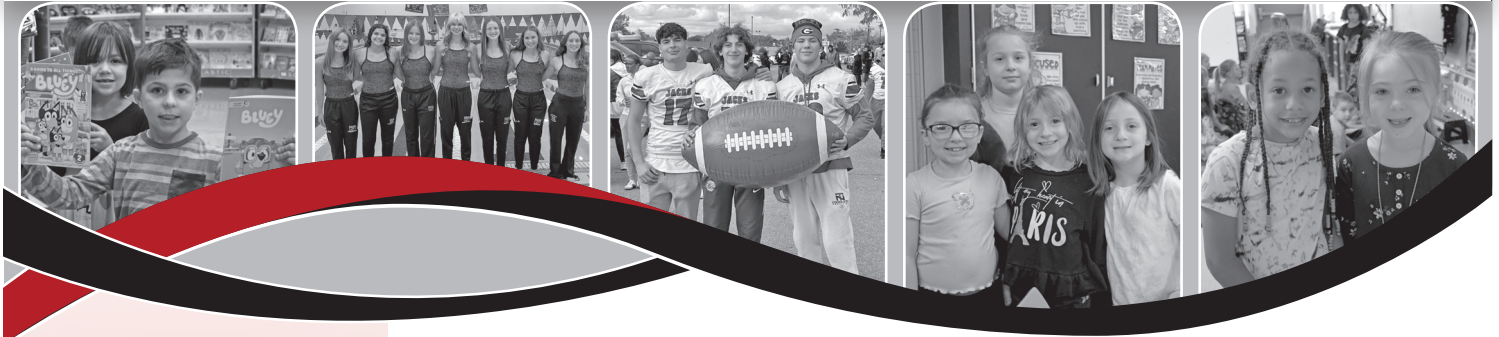


North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission

Empower students to reach their fullest potential by cultivating a community of lifelong 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

Superintendent's Message

Dear Lumberjack Community,

As we approach the holiday season, I would like to take a moment to share some important updates on our schools, and reflect upon our community.

One of our top priorities this year is student attendance. Currently, our district attendance rate is just over 92%, and while that's good, we know we can do even better. Our goal is to reach 95% or higher, because consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in student success. When families ask how they can support their children—especially those in middle and high school—my answer is simple: make sure they are in school every day. Every day matters.

We have so much to be proud of in North Tonawanda. Our classrooms are filled with engaging opportunities for learning and growth. Our sports programs are excelling, with student-athletes demonstrating incredible dedication and teamwork. Lastly, arts and music programs continue to inspire creativity and excellence. At NTCSD we offer a wide range of extracurricular activities to help students discover their passions and build lifelong skills.

What truly sets NT apart is our community spirit! Time and again, we see neighbors come together in times of need—whether it's supporting a family facing health challenges or rallying after a tragedy like a fire. We may have our differences, but when it matters most, North Tonawanda stands united. That is something special, and it's what makes this community such a wonderful place to live and learn.

As we celebrate this holiday season, I wish you and your family peace, joy, and good health. And if you can, take a moment to do something kind for a neighbor. Small acts of kindness make a big difference and remind us of the strength we have when we care for one another.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and schools. Together, we are building a stronger future for North Tonawanda.

Warm regards,
Dr. Jeffrey Jachlewski



Matilda The Musical Wows Audience

Our talented NT Middle School students put on an amazing performance of Matilda Jr. the Musical! The story follows a young girl named Matilda who uses her witty intelligence and magical powers to overcome her neglectful parents and tyrannical headmistress. Congratulations to the cast, you were outstanding!



Welcome Back!

Welcome back Jacks!

Superintendent Dr. Jeff Jachlewski, members of his administration team, and Board of Education members Matthew Kennedy and Stephanie Emiliani toured the campus to welcome back and wish everyone a great school year!



Trunk or Treat!



Ohio Elementary's self-contained classroom families teamed up and transformed their vehicle trunks into a vibrant Candy Land theme for a special Trunk or Treat event that was held on Friday, October 17th, showcasing the power of inclusion and community.

The theme came to life with colorful decorations, imaginative costumes, and a joyful atmosphere that celebrated the spirit of Halloween. The event was a resounding success, as all participants came together to share laughter, treats, and unforgettable moments. The three classes, Miss Fiorella's, Mrs. Maciejewski, and Ms. Carey's took first place for their outstanding display. As a reward, the students enjoyed a delightful donuts and cider party. This event highlighted the importance of creating inclusive environments where every child feels valued, celebrated, and empowered to shine.



Careers in Motion



Ohio Elementary School Counselor, Nathan Schelble collaborated with local community organizations to provide a unique experience for the students. “We had done a Careers in Motion event several years ago and it was a huge success,” he explains. “I thought it would be a lot of fun to bring it back. Our students had a blast!”

Members from the North Tonawanda Department of Public Works, North Tonawanda Police Department - including the K-9 Police, Twin Cities Ambulance, North Tonawanda Parks and Recreation and the North Tonawanda Post Office gathered together in the Ohio Elementary bus loop for this event. Each class took turns exploring the vehicles and talking to the employees about their job. It definitely got their wheels spinning with ideas of jobs they could apply for some day!



A Very Special Thank You

Thank you everyone for all the Lumberjack love and support you’ve shown me and my family during my health crisis of acute onset liver failure. This transplant journey is one that we never wanted to take, but, thanks to all of you, we never felt alone. Once I am discharged in a few weeks, we will be in Pittsburgh likely through February so that I can stay close to my transplant team for frequent monitoring and checkups. Thanks again for all the prayers!

~ Meredith Roberts



Talented Spruce Students

A huge shout-out to Spruce Elementary students: Brooklyn, Asher, Grace, Maizie and Everly for showcasing their incredible talents at the Board of Education Meeting on November 5th!

From singing and poetry to playing the ocarina, their performances were truly inspiring! Congratulations, we are so proud of you all!



Spooky Spruce!

Our Spruce students pulled out all the stops to have a fun and festive Halloween!



Farmer's Market Visit

NTMS took full advantage of the beautiful weather this past October by visiting the North Tonawanda Farmer's Market.

Our seventh-grade students from both teams walked around talking to vendors and purchasing goods to support our local community. North Tonawanda is very fortunate to have such an amazing market in our backyard.



Draw Your Destiny

On October 9th, Drake Elementary students gathered together as a school for a very special assembly called "Draw Your Destiny".

Professional cartoonist, Duane Able, talked to the students about the four key values of life: WORK, STUDY, LEARN and TRY. The students had a blast during the assembly, and we hope that it sparks the creative interest of our kids and their love for the arts!



Family Code Nights Help Career Exploration and Family Bonding

North Tonawanda Technology teacher Steve Sabo has been excited to work with the district's students as part of his partnership with TechBuffalo. Their mission is to bring foundational AI and computer science skills to the next generation of talent. "I went through the interview process for their Innovation Fellows program to help accelerate tech-based learning in local classrooms. I was thrilled that I was one of the first 20 accepted into the program. The Innovation Fellows program creates a team of local educators to expand STEM learning in their schools with support from 43North Foundation and Microsoft. It has provided the funding for our Family Code Nights for our primary and intermediate students and helped to fund the Tech Club."

The Innovation Fellows Program engages skilled educators in providing opportunities for students to explore pathways into tech. Teachers receive training, stipends and grants to advance tech-based classroom learning for the school year. Family Code Nights facilitate tech learning through the popular video game Minecraft. The focus on STEM education in classrooms aligns with the 43North Foundation's goal to build the talent pipeline in Western New York to support the region's burgeoning tech sector. "Today's students are tomorrow's innovators, and this initiative empowers teachers to prepare them for the future," says Bill Maggio, 43North Foundation's Chairman. Sabo says that as part of his training, M&T Bank told the team of teachers that the need for workers in the next ten years is growing at a rapid rate. "I was honored to be selected as one of the trainers and our students and their families have had a blast coding together and playing Minecraft. It is great to see parents working with their kids to complete tasks as the students use their critical thinking skills and problem-solving techniques as they play. We have had great turnouts so far and it is amazing to see learning turn into a family affair."



The Family Coding Nights provide dinners and show the parents how to play Minecraft with their children acting as their teachers. "The kids are ecstatic to have this one-on-one time with their family member and its fun for me as educator to see them work together to solve mistakes and rewrite the code to make it work. All the feedback we have gotten has been extremely positive and they absolutely love it. It is a nice experience for all of us to explore technology together and watch the confidence in our students increase."

High School Students Kick Off Year with Falls Trip

Over 100 high school Earth Science students took a field trip to Niagara Falls in the beginning of the school year. They hiked Whirlpool State Park, down the steps into the gorge, and had a picnic lunch by the Niagara River rapids. Science teacher Mr. Mohring shared, "There is a lot of geologic history in the walls of the gorge, it's like walking through billions of years of time."

After lunch, students boarded the Maid of the Mist boat and got splashed at the base of the Falls. The students were able to experience the power of the Falls and view an amazing natural display of earth science. Mrs. Criddle said, "We are so fortunate to have Niagara Falls nearby and such a relevant example of so many things we learn about in our science class."



TNT Spirit Week

Our students and staff had a blast October 20th - 24th celebrating T-NT Spirit Week! Each day brought a fun theme like Meme Monday, Dress as Holiday Tuesday, Dynamic Duo Wednesday, Thursday – Jersey vs. Jersey Shore and Friday Class Color Day. As always, the parade, pep rally and football game were dynamite!



North Tonawanda Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society



Superintendent Dr. Jeff Jachlewski, Erika Myers, Mason Kruger, Derek Hendler, Nathaniel McClure, Lucas Daves, Elizabeth McCrossan, Ireland Szymczak and Joseph Polek.

Congratulations to our NT students from the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, who were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Out of all the high school students in the United States, the National Technical Honor Society students who receive this honor comprise 1.6 percent of that population. For staff at the Orleans/BOCES centers, they represent the four pillars of the National Technical Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The students were honored in front of their teachers, families and school district representatives. The students had to maintain an 89.5 grade average in their career and technical education programs and an 84.5 average at their high schools, have superior attendance, exemplary behavior, be a member in good standing with SkillsUSA and have a recommendation from a faculty member.

Congratulations go to:

Lucas Daves in the Computer Technology program. He plans on attending college after graduation and becoming a programmer.

Derek Hendler in the HVAC program. He plans on going into the workforce right after graduation and own his own business someday.

Mason Kruger in the Animation, Film and Visual Effects program. He will be attending Villa Maria College and majoring in Digital Filmmaking. His goal is to become a video editor for film and TV.

Nathaniel McClure is in the Security and Law Enforcement program. He plans on enlisting in the military after graduation with a career goal of entering into law enforcement.

Elizabeth McCrossan is in the Animal Science program and plans on attending college to get on the Pre-Vet track in hopes to go to graduate school to become a veterinarian.

Erika Myers is in the Health Occupations Technician program. After graduation she will be going to college to become a nurse.

Joseph Polek is in the Welding program. He plans to attend college after graduation and eventually own his own business.

Ireland Szymczak is in the Animal Science program. Her plans after graduation are to attend college to pursue a major in Biology on the Pre-Vet track and get a minor in ASL and Business. Her goal is to become a veterinarian.

Holiday Magic

Our Tree Lighting and Silent Tree Auction on December 2nd was truly magical for our NT staff and community! Superintendent Dr. Jachlewski's fantastic reading of the holiday story "Are You Grumpy Santa?" was a highlight of the evening. A warm thank you to everyone who helped to make it such a huge success!



Sports Highlights



Meredith Roberts



Gabrielle Giesing

Girls Soccer – Congrats Gabrielle Giesing on scoring your 100th point!

Girls Swimming – Way to go Meredith Roberts for setting several records (200 Free, 200 IM, 100 Fly and 100 Breast)!

Girls Volleyball – NFL Champs! Awesome job!

A special thank you to Frank J. Pallotta (Class of 1955/1973 Inductee into the NT Football Hall of Fame)! He donated a plaque in honor of George Vetter. Mr. Vetter was Frank’s coach, teacher and friend. What a great way to celebrate him!



Girls Volleyball Team



Frank J. Pallotta

Christmas Around the World

Drake Elementary students studied the different Christmas traditions from around the world. Each of the classrooms picked a country to research and decorated their classroom door with a festive informative display. The students enjoyed learning all about the many different holiday celebrations and sharing with their classmates.

Classrooms took turns traveling the globe with passports in hand as they visited each country and walked away with a stamp and some new knowledge of different cultural traditions.



Capital Improvement Progress

As we complete Phase 1A of our Capital Project, Spruce Elementary School's playground looks great with its new fence and Ohio Elementary School's playground expansion is almost finalized.

To check out the rest of our District Capital Improvement Project scan QR code here:



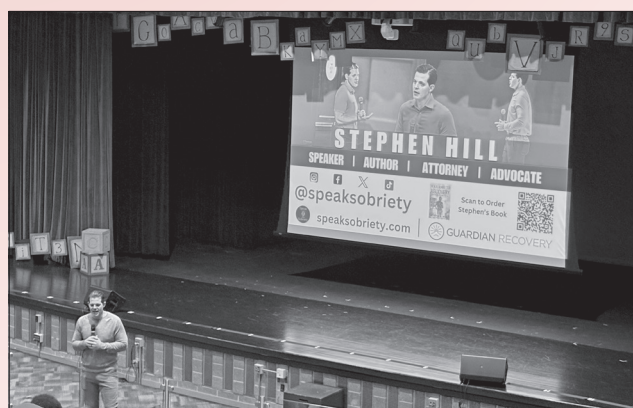
District Capital Improvement Project Update



National Substance Use Prevention Speaker and Mental Health Advocate Stephen Hill Presents at FAC

Thanks to our partnership with Erie 1 BOCES, North Tonawanda CSD was able to bring Stephen Hill to speak to our parents/guardians about the dangers of substance abuse. The event was held in November at our Fine Arts Center.

Stephen Hill is the founder of Speak Sobriety, young person in recovery, bestselling author, recovery coach and a defense attorney. He is a renowned national substance use prevention speaker and mental health advocate. Mr. Hill will also be presenting to students at Tonawanda MS/HS and North Tonawanda MS/HS while in the area. Lyndsey Stover, from CHANT (Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda), has also graciously provided some funds from her organization to support the presentation.



Spruce Sprinters Finish Strong

Our Spruce Sprinters finished up their season with a brisk afternoon run around the school. Thanks so much to their coaches who helped them meet some milestones while having fun doing it and to their friends and family who showed up to support them!



Back row (LtoR) Mallory Luparello (Coach), Liam O'Brien (Student Coach), Chris Zon (Coach), Camryn Linsner (Coach), Tiara Borzillire (Coach) NOT PICTURED Emma Banks (Coach). Front row (LtoR) Carson Wright, Zachary Dworzanski, Alex Janzen, Finn O'Brien, Gibson Zimmerman, Noah Sharples, Ameer Aldulaimi, Landon Ingham, Beau Miller, Elijah Narvaez, Jonathan Brunfield, Lincoln Krause and Koen Reppenhagen.



Spruce Sprinters with their running partners.

Lady Jacks Swim and Dive Team Show Gratitude to the Coaches

The North Tonawanda Lady Jacks Swim and Dive Team captured the microphone with a surprise for their incredible swim coaches at the final home meet of the season with a Coaches' Appreciation Night.

The team invited the Grand Island team to join them in their endeavor so that six fantastic coaches were surprised with their families and teams acknowledging their dedication to the program, sport and swimmers. North Tonawanda Coaches Tim Bennett, Brianna Garcia, and Tim Lane took their places at the swim blocks to a crowd of applause, support, and gratitude.



Spruce Third Graders Explore the World

Third grade students from Ms. Hughes and Mrs. Breeden's class showed off their beautifully colored and labeled world maps!

In Social Studies, they learned about the seven continents and four oceans. They also learned about cardinal and ordinal direction on a compass rose and practiced giving directions around our classroom.



Kindergarteners Show Off Their Acting Skills

Students in Hannah Brocklehurst's kindergarten class at Drake Elementary wowed the audience with their performances of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Caps for Sale".

The students did a fantastic job bringing these classics to life!



NTMS Shows Off Its Spirit

NTMS students had a blast during the T-NT Spirit Week! Each day was a different theme with Friday culminating in traditional T-NT festivities!

The morning kicked off with a pancake breakfast followed by various activities such as tug-o-war, scooter shuffle, musical chairs, pizza box knockout and a staff mascot race. Of course, it would not have been complete without cheering on the car parade and their own pep rally!



Way to Go Chloe!

Congratulations to eighth grader Chloe Taughrin who took 14th place at the Cross Country NFL meet. She earned a ribbon for the Varsity Girl's race when she ran the 5K in 22.41. It was her fastest time of the season! Over the course of the season, she has improved her time by nearly 5 minutes. We are so proud of her!



Athletic Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony



On November 1st, North Tonawanda City School District inducted four Lumberjack alumni and the 2009 NT Football State Championship Team into its Athletic Wall of Fame at the high school's Fine Arts Center. Congratulations to:

Greg Hastings (Class of 2019) who was a six-time Varsity Letter Winner in Tennis. He was the Team Captain for five seasons under Coach John LeMar. Highlights of his NT career were an undefeated league career of 84-0, 14-0 record in senior school year, Section VI Champion (2018 & 2019), NYS Singles Quarterfinalist (2018 & 2019), tied all-time Section VI record for singles state appearances with one other player and five-time NYS Championship qualifier. Greg continued his tennis career at the Division I level at University at Buffalo and is currently a financial advisor who helps families plan for their future.

Shelly (Lis) Hoerner (Class of 1992) who was a six-year Varsity starter. She was the first 7th grader to play Varsity Softball, a four-time League and Sectional Champion, 1988 State Champion (Game-winning two-run single in semi-final), the 1992 WNY Player of the Year, Three-time All-State (2x First Team), Career .409 batting average; hit .509 as a senior with 124 career RBIs and set NT records for Runs (137), Hits (155) and RBIs (124). She also played soccer for five years and was the captain for her junior and senior year, basketball for three years (All-NFL) and track as a long jump sectional qualifier. After graduation she played for Barry University (1993-1994): Starting Catcher, Team ERA under 1.00, Fielding .983-.988, Canisius College (1995-1996): Starting Catcher, .993 career fielding percentage (#1 all-time). Lis was 1st Team All-MAAC (1995 and 1996); Record 12 pickoffs (season) and 17 (career). Lis enjoyed a 27-year career as Head Coach at Valdosta State, Barry University, College of Charleston, Georgia Tech, Appalachian State and D'Youville. 500th Win (2016), 600th (2021) and 700th (2025) and she was also inducted into the NYS Coaches Hall of Fame (2017) and Western New York Softball Hall of Fame (2019). She also played professionally in Nice, France (1988).

Michael Miranto (Class of 2001) Michael played Basketball and Football for the Lumberjacks. He was a four-year Varsity Basketball player, three-year Varsity Football player. He had 1,292 career basketball points and was a record holder in assists, steals and three-pointers made. Two-time First Team All-NFL and two-time Tonawanda News Player of the Year. He is a NT Basketball Hall of Fame inductee and holds a NT Football record with 11 career interceptions as a defensive back.

Casey (Green) Nelson (Class of 2007) Casey, along with being on the Track and Field team, was her class's valedictorian. She was on the Indoor Track (2001-2007) and Outdoor Track (2002-2007) and was a multiple time State Qualifier, and a Section VI Champion (55M and 400M in 2007). She set six NT school records (55M, 300M, 4x200M, 4x400M, double 4x160M and Long Jump), a Section VI Champion (4x400M in 2006-2007), NFL Champion (100M, 200M, Long Jump in 2007, Team Championship (2005-2006), 4x100M Relay Champions (2005, 2007) and held four school records (100M, 200M, 4x100M, 4x400M). At the University of Rochester (2007-2011) she was Captain, a record holder and team champion (2008). An ECAC Qualifier (2008, 2010, 2011); Set 200M and 4x400M Relay Records and was named the Athlete of the Year (2008). She graduated with a B.S. Mathematics, Cum Laude (2011) and a M.Ed. Education Policy and Management from Harvard University (2014).

Creative Learning at Spruce

Our Spruce Elementary students embraced bodily kinesthetic learning to help boost their literacy skills. This learning style helps individuals learn best through physical activities such as touching, moving or performing hands-on tasks.



Using a fun and tactile activity – writing high frequency “SNAP” word in shaving cream helped the students improve their reading and writing by engaging their kinesthetic pathways. As they shape each letter, they reinforce memory and fluency, making reading and writing more efficient. The teachers are finding that these hands-on strategies are helping the students to make great strides.

Book Donations Made in Memory of Former Drake Teacher

Friends of teacher Gerry Cindric wanted to do something special to honor her memory after her passing on March 14th. They could not think of a better tribute than to donate money to Drake Elementary School for a cause that she believed in – helping students through literacy to reach their full potential. “Gerry was a teacher, who over her long career, instilled a love for learning in her students,” says friend Linda Shepard.



Thank you to Linda Shepard, Ben Williams, Judy Kaluzny, Tex Miles, Barbara Green, Agathe McCaffrey, Al and Heather Beattie, Frank and Mary Cornell, Bert and Theresa Carrier, Ranny and Laura Wright, Gary and Nancy Helwer, David and Connie Lippner and George and Betty Beaulieu for your generous donation of \$250.

Star Athletes

Congratulations to four of our student-athletes who recently signed to play at Division 1 schools! We are so proud of:

Annabelle Day who will be playing basketball at the University of Buffalo, Ella Marshall who will be playing softball at Mount St. Mary’s University, Ryan Huber who will be playing lacrosse at Lincoln Memorial University and Meredith Roberts who will be swimming for Fairfield University.



Superintendent Dr. Jeff Jachlewski, Annabelle Day, Principal Brad Rowles, Ella Marshall, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics Matt Cook, Ryan Huber and North Tonawanda City Mayor Austin Tylec.



Meredith Roberts' family with photo of her.



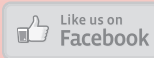
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Honoring the Vets

Drake Elementary students from Mr. Kraus' third grade class and Mrs. Marren's first grade class worked together on a Veteran's Day lesson and craft activity.

Students learned about the holiday and created these mini friendly soldiers.

