

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



As winter comes to a close, there is much to celebrate in the North Tonawanda City School District. This season showcased the talent, dedication, and pride that define our school community. Our North Tonawanda High School musical, Freaky Friday, was a tremendous success, our district art show at the Carnegie Art Center highlighted the incredible creativity of our students, and our basketball programs went on a historic run with both the boys' and girls' teams capturing Section VI championships. These achievements reflect the hard work of our students, staff, and families and the strong sense of community that surrounds them.

Alongside these celebrations, we are also looking toward the future. This spring, the district will ask voters to consider a proposed capital improvement project that represents a significant investment in our schools, our students, and our community.

The North Tonawanda City School District is proposing a 59.9 million dollar Capital Improvement Project aimed at strengthening our school buildings, enhancing learning environments, and improving safety and security across the district all with no impact on local taxes. Through careful long term planning, approximately 80 percent of the project would be funded through New York State Building Aid, with the remaining 20 percent covered by the district's capital reserves. These reserves function much like a savings account for major facilities projects and allow us to make critical improvements without increasing your taxes.

The proposal focuses on three key priorities: safety and security, aging infrastructure, and instructional spaces used by students every day. Safety highlights include upgraded classroom doors, improved entry access systems, enhanced security cameras, clearer public address systems, and emergency power improvements. These upgrades build upon existing safety protocols and further strengthen our schools.

The project also addresses essential building systems, including roof replacements, HVAC improvements, and cafeteria air conditioning in all schools. Site and transportation upgrades would improve sidewalks, parking areas, and bus loops to enhance safety and efficiency across the district.

Equally important, the proposal includes targeted improvements to instructional spaces for students at all grade levels. Planned enhancements support art, music, physical education, playgrounds, classroom spaces, and shared facilities such as the pool and athletic fields ensuring our learning environments meet both current and future needs.

This is a district wide investment, benefiting Drake, Ohio, Spruce, NTI, NT Middle, NT High School, and transportation facilities, and reflects a balanced, thoughtful approach to maintaining our schools.

The community will have the opportunity to vote on this proposal on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center at North Tonawanda High School. Prior to the vote, we encourage residents to learn more and become part of the conversation.

At the bottom of this article, you will find a QR code linking to a short survey where community members can submit questions about the proposed capital project. The questions we receive will be used to develop a detailed Question and Answer document, which will be shared publicly to ensure transparency and clarity.

We appreciate your continued engagement, support, and pride in the North Tonawanda City School District as we plan responsibly for the future.

Survey link: <https://tejoin.com/scroll/883078840> Survey QR code:

Warm regards,
Dr. Jeffrey Jachlewski



Capital Project Update

The District's 2024 Capital Improvement Project is well underway with significant progress being made and we could not be more excited to share with you this update!

Phase 1A

Construction has been concluded and all the final costs reports have been submitted to the State Education Department before the start of the new calendar year. This will ensure that the District receives accelerated state Building Aid payments in the 2026-2027 school year.

Phase 1B

The District has made excellent progress advancing its current capital project. Construction bids were awarded and formally approved by the Board of Education at the November 19th meeting. A total of 31 firms submitted competitive bids for work. Construction officially began over winter recess for this phase with the refinishing of the Drake gymnasium floor. Completing this work while school was not in session minimized disruption. Phase 1B highlights include:

- Energy-efficient LED school signage
- Refinished gymnasium floors at K-3 elementary schools
- Cafetorium and auditorium renovations at K-6 elementary schools
- Energy-efficient window replacements at Spruce and Drake
- Classroom cabinet and sink replacements at K-3 buildings
- Interior renovations at the Transportation Center
- A new secure front-door vestibule at the high school
- Energy-efficient electrical, HVAC, and mechanical upgrades throughout the K-6 buildings

Looking Ahead

Construction at Ohio, NTI, NTHS and the Transportation Center will continue over spring recess and throughout summer 2026. Work at Spruce is scheduled to begin in fall 2026, with auditorium renovations continuing through summer 2027. Remaining construction at Drake is anticipated to begin during spring recess 2027 and continue through the summer.

The District will continue prioritizing work during school breaks whenever possible and looks forward to sharing continued progress as these exciting improvements take shape.

District Introduces Potential Future Capital Improvement Project (May 2026)

At the January 7th, February 4th, and March 4th Board of Education meetings, district administration as well as the district's construction managers and architects presented an overview and phasing of a potential future capital improvement project that will be brought to the community for voter consideration.

This opportunity is made possible by the successful completion and payoff of prior capital project work, along with the availability of district capital reserves that are legally dedicated for capital improvements. From a financial standpoint, the proposed project would be structured to result in **no additional tax levy impact** for district residents. All project costs would be funded exclusively through a combination of New York State Building Aid and district capital reserves, which by law may only be used for capital projects after community project approval.

Anticipated project components include meaningful enhancements to classroom and building safety, critical infrastructure repairs, and improvements to instructional spaces throughout the district. If ultimately approved by the community, the capital project would be implemented over multiple years, with work extended through the 2030-2031 school year.

The proposed project reflects extensive community input gathered through our Fall 2024 and Fall 2025 Thought Exchange surveys. That feedback helped establish key priorities addressed in this proposal, including improved temperature regulation, inclusive playgrounds, traffic and school safety enhancements, and upgrades to school meal service areas. We continue to value community feedback, which is why we are proactively inviting questions and comments on the following Thought Exchange which can be accessed using this QR code. Our goal is to provide residents with the information needed to make a well-informed decision.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT 2026 \$59.9M

NO LOCAL TAX IMPACT

SAFETY & SECURITY

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCES

PUBLIC PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026,
7PM | FINE ARTS CENTER AT THE HS

PUBLIC VOTE
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026,
11AM – 8PM | FINE ARTS CENTER AT THE HS

Reading Across North Tonawanda CSD Week

NTCSD elementary students had a lot of fun participating in Read Across America week during the month of March.

The theme of the event was “Create & Celebrate a Nation of Diverse Readers”. There was a specific focus this year on “Champion Kindness” encouraging students to show empathy and inclusion through books that reflect diverse people, cultures and experiences.

At Drake Elementary, the students took part in multiple activities, including a Drop Everything and Read (DEAR), dress like a literary character, bookmark design contest, door decorating contest with Dr. Jachlewski being the special guest judge, a book swap and a March Madness Book Tournament. A special thank you to our guest readers. You made this event so special for the kids!



Aquarium Trip

Second grade students at Spruce Elementary took their first field trip together to the Aquarium of Niagara. They had a blast watching the sealion show, exploring different fish habitats and observing the fascinating marine-life up close. This trip connected to their Science unit about animal habitats and how living things survive in their environments.

A highlight of the day was getting to gently pet stingrays. It made the trip memorable! Everyone had a blast learning, exploring and building special memories!



Students Recreate NT Landmarks

Emily Colletta’s fourth grade Gifted and Talented students at NTI, recently completed a “Landmarks of North Tonawanda” project.

Students were assigned a historical landmark in NT, and tasked with researching the landmark, including its origin and how it is used today. They then created a 3D build of each landmark and used them to create a map of North Tonawanda. As an added bonus to the unit, students learned how to code mini-Sphero robots to drive through the city and visit all of the landmarks.



Math Competition

NTI students in Mrs. Emily Colletta's fifth and sixth grade Math GT (Gifted and Talented) groups competed in the Continental Mathematics League (CML).

The CML is a national math competition in which students are expected to be able to do complex math problem solving. Congratulations to the highest scorers: Luke Shepardson (5th Grade) and Nathan Reeves (6th Grade).

We are so proud of these students!



Luke Shepardson



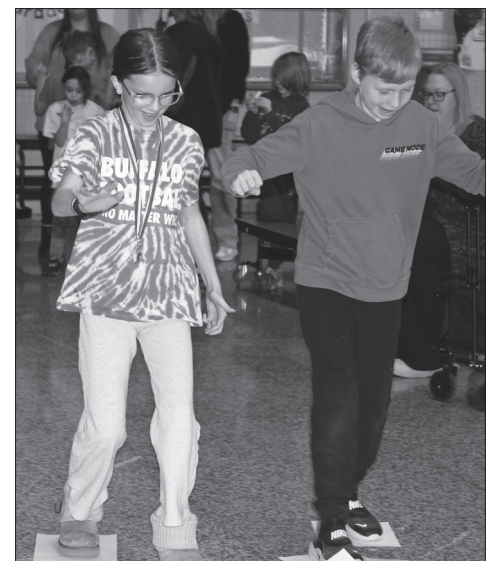
Nathan Reeves

NTI Students Enjoy Mini Winter Olympics

Some of our NTI students brought home medals and smiles at their version of the Winter Olympics.

Teachers Bridget Galus, Jessica Bakula, and Danielle Tollar collaborate throughout the entire year to foster connections and support students with their work. "Every month, we engage in a major activity that allows everyone to interact, enjoy, and create lasting memories. With the Olympics underway, I saw a wonderful chance to host our own version."

Miss Galus's class had been learning about the Olympics, the various games, and the Paralympics; making this an ideal opportunity not to be overlooked. "We organized six event stations and divided the participants into three teams to compete. Each student had the chance to participate in all the games while enthusiastically cheering on their teammates. The students thoroughly enjoyed taking part in these activities and appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with different groups. They consistently supported each other during the events, maintaining a positive attitude and uplifting everyone involved, regardless of the circumstances. Laughter filled the air as the students expressed how much fun they had, eagerly anticipating the next set of activities. The atmosphere was filled with joy, and everyone agreed that the experience was both rewarding and exciting."



NT Student Film Festival

The NTCSD Visual Arts Department hosted its first annual North Tonawanda Student Film Festival on January 29 in the Fine Arts Center. Thirty-five films were submitted by students in grades 4-12. The Visual Arts Department says they were impressed with the students' work, as were the judges.

Teacher John Szablewski, who helped to organize the event, said that over 100 people attended including district leaders and administrators. "I had attended film school before I was an Art teacher and I have always been drawn to storytelling. Two years ago, the district started offering an animation course at the high school and I wanted to start giving students the opportunity to make animated films so that they could consider taking animation when they become eligible. Tyler Hendricks also assisted in planning the event. He is the Animation teacher at the high school. We also had six judges rate the student work. The Remember Ryan Foundation was our corporate sponsor and they donated trophies to give out as awards."

Mr. Szablewski adds, "As a department, we also wanted to broaden our scope of work that we exhibit for students. We typically show off the fine arts (drawing, painting, sculpture), but we also wanted to display the new media and digital arts as well." He says the students seemed to really enjoy coming to see their films play on the big screen at the Fine Arts Center. "We have gotten nothing but positive feedback! We are looking forward to making this an annual event. I think word is going to get out how awesome this event was and that next year we will have even more student films to look through."



The Winners were:

Most Excellent Experimental Film: Autumn Deschamps

Most Excellent Creativity in Film: Aveleen Ramirez

Most Excellent Comedy in Film: Avery Hall

Digital Animation Award: Finnian Wahl

Most Excellent Production Quality: Xavier Deschamps

Best Visuals: Carrie Horan

Popcorn Award: Noah Rowe

Most Excellent High School Film: Carrie Horan

Most Excellent Middle School Film: Xavier Deschamps

Most Excellent Intermediate School Film: Mason Cosentino



Athlete Scholars Commit to College

Congratulations to our student-athletes Addison D'Andrea (Softball), Gabrielle Giesing (soccer), Juliana Haacker (Swimming), Meredith Roberts (Swimming), Emma Stahl (Soccer), Cara Thompson (Softball) and Jakayla Brown (Volleyball) who signed their letters of intent to play sports for college.

Addison will be attending SUNY Geneseo to study Psychology, Gabrielle will be studying Exercise Science at D'Youville University, Juliana will be attending SUNY Cortland to be a Speech Pathologist, Meredith will be attending Fairfield University studying Education, Emma will be attending SUNY Fredonia to study Communication Sciences and Disorders, Cara will be attending Susquehanna University for Biomedical Sciences and Jakayla will be attending Niagara University for Criminal Psychology.



(LtoR) Addison D'Andrea, Gabby Giesing, Juliana Haacker, Meredith Roberts, Emma Stahl, Cara Thompson and Jakayla Brown.

Anabelle Day Is Having a Magical Year On and Off the Court

Annabelle Day is setting records, goals and staying true to herself in what only can be described as a magical year. Athletic Director Matt Cook says that not only is she an outstanding basketball player, she is an outstanding student. “She works so hard and she is a great person. She has been a real asset to the team and to the school.”

The Lady Jack Basketball team is having an amazing season, thanks in part to Annabelle (Combo Guard/Point Guard), who is not only dominating the court, but breaking records along the way. She has broken North Tonawanda's all-time career scoring record (1,674 points), a record that has stood for 15 years. She thanks her teammates, coaches and her family for pushing her every day. Her résumé is impressive. She will graduate as North Tonawanda's all-time leader in points, assists and steals. Her career record stands at 76-19 and counting, and she has earned numerous honors, including NFL Player of the Year, Niagara Gazette Player of the Year, multiple MVP awards and All-State recognition.



She has also received word that she has been nominated as a McDonald's All American. “It is a big deal and I am so excited about it, but I am trying to stay humble and focus on my goals. We started this year with new coaches, but the same goals and it has been so exciting. We are hoping to make the playoffs and potentially the States. It has been amazing.”

The talented athlete will be looking forward to attending University at Buffalo next year where she will be playing Division 1 basketball. “I am fired up to officially become a Bull!” She has yet to determine her major, but is considering Special Education. There is no doubt that Annabelle will be leaving NT as a legendary Lumberjack!

Sports Wrap-Up

Basketball

Our North Tonawanda Basketball Teams made a historical statement with both boys and girls winning the Section 6 Class AA Titles!



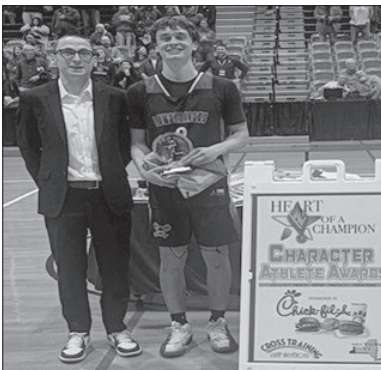
Wrestling

Congratulations to Jonathan Landen and Keith Mixon who qualified for the NY State Tournament in their weight classes. Keith finished 8th in Division 1.



PAL Awards

Congratulations to the North Tonawanda Student Athletes nominated for the Niagara PAL Awards. Students along with their parents and coaches attended a banquet on March 8th to recognize their achievements.



Blake Sutor and Maddie Caron were awarded the Character Athletes of the Game during the Section 6 Finals at Buffalo State.

(LtoR) Aniel Rodriguez, Addison D'Andrea and Derek Black.

Bowling

Another great season for our NT girls bowling team. They won the Class B Section 6 title and were also NFL Champions!



Glow Up

Spruce students were truly “glowing with perseverance,” says School Principal Lindsey Turner. “At an assembly in February, our students impressed us with a song, recited a poem, and received awards. Student leaders ended the assembly by introducing our next trait, empathy. We are excited to see how our amazing students will demonstrate this throughout our school and community in the coming months. We had so much fun singing and dancing with our glow sticks!”



Two North Tonawanda Students Show Off Their Talents at Area 1 SkillsUSA Regional Conference

Congratulations to Matthew Garven who took second place in the Power Equipment Technology competition at the Area 1 SkillsUSA Regional Conference. Matthew is a student in Wes Blidy’s Diesel Technology/Heavy Equipment program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. On March 3rd, over 100 students from the Orleans and Niagara Career and Technical Education Centers traveled to Alfred State College to compete for an opportunity to go on to the New York State competition in Syracuse and eventually advance to nationals in Atlanta, Georgia. SkillsUSA is the number one workforce development organization for students, it empowers them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders and responsible community members.

Gabriel Pagacz, a student in Jennifer Manning’s Animation, Film and VFX program at the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, had his design chosen for the t-shirts for the SkillsUSA Region 1 competition for next year.

We are so proud of both these students!



Story Time

Spruce Elementary Principal, Mrs. Lindsey Turner loved reading to Miss Borzille's class! She read a book about the importance of a school family, "it reinforces that Spruce is a special place and a truly wonderful community" she says. Keep up the great work!



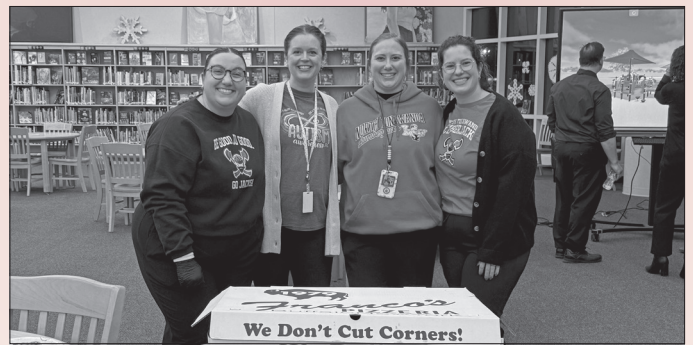
Good Sport

Thank you to Spruce Elementary School Resource Officer Jeffrey Smith, who stopped into a classroom to play "I have, who has?". It was a great way to reinforce good sportsmanship and how following the rules can make things more fun for everyone.



Parent Support Night

On January 29, the Special Education Department hosted a fantastic Parent Support Night at the high school. Our K-3 self contained team brought together a variety of community organizations offering resources for students and families. A major highlight was the introduction of our newly launched TIES program. TIES (Together Including Every Student) is a program which promotes the participation of children/young adults with developmental disabilities in extracurricular and community activities.



Maria Bergey (District Behavior Specialist), Molly Wade (Social Worker), Natalee Carey (Special Education Teacher) and Sarah Maciejewski (Special Education Teacher).

Tri-District Partnership Helps Out North Tonawanda Community

North Tonawanda, Niagara Falls and Niagara Wheatfield school districts are continuing their partnership this year, offering opportunities for students to collaborate together on various projects. Student representatives from each of the districts meet regularly throughout the school year to discuss cultural differences and interact in each other's communities.

With the guidance of NT Social Studies teacher Scott Gauld, the students met at North Tonawanda High School where they divided into teams to help out at the High School's Clothes Closet, Twin City Community Outreach Food Pantry, Lumber City Church Pantry and Pine Woods Park. Future outings will include the students going to Niagara Wheatfield and Niagara Falls to do community service projects. "As always this is such a great experience for our students," says North Tonawanda District Superintendent Dr. Jeff Jachlewski. "We had 38 participants and they did a fantastic job reorganizing the clothes closet and helping to separate food at the pantries. The pantries play a key role for many of our students since it provides meals for them when school is not in session. The City of North Tonawanda was thrilled with the cleanup they did at the park and provided work gloves and plenty of hot cocoa for the volunteers."

Niagara Wheatfield Central School District Superintendent Daniel Ljiljanich says, "Our District is very fortunate to be included in this Tri-District venture with Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda. Our students and school community have certainly benefited from the partnership." Niagara Falls Superintendent Mark Laurrie added, "I am so pleased that we have been able to continue to build and strengthen our student relations with North Tonawanda and Niagara Wheatfield. Those bonds will last a long time as will the work being done for the communities." "This is a great opportunity for our students to bond," says Dr. Jachlewski. "They get a chance to get to know one another as they work together to help out our community. Personally, I loved getting around to see them all working together. They are a great bunch of kids and they seemed to really enjoy their time together. It's a win-win across the board."



Snack Cart Project at Middle School Offers Work Skills



Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Madison Frederickson's students have been getting some great hands-on experience in their life skills program. Much to the delight of students and staff, they have started a snack cart at the Middle School where the students can practice real-world vocational and social skills in an authentic setting.

Students work collaboratively to prepare snacks, stock the cart, take orders, interact with customers and handle money. Mrs. Frederickson says, "Through this experience, students build independence, responsibility, communications skills, and workplace behaviors, while also developing confidence and pride in their work. The program promotes inclusion by enabling students to serve their peers and staff and prepares them for future employment and community-based opportunities."



Elementary School Students Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables

The North Tonawanda CSD has been working with SNAP-Ed to improve student perception of fruits and vegetables and promote healthier eating. The United States Department of Agriculture's SNAP-Ed NY program promotes increased consumption of fruits and vegetables through education, cooking demonstrations and improved access in underserved communities.

Recently Spruce, Ohio and Drake Elementary Schools cafeterias gave out samples of apple and dip for the students to try. Here are students from Spruce partaking in the snack. We are hoping that our students get excited about food that will keep them healthy all the way into adulthood.





**NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS**
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Literacy Night

A huge shout out to all the Spruce Elementary families and staff that made our second annual literacy night a huge success. We had over 200 community members in attendance. Every child left with a book and an ice cream thanks to our wonderful PTO. What a night!

