



FINE ARTS REVIEW



Pictured: Seniors **Bella Orłowski** as *Eurydice* and **Cameron Trenchard** as *Orpheus* with Ensemble members **Kayla Hume**, **Ally Ferro**, **Marissa Fiorentino** and **Lydia Reed**. *Hadestown* also starred **Cailee Cinquino** as *Hermes*, **Macy Gabel** as *Pesephone*, **Mason Crago** as *Hades* and **Alexis Broome**, **Emma Clancy** and **CJ Ketterer-Beras** as *The Fates*.

NTHS Drama Club visits Greek Mythology in “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. With a stunning set, intricate choreography and an exceptional cast, crew and orchestra, the full spectrum of the NT Fine Arts program was on display!

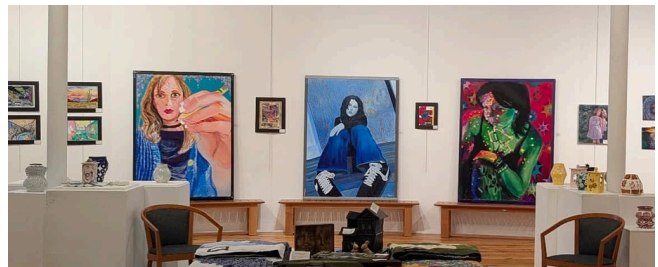
NT Hosts Niagara All-County Music Festival

North Tonawanda City Schools proudly hosted the Niagara County Music Educators’ Association (NCMEA) All-County Festival #1 on January 31 and February 1, 2025. This event brought together talented student musicians from across the county to perform in the All-County Intermediate Orchestra, Junior High Band, Senior High Jazz Ensemble and Senior High Chorus. The festival showcased the dedication and musical excellence of these young artist, highlighting the vibrant arts community in Niagara County. NTMS Band Director and NT Alumna **Mrs. Sarah Roberts** had the honor of conducting the Junior High Band!



NTI Art Alive Club Gets Ready for October Competition

Students in the NTI Art Alive Club are getting a head start on their Buffalo AKG Art Alive competition submission. This October students will compete against other schools in WNY for the best recreation of a work of art in the AKG collection. Mrs. Knight, visual arts educator at NTI, explains that the students chose to recreate George Segal's *Cinema*, 1963. In 2023 NTI won first place at the event.



Annual Student Spotlight Art Show held at Carnegie Art Center

Student artwork from grades K-12 was displayed for the annual Student Spotlight Art Show at the Carnegie Art Center. Over 300 people from the local community attended the March 12 opening reception. The month long celebration also included a Family Fun Night, which hosted free artmaking activities by the visual arts department. This annual event is a favorite amongst NT families.

2025 BEST Communities for MUSIC EDUCATION

Brought to you by The **NAMM** Foundation*

Proud BCME District

North Tonawanda named 2025 NAMM Foundation Best Community for Music Education

The North Tonawanda City School District is proud to announce that it has been designated as a **2025 Best Community for Music Education** by the **NAMM Foundation**. This national recognition is awarded to districts that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to providing comprehensive music education to all students. Selection as a BCME district reflects the school's sustained efforts to uphold high standards in music instruction, supported by dedicated educators, engaged students, and a community that values the arts as an essential component of a well-rounded education.

Congratulations to the students, teachers, administrators and community members who make North Tonawanda a Best Community for Music Education!



Three NTHS Students Selected for NYSSMA Conference All-State

Congratulations to NTHS Seniors **Isabella Orlowski**, **Cameron Trenchard** and **Cailee Cinquino** who were selected for the 2024 NYSSMA All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble! These fine young musicians traveled to Rochester in December for a weekend of music making under the direction of Dr. Carol Jacobs, vocal jazz pioneer and professor at Le Moyne College. This trio also had the honor of singing for lawmakers in Albany on March 3rd at the annual *Joe Sugar Day*. Bravo Bella, Cameron and Cailee!



Introducing Middle Mix at NTMS

Middle Mix is an after school vocal club open to 7th and 8th grade chorus students. The group meets every Friday after school to learn advanced music for concerts and other events. This year, the group has grown to over 40 members and performed at the December and March chorus concerts as well as the NT public library. Middle Mix will perform in the Pops concert on May 14 and the student recognition assembly at the end of the year. We have had a lot of fun with this group since the beginning of the year!



NTMS Mural Project takes shape in Visual Arts Classes

Thanks to the Remember Ryan Foundation’s generosity, the halls of NTMS are about to get much brighter! Mrs. Bannister’s & Mr. Szablewski’s visual arts classes are collaborating on creating a mural for each team, and each exploratory class. Students designed the murals as a group, and execute their creation. It is planned that murals will be placed in their display locations by the end of this school year.

NTMS Student Places in 2nd Place In Annual Student Artmaking Event

8th 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 that celebrated the visual arts. Students were given a prompt and were allotted two hours to create a work of art. The art was then judged by local artists and educators. Visual Art Educators Mrs. McAndrew, Mrs. Knight, Mrs. Bannister, and Mr. Szablewski helped create this competition with area educators in 2024, as members of the Erie 1 BOCES Visual Arts Consortium. Grace took home a giftcard for new art supplies, a commemorative certificate of achievement, and memories that will last a lifetime. Congratulations Grace!



Tri-M Music Honor Society Re-activated at NTHS

Tri-M Music Honor Society returned to NTHS this fall with the induction of 48 new members on October 18th. In a festive ceremony held in the Fine Arts Center, new inductees were honored for their outstanding musical achievements, exemplary academic records and emerging leadership skills. In the months since, Tri-M students have been busy volunteering at various Fine Arts events including concerts, theatrical performances, and the All-County Festival held at NT in late January.



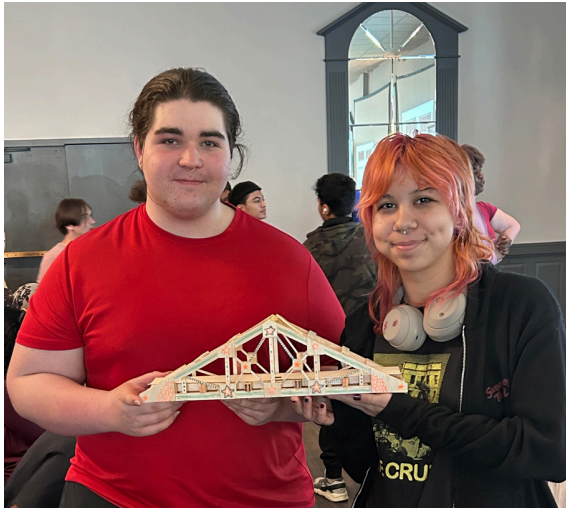
NTHS Jazz Students see Too Many Zoot at Springville Center for the Arts

To kick off National Jazz Appreciation Month, the North Tonawanda High School Jazz program travelled to the Springville Center for the Arts on April 4th to see the explosive energy of **Too Many Zoot** live in concert. Known for their unique “Brass House” style – a blend of jazz, EDM, and punk rock that evolved from their early days as New York City Subway buskers – the trio delivered a high-energy show that got students up on their feet! The performance and Q&A session left the young musicians inspired and buzzing with new ideas!



HS Students Place 2nd in the 1st Annual Erie 1 BOCES Clay Throwdown

Mrs. McAndrew and a group of ceramics students attended the first annual Erie 1 BOCES Clay Throwdown on a rainy May 22 at ArtPark in Lewiston. Students teamed up to compete against other schools in WNY in various clay challenges including throwing on a potters wheel, with hands, without hands, and even blindfolded. NTHS came in 2nd place in the competition out of 10 schools that competed. Congratulations to the HS ceramics department on this wonderful victory!



NT STUDENTS COMPETE IN BRIDGE DESIGN CONTEST

Students in the Academy of Engineering and Architecture recently competed against students from other schools in a Bridge Design contest. The competition is held every year at Classic V Restaurant in Amherst and is sponsored by the ABCD WNY Chapter of Civil Engineers. The competition has been held every year since 1983.

The students spent about five weeks researching, designing and building bridges out of balsa wood. Every bridge had to meet certain criteria such as length, height, width and only balsa wood could be used to build it. To determine the winners each bridge was weighed in grams and then put on a compression device that pulled down on the bridges roadbed to test its strength. It was an exciting completion, many of the bridges "blew up," as pieces of balsa broke off the bridges under the massive amounts of wood. A formula was used to determine the efficiencies of the bridge; weight of the bridge compared to the amount it can hold. There were bridges entered from 4 different schools with NT taking 2nd place with a bridge built by Senior **Kelsey Kustich**. Her bridge held 353 pounds but only weighed 140 grams. She won the competition 2 years ago!

Many other students in the Academy of Engineering and Architecture entered the contest and are already talking about next years' event and how they can improve their design.



Middle School Artwork featured in Erie 1 BOCES First Annual Arts Showcase



Students in Mr. Szablewski’s 8th Grade Studio in Art Class have the honor of having their artwork chosen for the 1st annual Erie 1 BOCES Arts Showcase. The event takes place on June 11 at Erie 1 BOCES in West Seneca. The students have the opportunity to have their work chosen to win an award. Liam McCarthy, Aurora Kothen, Chase Pytlik, and Skylar-Rose Smith (artworks displayed respectfully above) created self-portraits inspired by the work of artist Chuck Close. These portraits measure 12” x 36”. Let’s wish these students luck in the showcase!



Treble Tones Earns Silver at NYSSMA MAJORS

Congratulations to the North Tonawanda High School **Treble Tones** for earning Silver at the May 20th NYSSMA Major Organization Festival at Lockport High School! Treble Tones sang three selections including *La Li Ley*, *The Silver Swan* and *Oh! What A Beautiful City* for certified NYSSMA adjudicators and were evaluated on their outstanding musicianship and artistry! The success of this performance reflects months of dedication, teamwork and musical growth under the direction of Mr. Evan Bleiler. Bravo to Mr. Bleiler and the 2024-2025 Treble Tones!



Six NTHS Seniors Headed for College Music Majors

Congratulations to the **six** NTHS Seniors headed to College to study music this fall!

Top Row (left to right):

Aaron Niyirora – SUNY Fredonia, Music Therapy (Alto Saxophone); **Brooke Price** – SUNY Fredonia, Music Education (Flute); **Allan Briggs** – SUNY Fredonia, Music Education (Tuba).

Bottom Row (left to right):

Tavery Cater – SUNY Fredonia, Music Education (Voice); **Isabella Orlowski** – Roberts Wesleyan University, Music Education (Voice); **Alison Condino** – SUNY Fredonia, Music Education (Clarinet).



NTMS Drama Club Premieres New Musical "Dot & the Kangaroo JR"

In December, NTMS premiered the brand-new musical, *Dot & the Kangaroo Jr* for WNY audiences. In this show, young, rambunctious Dot longs for an adventure exploring everything the country has to offer. When she finds herself lost and afraid in the darkening Australian bush, Dot befriends a wise mother Kangaroo who enlists the help of Australia's favorite bush creatures to help Dot find her way back home.

The production was a special one not only due to the addition of several new tech elements such as digital projections, but because the composer, Dan Mertzluft, is a WNY native. The cast participated in a virtual workshop where they performed scenes from the show and received feedback first-hand from Dan himself. With lots of laughs along the way, it was truly an unforgettable experience that proved to be invaluable to the rehearsal process. The whole cast and crew dedicated months of hard work toward creating something truly bigger than themselves and it showed.



NTMS 8th Grader wins 2025 Buffalo News Editorial Cartoon Contest

8th Grader Grace Gabel has been named a winner of the 2025 Buffalo News Editorial Cartoon contest! This is the fourth year in a row that Grace has placed in this competition. Each year Adam Zyglis, the Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist, judges cartoons that have been submitted by students from all over Western New York. Grace has exemplified a great perspective in her submissions, along with humor and satire. Grace will be honored on June 23, at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site.

NTHS Jazz Ensemble Performs at Niawanda Park Band Shell



The NTHS Jazz Ensemble joined Jazz Bands from Kenmore East, Kenmore West and Tonawanda High Schools to perform at the Niawanda Park Band Shell on Sunday May 31st. Their set consisted of five tunes including *Tank*, *Buckjump*, and *Moanin'* and featured guitarist **Arden Kruger** on *Welcome to the Jungle* and vocalist **Mason Crago** on *How High the Moon*. The performance showcased numerous instrumentalists on improvised solos including **Dani Ulicny** (Baritone Saxophone), **Jackson Widener** (Trombone), **Meredith Roberts** (Alto Saxophone) and **Mason Crago** (Trumpet). Bravo to the NTHS Jazz Ensemble!



NTHS Chorus Presents 29th Annual Cabaret

Students in the NTHS Chorus Program presented the **29th Annual NTHS Cabaret** on June 5th and 6th in the NTHS Fine Arts Center. In a dramatic break from tradition, this year's theme was "No Theme". Students were tasked with finding the best song to showcase their solo or group act, regardless of content, subject or style. Students did not disappoint, and gave exciting performances that drew from theater, pop, folk, rock, and more! There was even an epic lightsaber battle!

Alumni: mark your calendars the **30th Anniversary Cabaret Performance** which will be staged on May 28-29, 2026. Stay tuned for details regarding opportunities to participate and celebrate 30 years of Cabaret!



NTI Band Students Selected for NCMEA All-County Band

North Tonawanda Intermediate sent 18 students to participate in the 2025 NCMEA Elementary All-County Band. Students were selected through a competitive audition which requires performance of 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 and March 1st to rehearse and perform with Niagara County's top band musicians in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade. NTI's band teacher, Mr. Burgess, rehearsed and conducted the ensemble for the weekend, including their incredible concert for about 500 audience members! Congratulations to these outstanding musicians!



Music Honors: '24-'25 Festival Season

This year was a record-breaking one for the North Tonawanda Music Program, with an unprecedented number of student acceptances into prestigious music honor festivals. A remarkable **123 students** were selected for the NCMEA All-County Festivals, while **51 students** earned spots in the NYSSMA Zone 1 Area All-State ensembles. Additionally, **3 exceptional students** were chosen for the highly competitive NYSSMA Conference All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Congratulations to all these fantastic young musicians!



NYSSMA Conf. All-State

Vocal Jazz Ensemble:

Cailee Cinquino
Isabella Orlowski
Cameron Trenchard

NYSSMA Area All-State

Senior High Mixed

Chorus:

Joselyn Bird
Emma Clancy
Mason Crago
Macy Gabel
Derek Keenan
Isabella Orlowski
Brooke Price
Madelyn Samsel
Madison Swartz
David Wittcop

Senior High Treble

Chorus:

Milene Alriche
Amelia Cabantog
Tavery Cater
Cailee Cinquino
Marissa Fiorentino
CJ Ketterer-Beras
Lydia Reed

Senior High Band:

Astrid DeMart
Jackson Randles
Jason Ruisi

Junior High Jazz

Ensemble:

Janice Hanna

NYSSMA Area All-State

Junior High Mixed

Chorus:

Caden Beamer
Kylie Bird
Noah Borzellere
Emily Dobbs
Grace Gabel
Kayle Hume
Stone Kozlowski
Ella Neal
Samuel Magrum-Rhode
Haydee Moore
Liam Roe
Josiah Small
Eva Young

Junior High Treble

Chorus:

Lillian Bozek
Allison Burrow
Lennea Caccamise
Rebecca Deschamps
Ashlyn Gabel
Lauren Mercado-Nicpun
Alison Royer
Rylee Weber

Junior High Band:

Jacquelyn Benjamin
Alaina Dickey
Brendan Dickey
Piper Haskell
Matthew Pawlak
Sophie Stimson
Lily Sack
Natalie Valint

NCMEA All-County

Senior High Band:

Allan Briggs
Luke Caskie
Alison Condino
Nora Davidson
Astrid DeMart
Kelsey DeMart
Owen Denniston
Joel Fesmire
Marissa Fiorentino
Dylan Glass
Sophia Haley
Avery Janowsky
Zachary Keiffer
Simon McCarthy
Florence Pallotta
Brooke Price
Jackson Randles
Meredith Roberts
Jason Ruisi
Madelyn Samsel
Cameron Trenchard
Ava Ward
Jackson Widener

Elementary Chorus

Valerie Bozek
Mackenzie Grochala
Kaylie Howitt
Maddy Knoell
Autumn Krantz
Cora McMaster
Aida Numan
Emerson Roe

NCMEA All-County:

Senior High Chorus:

Jacob Burrow
Amelia Cabantog
Tavery Cater
Emma Clancy
Amelia Cicali
Mason Crago
Marissa Fiorentino
Macy Gabel
Derek Keenan
Elayana Mack
Isabella Orlowski
Anthony Pecoraro
Brooke Price
Lydia Reed
Jason Ruisi
Madelyn Samsel
Eleanor Stevens
Cameron Trenchard

Senior High Vocal

Jazz:

Mason Crago
Marissa Fiorentino
Macy Gabel
Isabella Orlowski
Cameron Trenchard

Junior High Jazz

Band:

Jacquelyn Benjamin
Miranda Darone
Brendan Dickey
Sophie Stimson
Jeffrey Soos
Zachary Zelasko

NCMEA All-County:

Junior High Chorus:

Nathaniel Border
Lillian Bozek
Allison Burrow
Xavier Deschamps
Alaina Dickey
Ashlyn Gabel
Grace Gabel
Piper Gabel
Kayla Hume
Stone Kozlowski
Lauren Mercado-Nicpun
Nicpun
Haydee Moore
Kendall Murray
Ella Neal
Liam Roe
Rylee Weber
Sophia Wittcop

Elementary Band:

Julia Bidwell
Simon Cicali
Liam Crossett
Mackenzie Formaniak
Emmerson Hensler
Kaylie Howitt
William Kearney
Autumn Krantz
Skylar Miller
Nathan Roberts
Avery Scott
Jack Stahl
Brody Swan
Finnian Wahl
Addison Ward
Jack Wilson

NCMEA All-County:

Junior High Band:

Jacquelyn Benjamin
Lamia Boutakhoust
Zophia Cyphers
Miranda Darone
Lily Day
Alaina Dickey
Ashlyn Gabel
Lincoln Gampp
Jeanette Haley
Piper Haskell
Abigail Laski
Logan McQuiggin
Roman Meyer
Matthew Pawlak
Corbin Reed
Liam Roe
Ava Ruisi
Lily Sack
Jeffrey Soos
Kathryn Steele
Sophie Stimson
Sienna Swain
Natalie Valint

Senior High Jazz Band:

Astrid DeMart
Arden Kruger



National Association
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