

# North Tonawanda City Schools



## 2016 Top Ten

### Valedictorian

**Matthew Slominski**

#### College Plans:

State University of New York at Buffalo



#### Major: Civil Engineering

**Favorite High School Subjects:** Math and Science. I also like my CAD and Architecture classes. I have had great teachers and I like the freedom and the creativity of those classes.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track, National Honor Society, Academy of Engineering and Architecture, Science Olympiad and Technology Club.

**Volunteer Experiences:** One of my favorite volunteer opportunities has been Habitat for Humanity. The Academy of Engineering and Architecture went, as a group, to help fix a rundown home in Buffalo to be sold to a family in need. I was glad to be able to help a family in the local community.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** I am very proud of all that I have been able to do in track and cross country. One of the things I am most proud of was being a member of the relay team that broke the school record in the indoor track distance medley relay.

**Favorite High School Memory:** I will always remember the Saturday morning practices at Bond Lake and Beaver Island with the Cross Country team. One of those practices was the senior picnic when everyone brought different snacks after practice.

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## Message from Superintendent



It is hard to believe another school year has come and gone. It is even harder to believe that this year's 2016 Kindergarten class will be the graduating class of 2029. We wish our 2016 graduates all the best as they go out and start on the path of becoming adults. Parents and grandparents can tell you that life is hard at times but having a strong core and center of home and family can help in even the hardest of times. We hope North Tonawanda will always be a place you fondly remember as home no matter where life takes you.

Looking forward to the 2016-2017 school year we are excited for a number of new initiatives that will help future North Tonawanda graduates be well prepared for the world around them when they are not in school. In June we offered incoming kindergarten students the option of borrowing an iPad with math and English apps on them to help them get a jump start on the basics that they will need in Kindergarten. This fall the district will begin a secondary 1 to 1 initiative involving select teachers who will start the movement to present, share, and instruct with the use of iPads. Students in these teachers' classes will be among the first to receive a district issued iPad so that everyone has the same platform from which to work. The plan is to expand this yearly until all students in grades 7-12 have a device. We will continue to expand the iPad elementary program working our way back through the grade levels until everyone has a class set. Currently each teacher has ten to use as a mini station. Some students at the high school will also see a math lab on their schedule this fall. This will provide more time to master math skills which will help students understand what they are being taught.

The 2016-2017 school year will also be the start of the capital project that will reconfigure Meadow Elementary into the North Tonawanda Middle School. Construction is scheduled to start in the spring of 2017. In addition to the building work, fields and wireless connectivity will be addressed in most of the buildings, as well as, security upgrades.

So while it is with heavy hearts we say good-bye to our graduating seniors and over 30 fulltime staff who have retired, we are also excited to see smiling faces return in September with a number of exciting educational changes that will help us better prepare for the future.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer and we will see you back on Tuesday, September 6th!

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila

Superintendent of North Tonawanda City Schools



## Mission Statement

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

# 2016 Top Ten

continued from page 1

## Salutatorian

### Tyler Slominski

**College Plans:**

State University of New York at Buffalo

**Major:** Civil Engineering

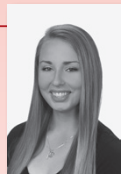
**Favorite High School Subjects:** My favorite classes are CAD and AP Physics. I like physics because I find the subject matter both interesting and challenging. I enjoy CAD for the freedom to design and draw various different projects, ranging from entire houses down to small toys.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Varsity Cross Country, Indoor & Outdoor Track; National Honor Society; Technology Club; Science Olympiad; Academy of Engineering & Architecture

**Proudest Accomplishments:** My greatest personal achievement has been the amount that I have accomplished in various sports. I have been a part of three varsity sports teams, and have contributed to all three. I have performed well in many invitationals and have gone to sectionals for all three sports.

**Favorite High School Memory:** One of my favorite memories from high school was the cross country meet at McQuaid. It was not only one of the most competitive meets; it was also the most fun. It was, by far, the largest race we participated in and was unlike any other.

### 3. Rachel Krawczyk



**College Plans:** Daemen College (BS and MS)

**Major:** Physician Assistant Program

**Favorite High School Subjects:** My favorite subjects in high school were Anatomy and Physiology and all of my math courses. Anatomy and Physiology led me to pick my career because I became so interested in the human body and the way it works just like a machine. Mr. Lachut always made class intriguing, too. I also love math because it's always made sense to me and in the long run is basically problem solving – a skill I love using.

**Extracurricular Activities:** JV and Varsity volleyball; Varsity softball; Orchestra; Tri-M Music Honor Society; National Honor

Society; volunteer tutor at Meadow Elementary School; travel Softball; takes private music lessons.

**Volunteer Experiences:** Throughout high school, I've volunteered in many places. Many have made an impact on my life, two of them being the 60 hours I spent at Elderwood and the visits I made to Women and Children's Hospital. I was able to really connect with the patients through playing cards and eating lunch with them. Listening to their stories taught me to live life to the fullest. At Women and Children's Hospital, I passed out gifts to the patients during the holiday season and seeing the smile on their face when they held their new toy was inspiring. One simple act could make someone's day turn around for the better.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** A personal accomplishment of mine is being able to compete in two varsity sports, be an officer in three clubs, and playing sports outside of school while still in high grades. I enjoyed and used my time at North Tonawanda High School to the fullest, something I will never regret. Also, being given the opportunity to continue my softball career at the collegiate level was a great accomplishment for me.

**Favorite High School Memory:** One of the most memorable moments as a high school student happened when I was teaching 5th graders advanced math. We'd been working on the topic for over a week and then all of a sudden, it clicked for one of the students. The look on his face and the way he went into class eager to brag to his teacher, that he could do it, made all the hard work and effort worthwhile. It also made me feel good that I could help him and make him that excited about learning math.

### 4. Lindsey Brzozowski



**College Plans:** Daemen College

**Major:** Physician Assistant Program

**Favorite High School Subjects:** My favorite subjects in high school are math and science. Not only are these the subjects I excel in, but I also have a huge interest in solving problems and figuring out how things work. I never dreaded going to my math and science classes. I was always super excited to learn the new topics.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Science Olympiad, National Honor Society-Historian; JV/Varsity Volleyball; Track and Field; Foreign Language Club

**Volunteer Experiences:** For my volunteer hours, I helped work volleyball tournaments. Not only was I supporting an organization I was passionate about, but I was also learning new things about the sport, therefore bettering myself. Volunteering always makes me feel

good because no matter what, people are always appreciative of your service.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** My proudest personal achievement is getting accepted into the PA program at Daemen College. A small number of students who apply are accepted, so it was a personal victory for me.

**Favorite High School Memory:** The most memorable event in high school by far, was participating in volleyball. Throughout my years of playing, I have met many new people and have learned a lot about team work and confidence. When I look back at my time spent in high school, I know volleyball will be one of the first things that come to mind. I hope to be remembered as the person who gave it her all, not only on the court, but in my classes, as well.

### 5. Jeslyn Zakes



**College Plans:** George Washington University

**Major:** International Business

**Favorite High School Subjects:** Social Studies and English. Some of the best teachers I've ever had, have taught these two subjects. Each allows the students to debate and give their own opinions on topics ranging from age old, like in AP European History to current emotions, feelings and surroundings, like in AP Literature. The material is fluid and there is never a right answer.

**Extracurricular Activities:** President of Student Council, Tri M Music Honor Society, Wind Symphony and the Academy of Business and Finance. JV and Varsity Basketball, Varsity Tennis, Junior Class President, Class officer for 3 years, Officer of National Honor Society, Jazz Band, Science Olympiad, Drama Club. Also in Tech Club and Outdoor Awareness, Science Olympiad Regional Medalist, DECA 1st place medalist regionally, statewide and international competitor. All-County Jazz musician, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State and Girls Nation, NCCC Tech Wars 1st place medalist.

**Volunteer Experiences:** The most inspiring volunteer experience I've endured would have to be mentoring at Meadow Elementary School. I would go over to Meadow School during study halls and tutor and teach 4th graders. Being not only a mentor, but a role model was an important task; one in which I had the ability to lead them down a good path academically, as well as, socially, which is an amazing feeling.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** Getting elected to be the New York Senator for American Legion Auxiliary's Girl's Nation and meeting President Obama.

**Favorite High School Memory:** Prom was my favorite memory from high school because I got

to see my friends dressed up so beautifully and having the time of their lives. It made me think back to freshman year and how far we've all come and where we'll go from here.

## 6. Nicholas Darlak

**College Plans:** Canisius College

**Major:** Accounting

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

My favorite subjects are math and accounting. I love math because it is just fun to do in my opinion. Accounting is good because it involves math and it comes easy to me so I just enjoy it.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Academy of Business and Finance; National Honor Society; Niagara Regional Federal Credit Union; Foreign Language Club President; employed at Tops Markets

**Volunteer Experiences:** I've volunteered at Drake and Ohio Elementary Schools Falls Festivals, walked charity walks (Community Missions and Breast Cancer), Tonawanda Women's Expo, NT Canal Clean Sweep and much more. I love community service because it gives me the opportunity to get involved in my community and help others.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** Through the Academy of Business and Finance, I was able to get an internship with the Niagara Regional Federal Credit Union. Being offered a position as an actual employee once the internship was over is my proudest accomplishment. Being 17 and working for a financial institution is an experience I'm most proud of.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My most memorable event was going to New York City in December, 2015, with a few kids from the AOB and DECA. Spending a few days in a new city with some of my closest friends was such an amazing experience that I wish I could relive it every year.



world has evolved. Plus, I've had Mr. Afshani for a teacher 3 out of 4 years and he is very nice and caring.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Outdoor Awareness Club; Tri-M Music Honor Society

**Volunteer Experiences:** I have volunteered at NT Meals On Wheels throughout high school. I enjoy helping others and ultimately making them happy, since the people I've met tell me they get lonely so they enjoy my visits.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** I have a lot of friends through school and clubs/hobbies. Also, I have an amazing family who loves and supports me, and I love them back.

**Favorite High School Memory:** I wish to be remembered for my hard work and dedication to achieve being ranked in the top ten of my graduating class. Also, I would like to be remembered for my kindness towards my teachers and fellow classmates.

## 8. Layla Kaiser

**College Plans:** State University of New York at Geneseo

**Major:** Secondary Chemistry Education

**Favorite High School Subjects:** Math and science because they are very straight forward and applicable to almost anything. Plus, there is always something new and exciting to learn.

**Extracurricular Activities:** Tae kwon do

**Volunteer Experiences:** I have volunteered in many areas including Tonawanda Community Café, Salem UCC, NT Middle School. The experience is meaningful to me because it allows me to share my talents and time with others. It can really make a difference.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** My assistant manager position at Medina KOA; second degree black belt in Tae kwon Do.

**Favorite High School Memory:** The hoedowns will always be one of my favorite memories because it's always fun to just square dance and have fun with a bunch of friends. The hoedown is such a unique school tradition and definitely something I will never forget.



## 7. Shyllynn Rehar

**College Plans:** Niagara County Community College and transfer to SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

**Major:** Environmental Science

**Favorite High School Subjects:** My favorite subjects in school include science, music (band), and history. I enjoy science since it is the type of class that goes beyond the textbook – there are components such as labs and demonstrations that make the class more intriguing. I also enjoy music since in band, the music played allows me to take a break from reality and relax. Lastly, I enjoy history since it is interesting to see how the



## 9. Alyssa Privitera

**College Plans:** D'Youville College

**Major:** Pharmacy

**Favorite High School Subjects:**

My favorite subjects are math and science; they just click with me. I like that math isn't arguable – it's certain. Science has always fascinated me. I like to learn about the unknown.



**Extracurricular Activities:** Volleyball; National Honor Society – Sergeant at Arms; Senior Class Historian; Club Volleyball

**Volunteer Experiences:** Being a part of the National Honor Society has given me the privilege to experience many views on the world. The most humbling was visiting a soup kitchen. Every person who passed through had a smile on their face the entire time. Even though they had so little materialistic possessions, not one of them lacked kindness.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** My biggest personal accomplishment was receiving the Youth of the Month Award. I was chosen with only eight other students from Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. The criteria to be applicable was aimed high; I was honored to be chosen for this award.

**Favorite High School Memory:** Joining the Senior Class officers as Historian was very memorable. Since I joined, I have made new friends and grown closer to my old friends. I have participated in many events and I truly feel like an active participant in many exciting senior activities.

## 10. Ariana Burns

**College Plans:** Niagara County Community College and then transfer to Niagara University

**Major:** Computer Science

**Favorite High School Subjects:** My favorite subjects in school are math and computer programming. I find math to be a rather interesting topic that can explain how the world works. I like computer programming because it is a lot like solving logic puzzles, something I enjoy doing as I am a very logical person.

**Extracurricular Activities:** I have been a member of the Future Business Leaders of America club for my entire high school experience. I also participated in the Computer Science for High School competition at Buffalo State.

**Volunteer Experiences:** A memorable volunteer experience for me was volunteering for open house. Helping parents find their way in a building I know well made me feel useful and happy.

**Proudest Accomplishments:** My proudest accomplishment is becoming an administrator of an online forum with an international community.

**Favorite High School Memory:** My favorite high school memories are from sitting with friends at lunch, because I had the most fun there. There are too many moments to count, and picking a favorite would make the others seem less important. So I won't pick a favorite.

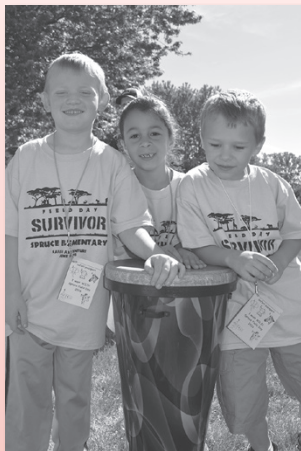




# Students Take Part in the Spruce Safari



Students at Spruce Elementary School didn't have to travel any further than the schoolyard to take part in an end of the year safari. Staff and parent volunteers created a day of adventures for students as they set up stations in the school and playground for students to explore. Classes rotated through the stations as they participated in adventures like a scavenger hunt, arts and crafts station, photo booth, kickball and board game competitions and a drum circle taught by Carolyn Zimmerman. The students were also treated to Kona Ice's snow cones and a talk from Anthony Kelly from Animal Adventures who introduced students to animals from the South American Rainforest.



Spruce School would like to issue a special thank you to the Law Offices of James Rizzo who donated the safari gear to students. The students had a fantastic time!



## 2016 Scholarship Recipients

### Student Name

### Scholarship

Lindsey Brzozowski

North Tonawanda United Teachers' Scholarship  
The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Ariana Burns

NCCC Distinguished Student Scholarship

Tyler Clare

Meadow Alumni Scholarship

Kyle Crooks

Meadow Alumni Scholarship

Marie Cuccia

Drake School PTA Scholarship

Nicholas Darlak

North Tonawanda United Teachers' Scholarship  
The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Desiree Doucette

Drake School PTA Scholarship

Ryann Driscoll

Rotary Club of the Tonawandas Scholarship

Connor Essenburg

NT Jacks Varsity Soccer Laurie Mourgas Scholarship

Bailey Franusiak

NT Football Hall of Fame George J. Vetter Scholarship

Joseph Guagliardo

Academy of Engineering & Architecture Scholarship  
Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship  
NT Jacks Varsity Soccer Laurie Mourgas Scholarship  
Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Leadership Memorial Scholarship

Megan Himes

John N. Carnduff Athletic Scholarship  
Stephen Holesko Memorial Scholarship

Hayden Holmes

Dennis J. Wiess Memorial Scholarship  
Academy of Engineering & Architecture Scholarship  
Third Warder's Social Club Scholarship John R. Baronich, Sr. Memorial  
Walter P. Sy, M.D. Scholarship

Layla Kaiser

Drake School PTA Scholarship  
North Tonawanda United Teachers' Scholarship  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society Financial Grant  
The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence  
North Tonawanda Catholic Club Knights of Columbus

Brian Kosikowski

John R. Baronich Sr.- "Coach B" Memorial Scholarship  
Jim Chiarello Memorial Scholarship

Joseph Kraus

Sweeney Hose - Robert Semple Memorial Scholarship  
North Tonawanda Youth Board Scholarship

Nicholas Kraus

Arlene A. Wallak Memorial Scholarship  
George J. Woloszyn, Jr. Scholarship

Rachel Krawczyk

Spruce Home & School Association Scholarship  
The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence

Sean Lapham

Lt. Keith A. Maitland Memorial Scholarship

Jacob Lemke

James W. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship

Jenna Lucas

Sweeney Hose - Timothy J. Frank Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Mahoney

North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarship

Victoria Malamas

Spruce Home & School Association Scholarship  
Jordan D. Bunker Athletic Scholarship  
North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarship  
NT Lady Jacks Varsity Soccer Scholarship  
Elliott Golach Memorial Scholarship

Christopher Manth

Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship

# 2016 Scholarship Recipients



<u>Student Name</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>
Kaeli McGinnis	Ruth M. Rasey Simpson Memorial Scholarship Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Robert & Laura Kinzley Memorial Scholarship
Megan McKie	John R. Baronich Sr.– “Coach B” Memorial Scholarship NT Lady Jacks Swimming/Diving Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Robert J. Frank Meritorious Service Scholarship
Matthew Mietlowski	Drake School PTA Scholarship Leocadia (Lee) M. Ozimek Memorial Scholarship
Margaret Millar	Timothy G. Serwinowski Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Niemiec	Jim Chiarello Memorial Scholarship Sutherland Lodge #826 Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship
Jevon Nolley	Wegman’s Scholarship NT Football Hall of Fame Louis Anastasi Scholarship
Vincent Piazza	NCCC Distinguished Student Scholarship
Alyssa Privitera	Ruth H. Collard Memorial Scholarship Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Shylynn Rehar	Drake School PTA Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence
Joshua Roberts	Jim Harszlak Foundation
Rebecca Scutt	Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Leadership Memorial Scholarship George J. Woloszyn, Jr. Scholarship
Kayla Seeley	Niagara County Sheriff’s Office D.A.R.E. Scholarship Jim Harszlak Foundation John R. Baronich Sr. – Stephen Sikora Post #1322 Scholarship Sutherland Lodge #826 Free & Accepted Masons Scholarship DeGraff Critical Care Nursing Scholarship Wegman’s Scholarship
Cody Sikora	James W. Rizzo Memorial Scholarship Sweeney Hose – Gregory Frank Memorial Scholarship
Matthew Slominski	The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence Third Warders Glen Gray Scholarship and Athletic Honor of Excellence Academy of Engineering & Architecture Scholarship
Tyler Slominski	The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence Academy of Engineering & Architecture Scholarship
Logan St. Cyr	John R. Baronich Sr. – “Coach B” Memorial Scholarship Robert Meyer II Christian Youth Award
Elisabeth Williams	Claudia Price Bunny Memorial Scholarship John R. Baronich Sr. – Stephen Sikora Post #1322 Scholarship
Erin Wylie	Jamie LaBarbera Memorial Scholarship Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship
Jeslyn Zakes	North Tonawanda United Teachers’ Scholarship Jordan D. Bunker Athletic Scholarship North Tonawanda Youth Board Scholarship The State Ed. Dept. Scholarship for Academic Excellence James A. Schucca Memorial Scholarship
Chloe Zuch	North Tonawanda School Administrators’ Scholarship Allison M. Clark Memorial Scholarship

## North Tonawanda Art Project Receives Grant for Starry Night Interpretation

North Tonawanda Art teacher Melinda Wright was excited when she heard her Meadow class had received a grant from The Remember Ryan Foundation. The foundation awards competitive visual and performing arts mini-grants to public and private elementary schools.

Inspired by Vincent Van Gogh’s masterpiece *Starry Night*, she proposed that she and the students from Mrs. Kendt’s MPP class would incorporate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) into their own piece of art. “For science we had the students study constellations. For technology and engineering we made LED lights for the piece with homemade batteries. For the math part the students made a grid of the night sky and of course for art, *Starry Night* was our inspiration,” says Ms. Wright. “We wanted to do something new and innovative that will go beyond regular classroom activities.”

“We are very grateful to the Remember Ryan Foundation for allowing our students to participate in their unique and creative process,” says Ms. Wright.



# North Tonawanda High School

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2016



Rachel Marie Anderson	Marshall Robert Edward Esmay	Joseph Mark Kraus
Victoria Ann Andres	Connor Ryan Essenburg	Nicholas Lawrence Kraus
Heather Beck	Lauren Marie Fezer	Rachel Helene Krawczyk
Samantha Lynn Bentz	Alaina Rose Forbes	Lauren Elizabeth Kroetsch
Jack Andrew Bland	Anastasia Victoria Maria Francis	Reba Elizabeth Kropp
Elizabeth Lynn Bolsover	Jacquelyn Francis	Volha Kudrashova
Joseph Stephen Boryszewski, IV	Bailey Austin Franusiak	Sean Joseph Lapham
Christopher David Boyer	Shawn Michael Frazier	Kayla Marie Laratonda
Paige Marie Brady	Crystal Lynn Frye	Maria Lynn LaVerdi
Robert Louis Brauer	Leah Vladimirovia Gazdovich	Andrew James Lawson
Rachael Frances Braun	Alyssa Marie Gendron	Molly Elizabeth LeBar
Mackenzie Christine Brosius	Samantha Lou Grawe	Dylan Richard Lemanski
Tyler Edward Brown	Breezy Greenert	Jacob Quinn Lemke
Lindsey Stephanie Brzozowski	Connor Alekzander Groff	Angela Edythe Lemke
Nathaniel Robert Burgin	Joseph Neal Guagliardo	Cameron Allen Lendel
Ariana Crystal Burns	Christopher Augustine Hager	Samuel Charles Lewis
Drew J. Cannizzaro	Tyler David Hallen	Kira Gabrielle Linville
Carly Patricia Caporicci	Jared Joseph Harack	Tyler James Lichtenberger
Tyler Joseph Carlson	Michael Harding	Katrina Maria Lizon
Jocelyn Paige Carozzolo	Aries Sebastien Harju	Jewel Nicole Long
Robert Bryan Casal	Soren Vaughn Harless	Dillon Michael Lopat
Cullen Bernard Cavanaugh	Felicia Victoria Harris	Louis Agapito Lovallo
Abigail Rose Chilton	Sarah Rose Hedel	Jenna Lee Lucas
Paige Louise Christopher	Amber Rose Hewitt	Jousef Lucca-Sepulveda
Tyler James Clare	Cormac Michael Hickey	Austin Daniel Ludlow
Mariah Lynn Coleman	Megan Emily Himes	Joshua Daniel Mahoney
Summer Ann Cook	Taylor Christine Hodgson	Victoria Elizibith Malamas
Noble Patrick Corp	Hayden Christopher Holmes	Gina Luann Mallone
Elizabeth Lee Costanzo	Alan Michael Xavier Horton	Christopher Patterson Manth
Briana Rose Couto	Emily Kristine Howell	Allison Nancy Marillo
Bailey Ashton Craig	Jacob Taylor Jackson	Kaitlyn Marie Marra
Kyle Richard Crooks	Dawson Warner Johannes	Joseph Marranca III
Marie Christina Cuccia	Brianne Marie Johnson	Kevin Robert Martinelli
Nicholas Edward Darlak	Samantha Christine Jurczak	Connor Richard Matteson
Anna Jessone Davignon	Layla Marie Kaiser	Marissa Marie Mattice
Serena Leigh Dill	Troy Richard Keller	Kaeli Shea McGinnis
Sean Patrick Dolan	Katharine Regina Kenyon	Christian Anthony McIntyre
Desiree Alison Doucette	Linda Christine Knight	Megan McKie
Ryann Marie Driscoll	Isabelle Catherine Kogo	Reagan Marie McNamara
David Harold Eichorst	Brian Michael Kosikowski	Louis Michael Medina
Jacquelyn Marie Eisenhauer	Anthony Joseph Kozak	Jevon Mekhi Megna

# ool Graduating Class of 2016

5 • 10:00AM • ARTPARK

Matthew Jan Mietlowski  
Margaret Catherine Millar  
Cassie Lynn Miller  
Sydney Christine Mitchell  
Michelle Dawn Moeller  
Kaitlyn Jean Moll  
Megan Rose Monk  
Stephen Michael Moore  
Colton Chandler Mors  
Dillon Thomas Moteyunas  
April Judith Mott  
Jessica Marie Muschaweck  
Jeffrey Anthony Myer  
Ninette Isabel Needler  
Charles Allen Newton  
Brittany Joan Nicpon  
Daniel Raymond Niemiec  
Michael Thomas O'Connor  
Tyshandra Yvette O'Connor  
Kaylee Christian O'Donnell  
Faith Elizabeth O'Hara  
Hannah Elizabeth Okiec  
Austin Albert O'Lay  
Erin Delaney O'Lay  
Alexandria Elizabeth Osetkowski  
Thomas Francis Ostrowski  
Haley Rose Parlier  
Dylan Michael Palmer  
Kylie Katherine Parry  
Tori Lynn Pecore  
Emily Rae Perry  
Vincent John Piazza  
Gabrielle Lynne Pierce  
Lauren Paige Prial  
Alyssa Nicole Privitera  
Zachary James Proefrock  
Jalen Tyler Provorse  
Christina Marie Quinlan  
Christopher Tyler Raimondi  
Kyle Richard Reeves  
Shylynn Diane Rehar

Kristopher Peter Rekito  
Jason Wayne Richau  
Lileian Nidal Rizek  
Joshua Michael Roberts  
Collin John Roberts  
Dara Brittney Robinson  
Jacob Owen Roth  
Nicole Paige Rush  
Josiah Zachary Russell  
Joseph David Russell  
Mariya Vladimirovna Sakharchuk  
Omixam Alexander Sanchez  
Michael Patrick Schettig  
Anthony Rocco Schiavone  
Erin Elizabeth Schmidt  
Hanna Lyn Schmidt  
Matthew Anton Danial Scott  
Schneider  
Andrew Paul Schulmeister  
Summer Paige Schultz  
Connor Anthony Stewart Scholtz  
Rebecca Therese Scutt  
Dominic Tre Sedore-Cooley  
Aliaksandra Valeryevna Sedun  
Kayla Nicole Seeley  
Krista Nicole Seiberg  
Kelsey Rose Shank  
Cody Patrick Sikora  
Emily Elizabeth Simmeth  
Matthew David Sledziewski  
Matthew Robert Slominski  
Tyler John Slominski  
Allie Marie Smyth  
Dillon Andrew Snopkiwski  
Aveonna Auctavia Southern  
Logan James St. Cyr  
Austin Daniel Starr  
Devin Mitchell Starr  
Ronald Wayne Staton  
Benjamin Guy Streebel  
Gregory Alex Stulba

Crista Marie Sukennik  
Aliona Petrovna Supruniuk  
Hannah Noel Swann  
Michael E. Szmak  
Corey Matthew Taravella  
Ethan Christopher Tedesco  
Riley Irene Tollar  
Tyler Terrence Traina  
Jamie Nicole Truskowski  
Krystsina Valeryevna Tupchik  
Brandon Jeremy Tylec  
Alexis Samantha Urban  
Skylar Victoria Marie Valenti  
Jacob Micheal Van Volkenburg  
Miranda Lynn Veach  
Brittany Nicole VerHague  
Erik RT Vickerd  
Curtis Michael Vivian  
Tyler Joseph VonBergen  
Taylor Morgan Wadosky  
Broderick George Walsh  
Daniel John Walter  
Zachary James Warner  
Natalie Elizabeth Watson  
David James Werth  
Kaitlynn Renee' Wheeler  
Shane Eric Whipple  
David Charles White  
Lea Charlotte Wieclaw  
Stephen John Wilczynski  
Elizabeth Mary Wildt  
Elisabeth Helen Williams  
Elijah Thomas Williams  
Victor William Willison  
Brittney Marie Winger  
Matthew James Woolnough  
Madeline Winifred Woolnough  
Erin Elizabeth Wylie  
Jeslyn Marie Zakes  
Kayne Robert Zalewski  
Chloe Louise Zuch

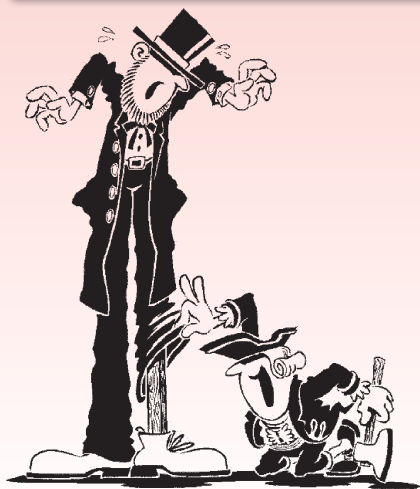


# Ohio Street Students Celebrate Presidential History

The second grade students at Ohio Street Elementary put on a performance of “So You Want to be President” to their invited guests at an end of the year celebration.

Students in Mrs. Birkman’s, Mrs. Fretthold’s and Mrs. Schake’s classes treated the audience to a history lesson and some patriotic songs while dressed in red, white and blue that brought the standing room only crowd to its feet.

Great job everyone!



# North Tonawanda High School Celebrates National College Signing Day

The North Tonawanda High School Counseling Department celebrated National College Signing Day with their college bound seniors on April 26.

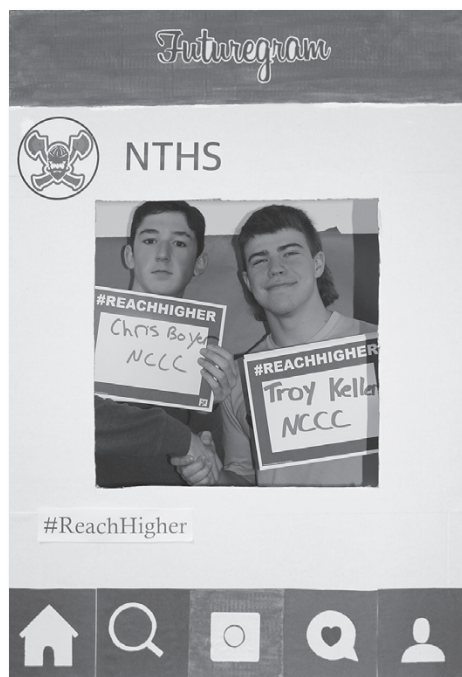
The day is promoted by First Lady Michelle Obama as part of her “Reach Higher” initiative which encourages high school students to take charge of their future by furthering their education after high school. Students are recognized for taking a professional training program or attending a community college or a four-year college or university.

School counselors: Ms. Giles, Mrs. Schultz, Ms. Collins, Mrs. Graves, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. DeMarchis showed their college pride by wearing clothing from their alma maters. Students were invited during their lunch period to join them in the hallway outside the cafeteria. The counselors arranged for music and a photo booth and students partook in raffles for various prizes such as prom tickets, college paraphernalia and the coveted parking spot of Principal Mr. Fisher for a week.

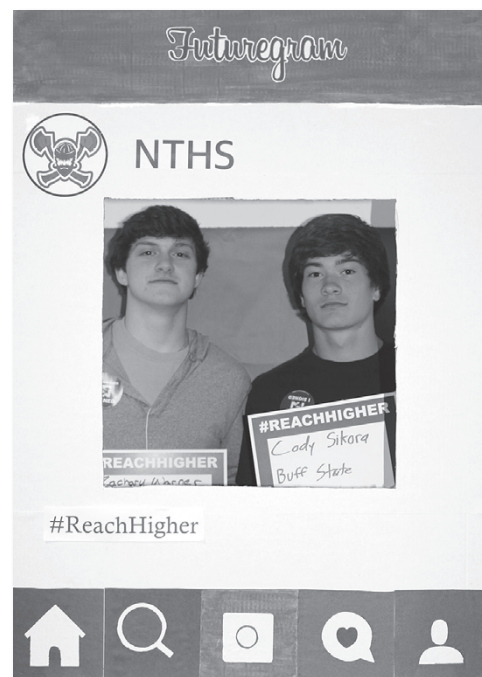
“We are very excited to be hosting this event,” says Mrs. Lori Graves. “It is a great opportunity to celebrate our students pursuing their education after graduation. We are very proud of them all.”



Counselors: (LtoR) Cindy DeMarchis, Lynn Wright, Lori Graves, counseling intern Colleen Collins, Jennifer Schultz and Melissa Giles.



Chris and Troy: Chris Boyer and Troy Keller.



Zach and Cody: Zachary Warner and Cody Sikora.



# North Tonawanda Students and Staff Go To Bat for Student with Cancer

When North Tonawanda student Anthony Schiavone was diagnosed with stage 2 lymphoma, the faculty, staff and students rallied around him by organizing a whiffle ball game.

The faculty took on the students and raised over \$1,200 for Roswell Park in Anthony's name!



Anthony with the teams.

## Nominations are Extended to July 29 for NT Schools Visual & Performing Arts Wall of Fame

The nomination period for the North Tonawanda City School District Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame has been extended. The nomination form is available at the district website, [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org). Deadline for nominations to be received at the district administrative office is July 29, 2016.

Since the award began in 1997, 30 graduates and current staff members of the school district have been recognized for their success in or contributions either individually or collectively to the promotion or betterment of any visual or performing art. Past honorees have held career positions as a classical guitarist, watercolor artist, news anchorwoman, theater costumer designer, symphony principal clarinetist, university and high school music and arts educators, just to name a few.

Nominations are being accepted for recent graduates, alumni or staff that are accomplished professionals in one of the following areas -- Fine Arts, Graphic Art/Design, Broadcast Media, Music Performance, Art Education, Theater Arts, or Music Education.

Primary funding for the Wall of Fame ceremony, including plaques, programs and refreshments is provided by the Remember Ryan Foundation Inc. The Foundation was established in memory of Ryan A. Bertini to provide financial support for visual and performing arts activities and projects in area schools through educational grants, direct gifts and corporate sponsorships. More information and bios of past inductees can be found at [www.RememberRyanFoundation.org](http://www.RememberRyanFoundation.org).

Your time to submit a potential candidate is sincerely appreciated!

## Kassandra Martinelli Represents NYS at SkillsUSA Competition

Kassandra Martinelli, a junior from North Tonawanda, represented New York State at the SkillsUSA competition in Louisville, Kentucky for the 52nd Annual National SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Conference. 6,000 students, who were named their state champions, competed hands-on in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields. Students work against the clock and each other in their fields of expertise in contests sponsored by industry, trade associations and labor organizations.



Kassandra attends the Health Occupations Technician Program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center and took first place at the New York State SkillsUSA competition in the Health Occupations Professional Portfolio. The contest recognizes students for their successful development of a professional portfolio. Contestants are evaluated on their ability to present themselves to prospective employers and the use of their portfolio as an effective communication skill in presenting.

We are so proud! Way to go Kassandra!



# Students to Take Part in Carly's Crossing to Bring Awareness to Pediatric Cancer

Diving Coach Chris Heyer is getting his high school team prepared for the annual Carly's Crossing event on August 7th. This will be the third year his swimmers will participate in the event that raises money and awareness for pediatric cancer. "In the past two years we have raised \$1,600 total and this year we have a goal of raising \$2,000," says Coach Heyer.

The inspiration for Carly's Club comes from 8 year old Carly Collard Cottone who died of a rare form of brain cancer in 2002. Money raised by participants, who will be swimming the open water course at the Sunset Beach Club, will go to Roswell Park towards research and supporting families who have a child battling cancer.

Coach Heyer says that anyone looking to help his students meet their fundraising goal, and help out a worthy cause, can contact him via email at [CHeyer@ntschoools.org](mailto:CHeyer@ntschoools.org).



*Brooke Galus, Jackie Bors and Felicia Harris*



*Coach Heyer, Brooke Galus, Logan St. Cyr, Felicia Harris, Allison Osborne, Jackie Bors and Maddie West.*



*Felicia Harris, Jackie Bors, Brooke Galus, Logan St. Cyr, Allison Osborne, Maddie West and Coach Heyer.*

## Children's Author, Poet and Writing Teacher Amy Ludwig VanDerwater Visits Drake Elementary

Reading Week at North Tonawanda's Drake Elementary School started on a high note with a visit from local children's author, poet and writing teacher Amy Ludwig VanDerwater.

Mrs. VanDerwater talked in front of the whole school at an assembly, visited several classrooms and had lunch with some students who wanted to talk to her more in depth about her books. A former fifth grade teacher, she likes to share her writings and inspire students to write down their stories and thoughts.

Mrs. VanDerwater has written six books, including "Forest Has a Song", "Every Day Birds", "Read! Read! Read!", "Poems Are Teachers: Learning Craft Line-By-Line", "Dreaming of You" and countless poems. "I love this school. It is so small and intimate and everyone here has been so warmhearted and gracious to me. I have to thank Alicia Deprima's daughter for getting me invited here today." Mrs. Deprima, who teaches first grade, contacted Mrs. VanDerwater after her daughter told her how the students in her school loved her visit. "I think she is the youngest person that ever recommended me," she laughed. "I am definitely sending her a nice thank you letter because I enjoyed my visit at Drake so much today."



*Author Amy Ludwig VanDerwater with Madilyn Tabor, Rebecca Deschamps, Lilly Lapp, Laila Vacanto, Janice Hanna and Zachary Lapp.*



# Young Scientist Convention Inspires Meadow Students

According to the National Center for College and Career Transitions, about 20 percent of careers are directly related to science, technology, engineering and math. The challenge for educators is how to get students interested in those fields.

Teachers and administrators at Meadow Elementary School came up with a unique idea to spark their 6th grade students' interest by holding their first-ever Young Scientist Convention. Presenters from the Advanced Placement Science program at the High

School, students from Canisius College and male and female professionals in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields volunteered their time to talk to the students about their careers and their studies.

Students had about an hour to rotate through the stations set up at the ASAC (Alumni Student Activity Center) and took advantage of their time with the speakers. "It was very successful and enriching for our students," says Social Studies teacher Jody Slipko. "Just as there was a gamut of presenters, our young scientists experienced a gamut of discoveries and inspirations. They got to sample a smorgasbord of potential careers. It not only stimulated their curiosity, but got them thinking about their future."

The event was well received and the only complaint the teachers heard was that the students wished they had longer to talk to the presenters. "We can't thank our volunteers enough for motivating and encouraging the students and being such great role models," says Ms. Slipko.



*Presenter Mr. Sabo talks about the Dobsonian Telescope with Ethan Taylor, Eric Szykowski and Meadow Supples.*



*North Tonawanda High School students: Connor Groff, Austin Ludlow and Jenna Lucas with Meadow students: Rachel Keenan, Daniel Scime, Abigail Stokas, Damien Serrano and Vivienne Jurewicz.*

# North Tonawanda High School Holds Health Professions Career Day

Recently at the North Tonawanda High School, the Career Center gave students the opportunity to explore a variety of health careers.

The interactive program offered the students a chance to interact with medical and healthcare professionals from various colleges and organizations, so that students could explore career options.



*Paramedic/EMT talking with student Maria LaVerdi*



*Caitlyn Symour, Emma Royer and Anna Gehl talk to a respiratory therapist.*



*Elizabeth Bolsover gets a massage while learning about massage therapy as a career.*





## NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOLS

176 Walck Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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## Vision Statement

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.

# Ohio School Students Have a Field Day

Ohio School's Annual Field Day event was held on June 10 this year. Students enjoyed an entire day of activities and games such as Kan Jam, an obstacle course, ball toss, & kickball to name a few. Every student was given a themed t-shirt that was color coordinated with their grade level. Throughout the day, the classrooms rotated through each game station. Lunch and ice cream treats were provided along with a special appearance by Mercy Flight. The students were able to watch it land on the field and get up close to meet the pilots and look inside. This day is always a great way to wrap up the school year and enjoy a fun-filled day.



Nicholas Schrock and Salvatore Alessandra



Emma Wilbur, Isabelle Schrock, Gwendolyn Moran and Ariana Kuyava.

## North Tonawanda CSD Rolls Out iPad Loan to Pre-Kindergarten Students

Next year's kindergarten class is getting a jumpstart on learning thanks to an innovative program that the North Tonawanda School District is rolling out this school year. The district is loaning out iPads over the summer to future kindergartners that have been loaded with eight apps: Starfall ABCs, ABC Ninja, Alphabet Sounds, ABC Magic Phonics 5, Fine Motor Fundamentals, Writing Wizard, Bugs and Numbers and 123 Ninja. The internet and camera have been disabled on the devices so they are used as a learning tool only. When school starts, they will be permanently housed at the children's schools.

Superintendent Greg Woytila says he had heard about a similar program in Lockport City School District and thought it was a great idea as it gets the children practicing math and reading on those rainy days or long car trips during the summer. "I shared the idea with our kindergarten teachers to help the students to start off on the right foot. We felt it was very important and our hope is that with the extra practice, our future graduates of 2030 will be well-prepared to start school in September and finish strong."

Kindergarten teacher Suzanne Nyitrai says the teachers think this is a great initiative. "Mr. Woytila asked for our input on what apps should be preloaded to help get our students get ready for the upcoming school year. We thought a perfect time to give them out to parents would be during our May kindergarten screening. The parents were given a tote bag with the device, a charger, and information on the apps, a coloring book and crayons." Parents agree to a \$100 deductible if the device is lost, stolen or damaged.

The screenings took place at Grant Street School, where the future students were assessed for their readiness for school. "We have them identify capital letters and numbers, count from one to thirty, write their name, cut on a line and test their cognitive, verbal, fine and gross motor skills and visual memory," explains Ms. Nyitrai. "We also have a nurse test their vision and hearing. It helps us to determine if the student will need remediation once they start school and potentially allow us to work with them over the summer. It is also a great way for us to meet the parents as well."

Ms. Nyitrai says the screening is very important and urges all parents with incoming kindergartners to set up a time for it. "It gives us a snapshot of the skills they have and helps us to put a plan in place for their education." The next screening will be on August 30th at Spruce School. To set up an appointment call: 716-807-3535.



Gary Wodka and his daughter Lillian.