



Educational Changes are Explained for DASA, APPR and Core Curriculum

A Message from Superintendent Woytila

Welcome back to the 2012-2013 school year. It is hard to believe the new school year is already here. It is even harder for me to believe that this will be my twentieth year as a North Tonawanda City School District employee. Over those twenty years I have had a host of different jobs and have seen many changes. This year I think is one of the years that will see the most change. New York State has created and is requiring school districts across the state to implement the following: A "new" teacher evaluation system referred to as APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review), DASA (Dignity for All Students Act), and the Common Core Curriculum that is meant to align curriculum across the country. In addition to all this there is a second major revision to the state examinations



at grades 3-8 that is meant to align testing with the Common Core Curriculum.

See page 2 for a breakdown of the major elements for these changes.

In the midst of all this change we work hard to remember it is your children that all this affects. The entire staff and the Board of Education are committed to making North Tonawanda a premier school district in Western New York. All this work is being done at a time where funding cuts have reached an all time high for education in New York State. I welcome you back to school and wish you a very successful school year. As always, I encourage you to contact the appropriate person at school with needs or questions you may have.

Gregory J. Woytila

Introducing the NTHS Academy of Information Technology and This Year's Inductees

The **Academy of Information Technology (AOIT)** is the fourth and newest academy at the high school. The AOIT is a four-year program that gives students the opportunity to pursue a focused area of exploration; that being a computer science or digital media and communications path. The AOIT will introduce students to career opportunities in today's digital workforce including:

- * Publishing industries (software, internet, and traditional)
- * Graphic design, marketing, advertising, print media
- * Animation and game design
- * Motion picture, sound recording, broadcast industries
- * Data processing and information services
- * Network administration
- * Computer systems design, service and maintenance
- * Cyber security and information management

Project-based classes enable students to have exposure to a variety of current software applications including Adobe Web Premium CS5, and equip students with personal, analytical, technical and communication skills necessary in any career pursuit. The AOIT offers a flexible program of study that is an asset for any future career/job path. This year's academy events will include the induction ceremony, field trips, tours and guest speakers.

For information, visit the Academy web page on the high school web site or contact Barbara J. Sattelberg, AOIT Director at 807-3600 ext.1224 or bsattelberg@ntschoools.org.

2012-13 AOIT Inductees

Ariana Burns	Jacob Iuvino
Patrick Fretthold	Wendy Paul
Chaise Haring	Kristopher Rekito
James Dylan Hutton	Tyler VonBergen



The Academy experiences are made possible through the AOIT advisory board which is comprised of business and community members including Allison Hojnowski - Buffalo Bills Community Relations Manager, Christopher R. Gallant, - Hilbert College, WIVB Channel 4, and ITT Technical Institute. Parents are welcome to join our advisory board.

District Awarded \$1.5M Physical Ed Grant

The District has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant to implement comprehensive physical fitness and nutrition programs for the district's 4,000 students through the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP). The funds will be used over three years to enhance the physical education program, and to develop programs that encourage physical activity and healthy eating through professional development of physical education staff members and the purchase of new equipment.

The Carol M. White Physical Education grant is through the federal Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. NTCSD is one of 56 districts nationally to receive the grant this year.



Breakdown From Superintendent's Message

Common Core Standards

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), according to the website EngageNY.org.

The intent of the standards is to define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

The standards:

- Are aligned with college and work expectations;
- Are clear, understandable and consistent;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards;
- Are informed by other top performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global economy and society; and are evidence-based.

There are 12 shifts of common core, six in mathematics and six in English language arts. These shifts help districts align with Common Core's expectations and goals.

Under the 6 Shifts in ELA/literacy, students will:

- Be encouraged to read more non-fiction
- Learn about the world by reading
- Read more challenging material thoroughly
- Discuss reading using evidence

Continued on page 3

Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR)

The purpose of the evaluation system is to ensure that there is an effective teacher in every classroom and an effective leader in every school, according to the NY State Education Department. The evaluation system will also foster a culture of continuous professional growth for educators to grow and improve their instructional practices.

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, the evaluation system includes all classroom teachers and building principals.

The APPR evaluations are broken into **three** areas: growth on state measures, locally-selected measures and other measures.

1. Growth in state provided numbers and student learning objectives (SLO) will comprise 20 percent of review. Student growth percentile showcases the change in performance compared to students with similar starting points. The definition of "similar" students is not just based on tests, student characteristics such as poverty, disability indicators, gender, student age will be considered.
2. Locally selected measures will comprise 20 percent of review.
3. Other measures comprise 60 percent of review and include rubrics, observations, visits and surveys. Teachers will have at least 2 classroom observations by the principal or another trained administrator.

Source:
engage.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/APPR-Field-Guidance.pdf



Dignity for All Students (DASA)

The Dignity Act became effective on July 1, 2012.

- The goal of the Dignity Act is to create a safe and supportive school climate where students can learn and focus, rather than fear being discriminated against and/or verbally and/or physically harassed.
- The law prohibits discrimination and harassment against any student by employees or students on school property or at a school function, that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.
- The Dignity Act applies to behavior on school property (including athletic fields, playgrounds and parking lots), in school buildings, on a school bus/vehicle, as well as at school-sponsored events or activities.
- The NT Schools' Code of Conduct has been amended to reflect the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff — in age appropriate plain language.
- The law also includes protection of people who report discrimination or harassment.

At least one employee in every school shall be designated as a Dignity Act Coordinator. Ronald Barstys, Director of Student Services, is the DAC for NT Schools. Please visit ntschoools.org for a list of Dignity Act Coordinators in each building.

Source:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/>



Academy of Engineering and Architecture Trip to Fallingwater and Pittsburgh

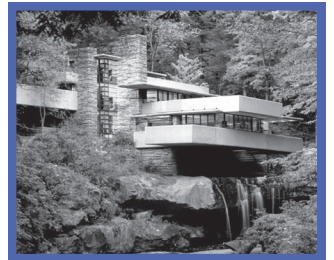
Last June the Academy of Engineering and Architecture students embarked on an overnight fieldtrip to the most famous house in the world; Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater. The Modernist house was built in 1937 as a summer retreat. It is anchored into a hill and its many reinforced concrete cantilevered overhangs jut out from the main structure right over a 20 foot high waterfall. This structure is considered by many architectural historians to be architect, Frank Lloyd Wright's greatest achievement.

These students were amazed by the beauty of the home as well as how the house was engineered to be able to carry all the weight of the overhanging patios. Many of the students were also surprised to find many famous artists' works hanging on the stucco walls inside the house; such as two Picasso paintings and Mexican artist, Diego Rivera, painting. From Fallingwater to the great city of Pittsburgh the students loaded the bus and made the one hour ride to the

cities most famous attraction, the Duquesne Incline. The 800 foot long cable driven cable car was built in 1877 and rises at a 30 degree angle to an observation deck. Because the Academy students were on the deck at night they were able to get the best view of the city which made for some great pictures. The following day the 40 students embarked on a trip to the Science Center on the cities great waterfront, learning about and exploring robotics, hydraulics and energy displacement exhibits. They were also able to test their endurance, athletic skills and knowledge of how the body functions at the Science Centers Sports Works.

Before making the trek back home, the NT students climbed aboard converted WWII military vehicles that serve as a tour bus. The DUKW was used in amphibious operations throughout the Mediterranean and Pacific, including Operation D-Day in 1944. The duck boat first traveled through the city's business district past local government buildings and the headquarters of the area's Fortune 500 companies. The boat then made its way into the river for a spectacular view of Pittsburgh's waterfront.

The students were awed by the amazing architecture Pittsburgh has to offer and learned some fun facts about the modern skyscrapers that soar to dizzying heights, including the U.S. Steel Tower. Senior Maya Welch said, "It was a great trip filled with impressive architecture and I had lots of fun with my friends exploring the city."



Breakdown Continued

- Write using evidence
- Increase academic vocabulary

Under the 6 shifts in math, students will:

- Learn more about fewer key topics
- Build skills within and across grades
- Develop speed and accuracy
- Have a deep understanding of math concepts
- Apply concepts to the real world
- Intensely practice and understand math

Sources: www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards, engageny.org/resource/shifts-for-students-and-parents/

COLLEGE FAIR - 2012

On Wednesday, September 19, 2012, NTHS held its Annual College Fair Day. Approximately 100 colleges and universities took part in this year's program. Some of the schools that attended were Syracuse University, Penn State University, Ohio Northern University, University of Guelph (Canada), Kent State University, The Art Institute, and many other local colleges such as Niagara County Community College, Daemen College, University of Buffalo, and Niagara University. In addition, representatives from the military branches were present to respond to students' inquiries.



Jacob Norris & Abby Polichette are gathering information from Carolyn Noll, Assistant Director of Admissions at the University of Akron. Pictured with them is School Counselor, Cindy DeMarchis.

Approximately 600 senior and junior students attended the fair armed with several questions to ask the variety of admission officials, as they continue to research the many opportunities available to them.

The North Tonawanda Counseling Department faculty provided a College Planning Booklet and class instruction to seniors and juniors in preparation for this event. The College Fair is a major activity that North Tonawanda is fortunate to offer to the students, and is always a successful event as evident by the positive comments expressed each year by both students and the many admission representatives that participate.



Getting Ready for Another Exciting Year at the North Tonawanda High School

Academy of Business and Finance!!

The Academy of Business and Finance welcomed an incoming sophomore class of 15 students this year. We are very excited about our program to develop and enrich our students! This Academy includes any student who has an interest in the business or finance world as a possible career or college choice. We prepare the students with a specific curriculum including Accounting, Computer Applications, Business Law, Financial Literacy, Business Ownership and International Business. The students are then prepared for a paid internship during their junior summer or senior year by attending classes and preparing work related documents and attending mock interviews with business leaders.

The first official activity of the year for the sophomores is the Induction Ceremony held in the High School Media Center. It is attended by all the Academy students, their parents, teachers, Academy board members and alumni. It is an official welcome to the Academy for the new students. The next event just for the sophomores is a presentation by the FBI and a local bank.

The juniors and seniors will attend a stockholders meeting being held by Taylor Devices. The students are invited every year and it is a wonderful opportunity to see an actual stockholders' meeting. The juniors will also attend an etiquette luncheon. This is an opportunity to have a formal meal and be instructed on the do's and don'ts of eating during a business event. This is always a terrific event where the students learn so much!

The entire Academy will attend a teambuilding session at LaserTron. This is always an intriguing event with instruction by the management team at LaserTron and then an opportunity to show what they learned by playing

LaserTag. It is amazing how much team work and communication play into every aspect of our school, work and play lives!

Each and every one of these events helps the students to grow and learn with real world experiences. They contribute to the development of the whole student, encouraging them to try new things, experience real life and reach to become the best person they can possibly be.

In order to help fund some of our events we will have our annual Applebee's Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 2 at the Niagara Falls Boulevard location from 8 a.m.–10 a.m. Don't miss this great event! Tickets will be sold by all Academy students and at the high school.

One of the community service events the students have planned is to volunteer at the TNT Expo again this year, so be sure to stop by and see us there! We also will be helping at the Freshman orientation and other events, so look for us in our black shirts with the green Academy logo!

The culminating event is the graduation of the seniors. It is always so sad to have our seniors leave us, but we are so thrilled to see how they have grown by leaps and bounds through our program. They have become such productive, impressive young men and women and we are so proud of them!

Thanks for your support of this terrific program. We have some outstanding success stories and are working every day to create many more!



Music at Meadow

Music is flourishing at Meadow! Many fifth and sixth graders are participating in instrumental music lessons at Meadow School. Fifth graders have eagerly started their small group lessons, while sixth graders participate in lessons and band rehearsals. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders also have the option of singing in chorus. Pictured below are sixth grade trumpet players and Mrs. Carere.



Visit our Website Information on the North Tonawanda City School District

can be found at www.ntschoools.org. You will find information specific to the High School, Middle School and Elementary schools. The calendar of events and activities will be posted, along with news events from each building. As you go to each building site you will find even more information about your child's school. If you are interested in athletics you will find sports schedules, team information and driving directions, if needed. Board of Education meeting information is available on Board Docs. Along with this you will find the names and contact numbers of all the trustees elected to the Board of Education. The Food Service Department will make the school lunch menus for all buildings available. The Free & Reduced Lunch application is available along with a Food Allergen Chart. Just about everything you need to know about the North Tonawanda City School District can be found at this site. Please visit and use it often.



Reading with Leo

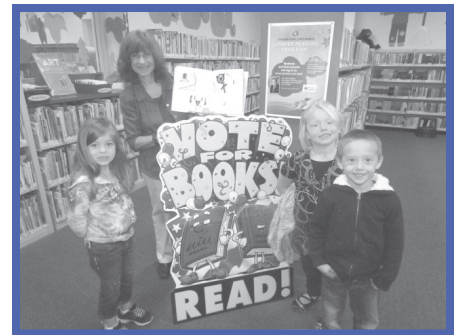
Students in the Kindergarten class at Spruce Elementary are excited to start the year off with Leo Lionni's Literature. After listening to Tillie and the Wall, the children have started learning about the story elements (title, author, characters, setting, problem and solution). Afterwards, they had the opportunity to construct their own mouse and brainstorm what they would do if they found one.



Pictured are Eleanor Stevens, Brandon Garneret, Lauren Jacobs and Michael Fisher

Kindergarten Class Visits NT Public Library

Mrs. Dexheimer's Kindergarten class recently took a reading trip to the North Tonawanda Public Library. The children were greeted by Mrs. Marcia Bugyi who welcomed them to the Children's Department. Mrs. Bugyi taught the children (with clues that she pulled from her brightly pocketed apron) about taking care of books. The students listened to her tell about all the wonderful things that our library has to offer. Mrs. Bugyi read to the children and shared a book on video, Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion. The students proceeded to tour the facilities and are looking forward to their next trip back to read!



Pictured L to R promoting reading are Abigail DeMart, Mrs. Marcia Bugyi, Evelyn Smoyer and Tyler Russell.

FACS Department at Middle School Announces 8th Grade Recipe

Welcome Back!!! The FACS Department at the Middle School is excited to announce the latest eighth grade recipe - Split-Second Shortbread Cookies. In an effort to educate students now about health issues that lead to unhealthy adults, this new recipe allows students to use egg substitute. Not only does this make the cookies fat free, they are cholesterol free AND low in sugar. This demonstration also opens dialogue with students who have parents that are diabetic, suffer from high blood pressure, and/or need to reduce their cholesterol intake. Not only are they educational but they are easy to make, versatile, and delicious.



NTMS Art Department

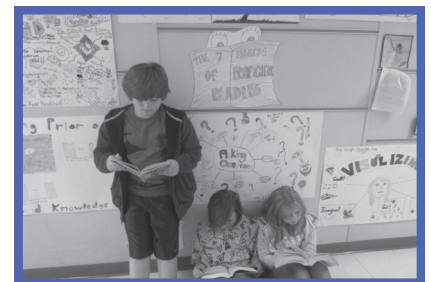
This year has brought a few changes to the art department staff at the Middle School. Mrs. Davis from NTHS will be joining Ms. Fernandez. They have spent the past month introducing the Elements of Art and refining creative thinking skills using drawing media. Now they are entering the sculpture segment. The seventh graders are having a hilarious time making clay "Ugly Jugs". Ugly Jugs have been in existence since the early 1800's when they were made by slave potters in South Carolina. The eighth graders will also be using clay while sculpting



"Day of the Dead Calaveras" or skulls. They will learn of the popular Mexican festival that celebrates life by honoring the souls of their ancestors. We hope to exhibit our skulls at the well known Buffalo art gallery called El Museo.

Students Reaching Out to Become Better Readers

The sixth graders at Drake School are learning how to become great readers. The seven strategies to become a proficient reader are helping students along their way during reading. Students are visualizing, asking questions, and activating prior knowledge to become successful during reading!





First Graders Learn Sequencing

At Drake Elementary School, Mrs. DiPrima's first grade class learned about sequencing for stories in a way that was both fun and delicious. The



students worked on cleaning, coring, cutting and cooking apples. They were then able to taste their delicious work. They worked on graphing, counting and story writing!



Animal Club Holds Theme Tray Auction

The North Tonawanda High School Animal Club, in conjunction with faculty and staff, will be holding a theme tray auction to benefit the Niagara County SPCA and Lake View Animal Sanctuary which had a fire earlier this year.

The theme tray auction will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9, at Rescue Fire Hall, 1241 Strad Avenue, North Tonawanda, from noon until 4 p.m. The drawing will take place at 3 p.m. Winners need not be present.

Any donations of baskets or gift certificates would be greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off at North Tonawanda High School during school hours.



Learning With Music and Lyrics

Because of Ryan Bertini's love of music and the generous **Remember Ryan Foundation**, students in Mrs. Guido's and Mrs. Abbott's fourth grades have very popular listening centers that are specifically meant for one thing. The centers integrate poems and songs with English Language Arts skills.

Because they are enjoying themselves thoroughly, children don't even realize how the poems and songs, matched with the written lyrics, are helping to build appropriate expression, phrasing, and pacing in their own reading and speaking experiences. We are very fortunate to possess such equipment and our students are benefiting greatly from it. Thank you to Ryan and the fabulous **Remember Ryan Foundation** for allowing us this unique teaching tool. We will certainly always remember Ryan!



Super Start at Meadow

Meadow School is off to a fabulous start for the 2012-2013 school year. Due to redistricting and the closing of Gilmore School, many students started attending Meadow for the first time this September. Existing Meadow students, former Gilmore students, and former Ohio students have all been making new friends and working hard in their classrooms. Shown below are sixth graders and new friends Cheyenne Bice and Mackenzie Sledzewski.



Firemen Visit Spruce Elementary

Assistant Fire Chief, Tom Croop, and his helper, Officer Chris, visited Spruce Elementary to discuss fire safety with the kindergarteners, first, second and third graders. Included in the discussion was how to be safe at home when around stoves and other electrical appliances. Chief Tom answered questions and provided everyone with their own fire hat.





Local Companies Provide Outstanding Internship Programs

The Academy of Engineering and Architecture require our students to participate in a 55 hour unpaid internship through the CEIP (Career Exploration Internship Program) class. The students choose which career path they are more interested in. Some select Architecture and some prefer Engineering. Listed below are the students we had this past year fulfill their requirements during the summer:

Michael Sass – MultiSorb Technologies
 Zachary Nolan – Kideney Architects
 Cara Porto – TRM Architects
 Maya Welch – Cannon Design
 Travis Sikora – North Tonawanda City Engineers Department
 Curtis Swan – Uniland
 Ben Stonish – DRF Design Architecture
 Elise Wilcocks – Aquasol
 Joshua Braymiller – Aero Instruments



Establishments partnered with in the past include Taylor Devices, Industrial Tool Sharpening Co., Wendel Duchscherer Architects, IBC Engineers, Joy Kuebler Landscape Architects, ITEK and Quad-B Systems. This opportunity is extremely valuable as the students experience real work applications.

Emergency Information

Radio Stations	Television Stations:
WGR 550 AM	WGRZ Channel 2
WBEN 930 AM	WIVB Channel 4
WNED 970 AM	WKBW Channel 7
WECK 1230 AM	YNN Channel 9
WBUF 92.9 FM	Emergency Informational
WBLK 93.7 FM	Websites:
WJYE 96.1 FM	Criminaljustice.state.ny.us
WKSE 98.5 FM	Redcross.org
WYRK 106.5 FM	Ferma.gov
WGRF 97 Rock 96.9 FM	
WEDG The EDGE 103.3 FM	
WHTT Oldies 104 104.1 FM	
WTSS - Star 102.5	



Global Connect

The North Tonawanda City School District uses "Global Connect" to contact parents when schools will be closed. If your phone number changes, it is very important that you inform the office at your child's school as soon as possible. School closings will be broadcast on television and radio stations.

You can also check our Web site for more information at www.ntschoools.org.

Ohio School Welcomes Multi-Cultural Community

The closing of Gilmore Elementary School has brought a positive addition to the Ohio School Community. Students who speak languages as diverse as Turkish, Chinese, and Farsi at home receive extra English language instruction to improve their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This is done through the English as a second language (ESL) program which is now facilitated at Ohio Elementary.

The ESL program is designed to supplement and support a student's classroom curriculum and instruction. All instruction in the ESL program is provided in English, not in a student's native language as is the case in a bilingual education program. The aim of the program is to help ESL students perform as well as their English only speaking classmates.

"Thanks to ESL, I learned a lot, how to read and how to write. I didn't know any English when I got here" said Darina Shishkina, a fifth grader who moved to the United States from Kazakhstan three years ago. "One day I want to be a teacher."



Pictured L to R are Vitaliy Gargun, Angeliqua Panasyuk, Cody Lin & Ignat Fadiev



NT SPIRIT



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DIRECTORY INFORMATION OPT OUT REQUEST

I am exercising my rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, to hereby request that all directory information of my child not be released. We acknowledge that such directory information will not be published in any form including District publications, such as playbills, yearbooks, websites, newsletters, newspapers, etc.

Print name of parent or legal guardian: _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian: _____

Signature of student (if 18 or older): _____

Name of student(s) and school(s): _____

NOTE: Please list the first and last name of each student for whom you are authorizing to opt-out of the district directory information.

Please return this form by November 19th to the following address: Administration Building, Educational Services Department, 175 Humphrey Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

North Tonawanda City School District
175 Humphrey Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
807-3500

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www.ntschoools.org