

North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission

Empower students to reach their fullest potential by cultivating a community of life-long learners who think critically about the world around them.

Vision

Students reach their academic and social emotional goals through an inclusive learning environment.

Our Values

- Perseverance
- Confidence
- Community
- Empathy
- Knowledge
- Inclusion

Voter Qualifications

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

Message from your

Board of Education President - Matthew Kennedy

As we approach the end of the school year and prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, I would like to share some important updates about our school district. Developing our budget has been particularly challenging this year due to a significant reduction in state funding for building aid, amounting to \$2.2 million, along with the rising costs of health insurance and benefits. Despite these obstacles, we remain committed to aligning our building staffing with our current student enrollment and maintaining all program that enriches our students' education.



We are excited to announce that the capital project, which received community voter approval in 2024, has been revised to start earlier and will begin construction this summer. This project will undoubtedly improve and enhance our school facilities, benefiting both our students and staff.

Safety remains a top priority for our district. The district continues implementing new protocols, social-emotional programming, and mental health support, alongside our School Resource Officers. These measures are crucial to maintaining a secure and safe learning environment for our students.

Looking ahead to the next school year, the proposed budget includes several important initiatives: playground fencing and decreasing the radius used for bussing middle and high school students by a quarter of a mile, allowing more students access to transportation.

I urge you to come out on May 20th to support your schools and exercise your right to vote. Your participation is vital as we continue to strive for excellence in education and community engagement.

Matthew Kennedy, President
North Tonawanda City Schools
Board of Education



Budget Vote and Board Election
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
405 Meadow Drive - Fine Arts Center



NTMS Mural Project



In 2023 the Remember Ryan Foundation gifted the NTMS Visual Arts program a portable Walker Hanging system that allows students artwork to be displayed throughout the entire building. In March, teachers were asked to bring their own art creations to be displayed in celebration of Fine Arts in our Schools month.

This year, thanks to the generosity of the Remember Ryan Foundation, North Tonawanda Middle School is getting a little color added to its hallways. Early in the fall, Visual Arts educator John Szablewski, applied for a grant through the foundation that would allow for 11 murals to be created. “We want our students to have the opportunity to create art that they can see displayed in their school community,” says Szablewski.

Partnering with Marissa Bannister, the Middle School’s other Visual Arts educator, art classes are designing and painting murals that will be gifted to each team (Orion, Aries, Phoenix & Draco) along with each exploratory class (Art, Music, FACS, Tech, PE & Health).

Students had the opportunity to learn various processes when it comes to painting, along with acting as designers and pitching their designs. Students were also given a great experience of collaborating with their peers to see the project through to completion.

The murals will be completed by the end of this school year, and are slated to be displayed around the Middle School building later this spring or early this fall. This is just another initiative by the Middle School Visual Arts educators to beautify the atmosphere in the building.

Be sure to check out the murals once they are on display!

Ohio Elementary Counselors Celebrate Autism Acceptance Month



The counseling staff at Ohio Elementary embraced celebrating and honoring the experiences and identities of Autistic individuals during the month of April. Their goal is to emphasize understanding inclusion and support for not only the school’s autism classrooms, but universally.

Throughout the week of April 7th-11th the counseling staff read books to the students that educated them about autism to help them appreciate diversity and acceptance.

In the picture, social worker Molly Wade is reading to Mrs. Short’s kindergarten class “Stacy the Shark” written by Shelly Weiss, Ed.S, LMHC, CRC. The book explains the medical condition in a kid-friendly language and hopes to demystify perceived differences to readers so they can comfortably and freely interact with others who are unlike themselves without fearing the unknown.

Little Reading Buddies Program Begins at Ohio Elementary

Ohio Elementary teacher, Lisa Trimboli, is excited to share that they have started a Little Reading Buddies program on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. “Little Reading Buddies is a program where our third graders, along with our wonderful teacher aide, Mrs. Kolbe, buddy-up with our kindergarteners to help them practice their reading and early literacy skills.”

Ms. Trimboli says the students enjoy playing early literacy games, reading books together and practicing letter identification. The program has proven to be beneficial to both our kindergarteners and third graders!



Ohio Elementary Shows Support for Individuals with Autism

By: Joanna Fiorella, Special Education Teacher

In a heartwarming initiative to promote understanding and acceptance of autism, our school hosted a two week-long celebration dedicated to raising awareness among students and staff. This special event aimed to create a more inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and understood.



Ohio Elementary self-contained teachers and various related service providers put together a celebration to educate, celebrate, and accept. Over the course of the two weeks, kicking off with educational sessions in the classrooms, students all around the K-3 building engaged in activities designed to foster empathy and knowledge about autism. These sessions included interactive discussions, read aloud stories based on children with autism, and hands-on activities that allowed students to experience and appreciate the unique perspectives of their peers.

As the week progressed, excitement built toward a vibrant parade and school spirit week, where students showcased their creativity and spirit, creating an opportunity for students to express themselves and share their talents with the entire school community. The celebration also featured a lively party filled with fun activities, games, and items that reflect the diverse interests of our students, ensuring that everyone feels included and valued. From photo booths, to awards, to music, there was something for all of our students to enjoy.

This two week event not only highlighted the importance of acceptance, but also strengthens our community by celebrating the unique qualities that each individual brings to our school. It serves as a reminder that understanding and kindness can create a supportive environment for all. We invited everyone to join us in this joyful celebration of autism acceptance, as we came together to learn, celebrate, and foster a sense of belonging for every student!



Spruce Shows Love for Four Legged Friends



Olivia and Greyson pet one of the dogs.

Spruce Elementary has partnered with the SPCA's Paws for Love program for the 2024-2025 school year.

Once a month, SPCA volunteers bring their certified animals in to read with the students, providing a fun and relaxing experience for our little Jacks. Therapy animals help many of us center ourselves and de-stress, tying nicely into the SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) goals for our school.



Hazel, Bryce, Miles, Michael, Elliot and McKenzie with one of the dogs.

NTI Invention Convention

Students in Mrs. Emily Colletta's Gifted and Talented program at NTI showed off their creativity, talent and hard work at the NTI Invention Convention. By participating, students were able to learn and strengthen their creative and critical thinking skills. In addition, they practiced time management, organization and collaboration.



"They each did an amazing job of brainstorming solutions to problems and then designing and building prototypes of those solutions," says Mrs. Colletta. "In the end, they learned about effective and informative communication using display board designs and in-person public speaking while presenting their projects. Each inventor should be very proud of all of their efforts. Their level of focus, imagination and hard work was very impressive. We cannot wait to see all of the great things they come up with next year!"

Lumberjack Alumni Graduate from Law Enforcement Academy

Five former North Tonawanda CSD graduates were honored at the 83rd Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy Graduation Ceremony as they start their careers in law enforcement!

As teachers and administrators, we don't always get a chance to see the success our students have after they leave our school. Each has proudly represented our Lumberjack family!



(LtoR) Riley Wisniewski (Niagara County Sheriff's Office), Zachary Krathaus (Niagara County Sheriff's Office), Haylei Till (Town of Niagara Police Department), Evan Volmrach (Town of Niagara Police Department) and Noah Fox (North Tonawanda Police Department).

Middle Schoolers Learn About CTE Programs at ON BOCES

Did you know that most experts think that middle school is the best time for students to discover their passions, interests and possible careers?

Niagara Career and Technical Education Center's Work Based Learning Coordinator, Lori Graves, staff and CTE students were more than happy to share information about our career and technical education center programs with NTMS 8th graders at a recent visit.

It was a great visit and wonderful to see how passionate some of our seniors are about their programs and future plans!



North Tonawanda senior David Wittcop talks to eighth graders about Animal Science program.

Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle Will Fund NTI Clubs



(LtoR) Mr. Genco, Mrs. Knight, Miss Poirier and Mr. Christman preparing dinner.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and participated in NTI's spaghetti dinner and basket raffle at the end of January!

The \$1,840 raised will be divided evenly between seven clubs: Spirit, Art, Gaming, Garden, Culture, Council and Announcements. "The spaghetti dinner is an annual event to help fundraise for our clubs here at NTI," explains 6th grade teacher Gabrielle Miranda. "All the students who worked the event are our NTI Club members!"

The school would like to thank all the people who made that evening possible: Club advisors Mr. Genco (Garden Club), Mrs. Colletta (Garden Club and Announcements Club), Mr. Christman (Announcements Club), Miss Poirier (Culture Club), Miss Helfman (Council Club and Spirit Club), Miss Miranda (Spirit Club), Mrs. Knight (Art Club), Mrs. Hall (Gaming Club) and Mrs. Hodgson (Gaming Club). Frank Strangio (owner of Antonio's Banquets), who donated the sauce, Pane's Restaurant who donated the bread, Black & Blue who donated the salad, the Hideaway Grille who donated the butter, Karen Anderson (Owner of Sprinkle Street Cupcakes and a former NTI teacher) who donated cupcakes and our amazing staff and teachers who donated the spaghetti, napkins, utensils, etc.!

It was a wonderful evening and so many students will benefit from everyone's generosity and support!



Fourth grader Chloe Binner and fifth grader Gi-anna Naples who helped serve dinner.



Fourth grader Miles Cress helping to set up the basket raffle.

NTMS Student Wins Second Place in Art Competition



Eighth grader Grace Gabel can add another honor to her resume. The Middle School artist came in second place during the 2025 Erie 1 BOCES Student Artmaking Competition at Villa Maria College this January.

Students from all over WNY participated in a day-long celebration of the visual arts. Students were given a prompt and allotted two hours to create an artpiece that was later judged by local artists and educators.

As members of the Erie 1 BOCES Visual Arts Consortium, in 2024 Visual Art Educators Mrs. McAndrew, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Bannister, and Mr. Szablewski helped create this competition with other area educators.

Grace took home a gift card for new art supplies, a commemorative certificate of achievement and memories that will last a lifetime. Congratulations Grace!

Light and Sound Science Experiments Engage First Graders



The Ohio Elementary first graders in Mrs. Reszczenski and Mrs. Kiedrowski's class conducted science experiments with light and sound.

The students worked together to explore how vibrations translate to sound and learned key vocabulary words such as opaque, translucent, and transparent. They also observed the refraction of light through a prism.



Football Players Have Signing Day

We could not be more proud of the four NT Lumberjack football players who made a commitment to pursue a higher education while playing a collegiate sport at their school.

Congratulations to our scholar/athletes: Jacob Smith, who will be at Alfred University studying Biology with goals of becoming a Physician Assistant, Mitchell Sayeta, who committed to Buffalo State studying Physics for Engineering, Aiden Harrigan, attending Buffalo State studying Psychology to become a Pediatric Psychologist and Christian Earnst also committing to Buffalo State to study Psychology and Criminal Justice with career goal of law enforcement.



Back Row (LtoR): Football Coaches Derek Anthony, Chris Tideswell (Head Coach) and Chris Reimer. Front Row (LtoR): Jacob Smith, Mitchell Sayeta, Aiden Harrigan and Christian Earnst.

Spruce Counseling Team Instills Kindness and Belonging into Classes

Spruce Elementary has had so many great opportunities in order to create a sense of belongingness and instill kindness in their students.

Counselor Chris Zon and Social Worker Amy Gorman say, "Social emotional learning is more important now than ever, all the lessons we do helps kids to learn important concepts which help them to grow. Our social emotional learning lessons focus on mindfulness, emotion identification, coping skills, friendship, kindness and so much more. All of which helps our students to focus and become better students, and eventually great members of our community."



North Tonawanda Student Spotlight Huge Success

Thanks to our talented Visual Art students and their amazing teachers: Marissa Bannister, Chris Cook, Christina Davis, Tyler Hendricks, Karen Knight, Hilary McAndrew, Ann Moscato, John Szablewski and Catherine Winston our Student Spotlight Opening Reception was amazing.

The Carnegie Art Center was packed with students and their families on March 12th who enjoyed roaming the gallery looking at paintings, photography, pottery and other artworks that our students and their teachers created throughout the year.

Student Spotlight is a yearly honors showcase that is a partnership between our school district and the Carnegie Art Center. It is presented as part of Arts in Our Schools month. The show featured works by selected students from all grade levels and also pieces created by the North Tonawanda City Schools Visual Arts Faculty.



Visual Art Teachers (Left to Right) Catherine Winston, Marissa Bannister, Karen Knight, Hilary McAndrew, Chris Cook, John Szablewski, Christina Davis, Ann Moscato and Tyler Hendricks.

Fantastic job everyone!

What is the NTHS Celebration of Champions?

By Bradley Rowles, High School Principal

Since I arrived back at NTHS, as the building principal in 2022, I started the tradition of the Celebration of Champions. Two times each school year, after the 1st and 2nd marking periods, hundreds of students celebrate their academic success in front of their peers and families. Since this program's inception, we have celebrated thousands of Lumberjacks succeeding in the classroom. Students who receive an 85% to 89.99% receive a merit roll certificate in their 1st period classes. Students who earn 90% or better are invited to the Celebration of Champions event held in our beautiful Fine Arts Center. This year alone, we recognized 310 merit roll earners and 803 honor roll students.

As I say to our students, "you have to be in it, to win it", attendance is the first step to success. With that being said, students are publicly acknowledged at each Celebration of Champions for their academic and attendance successes. Students with perfect attendance in either the 1st or 2nd marking periods are awarded a perfect attendance certificate, along with their Celebration of Champions certificate.

Last year, we began recognizing our top 10 students from the graduating class of 2024. The high school buys each student who earns Top 10 status, a leather bound portfolio and a pen engraved with "North Tonawanda Top 10". Our Student Council buys each Top 10 student a \$25.00 gift card to a local restaurant, just a small token of our appreciation for all of their hard work. Students earn Top 10 recognition by earning the top 10 grade point averages throughout their first 7 semesters for each graduating class.

Our Work Base Learning (WBL) students help to make breakfast desserts and drinks for this event. The WBL students also set up the Fine Arts Center Lobby with a small reception that is held after each Celebration of Champions.

The entire Lumberjack Family takes great pride in this event, in addition to the success of our students. As I welcome students through our main entrance each school day, many of these deserving students have their Celebration of Champions certificates on the outside of their binders, hang the certificates in select classrooms, and/or post pictures to their social media platforms.

Countless families have been able to join us in the Fine Arts Center to witness and participate in these proud moments. We also livestream our Celebrations of Champions for families who are unable to join us in person. It is vital, for the success of our program, and students that school and home build and maintain a strong supportive relationship.

At the beginning of each Celebration of Champions, I start with a simple activity that asks students to stand if they participate in one or numerous NTHS activities. These simple questions highlight how multi-talented and involved our students are. These students are working part-time, members of clubs and activities, student athletes, babysitters, community volunteers, etc. Yet they find time to succeed in the classroom, on the athletic field, stage, and countless other venues.

My hope is that more and more students will earn their place in our Celebration of Champion event.

Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday,
May 20th

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

405 Meadow Drive,
Fine Arts Center



NTI Students Really Shine at Community Event

North Tonawanda Intermediate students are “GLOWING” with creativity and letting their light shine.

On Wednesday, April 2nd, NTI hosted its annual “Student Led Night.” At this event, NTI’s 4th, 5th and 6th graders are given the opportunity to create a station of interest, and then present it to their peers. The stations included math, science, art and even some fun animal facts with real live animals.

Student presenters take on the responsibility of creating their own advertisements to hang around the school, they make informational posters to display at their station, and they are responsible for gathering/creating all the materials to run their station. The night of the event, the student presenters take the lead and share their projects. We had over 30 stations showcased this year. What a great way to have students shine at NTI!



Bunnies and Bookmarks Make a Fun Day for MS and Drake Students

Students from NT Middle School recently visited Drake Elementary to make a fun day for all our students.

In preparation for spring, the Middle School students along with their FACS (Family and Consumer Sciences) teacher Madison Fredrickson, completed an art project with the first graders of a cute bunny to bring home. The craft involved cutting out construction paper, coloring, painting and gluing.



As an added surprise, the Middle School FACS students sewed bookmarks that the 1st graders had previously designed and brought them to give as gifts to use as they pursue their reading adventures. “The reason that we chose to make bookmarks was because April 2nd was International Children’s Book Day,” explains Mrs. Fredrickson. “The students also read their favorite childhood book to the students in their classrooms.”

Principal Scott Mueller says, the students were excited once they were given back their bookmark designs which they created weeks earlier. It was heartwarming watching our older students interact and work with the smaller students. Everyone had a great time making new friends!

NTHS Drama Club Presents *Hadestown*

NTHS Drama Club students captivated audiences with their production of *Hadestown*, staged from March 6-8 at the NT Fine Arts Center. Students delivered a compelling rendition of the acclaimed Tony-award winning musical, reimagining the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice through a fusion of folk, jazz and blues to explore themes of love, fate and sacrifice. The performance shone brightly through its stellar cast – Cameron Trenchard mesmerized as the love-struck Orpheus, while Bella Orlowski delivered a heartbreaking portrayal of Eurydice. Cailee Cinquino brought energy and wit to the role of Hermes, guiding the narrative with charm and charisma. Mason Crago's formidable interpretation of Hades paired with Macy Gabel's nuanced depiction of Persephone added depth and complexity to the underworld drama. Equally compelling were the ethereal contributions of Alexis Broome, Emma Clancy, and CJ Ketterer-Beras as the Fates, whose haunting harmonies wove a mystical thread throughout the performance.



Cameron Trenchard (Orpheus) and Bella Orlowski (Eurydice).

The production not only highlighted individual brilliance but also showcased the collective creativity of North Tonawanda High School's Fine Arts Department. With innovative staging, evocative set design, and a dynamic musical score that blended contemporary jazz with folk influences, *Hadestown* brought ancient myth into a resonant modern context. The imaginative use of lighting and costumes enhanced the storytelling, transforming the stage into a realm where love, destiny, and sacrifice intertwined. This memorable performance stands as a testament to the school's artistic excellence and the enduring power of live theater to inspire and connect communities. Bravo to the entire cast, stage crew and pit of *Hadestown*!



Cailee Cinquino (Hermes) sings with Cameron Trenchard (Orpheus) and Bella Orlowski (Eurydice).

Family Fun Night



As part of Arts in Our Schools Month, the Carnegie Art Center hosted a Family Fun Night on March 20th where families attended to create art with our NT Visual Arts teachers, high school volunteer students and each other.

PAL Award Honorees

Congratulation to Our Lumberjack PAL Award Nominees for the 2024-2025 School Year who were recognized on March 30th!

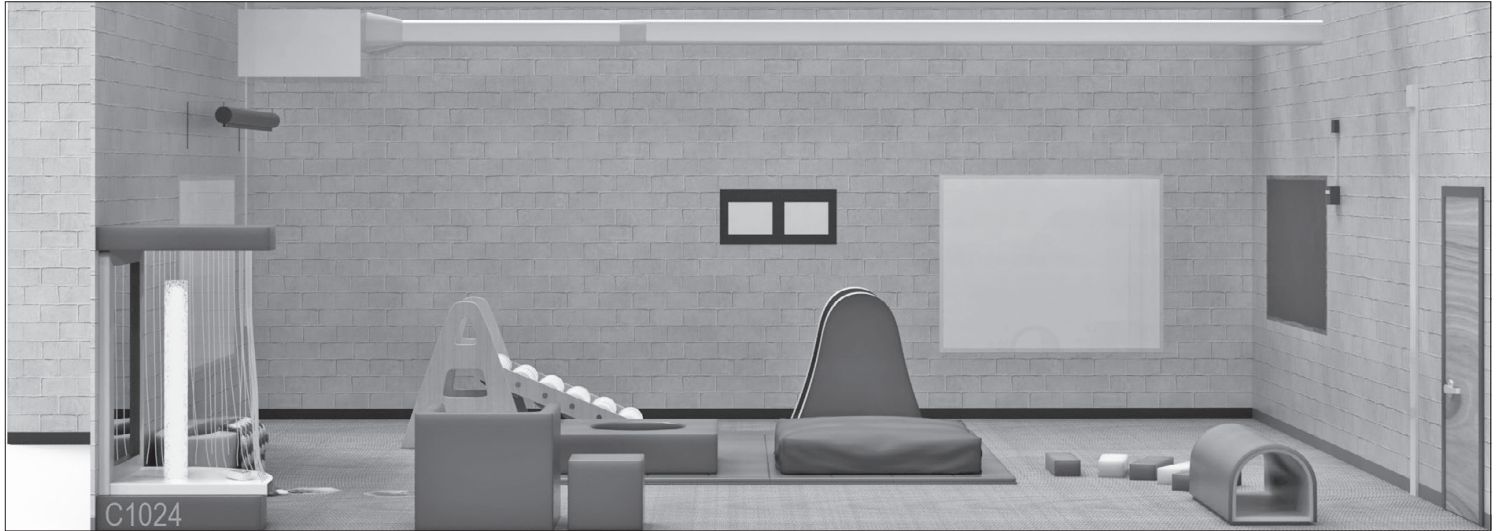
Niagara PAL (Police Athletic League) honors several local athletes and individuals associated with athletics on an annual basis who are nominated by teachers and coaches.

The Niagara Police Athletic League is a Juvenile Crime Prevention program that was created to better relations between police, citizens and community youth.



(LtoR back row) Jay Heuser (Volleyball, Basketball and Lacrosse), Mr. Gauld (Unified Coach) and Reagan Carney (Swimming, Unified Bowling Partner and Lacrosse). Front Row: Ava Whitmire (Unified Bowling and Basketball Athlete).

NTI Awarded Grant From PERMA for Sensory De-Escalation Room



The North Tonawanda Intermediate School recently received word that they have received a \$22,500 grant to furnish a sensory de-escalation room from PERMA (Public Employer Risk Management Association).

The grant states that, “The selection of sensory equipment is extremely important. It must match the needs of students in your building and the design must target the de-escalation of behaviors that can cause injury to staff.” The age of students at NTI are eight to twelve years old. Students who will primarily access the room will have classifications of intellectual disabilities, autism, spectrum disorder and emotionally disabilities. Other students who may use this on a less frequent basis include classifications of speech language impairment and learning disabilities. The goal is to deescalate and regulate injuries to prevent workplace injuries among staff (decrease in bites, scratches, elopement, kicks, etc.).

Angela M. Nagle, Ph.D., PERMA Schools Risk Management Specialist, saw the need for the school to have this facility. A retired Superintendent of Schools and Director of Pupil Personnel Services she says, “PERMA is the workers’ compensation carrier for North Tonawanda. PERMA provides worker’s compensation to school districts and BOCES across New York State. We have fabulous risk management services for schools. I visited and completed a site inspection of facilities in November and noticed the need for a sensory room while I was inspecting the buildings. Coincidentally, PERMA put out a Request For Proposal for competitive Sensory Room De-Escalation Grants among PERMA school members.”

NTCSD’s Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, Dr. Joshua Janese, coordinated and submitted a grant application and the District was awarded the grant to furnish a sensory room. He says the vendor, Fun and Function, worked with them to identify sensory items appropriate for the age and needs of the students. Elizabeth Petryk, the NTCSD Assistant Director of Special Education says, “As our district’s Special Education Department grows and begins to offer more in-district programs for students with disabilities, a sensory room can provide a much needed support to students who can quickly become overstimulated in a classroom setting. Our team has a strong focus on supporting students’ self-regulation and social-emotional development. By teaching students to recognize when they are becoming upset or uncomfortable in their environment and how to proactively utilize this space, we hope to create a safe and supportive environment for everyone. We designed this room with a designer from Fun and Function to include a variety of equipment, which can provide calming sensory input, such as compression or vibration, visual stimuli via a waterfall light feature, and overall relaxation with a variety of adaptive seating options.”

Dr. Nagle says that 66% of all workplace injuries in schools and BOCES across the United States are caused during interactions with students with special needs. In order to decrease workplace injuries. “It is important that teachers are trained and have resources available to de-escalate students should they become dysregulated during the school day. Sensory rooms are an effective tool to regulate all students that have difficulty during the course of a school day.”

Petryk says, “Our room design is awaiting final approval from PERMA and all equipment should arrive to NTI within about a month of the order being placed. Our hope is that the new sensory room is set up prior to NTI hosting our extended school year program for our students with disabilities. We are so excited and thankful to have been chosen for this opportunity. We know our students will greatly benefit from having this new space in their building.”

Reading Week Fosters Love of Books at Drake Elementary

March 10th -14th was Read Across America Week for Drake Elementary. Principal Scott Mueller and his staff had a great time coming up with events each day to promote reading awareness for their students.

Events included a book fair, a drop everything and read activity, a book exchange, a homeroom door decorating contest and mystery readers who came into the classrooms. Thanks to all our awesome volunteers from North Tonawanda City School District and the community for making the day so special for the kids! Student Gracie said she really enjoyed the Drop Everything and Read activity, "We all sat in the hallway or the gym and we got to read a lot. It was a lot of fun."

A real highlight was that the third graders participated in a virtual reading with author Kate DiCamillo on her much loved book "Because of Winn-Dixie." Student Nora says they loved getting to Zoom with the author. "She gave us some advice about writing and told us to keep following our dreams. She even gave us a book."

The students also took part in a book themed March Madness Bracket. "In the March Madness Reading Tournament the classes read books and then voted on their favorite to move on," explains Mueller. "Julius, Baby of the World was the winner and favorite book at Drake School for 2025!" "We read a lot of books and we all voted on them to be moved on to the next round," explains Addison. "We also had our door decorating contest and gave out awards for the classes with the best doors."

"It was an awesome week," says Mr. Mueller. "We had a great time and our Superintendent Dr. Jachlewski did his weekly video "Lumber Exchange" from our school and talked to some of our students of what made the week so special."



Lady Jacks Bowling Champs

Congratulations to the Girls' Varsity Bowling team as they competed at Sectionals on Monday, February 10th at Airport Lanes.

They placed 4th overall in their division and they were the first-place champions in Section VI Class B! Emma Snowman also came in 9th place out of 111 other bowlers with a six-game total of 1,218.



(LtoR) Mallory Berg, Allyson Royer, Sophia Haley, Jeanette Haley, Madison Swartz, Allison Cake, Emma Snowman and Coach Hannah Brocklehurst.

Spruce Elementary Unveils New Book Vending Machine

Spruce Elementary School is excited to announce its newest addition to their character education program; their very own book vending machine.

Students are now able to use the Spruce trees they earn for demonstrating positive character traits to purchase a book. It's a great way to encourage reading and reward positive behavior. We love watching these young readers grow!



PROPOSITION #1: VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2025-2026 school year in the amount of \$83,000,000 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources provided by law.

☐ Yes ☐ No

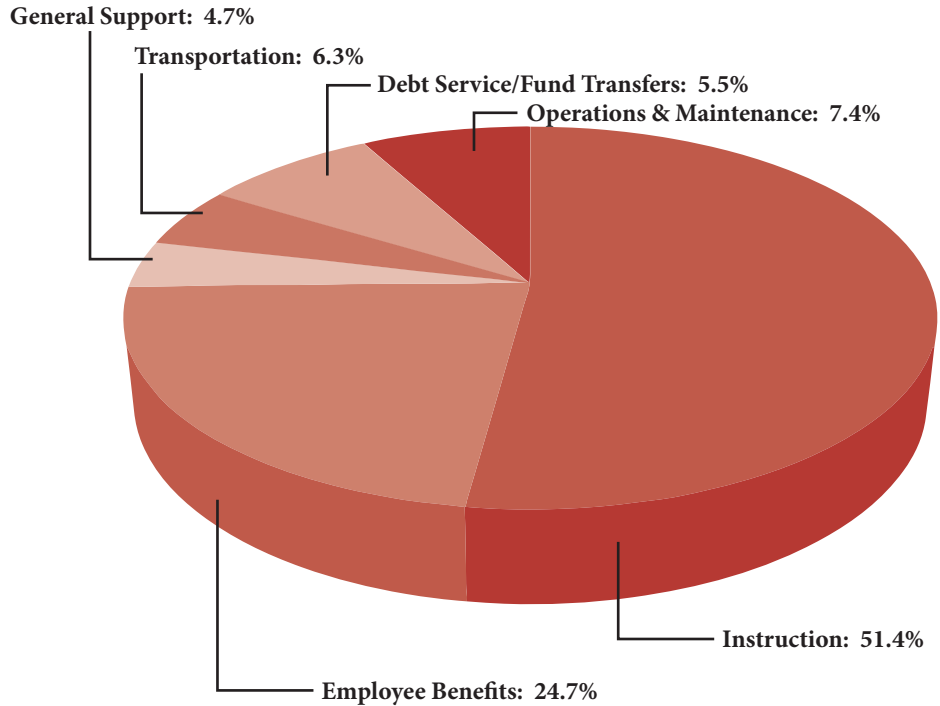
PROPOSITION #2: VOTE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of North Tonawanda, New York is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3751 of the Education Law of the State of New York; that the Fund shall be known as the "2025 Capital Improvements and Transportation Reserve Fund" of the District; that the Fund shall be established for the purposes of financing, in whole or in part, (A) the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, renovation, alteration and improvement of buildings, facilities, sites and real property by the District, or the District's share of the cost of any capital improvements undertaken by a BOCES, and (B) the acquisition of various school buses, school bus-type vans/minivans/suburbans, and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program of the district; that the ultimate amount of such Fund shall not be greater than \$15,000,000.

Transportation Capital Expenditure

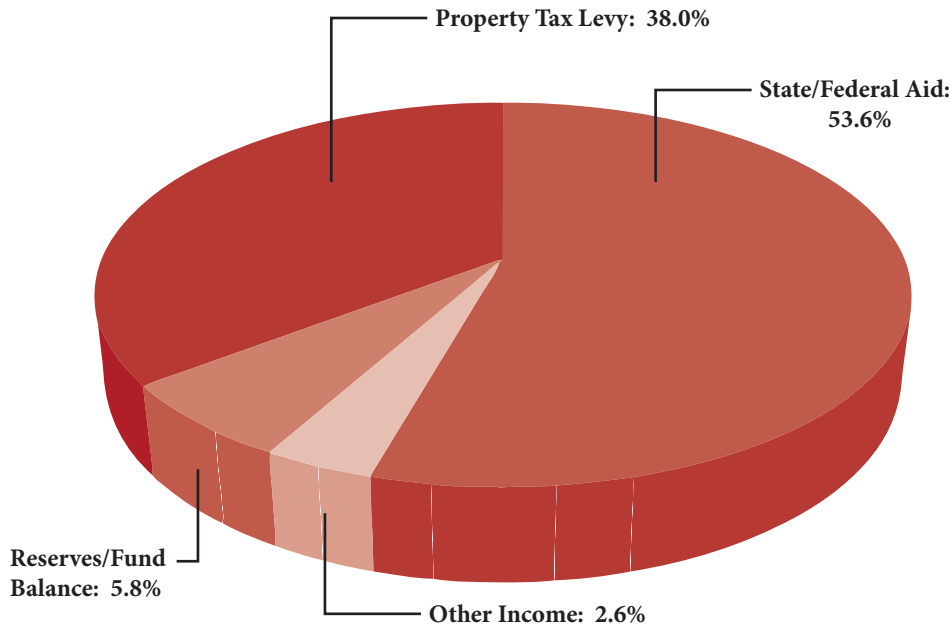
In the 2025-2026 budget year, the district is proposing to purchase three type "C" 65-passenger big buses for the purpose of transporting students as part of home to school and extra-curricular experiences in addition to three type "A" 30-passenger small buses for the purposes of transporting students as a part of the district's special education program. These vehicles will be replacing vehicles that will be retired from the current district fleet that are aging out. These purchases will be made on the basis of state contract and current market prices.

EXPENDITURES



	2024-2025	2025-2026	Percent Change from 2024-25
Instruction	\$42,119,349	\$42,609,391	1.16%
Includes: K-12 Instructional program, supervision, curriculum development, BOCES, Special Education programs, Occupational Education, Interscholastic Athletics, co-curricular programs, health services, library media, computer instruction, pupil personnel services.			
Employee Benefits	\$19,664,479	\$20,537,224	4.4%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, social security and worker's compensation.			
General Support	\$3,476,538	\$3,902,976	12.3%
Includes: Legal services, personnel, insurance, school board, refund on property tax, BOCES administrative charges, administrative and financial services, public information, central data processing and auditing.			
Transportation	\$5,188,478	\$5,203,000	0.3%
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
Debt Service/Fund Transfers	\$6,828,079	\$4,580,629	-32.9%
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, includes District's share of special education summer programs.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$6,233,077	\$6,166,780	-1.0%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$83,510,000	\$83,000,000	-0.6%

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2024-2025	2025-2026	Change from 2024-25
State/Federal Aid	\$46,264,128	\$44,503,541	(\$1,760,587)

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2025-2026 school year, it is projected to be 53.6 % of all revenue. Last year it was 55.4%. Year over year and budget to budget this area of revenue has stayed relatively consistent. State and Federal Aid for 2025-2026 is anticipated to decrease due to a large cut in the District's Building Aid allocation which comes from New York State.

Other Income	\$965,872	\$2,121,953	\$1,156,081
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Any income received by the School District other than State and Federal Aid, Fund Balance or Tax Levy is included under this heading. Examples of other income would be: rentals, interest earnings, payments in lieu of taxes, refunds of prior year's expenses, gifts, fees, tax penalties, commissions and athletic event gate receipts.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$5,550,000	\$4,799,506	(\$750,494)
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Reserves: The District maintains Reserve Funds in accordance with guidelines established by the State of New York and adopted and accepted by the Board of Education. With the significant financial issues currently affecting districts across the State, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available. They have adopted a process which attempts to maintain quality programs while keeping the tax levy reasonable and within the Tax Cap threshold.

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

Tax Levy	\$30,730,000	\$31,575,000	\$845,000
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This is the amount to be raised through local property taxes. The Board of Education desires to keep any increases in the levy as low as possible. For the 2025-2026 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$845,000 which represents a 2.749% increase over the previous year. The District will be using \$1,299,506 in reserves to offset the loss of tax revenue to support the budget as a temporary measure to provide relief to taxpayers. The actual tax rate for each individual household is calculated using the district's total assessed property values which have not been finalized as of yet. The tax rate is projected to be \$24.06 per thousand dollars of assessed property value, a \$0.64 increase over 2024-2025. A house that has an assessed value of \$100,000 is projected to pay approximately \$64.17 more in 2025-2026.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$83,510,000	\$83,000,000	(\$510,000)
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\$100,000 Capital Outlay and Capital Improvement Projects

What is the capital outlay project that is included in the 2025-2026 school budget this year?

Capital outlay projects were established by NYSED Department of Facilities Planning as a method for districts to maintain facilities, make modest upgrades, and improvements of up to \$100,000 between larger capital projects. The most important aspect of these projects is that they will generate state aid for the school district to cover a portion of the cost of construction. In the past these necessary repairs and improvements would all be paid for through local funds as building repairs in the budget, or the district would relay repairs until the district could create a large capital project. Using capital outlay projects, the district pays approximately 18% of the cost; the state will provide aid for approximately 82% of the project costs. This allows the district to complete capital project work in our buildings with small local share impact to our taxpayers. In the 2025-2026 budget year the district is proposing to use these funds for the a construction/reconstruction project which would include, but not limited to, addressing elementary playground fencing.

Board of Education Candidates

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

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

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$83,510,000	\$83,000,000	\$82,155,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		(\$510,000)	(\$1,355,000)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		-0.61%	-1.65%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$30,730,000	\$31,575,000	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$ -	\$ -	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ -	\$ -	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$30,730,000	\$31,575,000	\$30,730,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$618,342	\$923,832	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$30,334,154	\$30,660,137	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$30,111,658	\$30,651,168	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$222,496	\$8,969	
Administrative Component	\$7,439,009	\$7,883,311	\$7,633,673
Program Component	\$60,781,374	\$62,122,259	\$62,866,897
Capital Component	\$15,289,617	\$12,994,430	\$11,654,430

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$845,000 reduced from student supplies and materials, equipment, nonessential maintenance, and non-instructional non-unionized salaries. Also, due to the contingency budget regulations, school facilities would not be available for public use at no cost.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$401.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held at the Fine Arts Center in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 11:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the North Tonawanda City School District, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 20, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. • 405 Meadow Drive - Fine Arts Center

NTI Students Attend NCMEA All County Band



Row 1: Addison Ward, Brody Swan, Finnian Wahl, Jack Wilson, Autumn Krantz, Liam Crossett

Row 2: Skylar Miller, Nathan Roberts, Mackenzie Formaniak, William Kearny, Charlotte Burns, Emmerson Hensler, Briella Burns, Julia Bidwell, Avery Scott, Jack Stahl, Simon Cicali, Kaylie Howitt

North Tonawanda Intermediate sent 18 students to participate in the 2025 NCMEA elementary All-County Band.

The students were selected through a competitive audition where they had to perform a solo, 3-7 scales, and a short sight-reading example. From there, the students received a score out of 100, and the top scores of the day made the all-county band. The students that were selected to participate traveled to Lewiston-Porter High School on February 28th/March 1st and rehearsed/performed with Niagara County's top band musicians in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. NTI's band teacher, Mr. Brandon Burgess, rehearsed and conducted the ensemble for the weekend, including their incredible concert for about 500 audience members! Congratulations to these outstanding musicians!

Spruce Scholars

Spruce Elementary School offered an exciting enrichment program this year. The students have been hard at work and learning how to use books and technology to become experts on their favorite topics and stories. Enrichment students get to work with the librarian from NTI, Mrs. Moore-Forzano, to develop digital literacy, critical thinking, and information organization skills.

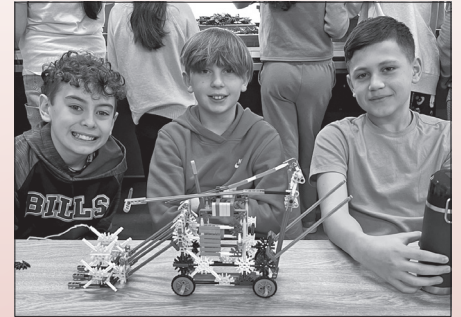
In this program, students learn how to utilize the library digital collection to find and locate books all on their own. They also gain access to various age-appropriate databases and learn the importance of finding quality, trusted information. At a time when digital literacy skills are critical, these students leave this program understanding the importance of checking information for accuracy and trustworthiness.

Students in grades 1-3 get to pick any topic they are interested in and learn how to find quality information on their own. They spend weeks researching and becoming experts on their topics, organize their findings, and then star in and design their very own green screen videos where they share all of their findings with the school! Students in Kindergarten get to learn advanced story components, and star in a green-screen video where they get to tell us all about their favorite stories!

These little researchers leave this program more than prepared for the level of research that will be expected of them at NTI, and with skills that will help them in every chapter of life after their education. We are so proud of our scholars.



STEM Opens Doors to Learning at NTI



The Miranda/Kendt team at North Tonawanda Intermediate School has been integrating STEM activities across the curriculum to enhance student learning throughout the school year.

Through engaging, hands-on experiences, students have explored various STEM concepts while deepening their understanding of core subjects. As part of their studies on the Stone Age, students learned about 3D printing and designed their own tools, bringing history to life through modern technology. In their exploration of natural disasters, they applied critical and creative thinking to develop board games that reflected their learning, culminating in an interactive session where they played each other's games. Additionally, students engineered and tested their own seismographs to measure simulated earthquakes, reinforcing their understanding of scientific principles.

To celebrate Thanksgiving, they designed and built their own parade floats and learned to code Spheros, creating a dynamic and interactive parade experience. These enriching STEM activities have provided students with opportunities to think critically, collaborate, and apply their learning in meaningful ways.



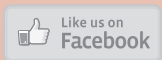


NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS
176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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www.ntschoools.org



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Spruce Girls Are on the Run!

Girls on the Run (GOTR) is back and bigger than ever! Spruce Elementary has the largest group of third grade runners for this season of GOTR than it ever has, and we could not be more excited," says School Counselor Christopher Zon. "The girls are running and ready to train and complete their 5K at the end of the season. GOTR of WNY is a great program that instills self-confidence, positive self-talk into students and promotes friendship, leadership and other positive social interactions."

A special thanks to coaches: Banks, Luparello, Gorman, Prechtel, Trimboli and Zon for helping our students take part in this widespread program!

