necessary requirements to earn my church's Youth Personal Progress Reward.

Extracurricular Activities: I have been an active member of Drama Club, Chorus, Orchestra, Tri-M Music Honor Society, National Honor Society and my church's youth group.

Volunteer Experiences: I have volunteered for WBFO/WNED, Kevin Guest House, Days for Girls, Let Them LOL and Little Dresses for Africa – all of this experience has taught me the importance of giving back to the community. They have shaped the way I grew up and I hope will continue to shape me in the future.



Favorite High School Memory: Taking my final bow at the High School musical. In one split second, I had never felt more proud and mournful all at the same time. I will miss this stage forever but also can't wait to experience new aspects of performance.

Parents/Guardians: Mary Beth and Luca Fortunato

5. Katherine Sieracki

College Plans: SUNY ESF Syracuse

Major: Paper Engineering

Favorite High School Subjects:

My favorite subjects are Math and Science because they connect to show how the world works and are based on fact instead of opinion.

College major and/or occupation: Paper engineers develop paper and packaging that is environmentally friendly and renewable.

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: Maintaining my grades to achieve number five in my class.

Personally: Deciding to pursue a degree and attend a school where the goal is benefitting the environment.

Extracurricular Activities: Outdoor Awareness Club, Model UN, JV/Varsity Basketball and Lacrosse, JV Volleyball and Varsity Tennis teams, National Honor Society, Hotdog Committee.

Volunteer Experiences: North Tonawanda Food Pantry, North Tonawanda Project Pride and peer tutoring – these experiences have been meaningful to me because they allowed me to give back to the community and make a small difference in the lives of people.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory is TNT week because it is a week dedicated to having fun with your friends and showing school spirit.

Parents/Guardians: Jane Gabalski and Michael Sieracki



6. Carson Essenburg

College Plans: University at Buffalo

Major: Pharmaceutical Science

Favorite High School Subjects:

My favorite subjects are Math and Science because I find both challenging and interesting.

College major and/or occupation: My college major will prepare me for a career in drug discovery and development with a pharmaceutical company.



Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: My proudest academic accomplishments are ranking sixth overall in my class and being selected as a Fall All-WNY Scholar Athlete.

Personally: My proudest personal accomplishment was being named a captain of the Varsity Soccer team.

Extracurricular Activities: Varsity Soccer, Indoor Track and Outdoor Track and Field, National Honor Society and SADD Club.

Volunteer Experiences: I volunteer with NWA Soccer to help run practices and teach young athletes the game of soccer. It was meaningful to me because it allowed me to make the game that I love a part of young athletes' lives.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory was beating LewPort in soccer in overtime after going down 1-0 with only a few minutes left. We remained undefeated.

Parents/Guardians: Karri and Ryan Essenburg

7. Michael Vogt

College Plans: Rochester Institute of Technology (R.I.T.)

Major: Computer Science

Favorite High School Subjects:

My favorite subjects are Math and Computer Science because both classes give you specific problems with definite answers.

College major and/or occupation: I will either enter into the field of A. I. or become a video game programmer.

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: Being awarded the Mayflower Award for excellent grades in Advanced Placement United States History. It was a great feeling being recognized for my achievements.

Personally: Becoming more open and outgoing as a person. At the beginning of high school, I was a very shy person but over the years, I became more open and gained more friends which helped me become happier with my life.

Extracurricular Activities: Computer Club – a club about getting people who love computers, programming, etc...together. Improv Club – a club about getting people out of their shell.

Volunteer Experiences: I volunteered with the Harszslak Foundation over the course of high school. It was a very meaningful experience to me because not only was I able to have a lot of fun but I was able to help out with an amazing cause.

Favorite High School Memory: The TNT Pep



Rally for Senior year. It was a lot of fun to get energetic and crazy with my friends.

Parents/Guardians: Barb and David Vogt

8. Lindsay Rhodes

College Plans: University at Buffalo

Major: Undecided

Favorite High School Subjects:

Math because it comes very easy to me.

College major and/or occupation: Currently undecided but in the medical field.

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: Student of the Month a few times, Top Ten, Scholar Athlete.

Personally: Not sure.

Extracurricular Activities: Tennis, National Honor Society, Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class, Student Government Day.

Volunteer Experiences: I volunteered at Schofield Nursing Facility which was meaningful because it felt nice to give back to the community.

Favorite High School Memory: TNT weeks because of the school spirit and the TNT game.

Parents/Guardians: Danielle and Thomas Rhodes



9. Colin Beach

College Plans: University at Buffalo

Major: Pharmacy

Favorite High School

Subjects: Math and Earth Science – I have always done well in Math and having Mr. Brocklehurst in Earth Science my freshman year helped me adjust to high school. Having a teacher like him your first year in high school really goes a long way.

College major and/or occupation: Going into the 2 + 4 Program for Pharmacy at UB in order to become a Pharmacist.

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: Being in the Top Ten is something I have always set as my goal but outside of that, I was honored to be selected to the WNY All-Academic Football Team in the Fall.

Personally: Being named captain of the Varsity Football and Basketball teams in my senior year. I take pride in being noticed as a leader and someone for others to look up to on the team.

Extracurricular Activities: JV/Varsity Football and Basketball teams, JV Volleyball team, National Honor Society.

Volunteer Experiences: St. Christopher's parish and NT Xmas trailer. With the Xmas trailer, we



donated over 10,000 non-perishable food items just this year which was the largest single donation ever to the NT Food Pantry. Helping those in need and making a positive impact is very meaningful.

Favorite High School Memory: Going to battle every day with my teammates in football and basketball and the relationships I have made through those sports. I will miss playing sports for NT and putting on a Jacks jersey more than anything.

Parents/Guardians: Janet and Robert Beach

10. Samantha Michlin

College Plans: Canisius College

Major: Biochemistry

Favorite High School Subjects: My favorite subjects in high school would be Math and Music. Math seemed very logical to me and our teachers would always push us hard to succeed. Our Music Department is filled with amazing teachers giving us the freedom to express ourselves in music.

College major and/or occupation: I've always pictured myself working in the medical field – hands on with patients.

Proudest Accomplishments:

Academically: Being in National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society for the past 2 years, High Honor Roll and Top Ten.

Personally: Varsity Bowling captain and being able to work at Wegman's with such amazing people.

Extracurricular Activities: I have been in Varsity Bowling (captain for 2 years), Club Bowling, National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, HotDog Committee, Academy of International Studies for 3 years and various volunteer work.

Volunteer Experiences: I started volunteering at the SPCA in 7th grade, and since 11th grade I have been volunteering every week at my local Sikora Post. Over this past year at Sikora, I've made great connections and always try to put smiles on their faces.

Favorite High School Memory: My favorite high school memory would probably be hanging around the music wing. From playing music, playing cards and doing actual work – I was always happy there.

Parents/Guardians: Connie and Jerry Michlin



Cole Axberg Awarded Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship

North Tonawanda senior Cole Axberg will be joining an elite group of students to study in Germany for the 2019-2020 school year.

Every year the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs launch a highly competitive process to select 250 American students to receive a coveted scholarship that fully funds an academic year of study and cultural immersion. The scholarship is valued between \$12,000 and \$14,000 and is an extraordinary opportunity for students to act as youth ambassadors. The goal is for them to get a new perspective on global current affairs and German social, economic and political life, while learning the German language through day-to-day life, attending a local high school and living with a host family.



German teacher Robert Lucas and Cole Axberg.

Cole says he is very excited about this opportunity. "I have been to Germany two times before and have really enjoyed the experience. I want to become a teacher of ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) and this is really going to be great for me to truly immerse myself in the language and culture."

Cole had to go through a lengthy application process that included an interview, writing essays, getting letters of recommendation and a medical exam to be in contention for the scholarship. "Cole is a great student and already speaks German fluently," says his teacher Robert Lucas.



2019 Scholarship Recipients

Student Name

Scholarship

Colin Beach

John N. Carnduff Athletic Scholarship
NT Football Hall of Fame – Louis Anastasi Scholarship
North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship
Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarship
Third Warder's Glen Gray Scholarship and Athletic Honor of Excellence

Chase Bronson

Claudia Price Bunny Memorial Scholarship
Friends of Drake School Scholarship
Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship
Sutherland Lodge #826, Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship
Sweeney Hose – Gregory Frank Memorial Scholarship

Sarah Burton

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church – Christian Youth Scholarship
George J. Woloszyn Jr. Memorial Scholarship
Joey Brochey Memorial Scholarship
Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Memorial Scholarship
Sweeney Hose – Timothy J. Frank Memorial Scholarship

Karen Carney

Arlene A. Wallak Memorial Scholarship
Delta Kappa Gamma Society Intl. Gamma Delta Chapter Financial Grant
North Tonawanda School Administrators' Association Scholarship

Chelsea Cohn

Samantha DalPorto

North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship
NTHS Girls Varsity Soccer Scholarship

Brianna Davignon

Dennis J. Wiess Memorial Scholarship
Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship

Connor DeVantier

NCCC Smart Start HS Guidance Scholarship
NT Football Hall of Fame – George J. Vetter Scholarship

Marissa DiFelice

North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarship
Ruth M. Rasey Simpson Memorial Scholarship

Kristen Doohan

Carson Essenburg

George J. Woloszyn Jr. Memorial Scholarship

NTHS Boys Varsity Soccer: Laurie Mourgas & Jerry Sullivan Scholarship
The State Ed. Department Scholarship of Academic Excellence

Samuel Fesmire

Stephen Holesko Memorial Scholarship
Timothy G. Serwinowski Memorial Scholarship

Michael Finn

Carl Fretthold Memorial Scholarship
Gene Donner Memorial Scholarship
Ryan Fischer Memorial Scholarship

Jenna Flach

John R. Baronich Sr., "Coach B" Memorial Scholarship
NTHS Academy of Engineering & Architecture Scholarship
North Tonawanda Lady Jacks Swimming/Diving Scholarship

Isabella Fortunato

Niagara County Sheriff's Office All Star Program Scholarship
The State Ed. Department Scholarship of Academic Excellence

William Guagliardo

Joey Brochey Memorial Scholarship
Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Memorial Scholarship
NTHS Boys Varsity Soccer: Laurie Mourgas & Jerry Sullivan Scholarship

Gregory Hastings

Alex Pichette Memorial Scholarship
Lt. Keith A. Maitland Memorial Scholarship
Superintendents Scholarship

James Holler

Olivia Hooley

Nola Kemna

Walter P. Sy, M.D. Scholarship

DeGraff Critical Care Nursing Scholarship

James W. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship

Third Warder's Social Club – John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Triple "C" Award

Samantha Kennedy

James A. Schucca Memorial Scholarship
North Tonawanda Youth Board Scholarship
Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarship
Sweeney Hose – Robert & Laura Kinzley Memorial Scholarship

2019 Scholarship Recipients



<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>
Wyatt Kuebler	NTHS Academy of Engineering & Architecture Scholarship
Laura Kyle	Ryan Fischer Memorial Scholarship
Natalie Lemanski	Gene Donner Memorial Scholarship Sweeney Hose - Robert Semple Memorial Scholarship
Madison McKie	American Legion Stephen Sikora Post #1322- John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Meadow Alumni Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Robert J. Frank Meritorious Service Scholarship
David Messana	The State Ed. Department Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Samantha Michlin	North Tonawanda Youth Board Scholarship Wegmans Scholarship
Calisity Mitri	American Legion Stephen Sikora Post #1322- John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarship Sutherland Lodge #826, Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship
Matthew Monge	James W. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship
Gwendalyn Neale-Insinna	Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship
Paul Orrange	Elliott Golach Memorial Scholarship Gene Donner Memorial Scholarship John R. Baronich Sr., “Coach B” Memorial Scholarship Jordan D. Bunker Athletic Scholarship NTHS Academy of Engineering & Architecture Scholarship Rev. Frank E. Wright Memorial Scholarship pres. by Twin City Communities Outreach, Inc. Spruce Parent Teacher Organization Scholarship
Joshua Pawlik	Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship Meadow Alumni Scholarship
Alexis Payne	Jim Chiarello Memorial Scholarship Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarship
Megan Price	North Tonawanda Lady Jacks Swimming/Diving Scholarship Ryan Fischer Memorial Scholarship
Brianna Pringle	Wegmans Scholarship
Timothy Privitera	Leocadia (Lee) M. Ozimek Memorial Scholarship NTHS Boys Varsity Soccer: Laurie Mourgaz & Jerry Sullivan Scholarship
Hannah Riley	Allison Marie Clark Memorial Scholarship Ruth H. Collard Memorial Scholarship
Lindsay Rhodes	The State Ed. Department Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Ashley Rogers	NCCC Smart Start HS Guidance Scholarship
Katherine Sieracki	North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarship The State Ed. Department Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Michael Vogt	Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarship
Bailey Walter	Friends of Drake School Scholarship Gene Donner Memorial Scholarship North Tonawanda Catholic Club, Inc. and Knights of Columbus Scholarship
Laney Wieclaw	North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship Spruce Parent Teacher Organization Scholarship The State Ed. Department Scholarship of Academic Excellence 2019 Community All Star Award
Bridget Wilson	Carl Fretthold Memorial Scholarship North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship NTHS Girls Varsity Soccer Scholarship The State Ed. Department Scholarship of Academic Excellence

Counseling Center Celebrates Seniors Next Step

The Counseling Center at North Tonawanda High School recently celebrated their seniors' next steps after graduation on the bulletin board in the hallway across from their offices.

Best of luck grads! We could not be more proud of you!



Class of 2019 Top 25 Students

1. Laney Wieclaw
2. David Messana
3. Bridget Wilson
4. Isabella Fortunato
5. Katherine Sieracki
6. Carson Essenburg
7. Michael Vogt
8. Lindsay Rhodes
9. Colin Beach
10. Samantha Michlin
11. Jenna Flach
12. Samantha Kennedy
13. Jaret Lynch
14. Dakota Fancher
15. Jace Fisher
16. Samantha Dal Porto
17. Carley Mc Bride
18. Chase Steingasser
19. Chelsea Cohn
20. Paul Orrange
21. Taylor Dietrich
22. Connor De Vantier
23. Samuel Fesmire
24. Wyatt Kuebler
25. Alexis Payne

North Tonawanda High School Graduating Class of 2019

Kaleb Ambrosia
Colin Archibald
Elizabeth Arida
Cole Axberg
Beatriz Azevedo
Isaac Bailey
Leanna Barmann
Tyler Bartolomei
Colin Beach
Blake Behm
Heather Behm
Cheyanne Bice
Savannah Bigelow
James Bihary Jr.
Hannah Booker
Hope Bracco
Joseph Brant
Jason Bronschidle
Chase Bronson
Mackenzie Brosius
Phillip Brown
Laura Burdo
Jackson Burns
Samuel Burrows
Ashley Burton
Sarah Burton
Bailey Cairns
Mya Campbell
Emily Caple
Karen Carney
Logan Carozzolo
Nicholas Casterline
Vincent Chiodo
Katie Cipolla
Ethan Clark
Kyle Clausen
Chelsea Cohn
Merisa Cooley
Tiana Coupe
Tiffany Cracknell
Kayleigh Crist
Maximus Czajka
Samantha DalPorto
Brianna Davignon
Lillian DeJesus
Vincent DellaValle
Connor DeVantier
Taylor Dietrich

Marissa DiFelice
Evan Diliberto
Adam DiNardo
Hayleigh DiRosa
Harrison Dixon
Alyssa Dolan
Kristen Doohan
Jacob Dotterweich
Ryan Drake
Jessica Durfey
Patrick Enright Jr.
Adriana Escandon Valdivia
Carson Essenburg
William Ettinger
John Evans II
Dakota Fancher
Samuel Fesmire
Dakota Fingerlow
Michael Finn
Jace Fisher
Jenna Flach
Bailey Fleischauer
Isabella Fortunato
Jade Foss
Alana Frankenberger
Eric Freeman
Samuel Fuster
Mark Gauda
Jordan Gendron
Alexander Gorcheck
Sarah Grunthaner
William Guagliardo
Dylan Guzenski
Daniel Hacker
Donald Hahn
Jared Hall
Zachary Hance
Kaylee Haner
Jacob Hanes
Gregory Hastings
Samara Hochadel
James Holler
Olivia Hooley
Nolan Horn
Aidan Howard
Erica Hurtubise
Yaseen Iskandar Husin
Jenna Jay

Victoria Kalita
David Karyazhin
Nola Kemna
Samantha Kennedy
Maxwell Kijowski
Unique King
David Knisley
Destyne Kohn
Richard Kramer
Tabitha Kress
Connor Krupa
Kerstin Kubiak
Wyatt Kuebler
Laura Kyle
Kyle Lafferty
Jared Lamanna
Peyton Laufenberg
Donald LaVerdi
Kyle Lee
Natalie Lemanski
Michelle Lemke
Emoni Leonard
Sylvannah Lester
Kyra Lettieri
Matthew Lewis
Anthony Loverme
Justin Lowe
Zoriann Lucca Sepulveda
Nicholas Luh
Jaret Lynch
Matthew Makey
Mason Mancini
John Mancuso Jr.
Madysen Manzare
Cody Martin
Kasey Martin
Brett Mayer
Carley McBride
Madison McKie
David Messana
Duncan Metlak
Ryan Meyer
Samantha Michlin
Theodore Millar
Kaitlyn Miller
Jayden Miranto
Calisity Mitri
Astrid Moller Garcia

Matthew Monge
Christopher Moore
Jacob Myers
Gwendalyn Neale Insinna
Sydney Newman
Erin O'Bara
Paul Orrange
Angel Pabon
Lauren Painter
Austin Parham
Colin Parlier
Joshua Pawlik
Alexis Payne
Brianna Peiffer
Dylan Pennell
Katie Perry
Matthew Pierce
Keyante Pitner
Taylor Pless
Arianna Pocobello
Lillian Pohl
Marissa Politano
Megan Price
Brianna Pringle
Timothy Privitera
Shavonne Pucula
Westley Quintern
Zavier Raynor
Lindsay Rhodes
Steven Ribis
Daniel Ricchiazzi
Hannah Riley
Hailee Rios
Krysta Robinson
Ashley Rogers
Zayna Rozycki
Anthony Sammarco
Dillon Sanchez
Gabriel Sanchez
Hayden Sawyer
Thomas Schiavone
Patrick Schnurr
Kaitlynn Scozzafava
Justin Seidel
Kale Shiesley
Ashton Shingleton
Katherine Sieracki
Chloe Silvashy

Jessica Simone
Anthony Sims
Mackenzie Sledziewski
Madeline Smith
Hannah St.Cyr
Kayla Starks
Chase Steingasser
Jacob Stine
Leighton Stoll
Jacob Story
Dylan Stroupe
Anthony Sturniolo
Hannah Sudezko
Yeva Sukhov
Dzianis Supruniuk
Dylan Suter
Lauren Sutherland
Kareen Szentgyorgyi
Samantha Taylor
Brooke Tesch
Jacob Thompson
Jack Tollar
Casey Trombley
Andrey Tupchik
John Urban Jr.
Rion Uschold
Savannah Vallier
Madison VanHoff
Grace Vater
Michaline VerHague
Michael Vogt
Patrick Wade
Wyatt Walker
Bailey Walter
Jessica Wankasky
James Wekenmann II
Carly Werth
David White
Joshua Wiatr
Laney Wieclaw
Jonathan Wilken
Bridget Wilson
Courtney Winger
Sarah Winkler
Emily Ziemer
Jonathan Zinkiv

April Carere Receives BPO Award for Excellence in Music Education

A big congratulations to April Carere, who was recently honored by Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) Music Director and Conductor JoAnn Falletta, at the Celebration of Music Education Awards in May.

Mrs. Carere, who has been teaching instrumental music at North Tonawanda City School District for 20 years, received the BPO/NCMEA (Niagara County Music Educators Association) Award for Excellence in Music Education. This award honors exceptional music educators for their contributions in fostering musical growth in their students and enhancing Niagara County music programs.

Mrs. Carere decided to start teaching after some encouragement from a friend and other music teachers. "I stayed home for 16 years with my children and I decided to finish my graduate degree and I traveled back and forth every other day to Fredonia while my 3 kids were in high school, middle school and elementary school and my husband was traveling all around the country with the Amherst Saxophone Quartet. I was determined." She also credits her teachers at Niagara Wheatfield CSD, when she was in junior and senior High School, to having inspired and encouraged her to reach for her dreams. "I owe them so much."

She says community involvement and music education advocacy is a driving force in her life. In 2004, she created North Tonawanda's All City Band program incorporating all five elementary schools in the district. The "Remember Ryan Recital" has become a beloved tradition, resulting from Mrs. Carere's 10-year collaboration as a grant recipient with the Remember Ryan Foundation. This year's performance premiered a commissioned piece for her Intermediate School band. In 2012 she co-founded and implemented a summer honors band program which now includes over 400 students from various Niagara County Schools and grows each year. She was also recognized by North Tonawanda CSD in 2017 when she was inducted in the North Tonawanda Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame. She is also a dedicated member of NafME, NYSSMA and NYSBDA.

Music is a tradition and a way of life in the Carere family. Her husband, Russ Carere, is a musician and composer and they own and operate the Carere Music Studio together and have been private woodwind instructors for decades. She also has three talented children,

who are also music educators who teach in Niagara and Erie County public schools.

"I am so honored to have the opportunity to bring music into children's lives every day," she says. "I was thrilled, amazed and astonished when I heard that I had received this award. I am normally the person who tells the person they had won that award and then presenting that award. My three kids were there and so many friends and colleagues from the whole Western New York area. It was surreal. It was so nice to be part of that."

When asked what she likes best about being a teacher she said, "To me it's about making a difference. I see students have gone on to high school or gone on farther and they'll always remember something no matter how small it was. Some of them still continue to play music and stayed in the arts. To me, it is the connections. It is a real connection you get through music. It is really special. It is not a separate thing in my life."

That is what it is like with my family. It is just who we are. I am proud to be a teacher. It is a terrific profession."



District Art Show Huge Success!

The 2019 North Tonawanda City School District Art Show was a great way to wrap up the school year. Guests at the new Fine Arts Center were impressed with the beautiful and unique pieces that the students made. The art teachers would like to give a special thank you to the Remember Ryan Foundation for their continued support of the arts.



8th grader Ayden Woolston shows off his piece.



Art teacher Melinda Wright gets one of the displays ready.

Drake Celebrates Library Partnership

The third graders at Drake Elementary School have been enjoying their partnership with the North Tonawanda Library this school year.

Librarian, Miss Zaciewski, visits the classrooms every month and helps to work with the students on their Reader's Workshop units.



NT Counselors Congratulate Students on College Choices

College-bound seniors were celebrated by their counselors, administrators, teachers and their peers at National College Signing Day at the North Tonawanda High School recently. Career Counselor Mrs. Graves says, "National Signing Day encourages seniors and helps us to celebrate them as they #ReachHigher and continue their education after high school. The event included music, a photo booth, and students signing a piece of paper where they'll be going to college, trade school, military or work."

The students were invited on their lunch period to stop by the table set up by the school's counselors in the hallway. The students also get to partake in some raffles for various prizes including prom tickets and college paraphernalia.



Students (LtoR) Dylan Stroger, Logan Carozzolo, Keyante Pitner.



Counselors: (LtoR) Mr. Derrett, Miss Kinz, Miss Gierke, Mrs. Wright, Lumber Jack, Mrs. Schultz and Mrs. Graves.

Congratulations to Our Newest Athletic Wall of Fame Inductees

Congratulations to our newest Athletic Wall of Fame inductees: Ricky Brooks, Katie Miranto-Burd, Tom "TK" Murphy, Matt Scalise and John Szczerbinski!

The District has a proud history in athletics. The Wall of Fame honors alumni, coaches and significant contributors to the athletic program. It honors those who have contributed either individually or collectively to the promotion or betterment of athletics in the North Tonawanda City Schools.



Front Row (LtoR) Ricky Brooks, Katie Miranto-Burd, Tom "TK" Murphy, Matt Scalise and John Szczerbinski. Back Row (LtoR) Presenters: Mr. Brooks, Scott Miranto, Edgy Skovinski, Rick Tamm and Bill Rohring.

Ninth Grader Wins Holocaust Writing Contest

Alaina Roberts, a ninth grade honors English student of Mr. Charles Carr, placed first in the Holocaust Resource Center's annual writing and art contest for her work titled "There Is No Question". The contest's theme asked students to portray their view of being an upstander or a bystander.

Winners were honored at a reception with Holocaust survivors and fellow winners.



Alaina Roberts, Holocaust survivor Sophia Veffer and Holocaust survivor Herman Stone.

NT Represents at Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center Contest

The Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center Literacy Awards Ceremony was recently held at Lockport High School. This year the theme was "I Have A Story To Tell..." This contest allowed the students an opportunity to share their own story. Students' stories were focused on (but not limited to) any of the following themes: kindness, empathy, responsibility, intergenerational relationships, cultural awareness/acceptance, and/or community.

Works of literacy art were submitted by the student's teachers. Students from North Tonawanda that received awards were: First place in the 4th/5th category - Meredith Roberts, Third place in the 6th/7th grade category - Harrison Roberts and Honorable Mention went to Aestarea Truesdale and James Campas.



(LtoR): Lisa Fletcher (Newfane teacher), Meredith Roberts and Cheryl Herman (Director of the Teacher Center Policy Board).

North Tonawanda HS Health Professions Career Day A Success

A career fair, at North Tonawanda High School, gave students the opportunity to explore a variety of health careers.

The event was organized by the school's Career Center and offered students a chance to interact with medical and healthcare professionals from various colleges and organizations, so that students could explore career options.



NTHS Holds First Responders Day

NT High School recently held a First Responders Day to help students explore careers.



Celebrating Being Authors

Some second grade students, at Spruce Elementary, invited a kindergarten class to join them in a celebration of their non-fiction reading and writing units of study early this spring.

The students shared the texts they were reading, as well as those they'd written themselves with the kindergarten students through a gallery book walk.

The classes also made posters with their "words of wisdom" (advice) for the kindergarten readers and writers to hang in their own classroom. The kindergarteners even left with a "swag bag" of inspiring writing items. All of the children engaged in rich discussions around reading and writing. Everyone learned so much from one another. It was truly a celebration of literacy learning at its best!



Spruce Students Enjoy Day at the Zoo

103 first graders from Spruce Elementary went to the Buffalo Zoo on June 6th.

"They have been reading many non-fiction books in Reading Workshop to prepare for the trip," explains teacher Carol Kiedrowski. "They

have been researching many of the animals and writing about them in Writing Workshop. They visited the new refreshed reptile house with the 5 foot long, 50 pound Komodo dragon. They examined the 11 new animatronic dinosaurs. The students were able to observe the animals they studied first-hand."



Sophia Gullo and Olivia Lyons



Judy Maraschiello, Haley Hauser, Fawn Crane with reindeer

Spruce Kids Share Kindness with SPCA

Students at Spruce Elementary recently had a Kindness Donation Drive. The students chose to help out the SPCA. Officer Bob, the SPCA representative, came in and spoke to the students about what they do for animals. He said they were very grateful for what the school had done to help the animals.



The students sitting (LtoR) are: Benjamin Warning, Jameson Warning and Liam Cave. The students standing (LtoR): Aaliyah Boyne, Eric Grinnell, Ella Downey, Collin Green and Officer Bob.



Spruce Girls Are On the Run

At Spruce Elementary, four coaches (Mrs. LeMar, Mrs. Story, Ms. Doel and Ms. Gierki) worked with 15 third-grade girls two times per week for 10 weeks using the Girls on The Run curriculum.

Girls on the Run inspires girls to recognize their inner strength and celebrate what makes them one of a kind. Trained coaches lead small teams through research-based curricula which includes dynamic discussions, activities and running games. The Spruce students learned to build self-worth (positive actions), confidence, character, and caring about themselves and others. This was developed through a variety of planned activities. Students cooperate with others in a positive group setting. The participants learn to nurture their physical, social and emotional competencies both at home, school and community.

The program culminated at a 5k race at SUNY@ Buffalo on Sunday, June 2nd. Each runner had a buddy runner to run along with them, either a parent, relative or one of the coaches. All students completed the run! We are so proud of our GOTR students and coaches!!



Students: Aria, Adele, Adrianna, Allison, Makenzie, Isabelle, Isabella, Keimera, Nya, Jordan, Alayah, Jenavieve, Annabelle, Leah and Hailey.



Middle Schoolers Volunteer Their Time to Better Local Gardens

Students from the North Tonawanda Middle School recently volunteered their time at the North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens (NTBG). In an effort to revitalize the botanical gardens, David Conti the Chairman of the NTBG, reached out to Science teachers, Harmony Worral and Brittany Belko in an attempt to bridge the gap between the school and the community.

“The students in my 8th grade class all planted a perennial which will be moved to the gardens once they’ve matured,” explains Ms. Worral. “I also offered students extra credit to attend the April 27th Community Clean-Up Day. “The students and teachers worked together with members of the community to rake, pick up sticks, and start prepping the gardens for spring.

Middle School Family Fun Night is Huge Success!

Middle School Health teacher, Lindsey Turner was thrilled by the turnout at the school’s Family Fun Night and Health Fair. “It was great to see 600 community members in attendance and we had over 100 vendors participate. It was wonderful to see the community and school come together like that. It was a huge success!



Middle Schoolers Inducted Into Honor Society

The North Tonawanda Middle School Honor Society recently had their induction ceremony in the Fine Arts Center.

Mr. Greg Burgess, Principal of the school, welcomed everyone to this special event and congratulated the 25 students who were inducted into this program for 2019-2020 school year.

Students: Leah Anson, Alanna Banas, Rihanna Boehringer, Ariana Caron, Summer Colegrove, Madeline DeVantier, Elizabeth Duffy, Brooke Formaniak, Delancy Garven, Samantha Holenstein, Joshua Keenan, Stephen Kelly, Caitlin Kruck, Noah Matyevich, Delaney Mesler, Gwendolyn Moran, Elyssa Pennell, Harrison Roberts, Ella Royer, Kylee Russell, Ava Spencer, Taytlyn Stiehl, May Vargas, Joseph Wachowicz, Lilly Wilcox.





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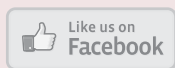
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Senator Ortt Guest Speaker at NTI

Senator Robert Ortt was the guest speaker at the North Tonawanda Intermediate School. He was asked to talk about integrity at the 6th Grade Level Gathering.



NT Students Make Art Come to Life

On June 1st, students, teachers, families and friends created living representations of works of art from the Albright-Knox's collection and beyond for their annual Living Art contest.

North Tonawanda students and their teachers had a blast making artwork come to life. Students from the Intermediate School won Best Tableau from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's Collection with John Miro's *Carnaval d'Arlequin* (Carnival of Harlequin), 1924-25. They also won an Honorable Mention for August Macke's *Strollers in a Rocky Landscape*, 1911, Takashi Murakami's *Kawaii-vacances* (Summer Vacation in the Kingdom of the Golden), 2017 and Horace Pippin's *Self-Portrait*, 1941.

