

# North Tonawanda City Schools



## 2018 Top Ten

**Emily O'Bryan**  
*Valedictorian*

**College Plans:** Hobart and William Smith Colleges

**Major:** Environmental Studies

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

I'm a history geek, but I also love to write so I enjoy English as well. Horticulture class was always a good time too and certainly memorable.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

Academically: I'm proud of establishing a work ethic and studying hard to get grades I could never get without trying.

Personally: I'm proud I've learned the lesson that perfection does not exist. Don't even try – I swear you can't find it anywhere guys!

**Extracurricular Activities:**

Being Senior Class Vice-President, I was so fortunate to be part of organizing many of the Class of 2018's last events. Also, I work at an after-school program managing youngsters which certainly keeps me on my toes.

**Volunteer Experiences:**

This year, I got to be Honor Society President which allowed me to put together some service opportunities. My favorite was the Earth Day clean-up at Gratwick Park. The amount of trash we picked up was crazy!

**Favorite High School Memory:**

My absolute favorite memory from high school was my trip to Spain. I got to go with my best friend and experience a foreign land for the first time. It definitely got me excited to travel more!

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

*Top Ten continued on page 2*



## Message from the Superintendent

Congratulations to the class of 2018, as we all wish each of you the best of luck in your future endeavors. The future looks bright with the promise of these new graduates doing their best to make the world a better place. As we say goodbye to our seniors, we will be welcoming in the kindergarten class this fall, which will be the graduating class of 2031! It is hard to imagine that this year's students who entered as 5 year olds will be young adults in 2031.

To ensure that all students are prepared for the future, the North Tonawanda City School District is updating curriculum to include a workshop approach that will help students learn in cooperative ways to develop a deeper understanding in Math and the English Language Arts. To ensure children are learning when developmentally appropriate, our primary K-3 buildings will have a strong focus on early literacy and math skills. The new intermediate building will offer STEAM activities to build on strong foundations and help children explore the world they will soon be joining after they graduate.

Whether you are a senior going out into the world, a kindergartener, or anywhere in between, we are excited for the future. The community and our school district are growing in leaps and bounds. We are very thankful to all the parents and students for being a part of future today.

We wish our community members a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing all of you in September. We will be in different buildings, but the goal is still the same, educating for the future today!

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of North Tonawanda City Schools



# 2018 Top Ten

continued from page 1

## Salutatorian

### Allison Kujawa

**College Plans:** Binghamton University

**Major:** I am considering a pre-med track and hope to minor in musical theater.

**Favorite High School Subjects:** My favorite subjects in high school are Math, Music and Health. I enjoy how technical Math is, the creativity allowed in Music and the knowledge Health gives me about lifestyle and helping others.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

Academically: My proudest academic accomplishment is taking challenging courses and still maintaining my grades while balancing my busy schedule.

Personally: My proudest personal accomplishment is my willingness to try new things which has led me to be casted in the “Hunchback of Notre Dame” as Clopin at St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute, in “Singing in the Rain” at the Lockport Palace and on Matt’s Music Vocal Performance Team all within the past year.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Drama Club (President), Lacrosse (Captain), Chorus (Secretary), Tri-M National Honor Society (Treasurer), St. Joe’s musical productions, Matt’s Music Vocal Performance Team, Band and In Good Company Productions.

**Volunteer Experiences:** I volunteered at In Good Company Productions as a theater mentor for the last 4 years. The opportunity taught me a lot about patience, allowed me to improve my craft and helped me meet many amazing people.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My favorite high school memory was being casted as Fiona in “Shrek: The Musical”. I learned a lot from the experience and it felt nice to have my hard work pay off.

**Parents/Guardians:** Michelle Lorenc and Joseph Kujawa



### 3. Madeline Kaiser

**College Plans:** University at Buffalo

**Major:** Chemical Engineering.

**Favorite High School**

**Subjects:** Chemistry because I loved my teacher and it always made sense to me. Physics because the material was interesting and I had a fun teacher. I also like AP Calculus



because it was a challenge and my teacher was a genius.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

Academically: I achieved 3rd in my class. I was on the Honor Roll every marking period. I also took many challenging AP classes and passed every AP exam I have taken so far.

Personally: I am proud of getting 9th place in Hydrogeology at the regional Science Olympiad competition and getting 10th place in the Chemistry Lab event. I’m also proud that I ran a 5K (even though I was slow).

**Extracurricular Activities:** I have been involved with Chess Club and Science Olympiad as well as Jazz Band and Wind Symphony.

**Volunteer Experiences:** I particularly enjoyed helping members at my church’s community corner cafe. It was a lot of fun and I loved seeing all of the smiling faces of the people enjoying the meal I helped prepare.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My favorite high school memory is band. I’ll particularly miss my friends. Even though we were a bit silly at times, we made the trumpet section stronger than ever.

**Parents/Guardians:** Rachel and Robert Kaiser



### 4. Jake Vickard

**College Plans:** University at Buffalo

**Major:** Computer Science

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

One of my favorite subjects in high school is Math. This is because I enjoy problem solving using concepts I’ve learned in class and Math is tied into the real world. Another subject I enjoyed was Science. Science explains how things work in our universe which I find interesting. In addition, Math is implemented into Science and the relationships between variables in our universe is fascinating.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

Academically: One of my proudest accomplishments is achieving the rank of 4th in my class. This shows my commitment and effort that I’ve put into my academics.

Personally: Personally, my proudest accomplishment has been becoming friends with the friends I have now. My friends certainly brighten the school day.

**Extracurricular Activities:** The two extracurricular activities that I’ve been involved with are Tech Club and Honor Society. In Tech Club, I’ve made projects for Tech Wars and right now I’m Vice President.

**Volunteer Experiences:** Throughout my high school career, I’ve volunteered at the library and here at school. Most community service that is done by students and myself has seemed more like a job that has to be done and doesn’t do much for the community other than free labor.

However, when volunteering at the library, I have not felt like this and it seemed I was actually doing something for my community and it was somewhat fun.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My favorite high school memories come from my AOIT classes because these classes were not particularly hard and I had some of my closest friends there with me.

**Parents/Guardians:** Tammy and Donald Vickard



### 5. Austin Spatorico

**College Plans:** Canisius College

**Major:** Health and Wellness major and a minor in Conditioning

**Favorite High School Subjects:** Math because most of the time it came easy to me and Physics because I always had fun in that class.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

Academically: Ranked 5th in the class and Honor Society member.

Personally: Invited to the USHL Junior Hockey League camp and tryouts. NT Federation Hockey Division champions, Captain of both the Varsity volleyball team and Varsity Federation Hockey team.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Tech Club, Academy of Engineering and Architecture, Varsity Volleyball, Hockey and Track and Field. Senior Class Athletic Representative, Hog Dog Committee.

**Volunteer Experiences:** I volunteered for the JV and Modified Hockey programs – it was meaningful because I got to teach something I love to the future of NT Hockey.

**Favorite High School Memory:** Beating West Seneca West in the quarter finals for Varsity Volleyball. It was a tight game that we pulled out a victory from – everyone was overjoyed and even Coach Hodgson was speechless.

**Parents/Guardians:** Kelly and John Spatorico



### 6. Hannah Craig

**College Plans:** NCCC for 2 years then transfer to a 4 year school

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

Chorus – I like that 99% of the time I know exactly what I’m doing – it’s a break for one part of my brain, but a workout for other parts each day. Social Studies – There’s a nice balance between the right answers being interpretive and direct – having too much of either is very frustrating to me.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

Academically: During my junior year I took AP US History and CAP English. These were college-level classes with intense workloads. I was very worried at the beginning of that year

because I wasn't sure if I could handle them. But I did well and moved on to take six college-level courses this year.

**Personally:** When I was younger if something didn't go according to plan, I would panic and become completely useless. Now I can say that if my plans go awry, I can keep it together and accomplish what I need to.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Swimming (6 years - Varsity 3 years), Chorus (12 years), Drama Club (3 years), Student Council (3 years), National Honor Society (2 years), Tri-M Honor Society (2 years).

**Volunteer Experiences:** My volunteer experience with Sunday School children at my church has been meaningful to me because I'm helping kids grow in their faith, as well as in size.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My favorite high school memory was my first TNT Pep Assembly. Before 9th grade, I didn't really think much of TNT - I barely ever heard about it. But every day since that first assembly, I have cherished just how special TNT is to everyone who has truly experienced it.

**Parents/Guardians:** Julie and Ken Craig

## 7. Erin Sammarco



**College Plans:** Mercyhurst University and playing Softball there too

**Major:** Sports Medicine / Pre-Physical Therapy

**Favorite High School Subjects:** My favorite subjects in high school would be Math and Science. Math because I like to be challenged and I think it is easy. I really enjoy Science because it is very interesting and I love learning something new each day. Both subjects will help me in college.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

**Academically:** My proudest academic accomplishment would be achieving my goal of being in the Top 10 and being able to maintain a high average and stay involved in many activities in and out of school.

**Personally:** My proudest personal accomplishment would be being nominated for the Niagara PAL Female Athlete of the Year and by making Varsity Softball my freshman year being on the starting line-up.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Work at Tim Horton's, Chorus and Band. Varsity Soccer (2 years), Varsity Basketball (3 years), Varsity Softball (4 years), Softball coach (2 years), Cheerleading coach (4 years), High School Choral (Senior Representative) and Wind Symphony (Librarian).

**Volunteer Experiences:** I volunteered with my church for a year. Also, I have been a volunteer Cheerleading coach for 4 years. I have been coaching travel Softball for 2 years. I love

coaching because I feel that I am making a difference in young girls' lives all while doing somethings that I love. It feels good to influence the younger generation to pass on the love for the sports I grew up loving.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My favorite high school memory would have to be playing Varsity Softball for the past four years. I made some really amazing friendships that I will cherish forever.

**Parents/Guardians:** Tamara and Michael Sammarco

## 8. Nina Marranca



**College Plans:** Medaille College

**Major:** English

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

Chemistry - I enjoyed learning about the elemental makeup of the world and CAP - Advanced ELA - This course taught me invaluable writing skills and how to annotate properly.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

**Academically:** Receiving college credits in many different subjects.

**Personally:** Receiving a guide dog in my junior year of high school.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Foreign Language Club, National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, Student Council, Donate Life Club, All-County Chorus, Area All-State Chorus

**Volunteer Experiences:** Sikora Post - I gained valuable interpersonal skills. Donate Life Club - I was able to witness students voluntarily giving blood to people they would never meet.

**Favorite High School Memory:** TNT during my senior year - It was fun to take part in the pep rally for the last time. I will always remember painting our faces.

**Parents/Guardians:** Sherri and Joseph Marranca

## 9. Michael Krawczyk



**College Plans:** University at Buffalo

**Major:** Bio Chemistry

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

I enjoyed being challenged in all of my AP classes. I especially liked AP Calculus and AP Biology.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

**Academically:** I am proud to have made high honor roll every marking period and to be ranked ninth in my class. Also, I have been recognized as a scholar athlete in both Baseball and Volleyball.

**Personally:** I was glad to be a captain of the Varsity Volleyball team that made it to the semi-finals of Sectionals. Also, I pushed myself taking 5 AP and 3 CAP classes my junior and senior years.

**Extracurricular Activities:** I am the Sargent-at-Arms of the National Honor Society. I am a member of Tri-M Music Honor Society and am the Vice President of Wind Symphony. I also participate in Varsity Baseball and Varsity Volleyball.

**Volunteer Experiences:** I volunteer at soup kitchens because I enjoy helping the less fortunate in my community. Also, I volunteer at the Buffalo Zoo as a Zoo Crew member.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My favorite high school memory is TNT week of my senior year because it shows school spirit pride in NT.

**Parents/Guardians:** Monica and Andrew Krawczyk

## 10. Allison House



**College Plans:** SUNY ESF - Syracuse

**Major:** Wildlife Science

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

My favorite subjects are the sciences I took for all four years: Physics, Chemistry, AP Physics and AP Biology. I also enjoyed the technology classes I took for the Academy of Engineering and Architecture because we built a lot of projects and competed with each other in class.

**Proudest Accomplishments:**

**Academically:** Earning Top 10! I began senior year at #11 so it was a huge accomplishment to move up a spot. Also taking AP Physics as a junior and getting a 4 on the exam.

**Personally:** Making Level 9 Gymnastics Regionals in 2017, becoming Captain of Gymnastics, being the youngest optional team coach ever at Gleason's Gymnastics, 3rd place in the long jump at the NFL's in 2017.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Gymnastics since age one, Track and Field all high school years, Softball/Baseball age 5-16, Tech Club, Tri-M Honor Society, National Honor Society, Outdoor Awareness Club, Academy of Engineering and Architecture

**Volunteer Experiences:** In 2017, I volunteered at the Jacquie Hirsch Clinic for a Cure which is a gymnastics clinic for young gymnasts levels 2-5. All profits go to the Jacquie Hirsch for A.L.L. Foundation for research and improving lives of cancer patients.

**Favorite High School Memory:** Going to Chicago with the Academy of Engineering and Architecture in 2016. It was a great trip to a fantastic city where we got to go to the aquarium, museum, the top of the Willis Tower, Magnificent Mile, boat on Lake Michigan - the city itself was fun to explore.

**Parents/Guardians:** Catherine House



# North Tonawanda 2018 Graduates Rank Number One in Niagara County in SAT Scores

North Tonawanda City School District received some very exciting news. Out of ten schools in Niagara County, they placed first for SAT scores. Out of all schools in Western New York, they ranked number five.

The exam, which is frequently used for college admissions, is made up of three sections: reading, math and essays. Both reading and math sections are scored from 200-800. Essays are scored separately and range from a score of 2 to 8. Total scores can range from 400-1600. There is no passing grade for the SAT; however, many college and universities use SAT scores as a factor in determining whether they will admit a student.

More than 135,000 New York State students took the new SAT test in 2017. The average score was 1052. Across the nation it was 1060 from the 1.7 million students who took the exam. North Tonawanda's score was 1141.

High School Principal, James Fisher says, "I am delighted, but not surprised. While many other schools are busy drilling and killing students as they prep for Regents exams, we are focusing on engaging many of our students in their Career Pathways Academies that give them the opportunities to develop a skill set that will be useful beyond their years at North Tonawanda High School. And, it doesn't hurt to have a SAT prep course being offered as part of our regular curriculum, free of charge!"



## 2018 Scholarship Recipients

<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>
Trevor Bleakney	Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship Niagara County Sheriff's Office D.A.R.E. Scholarship
Jessica Bonafede	John R. Baronich Sr., "Coach B" Memorial Scholarship North Tonawanda Lady Jacks Swimming/Diving Scholarship
Alexis Cannizzaro	North Tonawanda School Administrators' Scholarship
Hope Clark	Friends of Drake School Scholarship Leocadia (Lee) M. Ozimek Memorial Scholarship
Hannah Craig	John R. Baronich Sr., "Coach B" Memorial Scholarship NCCC Distinguished Student Scholarship North Tonawanda Lady Jacks Swimming/Diving Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Hallie Daigler	Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship
Sean Ferry	John N. Carnduff Athletic Scholarship North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship
Bridget Galus	George J. Woloszyn Jr. Memorial Scholarship Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Timothy J. Frank Memorial Scholarship
Brianna Grochala	Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Leadership Memorial Scholarship North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship
Jacob Haskell	NTHS Academy of Engineering and Architecture Scholarship
Madison Heiss	North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarship
Jordan Holmes	NT Football Hall of Fame - George J. Vetter Scholarship
Allison House	Lt. Keith A. Maitland Memorial Scholarship NTHS Academy of Engineering and Architecture Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Gregory Frank Memorial Scholarship
Shihua Huang	Sutherland Lodge #826 Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship
Shijing Huang	Sutherland Lodge #826 Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship
August Janda	Jim Chiarello Memorial Scholarship
Madeline Kaiser	Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Mason Kelly	Friends of Drake School Scholarship
Alyssa Kissel	North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarship NTHS Girls Varsity Soccer Scholarship
Michael Krawczyk	Gene Donner Memorial Scholarship Spon. by the NTHS Multi Class Reunion
Allison Kujawa	American Legion Stephen Sikora Post #1322-John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial Sch. The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Jason Lindhurst	Joey Brochey Memorial Scholarship Meadow Alumni Scholarship NTHS Boys Varsity Soccer: Laurie Mourgas & Jerry Sullivan Scholarship
Jazlyn Ludlow	James W. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship
Brandon Lynch	Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Leadership Memorial Scholarship North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship Ruth M. Rasey Simpson Memorial Scholarship Spruce Home and School Organization Scholarship
Madison MacNeil	Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarship
Leah Manth	Gene Donner Memorial Scholarship Spon. by the NTHS Multi Class Reunion Meadow Alumni Scholarship North Tonawanda Catholic Club, Inc. and Knights of Columbus Scholarship Ruth H. Collard Memorial Scholarship

# 2018 Scholarship Recipients



<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>
Daniel Manzella	Elliott Golach Memorial Scholarship
Alexandra Marchioli	NTHS Academy of Engineering and Architecture Scholarship Stephen Holesko Memorial Scholarship
Nina Marranca	Allison Marie Clark Memorial Scholarship American Legion Stephen Sikora Post #1322-John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial Sch. Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence Third Warder's Social Club – John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Timothy G. Serwinowski Memorial Scholarship
Jared Martin	John R. Baronich Sr., "Coach B" Memorial Scholarship Sutherland Lodge #826 Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Robert & Laura Kinzley Memorial Scholarship
Emily Maziarz	James W. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship
Grace McGuiness	Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarship Arlene A. Wallak Memorial Scholarship Spruce Home and School Organization Scholarship Superintendents Scholarship
Amelia Milioto	Friends of Drake School Scholarship
Julia Miskines	Delta Kappa Gamma Society Intl. Gamma Delta Chptr Fin. Grant
Harrison Moll	Dennis J. Wiess Memorial Scholarship NT Football Hall of Fame - Louis Anastasi Scholarship
Frances Monk	Claudia Price Bunny Memorial Scholarship
Noel Nickerson	North Tonawanda Youth Board Scholarship Sweeney Hose - Robert Semple Memorial Scholarship
Emily O'Bryan	Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Erin Sammarco	James A. Schucca Memorial Scholarship Jordan D. Bunker Athletic Scholarship NTHS Girls Varsity Soccer Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Gabrielle Schrock	Abiding Savior Lutheran Church – Christian Youth Scholarship
Noah Senft	John R. Baronich Sr., "Coach B" Memorial Scholarship
Marisa Smith	DeGraff Critical Care Nursing Scholarship Ryan Fischer Memorial Scholarship
Austin Spatorico	The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence Third Warder's Glen Gray Scholarship and Athletic Honor of Excellence
Rhett Stauffer	Joey Brochey Memorial Scholarship NTHS Academy of Engineering and Architecture Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Robert J. Frank Meritorious Service Scholarship
Angela Stevick	George J. Woloszyn Jr. Memorial Scholarship North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarship
Brandon Stychalska	Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship
Julianna Szczesniak	North Tonawanda Youth Board Scholarship
Joshua Vantino	Friends of Drake School Scholarship
Jake Vickard	The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship of Academic Excellence
Jared Zadzilka	NTHS Boys Varsity Soccer: Laurie Mourgas & Jerry Sullivan Scholarship

# Class of 2018 Top 25 Students

1. Emily O'Bryan
2. Allison Kujawa
3. Madeline Kaiser
4. Jake Vickard
5. Austin Spatorico
6. Hannah Craig
7. Erin Sammarco
8. Nina Marranca
9. Michael Krawczyk
10. Allison House
11. Nicholas Przybylski
12. Colin Krzystek
13. Jason Lindhurst
14. Victoria Brick
15. Julianna Szczesniak
16. Amylea Carson
17. Amanda Davis
18. Alexis Cannizzaro
19. Brandon Lynch
20. Ameer Rizek
21. Julia Miskines
22. Jazlyn Ludlow
23. Mckenna Dempsey
24. Leah Manth
25. Alexandra Marchioli

## Fashion Design Student is Best in Show

North Tonawanda student, Liliya Sakharchuk, recently won first place and a \$1000 scholarship from Villa Maria College.

Liliya is a student in Debra Wilczak's Fashion Design/Interior Decorating Program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center and modeled her own design at a fashion show at the college.



*Liliya Sakharchuk modeling her outfit on the catwalk.*



# North Tonawanda High School Graduating Class of 2018



Laith Abo Kefaya	Sara Dolan	Madeline Kaiser	Sean Nelligan	Michael Soto
Ashley Ange	Molly Dolata	Jenna Kastelan	Noel Nickerson	Austin Spatorico
Shannon Antalek	Zoey Dolpp	Jacqueline Kelly	Dylan Normandin	Tyler Speck
Austin Ash	Joshua Domin	Mason Kelly	Emily O'Bryan	Kaitlyn Starr
Karri Bailey	Paige Dominczak	Logan Kent	Alyssa Oddo	Rhett Stauffer
Joshua Barber	Cassandra Donoughe	Rebecca Kiblin	Jonathan Onofrio	Angela Stevick
Brandon Barlow	Garrett Elinski	Rosemarie Kieffer	Josephine Ostrowski	Rebekah Stone
Camryn Barry	Alexander Euler	Alyssa Kissel	Marcellus Overton	Nicholas Sturner
Mackenna Beattie	Sean Ferry	Kaitlynn Kless	Destiny Pabon	Brandon Stychalska
Lauren Behr	Joseph Fisher	Kayleigh Kneitingner	Steven Painter	Haylee Sutton
Samantha Biesinger	Samantha Fitzgerald	Noah Kogo	Antonio Pallotta	Julianna Szczesniak
Ryan Bille	Rachael Fritz	Lydia Kopcho	Hannah Parkes	Christopher Taggart
Brenna Birmingham	Haley Fronczak	Michael Krawczyk	Dillon Patterson	Claytin Taylor
Trevor Bleakney	Bridget Galus	Colin Krzystek	Khameron Patterson	Destany Taylor
Michael Bogdan Jr.	Mitchell Garner	Allison Kujawa	Nicholas Pendergast	Brandon Thompson
Jessica Bonafede	Cameron Gamp	Ava LaBella	Jake Perkins	Colton Thompson
Trevor Book	Matthew Garrison	Keanan Lacey	Lindsay Piotrowski	Benjamin Torres
Kevin Bork	Anna Gehl	Dale Lauzon	Joseph Poliniak	Kyle Toth
Thomas Boyer	Daniel Gipp	Tyler Licht	Brian Porter Jr.	Brandon Tran
Victoria Brick	Ryan Goehring	Jason Lindhurst	Camryn Porter	Charles Tripi III
Madeline Brown	Alexis Grawe	Elijah Link	David Powell	Dmitriy Tupchik
Nathaniel Brown	Matthew Grigg	Jazlyn Ludlow	Jarod Powers	Ryder Uplinger
Steven Calamita	Brianna Grochala	Brandon Lynch	Natalie Prims	Nichole VanHise
Alexis Cannizzaro	Julia Guido	Madison MacNeil	Grace Proefrock	Joshua Vantino
Kaylee Carey	William Guiher	Leah Manth	Nicholas Przybylski	Jacelyn VanVolkenburg
Amylea Carson	Michael Hackford	Daniel Manzella	Hailey Redmond	Whitney Verbeck
Danielle Castner	Anthony Hamm	Alexandra Marchioli	Alexis Riester	Rebekah VerHague
Olivia Chlebowy	Taylor Hammond	Antonio Marchionda	Isaiah Rios	Jake Vickerd
Alexander Chorny	Emily Hannah-Albon	Nina Marranca	Ameer Rizek	Brianna Virgilio
Julia Cicero	Elijah Haner	Jared Martin	Jasmine Rollain	Robert Vogt III
Devon Clark	Destiny Harris	Shannon Martin	Elizabeth Roth	Derek Waldmiller
Hope Clark	Jacob Haskell	Emily Martinez	Alec Roy	Jack Walters III
Madeline Colley	Erin Hastings	Grace McGuinness	Emma Royer	Jacob Warriner
Marissa Contangelo	Michael Hawkins	Kyle McNeill	Aaliyah Runge	Olivia Waterson
Ashley Conway	Madison Heiss	Tyler McTigue	Liliya Sakharchuk	Josephine Wetzel
Nicholas Cook	Austin Helf	Drew Mesler	Erin Sammarco	Andrew Wildt
Aaron Courtemanche	Weston Herberger	Robert Meyer IV	Stephanie Sarro	Antoinette Williams
Hannah Craig	Michael Himes	Hussam Michael	Emily Schmitt	Hunter Winch
Bailey Crampton	Joshua Hojnowski	Amber Mikos	Gabrielle Schrock	Selena Witkopf
Tyler Cunningham-Kumm	Jordan Holmes	Torilyn Mikulec	Kelsey Sciandra	Trent Woodroe
Hallie Daigler	Allison House	Amelia Milioto	Noah Senft	Brian Wudyka
Christina Darlak	Shihua Huang	Michael Miller	Caitlin Seymour	Cheyenne Yacos
Elizabeth Darlak	Shijing Huang	Julia Miskines	Cody Shucraft	Tyler Yim
Rebecca Darnley	Teresa Huss	Hannah Mixon	Victoria Simcoe	Jared Zadzilka
Sean David	Spencer Hutchinson	Harrison Moll	Kaitlyn Sledziewski	David Zak
Amanda Davis	August Janda	Frances Monk	Marisa Smith	Jessica Zak
Keariana Davis	Maxwell Jeswald	Jasmine Moran	Jeffrey Smolka	
Brandy DeJac	Jordan Johnson	Madeline Moran	Heather Snyder	
McKenna Dempsey	Trinity Jopp	Bryce Murphy	Mikayla Sobus	
Michael DiGiulio	Christopher Kabalan	Maxwell Neino	Yllka Sopi	



# ATF Special Agent Visits North Tonawanda High School Students

North Tonawanda High School Social Studies teacher, Peter Fezer, loves to bring in guest speakers to talk to his students. He was thrilled that ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) Special Agent, Gerry O'Sullivan, and his K9, Dolly, agreed to spend some time talking to his students. "He is here to talk to students about federal jobs and opportunities and his own career path and experiences," explains Mr. Fezer.

ATF is a law enforcement agency in the United States Department of Justice that protects communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, acts of terrorism, and the illegal diversion of alcohol and tobacco products.



Agent O'Sullivan said he was flattered to be asked. "Mr. Fezer said he would like a positive role model to come in and talk to the students about careers and how to stay on the right path." He says he is a local boy, born and raised in the area. "I went to high school in Tonawanda

and went to college in Buffalo. I got into the Secret Service and started in the uniform division. I was assigned to the White House and worked under President George H. W. Bush for a few years and then I lateralled out to the Secret Service Agent position, investigations in the Washington DC area. I worked there for a while and transferred over to the ATF and have been there since 1992. I like the mission. It is an important mission, violent crime, gangs, guns, drugs and explosives. We target those investigations."

In 2002, he got into K9. He is now partnered with his ATF partner, Dolly, who is his second K9. She is trained to detect explosives, firearms and shell casings at shooting scenes. "She is a phenomenal tool to have in my tool bag. She is going to retire next year, but she is a phenomenal working dog." She will be living with Agent O'Sullivan after she retires. "She is like my child, I am not giving her up."

He talked to the students about different things that happened in his career and held the students riveted about one very famous case, the Boston Marathon bombing. The event happened on April 15, 2013 where two homemade bombs detonated 12 seconds and 210 yards apart near the finish line of the annual Boston Marathon, killing three people and injuring several hundred others,



including 16 who lost limbs. "I was on my way to coach my daughter's softball game and I got a call from work to report immediately. I raced to the site and with Dolly found many pieces of the backpack and the post blast debris at one of the sites."

He also became involved in the police chase of the two suspects, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Which he told the students involved the suspects shooting at the police

and throwing bombs. Once the surviving brother, Dzhokhar, abandoned the car, Agent O'Sullivan, a Boston police officer and Dolly had to approach it and look for explosives. They discovered a bomb. "I am not going to lie. It was very frightening," he told the students.

At the end of his presentation, all the students shook his hand. "I am very grateful to Agent O'Sullivan for talking to the students and for his service to our country," says Mr. Fezer.

## Architecture Student Takes Top Spot at Bridge Construction Competition

Mary Palmer, who is a student in the Architecture and Engineering Academy, was awarded first place at the Association for Bridge Construction and Design (ABCD) 26th Annual Kenneth T. Rybarczyk Memorial Bridge Contest.



*Mr. Cook and Mary Palmer with award winning bridge.*

Almost 100 balsa wood model bridges were 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.

Mary is a 9th grader in Chris Cook's program at the high school. "Most of the time, the kids collaborate with each other, but she chose to

do it by herself," says Mr. Cook. "She got full esthetic points. If you look at her bridge you see she made sure the posts lined up with the crossbeams. In real life you have to do that, so that is why she got all the points."

He says Mary is a solid student with high 90's in his class. "She is a good student." Mary said she was in shock when she found out she won. "I am one of the few freshmen who have won this competition. It's kind of a big deal."

This is the fourth year in a row that Mr. Cook has had a first place winner at the competition. "We walk in and our competitors see us and just shake their heads," he laughs. "I just say, don't jinx us!"

The students have a little over a month to make their bridges before the competition. Mr. Cook goes over a PowerPoint before they start about bridges and the stresses on the bridges and the size of the beams, which beams are under tension, which ones are being pulled, which ones are being compressed and pushed together. "Once you know that, you can design the arch to deal with the compression," he explains. Mary says she enjoys being in Mr. Cook's class. "It is so much fun. I love coming here!"

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.

## North Tonawanda High School Students Exposed to First Responder Careers



Students Ava Wojtaszek, Olivia Hooley and Emily Barone with the North Tonawanda Police Department.

Students at the High School recently spent part of their day with area law enforcement, health professionals and military. The High School counselors organized First Responder Day where students got a chance to interact with local first responders. "Many of our students show great interest in the Health/ Science and Law Enforcement career fields," says Career Center Mentor Lori Graves. "This upcoming year, 2018-19 they are introducing a forensics class into the Science Department and Human and Natural Disaster class which will be electives for the students," says Mrs. Graves. "We also have the Health and Science Academy that started this year and will continue on for years to come. We try to accommodate their interests by having guests come in as well."

Mrs. Graves said the students have looked forward to the event. "This was very well received last year when we did this and it is great for the students because it will let them know what they have to do to prepare for those careers after graduation."

Representatives from the following organizations participated in the event: North Tonawanda Fire Department, North Tonawanda Police Department, Niagara County Sheriff's Department, The Traffic Department, New York State Troopers, Niagara Falls Air Force Medical Evacuation Unit, Army, the National Guard, Navy, Marines, United States Border Patrol, Red Cross, Niagara County Forensics Office, Mercy Flight, the Coast Guard and the FBI.



## Architectural and Engineering Academy Students Present Ideas for Play Everywhere Challenge



Students in the High School's Architectural and Engineering Academy recently had a great opportunity to present their designs and ideas for play spaces to a panel made up of North Tonawanda City officials and the Lumber City Development Group.

The two groups are looking to put in an application for the Play Everywhere Challenge that is sponsored by KaBoom! and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. The grant awards \$720,000, ranging from \$10,000 to \$80,000, to applicants who come up with great ideas to integrate play in everyday life and unexpected places with the hopes to transform city spaces.

Mike Zimmerman, Director of Community Development of North Tonawanda, thought this would be a great opportunity to tap the creativity of Chris Cook's Architectural and Engineering students. "We wanted to connect with the high school students to come up with potential designs and ideas of things we could use in our proposal." Director of Parks and Recreation, Patty Brosius, says they were looking for some unique ideas. "They didn't want normal playgrounds and normal areas like you see around schools. They are looking for little tiny different areas doing unique kind of play engage areas like bus stations, vacant lots or farmers markets. We are looking to see what kinds of ideas the students came up with."

Mr. Cook said he was glad that his 25 students were getting this opportunity. "This is real world, real life opportunity for the kids to present their designs in front of a panel. I told them not to be nervous, this is their idea, take ownership and just believe in it. They have been drawing for three weeks now and now they can talk to someone about their process and research."

The students had to come up with a description of their Play Everywhere project, come up with a visual depiction of their idea whether it was drawing, sketching, photomontage or digital render their concept and the location of their project. Twelfth grader, Jacob Haskell says he stuck with a simple design. "My site is near train tracks, so I have a metal train that has a platform on the side for the children to play on. There are blocks that lead to a slide and a rock wall and a maze. My vision is that there is metal surrounding it that the area's culture can be engraved in." Eleventh grader, Keyante Pinter says he wasn't nervous at all when he presented. "The whole idea was to come up with something different. You don't want an average park there. I had this idea that kids like to run around and play hide and seek, so that inspired me to build a maze."

All the students did a great job with their presentation and showed off the amount of research they did when they answered questions from the panel on their designs. "I am very proud of the students," said Mr. Cook. "They did a very professional job and I think the panel was very impressed with their ideas."



# Meadow Celebrates Final Year

As many of you know, Meadow Elementary School will be shutting its doors for good. The space will be converted to the new Middle School and for many the moment is bittersweet. MHSA President and volunteer, Michelle Gampp, says, "I think everything is good. It's all positive. It's a little sad because I have been here for years. It's hard because you will miss all the things you have done throughout the years. I got to work on all the fun events like Santa's workshop and the bookshop and I will miss the smiles on the kids' faces. I am very grateful to have these memories, but change is good."

Teacher Mary Lou Pieper has been taking a walk down memory lane and turned the wall outside her classroom into a history lesson as she posts facts and pop culture references for each decade that the school has been open. There is also a wall of Meadow faculty that had attended the school as children, including her own school photo. "I started school in 1966 as a kindergartner and went here until 6th grade. When I went to the High School I volunteered over here in the Foreign Language Department teaching Spanish. I then went to college and got married. When we had children, I made sure we lived in this district so that they could go to school here." She has taught at Meadow for 26 years. Her last year at Meadow is her last year teaching since she has decided to retire. "As the door of the school is closing for good, it just seemed right. We are both ending together."

For their final goodbye the school held a field day at the Sportsplex. "I have to say the community really came together for the event," says Mrs. Gampp. "The kids loved it, especially the dunk tank. Our principal Mrs. Matyevich spent most of the day in it. Wegmans was phenomenal. They are so good about helping out causes like this. Ted's gave us a good deal on the food truck. BJ's also donated and Sportsplex gave us a great deal because we had no where to have it. Our gym teacher did an amazing job coming up with all the events. This is a special year and we wanted to go all out and they



were great helping us. It is so great that the community comes together for things like this."

In closing, Mrs. Pieper says she is sad to know that Meadow will no longer exist. "This place helped to raise many families' children. Everyone on that wall," as she points to faculty photos alongside their class photos, "is someone who made sure that their own kids came here. I think that is the ultimate tribute to a place."

## Remember Ryan Concert Fitting End for Meadow Last Recital

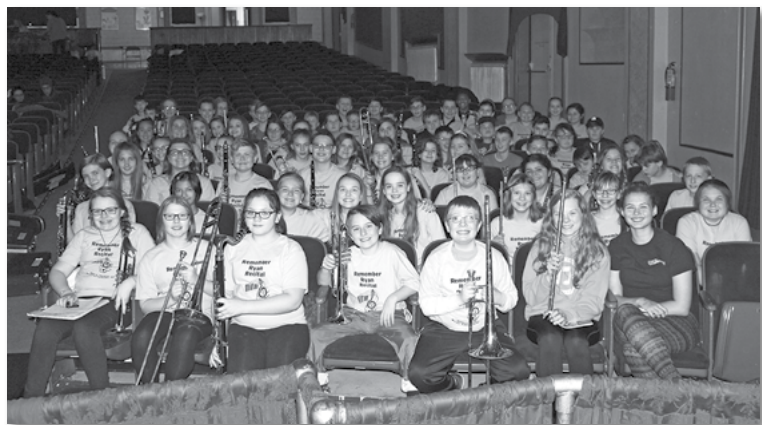
The Meadow Elementary students gave an amazing performance at the Riviera Theatre under the direction of April Carere. "This is a very special year for two reasons," she says. "This was the last recital for Meadow Elementary School as we know it since it is closing due to redistricting, and it is the 10th anniversary year of the Remember Ryan recitals."

Ryan Bertini was a former student in the school district who tragically passed away when he was eight years old. His loved ones set up a foundation, Remember Ryan, to provide grants towards visual and performing arts to elementary schools in Erie and Niagara Counties. Ryan's grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. John and Sandy George graciously donated the funds for T-shirts for the performers. Dr. George, who is a former North Tonawanda Schools Superintendent says, "This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Remember Ryan Recital. Sandy and I want to provide each student performer with a Remember Ryan Recital T-shirt (light blue of course - Ryan's favorite color) to commemorate the event."

Mrs. Carere says she feels grateful. "As you can imagine, I was greatly touched by the generosity, not to mention that Meadow School receives \$1,500 worth of instruments each year from the foundation. I remember the first year we had the recital, I had 12 students perform and this year I have 80 plus. Additionally we had 4 Middle School students perform, who are "Alumni" of Meadow and took part in past recitals! The students' excitement is so uplifting and contagious as they are busy creating groups and learning new music."

The students come up with the pieces they will play to honor Ryan and always start with "Happy Birthday", which was Ryan's favorite song. "The students ask, how do we remember Ryan and choose songs they can either play as solos, duets, trios or a large group," says Mrs. Carere. "My only condition is that anyone who wants to join in a piece be allowed to do so. We do not tolerate anyone being excluded as part of our antibullying stance at the school."

The students played beautifully and with much emotion as they remembered a little boy who meant so much to everyone.



## Alaina Grace Roberts Wins Poem Contest

Alaina Grace Roberts, an eighth grader in Christina Quinn's English class at the Middle School, placed first in the writing division for her poem entitled "Things Never Treasured".

She was honored with other recipients from Western New York by the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo at the Arts and Writing Awards ceremony on June 7th. The contest was offered in class as part of the educational effort and belief in learning about the Holocaust and how to prevent hatred. Local Holocaust survivors were on hand to meet and greet the winners.



Alaina and Survivor Sophia Veffler.

## District Art Show Huge Success

Once again, students at North Tonawanda City School District showed what amazing artists they are. Audiences were wowed by the displays at the District's annual Art Show that was held on May 17th at the Student Alumni Activity Center.



## Drake Lit Up the Night with Learning

Drake students were proud to host a "Light Up the Night with Learning" Family Night! Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students brainstormed and designed stations featuring games, experiments, and other learning activities. The students also created advertisements to promote the event. During the event, these student leaders ran the stations which were enjoyed by numerous K-6 students and families. Stamps on lightbulbs were earned for participating at stations, science experiment kits were given as random draw prizes, and students lit the night with glow necklaces. Kudos to our students for their creativity, leadership, and time!



Drake 4th-6th grade leaders responsible for creating and leading the stations. A huge thank you to Mrs. Kristie Keidel and Mrs. Kristen DiPasquale for the tremendous role they played in organizing the event, along with a committee of Drake staff.

## NT Elementary Schools Go Out in a Blaze of Color

In a show of unity and color, the four elementary schools of North Tonawanda: Drake Elementary, Meadow Elementary, Ohio Street and Spruce Elementary decided to host a color run.

North Tonawanda parents have been very active in forming the new Friends of NTI (North Tonawanda Intermediate) to bring the school community together and the run seemed like the perfect event to do so.

Drake Elementary School Principal, Katie Smith, says the first year's effort was amazing. "It was very successful due to the tremendous effort of our volunteers and we are looking forward to growing it next year."

Many North Tonawanda families, staff and community members came out on the beautiful June evening to join in the fun. Thanks to everyone who made it so special!





## Community Award Winner

Shelby Walter was recently recognized at Drake Elementary for her charitable work. Phillip Tronolone from New York State Prudential Spirit of Community Awards surprised with a medal for her backpack initiative in front of the entire school.

Shelby, a sixth grader, collects school supplies to fill hundreds of backpacks for children in need. Her sister Bailey, also a Prudential Spirit of Community award winner, and their mother were both there for the presentation.

*Pictured at right: Shelby Walter with Phillip Tronolone.*



## Kindergartners Celebrate Moms

Mrs. Dexheimer's kindergarten class at Spruce Elementary was excited they were able to invite their moms into class in honor of Mother's Day. The children showed off many of their activities from their daily routine of learning by sharing songs, poetry and writing pieces. The book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, a story web and a puppet show were part of the fun. The afternoon concluded with a special treat for the moms.



## Spruce Students Recognized at Literacy Awards

On May 15, 2018, the Orleans-Niagara Teacher Center held their annual Literacy Writing Awards Ceremony.

All writing entries demonstrated the children's vast literacy skills and their ability to preserve. A pizza dinner was served along with many wonderful desserts created by Orleans/Niagara BOCES Culinary Arts students.

North Tonawanda winners from Spruce Elementary were: Harrison Roberts from Mr. Burns' class, Meredith Roberts from Mrs. Ballou's class, Mia Randles, Natalie Valint and Molly Pennell from Mrs. Kiedrowski's class and John Fortner, Robert Pennell and Licayah Watson from Mrs. Dexheimer's class.



*Harrison Roberts, Robert Pennell, Molly Pennell and Meredith Roberts.*



*(LtoR): Brynn Frank, Dennis Odeychuck and Caylee Schmidt.*

## Poster Contest Winner

Meredith Roberts, a fourth grader from Mrs. Ballou's class at Spruce Elementary, recently placed first in the Burchfield Nature and Art Center's "Pollinators" poster contest.

Awards were given to nine of the 165 competing students, from 21 schools in Western New York, who submitted a colorful array of posters to encourage saving pollinators.



*Paula Minklei of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center and Meredith with her winning poster.*





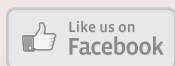
## NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOLS

176 Walck Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

### Board of Education

Colleen Angelhow  
Erik Herbert  
Matthew Kennedy  
Cheryl McMahon  
Zachary Niemiec  
Erica Robinson  
Krista Vince Garland  
Jacob Thompson - Student Member

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools  
[www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org)



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



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

## Tentative Building Schedules Announced for 2018-19 School Year

The North Tonawanda City School District has announced its summary of building schedules for the 2018-19 school year.

The Tentative building schedules FOR STUDENTS are as follows:

- High School
  - School start - 7:50 a.m.
  - School dismissal - 2:35 p.m.
- Middle School
  - School start - 7:30 a.m.
  - School dismissal - 2:30 p.m.
- Intermediate School
  - School start - 8:40 a.m.
  - School dismissal - 3:05 p.m.
- Primary Schools  
(Spruce, Ohio & Drake)
  - School start - 9:25 a.m.
  - School dismissal - 3:50 p.m.

## North Tonawanda Seniors Visit Former Elementary School

The North Tonawanda City School District has a wonderful tradition for their graduating seniors. The graduates-to-be spend a morning, in their caps and gowns, visiting their former elementary schools. It gives the students a chance to relive some memories, catch up with former teachers and show the current elementary students where they will be in several more years.

One group of students, Julia Miskines, Erin Sammarco, Emily Schmitt, Gabrielle Schrock and Marisa Smith stopped into Ohio Street Elementary School where they were greeted by Principal Mike Hiller, Superintendent Greg Woytila, the school's band and hallways filled with students and staff who cheered for them and wished them well on the new chapter in their lives.



(LtoR) Ohio Street Elementary Principal Mike Hiller, Superintendent Greg Woytila, Marisa Smith, Emily Schmitt, Gabrielle Schrock, Erin Sammarco and Julia Miskines.