

North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission

To provide an excellent education to all that encompasses developing confident, creative, competitive and caring students.

Vision

To develop a nationally recognized school system focused on: A collaborative environment that fosters the academic, emotional and social growth of each student through quality and purposeful educational experiences. Students becoming independent, productive and globally competitive citizens. Instilling the belief that each student is invaluable.

Core Beliefs

North Tonawanda Lumberjacks are:

- Lifelong learners
- Understanding
- Motivated
- Brave
- Empowered
- Respectful
- Just
- Academically sound
- Caring
- Knowledgeable
- Strong

Vote Qualifications

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be 18 years of age.
- You must be a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.

Superintendent's Message

Happy springtime! It was a long and cold winter, but there are signs of warmer and sunnier weather in our future. The Board of Education has been busy working on budget related items for the upcoming May vote. Over the past decade, North Tonawanda has been able to stay at or below the tax cap that Albany has put in place. This means that not only have we had low or zero tax increases, but the residents of North Tonawanda also qualify for the tax rebate check that is part of this program. This year we are well below the tax cap formula and came in at .96%, just under 1%. We will be adding an elementary teacher to help with K-3 class sizes. We will also be adding a writing program at the Middle School, as well as a district-wide family support center.

The family support center will be at alternative hours and locations to access families at a more convenient time and place. Resources for Niagara County are on the rise and this center will work to connect families and students with the help they are seeking.

This current school year has seen several changes from grade configurations, redistricting, and new community and sports facilities. We are completing our first year with a School Resource Officer and the Board of Education is focused on expanding and improving security for all at North Tonawanda schools. Our first Thought Exchange question focused on security and the data obtained has helped the Board focus on what the students and families are looking for. We are excited for a new year that will start in 2019 and take us into 2020. We truly are "Building the Future Today" in North Tonawanda!

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools



School Board President's Message

Many new and exciting programs are being implemented in our district, one of which is the Credit Recovery Program. This program helps struggling students achieve their graduation goal by giving them the guidance and individual instruction they need to earn the credits they need.

Some other exciting things to watch for is our Facebook live series where school Board Members and the Superintendent will discuss issues and take questions in real time. It's perfect for those who are unable to make our monthly meetings!

Our Fine Arts Center has opened with great success! Not only does it give our students a state of the art venue to show case their amazing talents, it also offers a beautiful place to host community events that benefit our city as a whole.

Our budget vote is rapidly approaching and the importance of your vote can not be stressed enough. Please consider that being informed of what the budget addresses is an integral part of the direction our district will take. In the same respect, being informed of those who are running for the two open seats on our board will directly affect policies and programs that will speak to our future growth. Your vote is imperative for this process to work effectively! Our children are our greatest resources, so please vote!

Sincerely,

Cheryl McMahon
Board President



Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 21, Noon - 9 p.m.
Alumni Student Activity Center, 405 Meadow Drive

The Addams Family Shows Off Talented Cast and New Fine Arts Center

The talented cast and crew at the North Tonawanda High School gave an outstanding performance for this year's musical "The Addams Family". The show might have been creepy and kooky, mysterious and spooky, but the new Fine Arts Center is inviting, exciting and utterly amazing!

Thanks to the district's capital project, the Fine Arts Center had a total renovation. The center now has enhanced acoustics, new flooring, a dedicated spot for the pit orchestra, comfortable seating and better equipment in general.



Student Spotlight Exhibit and Family Night is Huge Success

There was a huge turnout on February 28th for the NT Schools Student Spotlight opening reception.

The event was held at the Carnegie Art Center and showcased the works of many students who have been working with our art teachers Chris Cook, Christina Davis, Jackie Fernandez, Alexandra Gerbec, Melinda Wright and Sue Zobrist.

The teachers were very pleased with the response they received on the exhibit. "I was amazed at the great turnout we had for all ages! It was wonderful to see all of the families, teachers, friends, and administration come out to support our NT artists. So many of my students (and their parents) are beyond excited to see their artwork in a real art gallery on display for everyone to see, and they made sure to tell everyone where exactly their artwork was! I'm extremely proud to be a part of a fantastic time in the district to include Kindergarten and first grade again in a beautiful venue for recognizing the hard work and dedication put in by students and faculty alike," says Ms. Gerbec. Mr. Cook added, "It's amazing seeing all the smiles on the students and their families' faces as they view their artwork. I also love seeing so much great artwork collectively in an amazing building." Ms. Davis says she is pleased with the success of the evening. "It's always a thrill to see families from our district gather in celebration of their children's artistic talent. What really pushes the experience over the top is that it all takes place in North Tonawanda's beautiful and historic Carnegie Arts Center. We are grateful to the city and all the volunteers at the Carnegie for allowing the Student Spotlight to continue to thrive over the years." Ms. Zobrist said, "I am always so proud and amazed when I see all of the creative talents of our North Tonawanda students come together in the annual Student Spotlight Art Show at the historic Carnegie Art Center."

The teachers want to extend their thanks to the Remember Ryan Foundation for their grant that helped to make the evening a success!



Chris Cook, Christina Davis, Sue Zobrist, Melinda Wright, Jackie Fernandez, Alexandra Gerbec and Director of Fine Arts Dean Vallas.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating Black History Month with Art

The NT fourth graders celebrated Black History Month in a very cool and artistic way. They spent some time at the Albright-Knox Museum in downtown Buffalo.



The museum had a great display outdoors with "The Freedom Wall". The piece is by John Baker, Julia Bottoms, Chuck Tingley and Edreys Wajed and is on the corner of Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street. It was commissioned by the Albright-Knox Gallery Public Art Initiative in partnership with the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority in 2017. The wall has 28 portraits of notable civil rights leaders.

East Ferry Street is the northern entrance into the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor: a nexus of the city's deeply rooted African American history. "The project is intended to encourage conversations about the long journey toward equality and freedom, the work still yet to do, and the actions all of us can take to bring about a most just and equitable world," according to the Albright-Knox.

"We were very fortunate to have received a grant from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Western New York," says Art teacher Melinda Wright. "It is called Art's Cool and allowed us a free guided tour that was designed to support the development of the critical and creative thinkers of tomorrow. It included a transportation subsidy, an Albright-Knox trained docent and was aligned with the New York State Learning Standards and Common Core Standards. We are very grateful."

Guest Speaker Shares Black History with High School Students

On Wednesday, March 27th, Mr. Roger Blackwell was at the High School to speak about Harlem Renaissance in Mr. Richard Andres' US History class.

Mr. Blackwell was born in Harlem New York and grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. He lived near Malcom X, attended Boston University with Martin Luther King Jr. and he played semi pro basketball. He became involved in politics, and was a Buffalo Legislator, a member of the NAACP County and State politician, and was involved with the Erie County elections. He currently resides in North Tonawanda.



NTHS students in picture with Mr. Blackwell are: Brianna Peiffer and Garrett McDonald.

All-County Band

All County is a wonderful musical experience for students. They have had the experience of practicing, auditioning and demonstrating musical skills for teacher and judges. Along this way they have used their talents and collectively put forth a final piece of music.



These students from North Tonawanda Intermediate School participated in the 5th and 6th grade Band Festival on February 9th. Back Row (LtoR): Cameron Trenchard, Abigail DeMart, Matthew Grinnell, Brooke Price and Mrs. April Carere (Music Teacher). Front Row (LtoR): Meredith Roberts, Joel Fesmire and Sophia Scott. Absent from picture: Simon McCarthy.



The 5th Grade Chorus from the North Tonawanda Intermediate School. Back Row (LtoR): Autumn Deschamps, Jason Ruisi, Johnathan Koziol, Hannah Bozek and Macy Gabel. Front Row (LtoR): Alexis Gamp, Madison Swartz, Meredith Roberts and Director/Marissa Greenwald. Absent: Eeve Cicali.



North Tonawanda Intermediate 6th Grade Chorus. Back Row (LtoR): Teacher/Directory-Mrs. Ginny Hendra, Alena Zemrac, Chloe Ketterer-Beras, Eleanor Stevens, Sophia Haley and Caelyn Kelly. Front Row (LtoR): Savannah Shaffer, Tavery Cater, Emelia Graff, Joel Fesmire and Abigail Marella.

NT High School Students Experience Vietnam Through Art

Juniors and seniors at the North Tonawanda High School recently had the honor of meeting and hearing the story of Frank Romeo.

Mr. Romeo is one of the longest living veterans diagnosed with 100%

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other related disabilities. From 1969 to 1970 he was a Combat Artist for the First Infantry Division in Vietnam. His visit on March 5th touched many students as he talked about his life's work to educate returning veterans, as well as young people in general, about PTSD and its debilitating impact on individuals as well as society as a whole.

His program "*The Art of War*" has traveled around the country in a spirit of truth, healing, and understanding post trauma. The job of a Combat Artist was not to paint the war, but to interpret its content and meaning. The collection is an account of a critically important and still misunderstood period in our history. In the last thirty years he has traveled many miles and reached tens of thousands of people touched by this phenomenon.



Architecture Student Takes Top Spot at Bridge Construction Competition

North Tonawanda's Wyatt Kuebler, who is a senior in Mr. Chris Cook's Architecture and Engineering Academy, received first place at the Association for Bridge Construction and Design (ABCD) 27th Annual Kenneth T. Rybarczyk Memorial Bridge Contest. The mission of the ABCD is to further educate bridge designers, constructors, federal, state, local officials and the general public in the vital role of bridges in our society.

Five school districts competed this year with almost 100 balsa wood model bridges presented, judged and tested until failure. Bridges were checked to ensure all requirements were met on the bridges' weight, length and height. The judging consisted of review and assignment of scoring for: Complexity, Engineering, Workmanship and Efficiency. The best possible score was 40 points. The competition is open to all Western New York middle school and high school students.



Mr. Cook and Wyatt Kuebler.

This is not the first time Wyatt has competed at the contest. "Last year I took third place. It was good to come back and beat my old bridge." This is the fifth year in a row that Mr. Cook has had a first place winner at the competition. "We have become the New England Patriots. We feel like the Tom Brady of bridge building," he laughs.

Mr. Cook says he has enjoyed watching Wyatt's growth over the years. "I have had Wyatt four years in my class watching him building and building on his skills. No pun intended! He has great building and architectural skills and he received a lot of points for aesthetics, craftsmanship and complexity and that really helped him. He and the second place bridge were only two points apart." Wyatt says he enjoyed the competition and really enjoys Mr. Cook's class. "We are allowed to be artistic and express it any way we want. It has been great."

Wyatt's future plans include going to college to study architecture. "I always knew I wanted to be an architect. Both my parents are architects and I grew up around it."

Sam Fesmire Receives Art Scholarship

We are proud to announce that NTHS senior, Samuel Fesmire, has been recognized for his outstanding work of art on display in Daemen College's 50th annual All High Exhibition.

This juried competition was open to all high school juniors and seniors, enrolled in secondary art programs, throughout the region. Sam was presented with the Best Illustration Scholarship of \$2,000 renewed annually! Congratulations are in order for this great accomplishment.



Weather Machine Comes to North Tonawanda

Thanks to the fantastic North Tonawanda community voting for the Weather Machine for North Tonawanda Intermediate School! Andy Parker came to deliver the news of the win in October and the students have been patiently waiting ever since.

"We waited until the newly renovated Fine Arts Center was complete before having the Weather Machine visit," says Principal Katie Smith. "We had the opportunity to travel to the Fine Arts Center to experience the beautiful venue. Our entire student body enjoyed an informative and entertaining visit from Andy Parker and the Weather Machine. Mr. Parker engaged the entire audience and some of our students were able to interact with the machine, as well as other weather related items on stage. Thank you to the NT community for avidly participating in the contest and bringing it to NTI!"

Science Olympiad Students Excel at Competition

North Tonawanda High School students put their science and engineering skills to the test at this year's Science Olympiad competition, held at Buffalo State.

Giovanna Fortunato and Lauren Fisher took 1st place in the Boomilever Competition. They built a boomilever (wood and glue structure) designed to hold weight with maximum efficiency. The incredibly lightweight design and strength of their structure was impossible for any other model to beat.

Many other high school students had excellent results in their events. Mitch Sulkowski placed 5th in the Circuit Lab Competition, which tested his knowledge of electricity and magnetism. Jenna Flach and Bryan Toth took 8th place in the Write It, Do It Competition. This demonstrated their ability to engineer a structure based on their teammate's description. The duo also placed 5th in the Boomilever Competition. Several of the Olympians are also taking courses in the Academy of Engineering and Architecture at the High School.



NTI Commissions Musical Piece to Remember Ryan

Through the generosity of the Remember Ryan Foundation, North Tonawanda Intermediate School (NTI) Grade 6 Band, has commissioned a new piece of music for band.

The work "Remember Ryan" was composed by Mr. Jeff Trenchard, a local mega talented composer, musician and educator. He is also the father of two of the district's students; 6th grader Cameron and 10th grader Josh.

Music teacher April Carere says, "I am over the top excited, as are the students, to be involved in this creative endeavor; a commission project- as part of my collaboration with the Remember Ryan Foundation. The students are thrilled to have this piece be part of their legacy here at NTI and are looking forward to performing it."

Be sure to mark your calendars for June 11th to see the world premiere of "Remember Ryan". It will be performed in North Tonawanda's new Fine Arts Center at the High School as part of the Spring Concert.



(LtoR) Giovanni Ayala, Nabaa Iskandar Husin, Derek Moltrup, Julianna Insana and Andy Parker.

College Fair

NT High School juniors had an informative field trip to the Buffalo National College Fair on Thursday, March 21st.

Representatives from more than 200 two-year and four-year colleges, nursing schools, business schools and trade schools participated.

Officers and enlisted personnel from various branches of the military services were also on hand to discuss the military's enlistment and education programs such as R.O.T.C., the military academies and the GI Bill. Students were able to ask questions, set up college interviews, pick up literature and learn about the various financial aid programs available.



Brooke Price and Fawn Ott.



Ryan Plumer, Kirsten Ferree, Natalie Woodward, Laykin Brennan, Megan Uplinger and Emma Corbett.

Drake Students Get Into Character

Drake School recently had a book character day, where students and staff were encouraged to dress as their favorite characters from beloved books. Fancy Nancy was a big hit!



Kindness Calendar

In Drake School's ongoing kindness initiative for the 2018-19 school year, students were given a challenge. Each student received a calendar with a different random act of kindness per day. The students were encouraged to do as many of the activities as they could with their families. If a student was able to complete a daily kindness, the day could be colored in on the calendar. At the end of the month, students that participated returned their kindness calendars to school so they could be displayed. Drake is working hard to spread kindness in the community!



Ryan Boyle, Sophia Echevarria, Alexis Doak-Wilkins

Drake Spreads Kindness to DeGraff Skilled Nursing Facility

In following the theme of kindness at Drake Elementary this year, each class is hoping to fulfill a community kindness project. Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Clancy took their classes to DeGraff Skilled Nursing Facility to spread some kindness and have some Valentine's Day fun. In addition to singing and handing out valentines, the students also played bingo with the residents. A good time was had by all!



Takari Baker and Ryan Webb play bingo with a resident.

Celebrity Readers

The students at Drake Elementary had some celebrity readers to help them celebrate Reading is Fun Week in the month of March.

It was a real treat to hear stories from Mayor Pappas and Superintendent Greg Woytila!



Character On Parade at Ohio Street

Every month at Ohio Street Elementary, teachers are given an opportunity to nominate one of their students who best exemplifies the character trait we are focusing on that month.

Every two months they shift their focus from one character trait to another one and, as a result, each class has two students who can be nominated for each character trait. The character traits they are focusing on this school year include: kindness, respect, perseverance, and honesty.

The morning of the parade, nominated students are surprised when their name is announced and participate in a short parade throughout the halls of the school. All other students and their nominated students' parents, line the halls and sing the school character song.



After the short parade, the nominated students and their parents sit for a short recognition ceremony in the cafeteria. Students are announced, given a certificate, invited to sit on stage as a group, and photos are taken. "This has proven to be a wonderful and efficient way to engage parents, recognize positive choices, and emphasize the value of positive character development at Ohio Elementary," says School Counselor Nathan Schelble.

BMX Champion Visits Ohio Street Elementary

The students at Ohio Street Elementary were in for a real treat – they had a visit from BMX National Champion, Guinness World Record Holder and America's Got Talent star, Matt Wilhelm.

Mr. Wilhelm gave a great talk about bullying prevention and showed the students some tricks on his bike. School Counselor, Nathan Schelble, says his presentation was powerful. "Matt mirrored all of the character traits we have focused on and taught so far this year. He talked about kindness, respect, never giving up, encouraging others and doing one's best."



Jace Mecozzi, Brooke Daves, Matt Wilhelm and George Colletta.

"When I was a kid I was picked on and I was fortunate enough that someone spoke up for me and included me in their circle and it turned my whole life around," says Matt. "I want the kids to know they can be everyday heroes by doing something simple and standing up for others." He says another lesson he likes to share is the first year he competed at the X Games. "I came in last place. It really taught me perseverance and that if you stick with something and keep trying you will be successful."

Thanks to Remember Ryan Grant, Spruce Has New Sensory Room

Spruce Elementary's Social Worker, Amy Gorman, and School Counselor, Alyssa Gierke and Christopher Zon, worked to create a Calming Room designed to help students regulate their emotions. "Our goal was to create a sensory room to help students stay in control of their emotions in a safe and controlled environment so they are able to transition back to class". The sensory room is a therapeutic and recreational room designed to provide stimulation through auditory and visual relaxation.

The theme of the room is Space and they've nick-named the room the "Calming Space". The sensory room includes a variety of activities to help regulate emotions such as soothing music, colored lighting, sensory objects and a hammock swing. The calming atmosphere was provided by putting a fresh coat of paint on the walls, adding string lights, and decorating the room with planets and stars.

The sensory room was funded by the Remember Ryan Foundation in memory of Ohio Elementary's student, Ryan Bertini, who passed away at

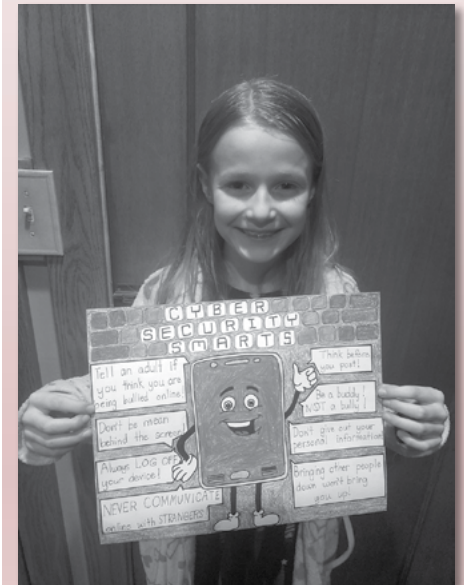


Students Adele Carrion (3rd Grade) and Riley Stauffer (1st Grade) check out the new Calming Room with Social Worker Amy Gorman, School Counselors Alyssa Gierke and Chris Zon.

the age of eight. He is strongly remembered by the continual grants his foundation provides to many schools across Western New York. The foundation aims to provide education to students in elementary schools through visual and performing arts. Ryan will be fondly remembered as students walk into the Calming Space as his name stands on a plaque next to the entrance. Thank you to the Bertini Family for providing the Calming Space for our students at Spruce Elementary!

Meredith Roberts Takes Prize in Kids Safe Online Poster Contest

Meredith Roberts, a student at the North Tonawanda Intermediate School, recently received word that she was one of the winners of the New York State Information Security Office's "Kids Safe Online" poster contest.



With cybersecurity awareness being a hot topic with educators, the annual contest focuses on how K-12 students talk about cybersecurity issues. There were over 500 entries in the competition that challenged students to think about online safety and creatively illustrate cybersecurity issues in ways that would resonate with their peers and spread the word about dangers online. "With technology so easily accessible for today's children, we must increase our efforts to educate young people about the importance of cyber safety," said state Chief Information Officer Robert H. Samson. "The New York State Safe Online Poster Contest is one way to help raise awareness about the many risks associated with being online."

Meredith was one of 12 students who won the contest. She was in the Grades 3-5 category. Her poster "Cybersecurity Smarts" is displayed on the poster contest webpage at (<http://its.ny.gov/2018-2019-kids-safe-online-nys-poster-contest>) and will be featured in the 2020 New York State Kids Safe Online Calendar.

PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2019-2020 school year in the amount of \$79,431,300 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources provided by law.

☐ Yes ☐ No

PROPOSITION #2 VOTE ON BUDGET

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE FUND

Shall the Board of Education (the "Board") of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, New York (the "District") be authorized to establish a new capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law of the State of New York (the "Fund") to be known as the "Capital Reserve Fund-2019", for the purpose of financing, in whole or in part, the acquisition of school buses by the District, in an ultimate amount of \$1,500,000 (plus interest earned thereon), having a probable term of three (3) years and be authorized to raise \$1,500,000 to fund such capital reserve fund in the current or future years with annual appropriations to be determined by the Board of Education from surplus funds remaining in the District's unassigned fund balance?

☐ Yes ☐ No

See Page 9 for further explanation.

Board of Education Candidates

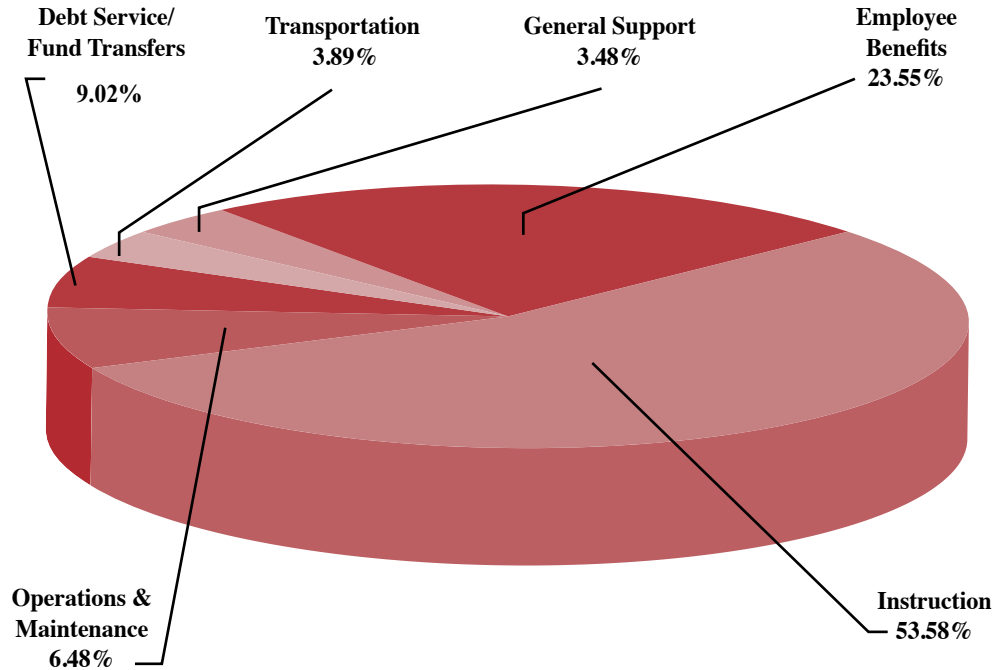
Information on Board of Education anticipated candidates can be found on the district website: www.ntschoools.org.

The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) at-large vacancies on the Board. All seats are for three (3) year terms.

Anticipated candidates listed below are in alphabetical order:

1. Colleen Angelhow
2. Stephanie Barmann
3. Cody Braeges
4. Collin Holycross
5. Joseph Marranca
6. Gabrielle Richards

EXPENDITURES



	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent Change from 2018-19
Instruction	\$41,271,840	\$42,560,212	3.12%

Includes: K-12 Instructional program, supervision, curriculum development, BOCES, special education programs, occupational education, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular programs, health services, library media, computer instruction, pupil personnel services.

Employee Benefits	\$18,584,065	\$18,705,266	.65%
--------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	-------------

Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, social security and worker's compensation.

General Support	\$2,869,872	\$2,765,315	(3.64%)
------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	----------------

Includes: Legal services, personnel, insurance, school board, refund on property tax, BOCES administrative charges, administrative and financial services, public information, central data processing and auditing.

Transportation	\$2,723,643	\$3,090,662	13.48%
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------

Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.

Debt Service/Fund Transfers	\$6,989,809	\$7,165,736	2.52%
------------------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------

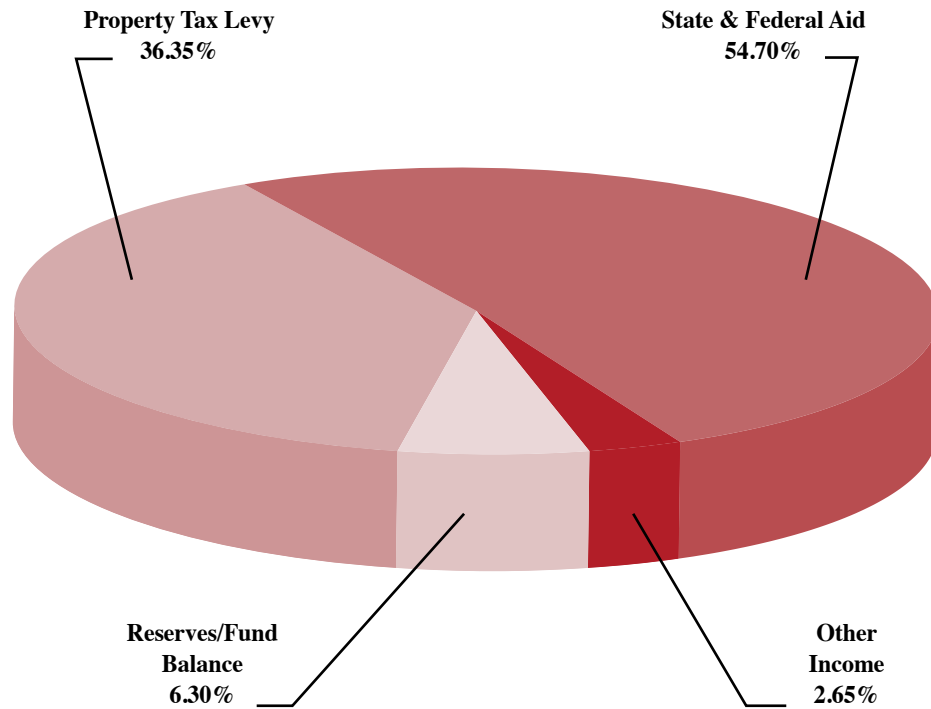
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, includes District's share of special education summer programs.

Operations & Maintenance	\$5,448,220	\$5,144,109	(5.58%)
-------------------------------------	--------------------	--------------------	----------------

Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.

TOTAL BUDGET	\$77,887,449	\$79,431,300	1.98%
---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	--------------

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2018-2019	2019-2020	Change from 2018-2019
State/Federal Aid	\$42,332,552	\$43,450,993	\$1,118,441

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2019-20 school year, it is projected to be 54.70% of all revenue. Last year it was 54.35%. This year, the aid increased by \$1,118,441.

Other Income	\$1,903,842	\$2,104,682	\$200,840
--------------	-------------	-------------	-----------

Any income received by the School District other than State and Federal Aid, Fund Balance or Tax Levy is included under this heading. Examples of other income would be: rentals, interest earnings, payments in lieu of taxes, refunds of prior year's expenses, gifts, fees, tax penalties, commissions and athletic event gate receipts.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$5,050,000	\$5,000,000	(\$50,000)
-----------------------	-------------	-------------	------------

Reserves: The District maintains Reserve Funds in accordance with guidelines established by the State of New York and adopted and accepted by the Board of Education. With the significant financial issues currently affecting districts across the State, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available. They have adopted a process which attempts to maintain quality programs while keeping the tax levy reasonable and within the Tax Cap threshold.

Fund Balance: Funds which are budgeted but unexpended at the end of the budget year, and revenues which are realized in excess of those budgeted for the year, are available at the end of the fiscal year to be carried forward as fund balance.

Tax Levy (Includes Prorated Taxes)	\$28,601,055	\$28,875,625	\$274,570
------------------------------------	--------------	--------------	-----------

This is the amount to be raised through local property taxes. The Board of Education desires to keep any increases in the levy as low as possible. For the 2019-20 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$274,570 which amounts to a 0.96% increase.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$77,887,449	\$79,431,300	\$1,543,851
--------------------------	--------------	--------------	-------------

Transportation Capital Expenditure

In the 2019-2020 budget year, the district is proposing to purchase a 66-passenger big bus for the purpose of transporting students as part of home to school services. This vehicle will be replacing vehicles that will be retired from the current district fleet.

Proposition #2

Why are we creating a capital improvement reserve to acquire school buses?

The District has developed a replacement plan to maintain and sustain a District owned fleet. Just like for a large personal purchase of a vehicle in your home budget, this reserve account is essentially the savings account to help fund future purchases of buses. The funds for this reserve will come out of District fund balance to the extent we have available funds up to the limit of \$1,500,000. In the end, the District may only have \$800,000 in extra fund balance over the next few years to move to this savings account but any funds that can be put away will help in future budgets. The funds used from the reserve to acquire buses will help the District keep future tax levies low because we will be using savings, to the extent we can move fund balance to the reserve, to purchase a portion of the buses in the replacement plan.

\$100,000 Capital Outlay Project

What is the capital outlay project that is included in the 2019-2020 school budget this year?

Capital outlay projects were established by NYSED Department of Facilities Planning as a method for districts to maintain facilities, make modest upgrades, and improvements of up to \$100,000 between larger capital projects. The most important aspect of these projects is that they will generate state aid for the school district. In the past these necessary repairs and improvements would all be paid for through local funds as building repairs in the budget, or the district would have to delay repairs until the district could put together a large capital project. Now, using capital outlay projects the district will only pay for approximately 16% of the costs with local funds because the state will provide aid for approximately 84% providing a funding source for the district to reduce the local cost to taxpayers. In the 2019-2020 budget year the district is proposing to use these funds for a construction/reconstruction project to address heating and ventilation systems in school buildings.

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2018-19 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2019-20 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$77,887,449	\$79,431,300	\$78,952,800
Increase/Decrease for the 2019-20 School Year		\$1,543,851	\$1,065,351
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.98%	1.37%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.44%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$28,601,055	\$28,875,625	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$		
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$28,601,055	\$28,875,625	
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$753,408	\$678,285	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$28,504,071	\$28,432,061	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$27,847,647	\$28,197,340	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval –	\$656,424	\$234,721	
See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **			
Administrative Component	\$7,082,130	\$7,267,798	\$7,247,298
Program Component	\$56,862,194	\$58,356,427	\$58,188,427
Capital Component	\$13,943,125	\$13,807,075	\$13,517,075

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$478,500 reduced from student supplies and materials, equipment, nonessential maintenance, and non-instructional non-unionized salaries. Also, due to the contingency budget regulations, school facilities would not be available for public use at no cost.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2019-20 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$565

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2019-2020 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City Schools, Niagara County New York, will be held at the Fine Arts Center in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 between the hours of 12:00pm (Noon) and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the North Tonawanda City Schools.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 21, Noon - 9 p.m.
Alumni Student Activity Center, 405 Meadow Drive

Spruce Elementary Students Show Kindness Towards Animals

Every two months Spruce Elementary School, of North Tonawanda City Schools, partakes in a character education trait that educates students on what is right socially and emotionally.

The months of February and March, the students learned about and represented Kindness. The past two months Officer Bob, from the SPCA, came to talk to the students about how to be kind to animals and some teachers created Kindness Trees in their classrooms!



(LtoR) 3rd grader Malaki Matthews, Kindergartner Liam Cave, Kindergartner Jameson Warning, 2nd Grader Isabella Wittkop, 2nd Grader Addalynn Berry and 2nd Grader Dominic DePonceau.

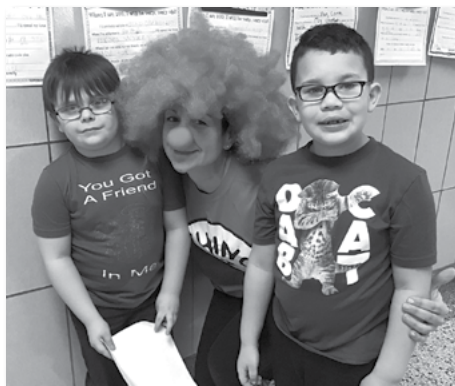
The School Counselor and Social Worker did lessons in each classroom on what it means to be kind, which resulted in the hundreds of hearts that hang in the lobby displaying something each student chose to do that was kind. Finally, as a schoolwide “Act of Kindness,” Spruce School and its surrounding community made a donation of needed supplies to the local SPCA.

Spruce Students Celebrate Reading on Dr. Seuss' Birthday!

First grade teachers at Spruce Elementary collaborated as a team to make learning stations using Dr. Seuss books for an afternoon of celebratory activity.

Thing One's room had Seuss stations that dazzled students to explore word families and rhyming from “Green Eggs and Ham”. The Cat in the Hat, dressed in his finest bow tie, circulated to the “Mulberry Street” station to write sentences about imaginative street creations and draw works of art. He then tiptoed to the STEAM science station to read facts and stack objects from the story “Cat in the Hat”. The “Ten Apples Up on Top” station engaged students to calculate math facts being very careful not to let any of those apples drop. Using the “Foot Book” as a model, Thing 2 helped students actively measure students' feet with non-standard units of measurement.

After each class rotated to each station, the event finished off the celebration by graphing colored goldfish crackers with the book, “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish”, as hungry students then munched down a crunchy snack.



Spruce Class Accepts 100 Squat Challenge for 30 Days

Spruce teacher Judy Hagan has always lived a healthy lifestyle. Not only is she a physical fitness enthusiast, she is a competitive runner. She recently accepted a challenge to do 100 squats a day for 30 days and decided it would be a fun goal to share with her class. “Studies show that students between the ages of six and seventeen should be getting an hour of physical activity a day. In school they maybe get 30 minutes for three days out of the week. I try to promote what I do. You never have to stop doing physical fitness and that will help to keep you healthy.”



Adults (LtoR) Mr. Von (social worker), Mrs. Licht (speech therapist), Mrs. Hagan, Miss Gierke (social worker), Ms. Snyder (classroom assistant) and Mrs. Gorman (school counselor). Students (LtoR) Jordan Stoffe, Justin Numanali, Sophia Kruk, Alayah Rodriguez, Angelo Miller and Destiny Baughman.

Every morning she and her class do their hundred squats. “We do them in intervals and anyone who walks into the class has to join us,” she laughs. “The kids for the most part are enjoying this challenge. Some of them do complain, but I ask them, “Do you feel better or worse when we are done?” They always say better.”

She says her hope is that once their thirty days are over they will continue to do this on their own and with their families. “I think they are very proud of the fact that they are doing them and I am happy to be promoting a healthy lifestyle that will benefit them.”

Mrs. Hagan says she is going to allow each of her students to pick out one of her medals to have as their own once they complete the challenge.



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOLS

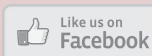
176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Board of Education

Cheryl McMahon, President
Matthew Kennedy, Vice President
Colleen Angelow
Erik Herbert
Zachary Niemiec
Erica Robinson
Krista Vince Garland
Jacob Thompson, Student Member

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

www.ntschoools.org



[Facebook.com/NTCitySchools](https://www.facebook.com/NTCitySchools)



Follow us on Twitter:
[@NTCitySchools](https://twitter.com/NTCitySchools)

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 66
North Tonawanda,
NY

ECRWSS

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

Spruce Students Learn Skills To Regulate Their Emotions

Amy Gorman is a social worker at Spruce Elementary. This year she started a program at Spruce Elementary that is called "Mindfulness". "It helps the kids learn how to self-regulate and it also helps them with attention and focus. I am planning on getting into all the classes this year, kindergarten through third grade for at least eight weeks to teach them the skills they will need to be more successful in school and in life."



Mrs. Gorman working with students using a Tibetan Singing Bowl which helps with meditation and relaxation.

Nora Klipfel Honored With the Girl Scout Gold Award

Nora Klipfel, a North Tonawanda student, was recently awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The award is recognized as one of the world's most prestigious youth achievements. Nora, who is an Ambassador Girl Scout in Troop 30782 of North Tonawanda, earned her award for her project "Happy Caps for Children" which helps children who need surgery. "I decided to do the project because I hope to work in a field that helps children," explains Nora.

Nora not only takes the Early Childhood Education program at Orleans/Niagara BOCES' Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, but volunteered with a special education K-1 class at Meadow Elementary in the North Tonawanda School District. "I am inspired to help young children," she says. "I had surgery to have my tonsils and adenoids out as a child, so I have first-hand experience of being in a hospital as a patient. I plan to make the general public aware that children do need surgeries, they need positive enforcements to make them more comfortable in a hospital/surgical setting. My thought is that little things, like picking out a fun surgical cap can make a positive impact on a child."

Nora's Early Childhood Education teacher, Laura Koeppel, says, "Nora is a very dedicated and hardworking student. Our preschoolers love her!" Niagara Career and Technical Student Academic Support teacher, Donna Quinn, has this to add, "Nora is a delight to work with! She has great energy, plus enthusiasm and sees importance in the course she has selected. She is a hard worker and therefore she has been successful."

