

North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission

To provide an excellent education to all that encompasses developing confident, creative, competitive and caring students.

Vision

To develop a nationally recognized school system focused on: A collaborative environment that fosters the academic, emotional and social growth of each student through quality and purposeful educational experiences. Students becoming independent, productive and globally competitive citizens. Instilling the belief that each student is invaluable.

Core Beliefs

North Tonawanda Lumberjacks are:

- Lifelong learners
- Understanding
- Motivated
- Brave
- Empowered
- Respectful
- Just
- Academically sound
- Caring
- Knowledgeable
- Strong

Superintendent's Message

Dear Lumberjack community,

As we get set for the winter months, we have much to be grateful for:

We are grateful for 5 days of in person school.

We are grateful for a successful T-NT week.

We are grateful for staff that care and go the extra mile.

We are grateful for smiling faces on children.

We are grateful for family and friends.

We are grateful for each day that provides a chance to start over.

We have had a small number of positive COVID-19 cases in the district and I thank everyone for doing their part to limit the spread and continuing to follow safety protocols. While things can change rapidly, we are ready to do what needs to be done to not only keep schools open but move forward and blossom like the flowers each spring. I will continue with the Facebook Live presentations to keep you informed of changes and answer your questions in the coming months.

In the meantime, we have much to look forward to:

We look forward to school concerts.

We look forward to school art shows.

We look forward to both a Middle School and a High School musical.

We look forward to winter and spring sports.

We look forward to an end to this pandemic and a return to normal.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of North Tonawanda City Schools



Getting into the Spirit!

Students in Julie Helfman and Christina Zacher's 6th grade homeroom at the North Tonawanda Intermediate School showed their school spirit with these cool tie dye shirts!



Lady Jacks Swim Team Celebrates Season

The Lady Jacks Varsity Swim Team had a phenomenal season and brought home many accolades from the 2021 Class A Championship Meet on Friday, October 29th.

Congratulations to the team on their achievements! Senior Alaina Roberts took 4th in the 50m Freestyle and 2nd in the 100m Butterfly. Senior Allison Chaplin took 4th in the 200m Freestyle. Eighth grader Meredith Roberts took 4th in the 100m Breaststroke.

We want to wish the best of luck to our seniors: Allison Chaplin, Hailey Hankinson, Sarah Polek, Megan Harvey, Alaina Roberts and Savannah Hermanson.



200m Freestyle Relay Team of Freshman Reagan Carney (top left), 8th Grader Meredith Roberts (top right), Senior Alaina Roberts (bottom left), and Senior Allison Chaplin (bottom right) took **THIRD PLACE** with their Coach Matt Schutt (bottom middle).

Drake Welcomes Back Students

Drake Elementary Principal Janet Matyevich and her staff were thrilled to welcome back their students.

Here is Mrs. Matyevich with Sean Price Jr., Zachary Rochevot, and Callie Labuz.



Happy New School Year!

Middle School Principal Joshua Janese and Assistant Principal Scott Mueller welcomed students with a custom sign. Welcome back everyone!



Girls Get to Take A Swing at Golf

For the first time in NT history, girls are playing on the Golf team!

When a new program at the North Tonawanda Recreation Department started this summer, they offered a golf instruction program which attracted a huge turnout. Four girls did so well that the team captain, Lucas Matyevich, recruited them to play. Because the NFL doesn't offer Girls' Golf, it makes them eligible to play on the Boys' Golf team.



Coach Al Zbytek, Reyna Borowiec (grade 7), Savannah Ashby (grade 7), Kelsey Kustich (grade 9), and Teagan Batt (grade 10).

Walls of Fame Benefit from Grants and School Pride at NT High School

When John Baran exited his nephew's volleyball game in October of 2019 at the North Tonawanda High School, he was excited to see a hallway marked "Athletics Wall of Fame". Baran had just moved back to Western New York after living out of state for four decades and was not aware a Wall of Fame existed.

That excitement turned to dismay for the 1974 Lumberjack alum when he spotted plaques to honor some classmates. "The sun and UV rays had done a number on the plaques and they were faded to the point you could barely read what was printed on them nor see their photos. Not quite the way NT's best and brightest students, teachers and coaches should be honored. It was very disheartening."

Instead of lamenting the state of the recognitions, he decided to do something about it. "I made the decision to volunteer my time and I enlisted other NTHS alumni (John Montesanti, Myron Annis, Angela Donato Johnson, Rosie DeMart, Chet Wiech, Keith Miranto along with retired teacher and NT Baseball coach John Chiarmonite) to help raise funds to make sure all the talented athletes, coaches, performing artists and teachers received their due in being recognized for their achievements. Thanks to the generosity of alumni, local businesses, and the sale of window dedications (to block harmful sunrays) that were sold for \$500 each, posters and calendars (designed from the window coverings), the Wall of Fame committee more than met their original fundraising goal. North Tonawanda Superintendent, Greg Woytila, says he is very thankful to John and the committee's efforts. "Getting the alumni involved was great. We usually have a lot of participation for our annual T-NT game with our traditional school rivalry, but it was nice seeing them become reinvested in the school they went to with these donations. The timing couldn't be better with the rough school year we have had. It will really help with everyone's school spirit."



John Baran, Matt Cook and Superintendent Greg Woytila.

John spent hundreds of hours poring over yearbooks from the 1920's to 2018 located at the North Tonawanda History Museum, looking for the perfect images for the Athletics and Fine Arts Walls of Fame to find images of the boys, girls, coaches and teachers who graced the school's athletic fields, gymnasiums and auditoriums. Those images are now in a vibrant collage on the windows of the Wall of Fame with special printed tributes on them by the donors' request. There is also a state-of-the-art touch screen where attendees can scroll through photos, Wall of Fame inductee bios, newspaper articles and old programs to learn more about the rich athletic and artistic history of the school district. Recently a beautiful backlit Lumberjack logo was installed with a wooden plaque that reads, "This 'Lumberjack Wall' is dedicated to the NTHS Seniors graduating in 2020 & 2021. Those students lost so much due to the untimely pandemic. To those students we say, "Stay Lumberjack & Lady Jack Strong!" Athletic Director, Matthew Cook, says the new displays will be a great way to get the student athletes excited for the new school year. "I think it will mean a lot to them to see what past athletes have been able to achieve and know that they can achieve success as well."

John recently shared some exciting news with Mr. Woytila, Mr. Cook and Fine Arts Director Dean Vallas. The committee had recently received two grants, one from the East Hill Foundation for \$6,600 and one from the North Tonawanda Walmart Superstore for \$1,000. The grant money will be spent on finishing the display cases in the Athletics Wall of Fame and expanding the Fine Arts Wall of Fame to honor student and faculty inductees who excelled and had significant success in those areas. The Fine Arts Wall of Fame hallway will also include the installation of a hanging art display for each of the district's schools where student artwork can be displayed. Two scholarships will be given out in 2022 (and beyond if donations continue into the future), one for Athletics and one for Fine Arts. "The scholarships will be awarded based on a combination of financial need, as well as the dedication and commitment shown by the athlete or performing artists," Baran explains.

"We are so grateful to the East Hill Foundation and NT Walmart for helping us achieve our vision for these Walls of Fame," says John. The East Hill Foundation identifies and funds innovative, charitable projects designed to enhance the quality of life of residents of Western New York.

There is no doubt that students, staff and visitors will be impressed with the beautiful displays of the district's alumni. North Tonawanda City School District is proud to recognize their graduates who carried their school experiences and spirit into their lives after graduation and to the faculty and coaches who helped to shape them.

To learn more about the North Tonawanda High School Wall of Fame Project, visit www.nthswof.com.

Did Someone Say Pancakes?

There is nothing that Lumberjacks like more than flapjacks! Our Middle Schoolers had a special treat when Principal Joshua Janese, Assistant Principal Scott Mueller and their staff came in bright and early to make the students a treat to celebrate Homecoming.



Wall of Fame Website Now Online

Article respectively submitted by: John Baran and the NTHS Wall of Fame Committee

North Tonawanda City School District and the North Tonawanda High School Wall of Fame Committee are excited to announce that you can now access a “web based” version of the system installed at the NT High School’s Walls of Fame at: www.ntwalloffame.com

“We are very proud of the content accessible in the attached web based version of the “NTHS Wall of Fame Touchscreen” system installed at the NT High School,” says Committee Chairman John Baran. Viewers can see online the content installed at the school: NTHS Fine Arts Wall of Fame Inductees, NTHS Performing Arts photos from over the decades - 1920’s to 2020, NTHS Athletic Wall of Fame Inductees, every boy & girl sport is honored and represented, the cheerleaders and a number of NT’s coaches honored and recognized from 1897 all the way to 2020.

The online system and its content are an evolving system and will be updated every six months. Mr. Baran says he and the committee are thrilled to be able to offer this access to alumni around the world, but definitely encourages anyone attending a sporting event or performing arts performance at the High School to interact with the touchscreen system in person. “We should all be Lumberjacks and Lady Jacks filled with school pride and spirit - who are especially proud of our friends, classmates and teams for all they have accomplished over the 130+ years of North Tonawanda High School history,” says Mr. Baran. “Thank you to everyone who has supported the project over the past 20 months.”

Special thanks go out to our “NTHS Wall of Fame Improvement Project” committee members:

Rosie DeMart, Angela Donato Johnson, Keith Miranto, John Chiarmonte, John Montesanti, Myron Annis and Chet Wiech. To others who have made an extra effort to bring the project to reality: Kathy Baran, Russell Peters, Chuck & Elizabeth (Liz) Insalaco, John Gatas, Dan Oshier, Gail Galassi and Galassi’s Restaurant, Angie DiVirgilio Bernas & her 50 Year Picnic members, Carol Tallichett & Lumberjack’s Patio Grill, Steve Brown & Brownies Sports Bar, Third Warders Club, Batavia Downs, Kathy Carr & Matt’s Music, Charlene Guarnieri Brosius & Todd Brosius, Frankie Primo’s Restaurant, ALL our Gold Donors (\$500+ in donations) and everyone else who donated.

Providers of generous Grants in Aid to the Project: East Hills Foundation and Walmart Superstore of North Tonawanda.

Thanks also to the NT Schools Administration: Gregory Woytila (Superintendent of Schools), Patrick Holesko (Executive Director of Educational Services), Matthew Cook (Athletic Director), Dean Vallas (Director of Fine Arts) and Jim Hart (Facilities Director).

Food Pantries Popping Up Around the District

Visual Art teachers Alexandra Gerbec and John Szablewski partnered with Megan Giannino, former NTCSD family resource center coordinator and Drake Elementary School counselor, for a community focused project. That project was to build three “Little Free Food Pantries” which Lumber City Church, Pastor Chad Rieselmann and community members constructed and donated to the school district.

Thanks to a third grade art contest, six designs were selected to be painted on each pantry. Thanks to the generous donations from the Spruce, Ohio and Drake Elementary School families, the pantries are filled and placed at those schools. There will eventually be a food pantry placed in front of the Board of Education building as well.

The overall motto for the Little Free Food Pantries is “Take what you need, donate what you can”. A big thank you to all those who have donated their time and food to help out our families!



Lawson O'Connell at Drake Elementary School.



Alexandra Gerbec with Spruce Elementary Students Harper Cowell, Sophia Gullo and Priya Shepardson.

Little Jack Literacy Labs

Over the summer, our Little Jacks took part in our new K-6 Summer Enrichment Program. With the help of our awesome teachers and staff members, we were able to provide a program to support foundational skills, build the students' joy and confidence in reading and writing, and accelerate their academic growth.

The program utilized the work of Lucy Calkins with a focus on phonics, reading and writing workshops, and comprehension skill work. The students actively participated in powerful and engaging lessons to help prepare them for this upcoming school year. With an enrollment of over 160 students, the Little Jack Literacy Labs afforded many families with an opportunity to build the foundations and skills needed to be successful.

We look forward to building the Little Jacks Literacy Labs in the future and invite you to be a part of this great program. Stay tuned for more information coming Spring of 2022.



College Fair Helps Students Explore Choices

The Career Center at the High School recently held their 26th Annual Northeast College Fair.

Our Juniors and Seniors were able to meet with college representatives from 60 different colleges and universities from across the Northeast to ask questions and gather important information on college decisions.



NTI Fall Fest

NTI held their first in-person event in over two years on October 22nd. The weather was perfect, and the family participation was even better. Junior Jacks' families were welcomed to our front parking lots to enjoy a night of trunk or treating with teachers and families handing out candy, yard games, cider and donuts, a photo booth, and a Book Fair. Families were also able to vote on the winner of our school-wide pumpkin decorating contest.

The highlight of the night was our outdoor dance party. Students were able to finally dance in-person and not behind a computer screen. DJ Keidel led the night with a mixture of Halloween songs, oldies, and popular hits of today. Parents gathered around watching their sons/daughters dance the night away under the light of the full moon.

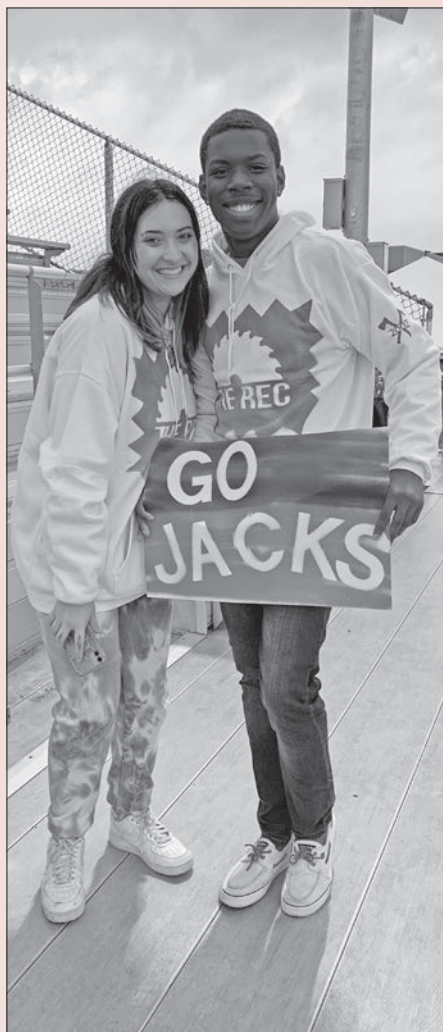
Fun was had by all, and we look forward to many more Fall Fest events in the future!

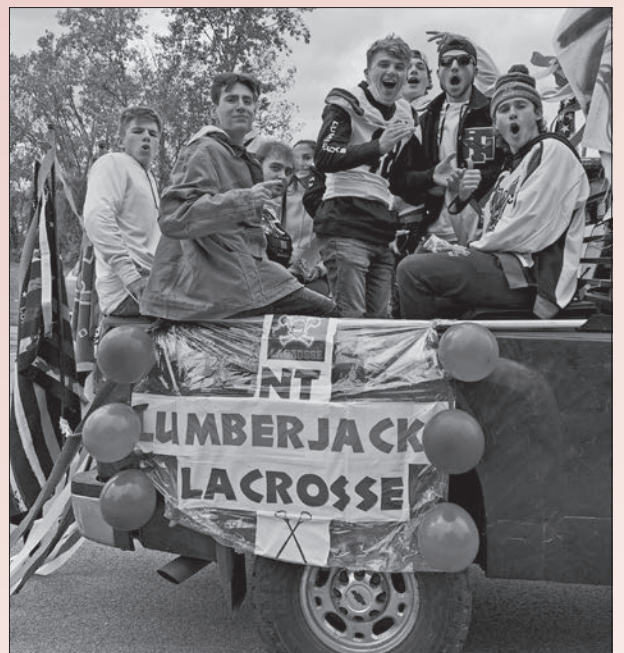


TNT – We Are Dynamite!

The annual TNT pep rally and parade are always a highlight during Spirit Week at NT. Students made signs, painted their faces and wore their Lumberjack gear to show their support for the football team as they took on their rivals the Tonawanda Warriors. Over a thousand students lined the streets as the car parade went by chanting, “Here We Go Jacks!”

The Lumberjacks won the classic rivalry 42 to 16!





Chalk Walk

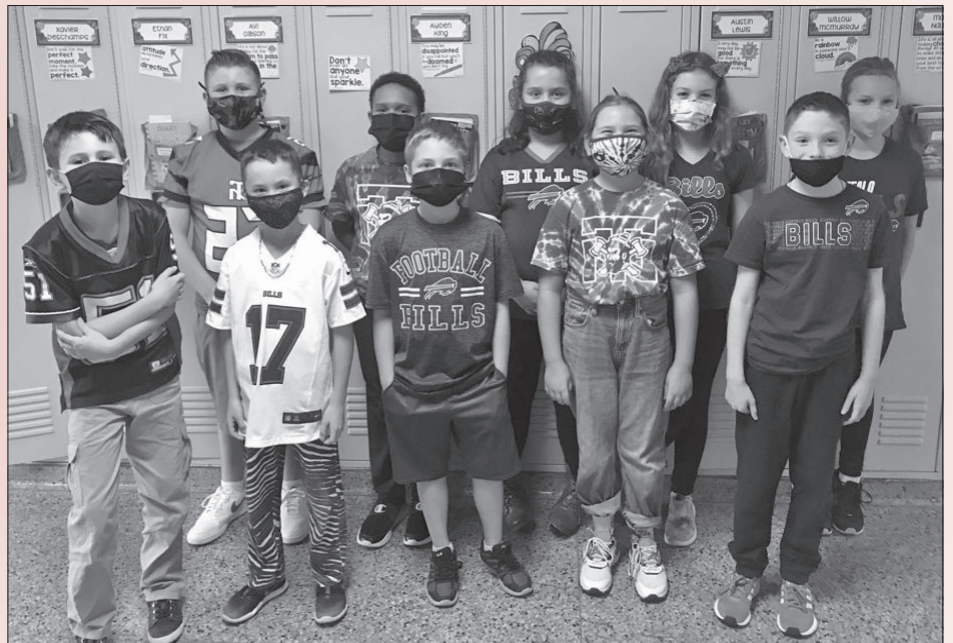
Some of our talented students showed off their artwork for our annual Chalk Walk.



NTI Celebrates Buffalo Bills

NTI has the spirit! Every Friday our Junior Jacks wear their Buffalo Bills gear to show support of our hometown football team. Luckily for us, NT has the same school colors, and we can also rock our Lumberjack gear. Bringing out the sense of community during the month of September was an important part of the plan when students returned full-time to classrooms.

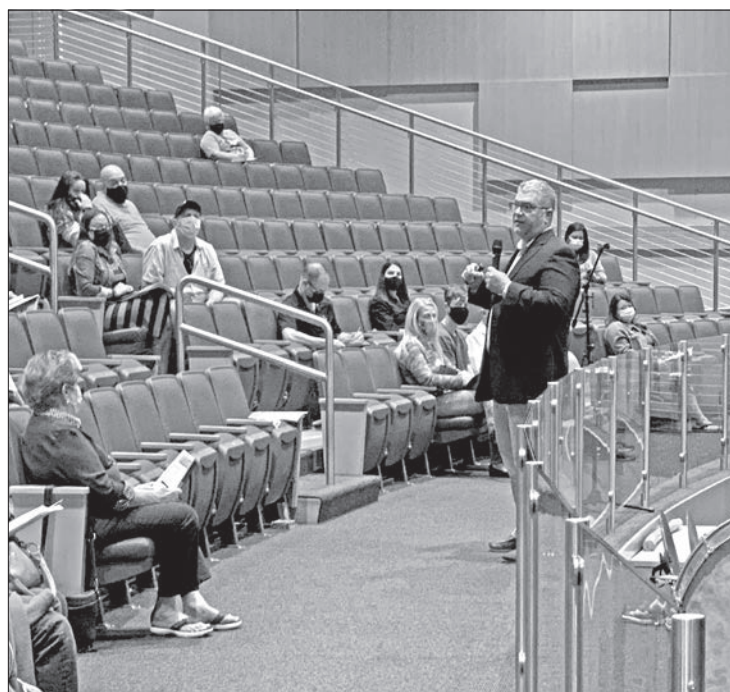
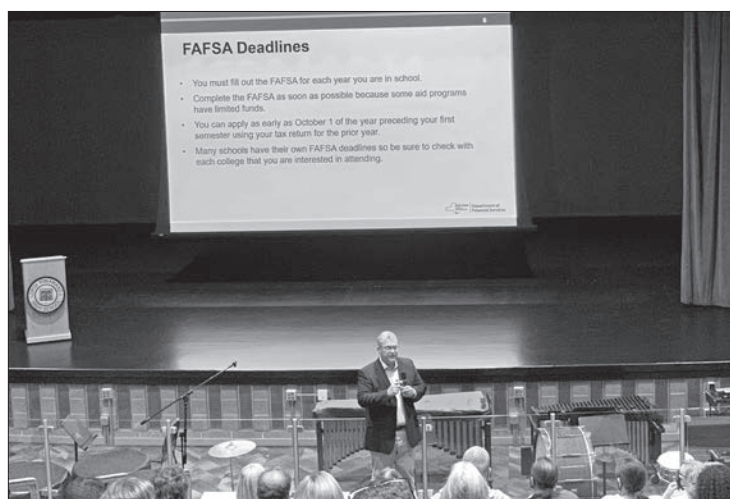
It is amazing to walk the halls and see the red, white, and blue colors donned on our students and staff. It is even more fun when we listen to the Bills “Shout Song” played by our Principal Mr. Burgess every Friday morning, it really kicks off the day in a positive manner!



Financial Aid Night Helps Students and Parents Get Ready for College

The Career Center was happy to be able to hold a Financial Aid Night on Thursday, September 23rd, in our Fine Arts Center.

The one hour workshop was presented by Scott Ahrens from the NYS Department of Financial Services. It included a presentation, Q & A session, helpful brochures and takeaways on FASFA, Grants, Scholarships, and student loans.



SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

- The Niagara County Sheriff's Office is responsible for monitoring the registered sex offenders living in our area. The Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the NT Police Department, compiles sex offender information and maintains it in an online directory that is accessible to the public, in an effort to keep our community informed.

Level 2 (medium risk) and Level 3 (high risk) sex offenders residing in North Tonawanda can be identified, searched and mapped by accessing the **Sheriff's Office website** (<https://www.niagarasheriff.com/>) and selecting the "Sex Offenders" tab on the homepage. You can also find further information on the **NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services website** (<https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/>) or call the NYS DCJS toll-free number at 1-800-262-3257.

OFFENDER WATCH

- The Niagara County Sheriff's Office utilizes OffenderWatch, the nation's leading registered sex offender management and community notification tool. Through OffenderWatch, the Sheriff's Office is able to manage and monitor the whereabouts, conduct and compliance status of the registered offenders in Niagara County. This tool provides the most accurate and timely information available.

OffenderWatch is updated instantaneously throughout each day as offender addresses and other offender information is updated in the office. You may enter any address in the county and see real-time information on the publishable offenders within the specified radius of the address you enter.

Offenders move frequently, so instead of having to check the maps on a weekly basis, the best way to stay informed is to take advantage of the free community notification alert system. You may confidentially register as many addresses in the county as you wish, and OffenderWatch will continuously monitor the addresses and send you an alert if a new offender registers an address within the specified radius of any address you register. There is no cost for this service and no limit to the number of addresses you can register - your email address and physical addresses are all confidential.

For more information, visit the **Niagara County Sheriff's Office OffenderWatch website**:
http://communitynotification.com/cap_main.php?office=54113



**NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS**

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Exciting Things Are Happening at Ohio Elementary School!

On Friday, October 15th, the Ohio staff and students in Room 115 came together for a fundraiser and dressed in purple to bring awareness to Cornelia de Lange Syndrome (CdLS), a rare genetic disorder. This was done in honor of Aubrey, one of our third grade students. Donations raised were made to the Cornelia de Lange Syndrome Foundation.

