

# North Tonawanda City Schools



## Congratulations to Our Top Ten!

### Rachel Keenan *Valedictorian*

**Parents/Guardians:** Jeffrey Keenan and Lisa Keenan-USchold

**Activities:** Track and Field, Indoor Track and Field, Cross Country, Varsity Soccer, class officer, Student Council representative to the School Board, Foreign Language Club.

**Honors:** Hugh O'Brian Award, Student of the Month (four times), Scholar Athlete, Lumberjack Award.

**Future Plans:** Attend Daemen University to study Psychology.



### Megan Orlowski *Salutatorian*

**Parents/Guardians:** Robert and Rebecca Orlowski

**Activities:** Volleyball, Track and Field, Academy of International Studies, Pep Band, Drama Club, Leadership Youth of Niagara County.

**Honors:** National Honor Society, Most Improved and Rookie of the Year for Track, Aesthetic Associates Scholar Athlete.

**Future Plans:** Attend Niagara University to study Psychology.



*Top Ten continued on page 2*

## Message from the Superintendent



Congratulations to the Class of 2022! You are a class like no other with all the things that the world threw your way. You started high school in the 2018-2019 school year and as a freshman got to know your way around a new building during what would be the last normal year you had. Your academic routine came to an abrupt end in Mid-March of 2020. The last few months of that school year brought new words into your daily vocabulary like hybrid and two day in-class programming. Fortunately you were able to complete the 2021-2022 school year under what used to be the old traditions and at full capacity.

After an impossible-to-imagine four years of high school, you made it! You are stronger and more well-rounded from the curveballs you had to deal with. I have been continuously impressed with the caliber of students that this graduating class will be remembered for.

As you go off to start your adult life, you will look back at this crazy time in the history of the world with friends, family and classmates. You will look back and wonder, laugh and smile at all the things you were able to overcome to be the future successes that we know you will all be. No matter what you choose to do going forward, remember you can handle anything and rise to the challenges that life will surely continue to throw your way.

Go forward and stay Lumberjack proud and Lumberjack strong!

Sincerely,

Mr. Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent



# 2022 Top Ten

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## 3. Sarah Polek

**Parents/Guardians:**  
Richard and Christine Polek



**Activities:** Varsity Swim Team, Outdoor Track and Field, Town of Tonawanda Titans Swim Club, White Water Swim Club, DECA, Outdoor Awareness Club, Academy of Business & Finance, Tri-M, Academy of International Studies.

**Honors:** Unsung Hero Award, Scholar Athlete for Swim and Track, National Honor Society, Student of the Month.

**Future Plans:** Attend Rochester Institute of Technology to study International Business.

## 4. Rebecca Geiger

**Parents/Guardians:**  
Rachel and Clarence Geiger III



**Activities:** Tri-M, Pep Band, SADD Club, Academy of International Studies, Academy of Health Sciences.

**Honors:** National Honor Society

**Future Plans:** Attend University at Buffalo to study Civil Engineering.

## 5. Victoria Moran

**Parents/Guardians:**  
Amy and Brian Moran.



**Activities:** Dance at Tonawanda Dance Arts, Prescott's Martial Arts Academy, Bowling

**Honors:** National Honor Society

**Future Plans:** Attend University at Buffalo to study Geological Sciences.

## 6. Alaina Roberts

**Parents/Guardians:**  
Michael and Sara Roberts



**Activities:** Varsity Swim Team - Captain, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Drama Club, Girl Scouts, Tonawanda Titans Swim Club.

**Honors:** AP Scholar of Distinction, Girl Scouts Silver Award, National Honor Society.

**Future Plans:** Attend Daemen University to pursue Doctor of Physical Therapy.

## 7. Matthew Willard

**Parents/Guardians:**  
Jonathon and Joanne Willard



**Activities:** Football, lacrosse, track, swim, golf, Model UN, Class Vice President.

**Honors:** Football Fall Scholar Athlete, Keeper of the Game Award for Lacrosse.

**Future Plans:** Attend Geneseo College to study Physics and Math, Minor in Adolescent Education.

## 8. Arianna Bork

**Parents/Guardians:** Kevin and Adriana Bork



**Activities:** Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor Track, Model UN, Outdoor Awareness, Youth Activation Committee, Elementary Mentoring Program, Soccer coaching.

**Honors:** Character Athlete Award, Section VI ADPRO Scholar Athlete, Choreographer Award, Student of the Month.

**Future Plans:** Attend Niagara University for Secondary Education in Science.

## 9. Enzo Fortunato

**Parents/Guardians:**  
MaryBeth and Luca Fortunato



**Activities:** Jazz Band, Jazz Choir, All-County Band, teaching Goju-ryu Karate.

**Future Plans:** Attend University at Buffalo to study Aerospace Engineering.

## 10. Alexandra Privitera

**Parents/Guardians:**  
Andrew and Tina Privitera



**Activities:** Scholar Athlete, National Travel Volleyball Team, Varsity Volleyball.

**Honors:** National Honor Society.

**Future Plans:** Attend Daemen University for Physical Therapy.

2022

# North Tonawanda High School

## Graduating Class of 2022

Michael Samuel Abramo	Hayden Thomas Fago	Gabrielle Michele Kogo	Evan Michael O'Connor	Owen Michael Stewart
Lindsay Michelle Aebischer	Aviana Sky Fatta	Kelsey Cate Kornacki	Devin Olka	Abigail Jane Stokas
Salvatore Joseph Alessandra	Conner Tyler Filer	Andrew David Kosikowski	Braeden Thomas O'Neil	Jay Richard Stone
Seenaa Attiya Aljibouri	Gavin David Flanders	Joshua William Kramer	Megan Noel Orlowski	Olivia Lin Stone
Alexander Lorenzo Alvarez	Enzo Raphael Fortunato	Ryan Michael Kramer	Isabelle Marie Ortiz	Matthew Lehr Stringfellow
Kendra Onalee Andrews	Emily Carla Gabel	Carleigh Rose Kuebler	Dylan James Pallotta	Jacob Daniel Sturner
Arnardo Luis Atti	Autumn Rain Gambino	Maren Joy Kuebler	Li Xin Wendy Pan	Meadow Rochelle Supples
Lacey Katherine Baer	Vitaliy Alex Gargun	Angela Jean Kyle	Joseph Albin Pasiak	David P. Supruniuk
Sarah Ann Baker	Kyle Gene Garver Jr.	Allison Renee Lang	Shea Lyn Penfold	Ariana Lorain Syposs
Emily Jane Barcik	Rebecca Marie Geiger	Madison Rae Lederhouse	Zackary Quinn Perretta	Nolan Robert Szczesniak
Owen Paul Becigneul	Muhammad Diyari Ghafoor	Caitlin Marie Lettieri	John Louis Pirinelli	Eric Daniel Szykowski
Riley Blaine Benjamin	DaeLynn Lillian Gierszewski	Cody Jing Lin	Sarah Grace Polek	Aaron Michael Taravella
Liliana Josephine Billi	Remi Rose Gill	Timothy Shawn Little	Mark Anthony Lelis Polito	Aleyna Xzealya Taylor
Eva Marie Biracree	Bailey Jo Glass	Ana Maria Lopez	Lauren Ann Price	William Michael Terry
Cameron Joseph Block	Paige Roseanne Gregorio	Emma Rae Lynch	Seth David Price	Alyssa Nicole Thompson
Liliana Ines Bocanegra	Anna Lee Irene Grehlinger	Thomas James Lynch	Alexandra Paige Privitera	Katelyn Brooke Tober
Alexander Lee Bolsover	Simon Joseph Griskonis	Margaret Rose Maciejewski	Daniel Russell Przybylski	Alexis Sky Toledo
Arianna Alicia Bork	Avery Kathryn Grosskopf	Madeline Ruth Mahoney	Joshua Shawn Pucula	Evan Charles Raymond Toye
Lexi LeAnn Brennan	David Joseph Hacker	Jonathan Maltbie	Piper Justine Reed	Andrew John Traina
Paige Morgan Bronson	Hailey Jade Hankinson	William Gavin Manth	Carly Jean Reid	Thanh Thao Tran
Katie Beth Brosius	Clara Hannah-Albon	Giana Kay Manzella	Lauren Helen Rhodes	Aurora Lynne Trinkwalder
Autumn Gabrielle Bukoskey	Richard Orval Harris III	Olivia Rose Markarian	Ethan Thomas Vincent	Carter Matthew Trombley
Juliana Yadira Burandt	Megan Taylor Harvey	Samuel Anthony Marranca	Rieselmann	Everett Michael Tucker
Vincent David Burke	Ryan Evan Haskell	Konner Seth Marshall	James Thomas Rizzo	Amely G Ushakov
Phillip Nazario Cerrillo	Aubrey Michelle Haynes	Anthony Michael Marshall Jr.	Alaina Grace Roberts	Kaylee Marie Valentice
Allison Victoria Chaplin	Savannah Marie Hermanson	Isabella Leona Mathewson	Isabella Grace Rosky	Anthony Vallor
Alexis Elizabeth Cheeley	Zachary Owen Hippert	Lucas Yonghoon Matyevich	Colin Mark Rozycki	Piper Katherine VanHoff
Parker Davis Chlebowy	Brooklyn Marie Hoefert	Ashlee Rose Maziarz	Lillian Kaye Russell	Justin Micah VanVolkenburg
Gabriel Adam Christopher	Olivia Madison Horn	Ryan Michael McAvoy	Jordan Ryan	Isabella Kristina Vazquez
Alisha Marie Clark	Richard Horne	Rea Isabelle Ruth McCartney	Kyle Edward Sadlocha	Marcelina Eileen Vazquez
Michael Christopher Colley	Makayla Marie Hueber	Shaun Kevin McGee	Sabre Jade Mackenzie Scaccia	Ashton Michael Velzy
Aidan Lucas Corbett	Jayden Sommer Hughes	Aiden Kyle McManus	Nicholas Andrew Schrock	Nicholas Vasil VonBergen
Cameron Wilson Cortes	Sajah Satar Hussein	Alejandro Ismael Mercado	Anthony David Scinta	Danielle Nicole Wagner
Thomas Xavier Cruz	Katelyn Marie Ingraham	Alexis Elizabeth Mills	Brennan Michael Senft	Kyndall Aaliyah Wake
Janitza Cruz-Rivera	Emily Frances James	Kasey Marie Miranto	Caleb James Senick	Max Thomas Waliszewski
Timothy Michael Culver	Ayjan Adnan Jawhar	Kylie Nikole Miranto	William Oliver Shaver	Saturn Jane Wattie
Nikolas Joseph D'Andrea	Dennis Marcel Johnson	Rebecca Jean Miskines	Isaiah Zenon Sheppard	Arianna Shanta Weaver
Matthew Joseph DeMart	Ashton Michael Kasprzak	Seth Xavier Mock	Dominic William Simon	Mary Kristen Werth
Bianca Marie DeSouza	Rachel Grace Keenan	Wyatt James Moltrup	Morgan Grace Slater	Stephnie Lynn Marie White
Nicholas Joseph DiBesco	Daniel James Edward Kelly	William Xavier Monk	Haley Elizabeth Small	Elijah Snow Michael Wilbur
Kathryn Ann Dielman	Zhenya Koval Kessinger	Autumn Rose Moran	Lucas Robert Smith	Matthew Thomas Willard
Samuel Christian DiTillio	Michael James Kindron	Victoria Lynn Moran	Skylar James Smith	Sophia Claire Wilson
Jordan Christopher Dudas	Jacob John Kish	Melissa Anne Mugas	Erza Sopi	Peyton Jane Wojtaszek
Brianna Rose Durfey	Meredith Marie Klymkow	Rylie Skye Myers	Jackson Gregory Spencer	Cassandra Elizabeth Wojuzak
Cassidy Patricia Dzielski	Erin Elizabeth Knisley	Austin Ronald Nachreiner	Tyler William Sprenger	Andon David Woodward
Abigail Mackensy Elliot	Alexander Matthew Koeth	AJ Dionne Naniong Nanquil	Brianna Sarah Starr	Nolan James Yanacek
Austin Paul Elliott				Nathan Morgan Ziemba



# NT Seniors Celebrate National Signing Day

Our high school seniors celebrated National Signing Day by sharing their plans for the future. The school's counselors and the Career Center stood outside the cafeteria giving out prizes and congratulating students on their choices after graduation. Students filled out signs indicating if they were going on to a two or four year college, a trade school, joining the military or heading into the work world.

Our Jacks are on the move!



Guidance Counselors Mr. Musielak, Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Hawkins, Mrs. Graves (Career Center), Brittnee Johnson (Guidance Intern), Mrs. Kupiec and Mrs. Wright.



Paige Bronson, Kylie Miranto, Olivia Stone and Anna Grehlinger.

# 2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

Help us to congratulate the following scholarship award winners:

**Allison Marie Clark Memorial Scholarship**  
Alisha Clark

**American Legion Stephen Sikora Post #1322 Scholarships in Honor of John R. Baronich Sr.**

Arianna Bork  
Alisha Clark  
Gabrielle Kogo

**Arlene A. Wallak Memorial Scholarship**  
Paige Bronson

**Carl Fretthold Memorial Scholarships**  
Alaina Roberts  
Matthew Willard

**Claudia Price Bunny Memorial Scholarship**  
Autumn Gambino

**Cynthia Barrett Prelewicz Memorial Scholarships**

Anna Grehlinger  
Shea Penfold  
Thanh Thao Tran  
Cassandra Wojuzak

**Dennis J. Wiess Memorial Scholarship**  
Cassandra Wojuzak

**Elliott Golach Memorial Scholarship**  
Shea Penfold

**Friends of Drake School Scholarships**  
Paige Bronson  
Gabrielle Kogo  
Cassandra Wojuzak

**Gene Donner Memorial Scholarships Sponsored by the NTHS Multi Class Reunion**  
Eric Szykowski  
Thanh Thao Tran

**George J. Woloszyn Jr. Memorial Scholarships**  
Caleb Senick  
Thanh Thao Tran

**James M. McNeill Memorial Scholarship**  
Kylie Miranto

**Jim Chiarello Memorial Scholarship**  
Caleb Senick

**Jim Harszlak Foundation Scholarships**  
Savannah Hermanson  
Lucas Matyevich

**Joey Brochey Memorial Scholarships**  
Paige Bronson  
Matthew Willard

**John N. Carnduff Athletic Scholarship**  
Matthew Willard

**Jordan Benedyczak Memorial Scholarship**  
Peyton Wojtaszek

**Jordan D. Bunker Athletic Scholarships**  
Alaina Roberts  
Matthew Willard

**Leocadia (Lee) M. Ozimek Memorial Scholarship**  
Sarah Polek

**Lt. Keith A. Maitland Memorial Scholarship**  
Arianna Bork

**Meadow Alumni Scholarships**  
Rachel Keenan  
Alaina Roberts

**Michael Marra Memorial Scholarships**  
Lexi Brennan  
Arianna Bork

**Michael Schmidt, Class of 1961 Leadership Memorial Scholarships**  
Arianna Bork  
Eric Szykowski

**NCCC Distinguished Student Scholarships**  
Evan O'Connor  
Abigail Stioкас

**Niagara County Sheriff's Office All Star Program Scholarship**  
Alexandra Privitera

**Nicole Marranca Scholarships**  
Lexi Brennan  
Lucas Matyevich

**North Tonawanda Catholic Club, Inc. and Knights of Columbus Scholarship**  
Alaina Roberts

**North Tonawanda Girls Varsity Swim Booster Scholarships**  
Allison Chaplin  
Megan Harvey

**North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association Scholarships**  
Alexander Bolsover  
Carleigh Kuebler  
Alaina Roberts  
Everett Tucker

**North Tonawanda School Administrators' Association Scholarship**  
Brianna Starr

**North Tonawanda United Teachers Scholarships**  
Arianna Bork  
Rachel Keenan  
Madeline Mahoney  
Megan Orłowski  
Alaina Roberts



# 2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients

## **NT Football Hall of Fame – George J. Vetter Scholarship**

Matthew Willard

## **NT Football Hall of Fame – Louis Anastasi Scholarship**

Austin Nachreiner

## **NTHS Boys Varsity Soccer: Laurie Mourgas & Jerry Sullivan Scholarship**

Max Waliszewski

## **NTHS Girls Varsity Soccer Scholarship**

Arianna Bork

## **NTHS Wall of Fame Athletic Scholarships**

Emily Barcik

Arianna Bork

Lexi Brennan

## **NTHS Wall of Fame Fine Arts Scholarships**

Alaina Roberts

Rachel Keenan

Megan Orlowski

## **O.H.I.O Ohio Home Interest Organization Scholarships**

Arianna Bork

Autumn Gambino

## **Ruth H. Collard Memorial Scholarship**

Enzo Fortunato

## **Spruce Parent Teacher Organization Scholarships**

Enzo Fortunato

Alaina Roberts

## **Stephen Holesko Memorial Scholarship**

Autumn Gambino

## **Superintendent's Scholarship**

Gabrielle Kogo

## **Sutherland Lodge #826 Vernon Curtis Memorial Scholarships**

Anna Grehlinger

Samuel Marranca

## **Sweeney Hose – Robert & Laura Kinzley Memorial Scholarship**

Lucas Matyevich

## **Sweeney Hose – Frank Family Memorial Scholarship**

Megan Orlowski

## **Sweeney Hose – Robert Semple Memorial Scholarship**

Samuel Marranca



## **The State Ed. Dept. Scholarships of Academic Excellence**

Rachel Keenan

Sarah Polek

Megan Orlowski

Victoria Moran

Rebecca Geiger

Arianna Bork

Lexi Brennan

## **Third Warder's Glen Gray Scholarship and Athletic Honor of Excellence**

Matthew Willard

## **Third Warder's Social Club Frank Sumi Memorial Service Scholarship**

Brianna Starr

## **Third Warder's Social Club John Baronich Sr. Memorial Scholarship**

Sarah Polek

## **Timothy G. Serwinowski Memorial Scholarship**

Paige Bronson

## **Walter P. Sy, M.D. Scholarship**

Matthew Willard

## **Wegmans Scholarships**

Seenaa Aljibouri

Rebecca Geiger

Aubrey Haynes

Caitlin Lettieri

## **2022 Community All Star Award**

Alaina Roberts

## **2022 Student Achievement Awards**

Rachel Keenan

Evan O'Connor

Matthew Willard

## **Triple "C" Awards**

Alisha Clark

Andon Woodward

## Area All State

Area All-State Concerts were held on May 21st at Niagara County Community College (NCCC). Astrid DeMart (trombone) and Meredith Roberts (saxophone) represented North Tonawanda and played in the Jazz band along with their teacher Angela Dray.

Well played everyone!

## College Consortium

The High School Student Counselors and Career Center hosted the WNY College Consortium this spring.

College admissions representatives from Western New York area were available to meet with interested seniors or juniors to discuss academic majors, collegiate athletics, housing opportunities, tuition cost, financial aid, clubs and organizations, how to apply the universities and colleges, and more.



(LtoR) Astrid DeMart, Meredith Roberts and Angela Dray.



## Middle School Students Enjoy NT Botanical Garden Visit

North Tonawanda Middle School teacher Harmony Worrall and her Science class students enjoyed a great field trip recently. Her 8th grade class – Team Phoenix and Team Draco were lucky enough to participate in a field trip hosted by the NT Botanical Gardens.

“This experience was four years in the making and was definitely worth the wait,” says Ms. Worrall. “Students had fun engaging in numerous station activities including Nature Yoga, Pollinators, and Water Keepers Living Shoreline. They learned about invasive species, how to plant native plants, the importance of pollinators, experienced live animals, and how to relax and respect nature. It was an amazing experience for all that we hope to continue in the future.”



## NT CSD Staff Raises Money for Ukraine

Like many around the world, Ohio Elementary's ENL teacher Elisabeth Gerber wanted to do something to help the people of Ukraine. “We have a very large population of Ukrainians here in North Tonawanda and in our schools. Many of them have family still there. It hit home for a lot of us because of what they are going through there.”

Ms. Gerber found out through a coworker that one of the local churches has been working with an organization that is sending money and supplies to the country. She asked Superintendent Greg Woytila if they could start a dress down day on Wednesdays or if staff could wear blue and yellow (the colors of Ukraine flag) and use it as a fundraiser to collect money for the church. “He very graciously agreed and we have had staff across the district donate everything from \$3 to \$100,” says Ms. Gerber. “The church is sending the money to Moldova to provide shelter and food for the refugees. We were able to collect \$2,925.77 to send to them and they were very grateful to us.”

“The staff has been amazing at our district,” says Ms. Gerber. “We are hearing stories from our parents about what their families are going through right now, so how can we not feel closely connected to this? It has been overwhelming the support we have gotten for this effort and I would like to thank everyone who contributed.”



## Spruce Students Learn About Composting

The third grade students at Spruce Elementary had a fascinating and informative visit with Mr. Jeremy Silsby, a farmer from the Niagara County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Silsby talked to the students about composting and read the book “Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table”. The lesson was part of the school’s Agriculture Literacy Week that the third grade sponsors. Teacher Meaghan Shreve says the students were very excited to receive a worm farm to start their own composting projects. They finished out the school year with growing their own plants in class.





# Fifth Grader's Artwork for DEC Calendar Celebrated with Tree Planting

Cecilia Fedeson, a fifth grader at the NTI, was honored with a tree planting at her school. Cecilia won the DEC's (Department of Environmental Conservation) annual Arbor Day poster contest. Her design will be featured on the cover of their calendar. Classmate Grace Gabel was a runner-up in the contest and will have her artwork featured in the calendar as well.

Thousands of 5th grade students across New York State submitted entries in the yearly competition. This year's theme was "Healthy Trees, Healthy People". DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos says, "This year's 5th grade Arbor Day poster contest winner's unique artwork captures the beauty and benefits trees provide in enhancing quality of life. The DEC congratulates Cecilia on her creation and appreciates all the student poster contest participants for their inspired submissions. We encourage students to continue taking active roles to highlight and protect our shared environment."

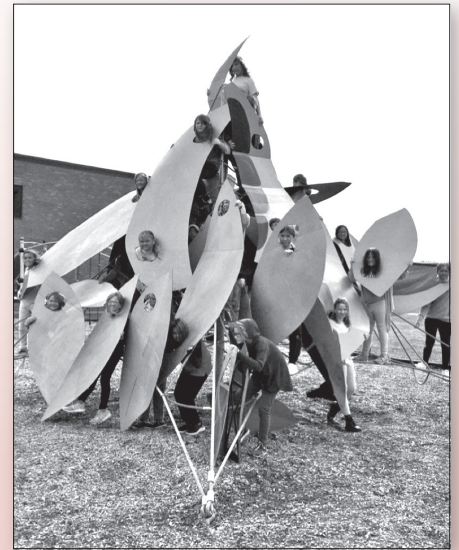
Their Art teacher Melinda Wright is very proud of both of her students. "As educators we need to stress and reinforce the importance of a healthy earth. The Arbor Day poster contest is just one of these ways. Every artist strives to hear their voice heard through art."

On May 13th, the entire NTI school community, North Tonawanda CSD Superintendent Greg Woytila, NTI Principal Greg Burgess, DEC Forester Nate Morey, Jennifer Dunning, the Western New York Regional Representative from Governor Hochul's office, North Tonawanda Mayor Austin Tylec and Ms. Wright all celebrated with Cecilia and Grace. Cecilia and Grace assisted in planting a Black Hills Spruce tree on NTI's campus. A special thank you to Northtowns Turf and Landscaping for donating their labor and expertise at the event.



*NTI Principal Greg Burgess, Jennifer Dunning (WNY Regional Representative from the Governor Hochul's Office), Nate Morey (DEC Representative), Grace Gabel, Cecilia Fedeson, Art teacher Melinda Wright, Mayor Austin Tylec and representative from Northtowns Turf and Landscaping.*

## NTI Recreate Art Masterpiece



NTI Art teacher Melinda Wright couldn't wait to share the hard work her 60+ students at NTI did. They recreated a magnificent sculpture by Nancy Rubins titled "Monochrome 1, Built to Live Anywhere, at Home Here, 2010-11" which is part of the Albright Knox Gallery's permanent collection. "We wanted to recreate something that was monumental so we chose the Nancy Rubins sculpture," says Ms. Wright.

"NTI is lucky to have a climbing pyramid constructed of rope that we used to pose on. We had a cupcake sale that Wegman's sponsored to raise money for supplies. Silver acrylic paint is pricey. A local cardboard manufacturer gifted us all the cardboard we needed! A big thank you to West Rock on Robinson in North Tonawanda and Wegman's who sponsored us! When they say it takes a village, they mean it! We could not have done any of this without the support of our NT businesses."

"I am truly blessed to be working with such great kids," says Ms. Wright. "We have an energetic group; of 60 students (4th-6th grade) who love art! I hope everyone enjoys the love, joy and pure happiness of this recreation."

The artwork was submitted for the Albright Knox's Virtual Art Alive competition which highlights participants' stunning replicas and awards more than \$1,000 in cash prizes. The piece took home the People's Choice Award for Groups/Households!



# NTI Students Master Continental Mathematics League



(LtoR) Brooke Bielec and Abigail Laski.

NTI teacher Emily Colletta is proud to announce that two students were named national leaders in the CML (Continental Math League) competition. Brooke Bielec, a fourth grader came in the top 11 and Abigail Laski, a sixth grader came in the top seven. “They had perfect scores on all five of their math meets,” says Ms. Colletta. “This is a huge accomplishment and something we should all be proud of!”

The Continental Mathematics League has been motivating students to become better problem-solvers in multiple disciplines. It is national problem solving competition that requires students to complete timed, written tests.

Additionally NTI ranked number two in New York State in both 5th and 6th grade and fourth in 4th grade. The teams from the 4th and 5th grade beat the Windermere Boulevard/Amherst competition! “We are so grateful to Mr. Woytila, our administration and the Board of Education for their support of the Gifted and Talented program,” says Colletta. “The students need opportunities like this and I am so happy to be able to provide them. We are looking forward to even more success next year!”

## Jacks That Care

The staff and students at North Tonawanda High School, who are part of the Work-Based Learning Program, ended their school year with a culminating project that brought together all of the things they have been working on all school year.

Jacks that Care is a school-based enterprise (SBE) that was presented to the Board of Education in 2021 to be implemented in the 2021-2022 school year. Jacks that Care’s mission is to receive and distribute material aid to the NT community. This was one of the many tasks of the Family Resource Counselor and school support teams. The idea was proposed by Mrs. Elizabeth Bittar, Assistant Director of Special Education, as one way to meet the requirements for the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) credential and to have the students support this and gain very important work skills in the process.

Mrs. Jane Guadagna, Special Education teacher, took on a new role of a Work-Based Learning Coordinator and Transition Specialist. She collaborated with Ms. Jessica Stuewe, the Family Resource Counselor, and the program began running monthly drives districtwide to collect material aid.

This program has been operating based entirely on donations from the community and a small budget from the Special Education Department. To raise some monetary funds to be able to purchase needed items for specific requests from our schools for some of their families, the students began collecting bottles and cans. This initiative raised \$300. In the winter the Teacher’s Union NTUT collected gift cards that were originally going to be donated to the local food pantries, but decided to donate them the program instead. Jacks that Care gratefully accepted their donation, which totaled \$750 in gift cards.

With the money raised by the bottles and cans, donations from the food drives and the generous NTUT donation, Jacks that Care started their final project of Summer Bags to be delivered to our NT families. Sixty bags were assembled by the students and each school building was given 10 bags each to be given to families identified by the School Support Team. These bags were sewn by the students in the Work-Based Learning Program and Mrs. Kathy Winston’s Textile class. The students decided what to purchase for the bags and a budget. They did all of the shopping, packing, and delivery of the bags. To complete this project by the deadline of June 10th the students from our Life Skills program at the High School, taught by Mrs. Sara Sperrazza, helped to move things along.

For more information on Jacks that Care and the other Work-Based Learning programs, please visit our website. <https://www.ntschoools.org/Page/7188>



## NTI See Which Way the Wind Blows for Cool Hands-On Activity

NTI’s Miss Miranda, Mrs. Wagner, and Mrs. Young’s Math and Science classes cooperated in an engaging hands-on learning experience.

Through discovery learning, the students were able to explore negative pressure to inflate a wind bag in only one to two breaths. Using the inflated bags and rubber bands, the students worked together to plan and construct jumbo pyramids and prisms where they were able to see learning come to life!





# Lady Jacks Flag Football Inauguration Kicks Off

The Buffalo Bills hosted a first ever ladies flag football season kickoff this spring! The Lady Jacks took part in this great event for high school girls in partnership with the NFL Flag and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). There were 19 schools in the Western New York area who participated in the event at the Bills' practice facility. Three Buffalo Bills players were on hand: Dion Dawkins, Siran Neal and Tremaine Edwards. The players talked to the teams and posed for photos with the athletes.



(LtoR) Row 1 (kneeling) Olivia Stone, Ariana Kennedy, Morgan Mersdorf, Alexandria Privitera, Brook Barone, Elizabeth Lyons, Erika Kellar and Kylie Miranto. Row 2 (standing) Ashton Kasprzak (student assistant), Brielle Gorcheck, Megan Orlowski, Raygen Manzare, Aryanna Licht, Erza Sopi, Paige Spatorico, Molly Lyons, Lexi Brennan and Katie Harrington (Coach). Missing from photo: Summer Colgrove, Madison Leaderhouse, Kelsie Meredith, Shea O'Rourke, Taylor Sciandra and Emily Zander.

The teams broke into two sessions (AM and PM) and started drill work and then moved on to scrimmages. "I think it's important that all of our student-athletes get the opportunity to put on that school uniform and represent their school and have teammates and camaraderie and learn those life lessons that interscholastic athletics teaches all of our student-athletes," Todd Nelson, Assistant Director of NYSPHSAA said. "I think this gives the girls a really great opportunity for something that hasn't been in the section before," North Tonawanda High School flag football coach Katie Harrington said. "It just shows them different venues that they can take for their futures because there are so many opportunities that they have."

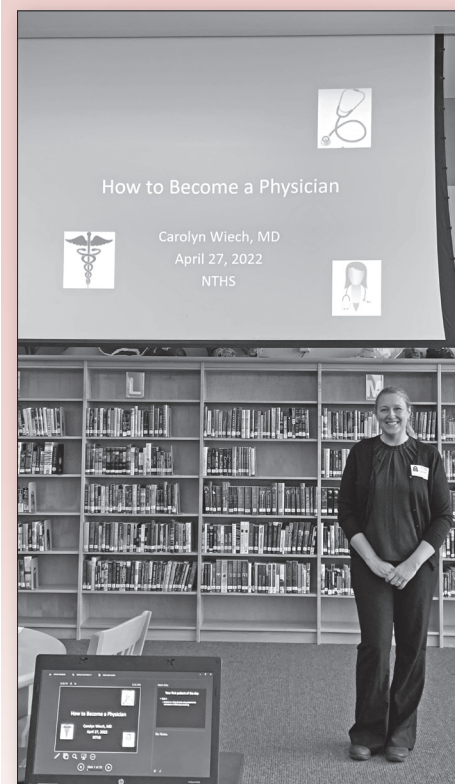
Guest speaker, Phoebe Schechter, a former Buffalo Bills coaching intern and the current NFL Flag Ambassador, told the teams she wishes there had been an opportunity like this when she was a student. She told the students that they were building a sisterhood with their teammates and that those memories were priceless. "The camaraderie, the life lessons that you get from specifically football, the character building, the integrity, the teamwork, all that," Schechter said. "Even from a female-specific point of view, the confidence and the way that this sport empowers someone, it's just amazing. And they'll be able to have these connections for the rest of their life."

Twenty local schools participated in the high school girls flag football pilot league this spring and played games against teams in their Section (Section V and Section VI) as a part of a statewide initiative. Throughout the state, there are more than 50 schools launching high school girls flag in 2022. The Western New York schools received uniforms from Nike and grant funding to help with the launch of the program from the Bills.

# Alumni Pays House Call at High School

Recently, the Career Center/High School counselors had alumni Dr. Carolyn Wiech speak to students in the Academy of Health and Sciences about what it is like to be a physician. Dr. Wiech is an emergency room doctor at Buffalo General Hospital and Millard Gates Vascular Hospital.

Dr. Wiech is a 1999 graduate of North Tonawanda High School. She continued her education at University at Buffalo and UB Medical School. It is always great to hear about our graduates' successes!



# First Responders Day

As always, we are so thankful to all the first responders who graciously volunteered their time to talk careers with our high schoolers! The students always get a lot out of the conversations and help them determine their career path or how they would like to volunteer their time!



# Shooting for the Stars



*Reno Scaccia, Sean McGowan, Conner Williams, Shawn Pearson, Joshua Kennedy, Parker Palmer and Mrs. Criddle.*

High School students in the Man, Planet and Technology class attended a field trip to the Planetarium at Buffalo State College. Through a visually immersive experience, they learned about the violent birth of the universe.

Their teacher Mrs. Criddle says the students had a magical 360° full dome view of events that have shaped the Earth. “The Whitworth Ferguson Planetarium's state-of-the-art mechanical projector produced an amazing view of the stars, planets, and constellations. Students learned ways to identify key celestial bodies in Buffalo’s spring sky. They learned how to view Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn aligning perfectly in the morning sky; and how to look out for the blood moon lunar eclipse that happened in May. The students enjoyed this interactive experience!”



# North Tonawanda Intermediate 6th Grade Award Recipients

Congratulations to all the students who were recognized for achieving high honors in academics.

## Triple “C”

Student(s) that demonstrate *commitment, character, and courage*.

Giana Armele	Benjamin Oviatt
Lilly Barba	Landon Pendrak
Evan Birmingham	Michael Perfetti
Lily Carey	Amelia Quesnell
Alliecia Dubke	Austin Rydzik
Connor Ellmore	Catherine Shaw
Angelina Gargun	Connor Shiesley
Kayla Hume	Brennan Taggart
Braydon Langier	Mathew Wark
Gabriella Lopez	Landon Whitmire
Olivia Nelson	Eva Young
Madeline O'Sullivan	

## President’s Award Educational Excellence Recipients

Students that achieved high honors in academics.

Aryanna Andrews	Silvio Joyce-Wheeler
Siera Behrens	Raymond Keidel
Sophia Benden	Hailie Kiebzak
Lennea Caccamise	Owen Killion
Adele Carrion	Hailey McGee
Aubrey Cone	Jamison Mersdorf
Brendan Dickey	Carter Micoli
Rebekah Durst	Kendall Murray
Jeanette Haley	Brody Stutz
Ryder Henry	Kiley Tomsic
Aubrey Hummel	Ethan Uplinger



# Intermediate School Awards *continued*

## President's Award

### Educational Achievement Recipients

Students who show outstanding education growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subject.

Nathaniel Border  
Allison Burrow  
Dominic Clark  
Christopher Crossett  
Aliyah Czaja  
Sophia Dinger  
Madelyn Ernst  
Candace Faulhaber  
Cole Frank  
Dante Johnson  
DeAndre Jones  
Lyla Licata  
Preston Loncar  
Javier Ortiz  
Calum Parsons  
Owen Plewniak  
Lucas Snyder  
Nathaniel Solack  
Kellen Solecki  
Nya Swan  
Eden Trometer  
Kha'liah Wiley  
Zachary Wright

## Comptroller's Award

Student(s) that have shown academic excellence and the potential for leadership through involvement in activities that improve the school and/or community.

Ashley Allen  
Sophia Benden  
Austin Collier  
Aubrey Cone  
Felix Cwynar  
Miranda Darone  
Jordyn Davis  
Addy Devonshire  
Nikko Giolando  
Eric Grinnell  
Gabrielle Hammond-Miller  
Isabella Karcz  
Lyla Licata  
Abigail Lichtenberger  
Sophia May  
Kayden McGaffick  
Brayden Musielak  
A.J. Nanquil  
Javier Ortiz  
Bryce Reimer  
Madilyn Tabor

## Dasher Day

On Thursday, April 7th, at Drake Elementary students and staff held Dasher Day. Dasher, a service dog, belongs to Miss Leah, the social work intern. Dasher's presence on Tuesdays and Thursdays this year has been so helpful to our students as well as staff," says Principal Janet Matyevich. "Dasher brings a smile to everyone's face. He has been a significant addition to our Drake family. He has helped a number of children who were anxious or upset this year."

To celebrate "Dasher Day," students could bring a stuffed dog or other animal to school. Drake also collected small donations for 4 PAWS FOR ABILITY. This is the organization that trained Dasher to work with Miss Leah. On average, it costs around \$50,000 to raise, train, and place a service dog. The school raised \$414!



(LtoR): Bottom row: Peyton Meden, Dasher and Amber Everett. Top row: Callista Neal, Ethan Barclay, Leah Manth, Amelia Fiumefreddo and Emilee Dauphin.



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

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## Sprucing Up Spruce

Written by: The Spruce up Spruce Committee

What was once a blank wall has been transformed into an inspirational memory for our young students at Spruce Elementary School. With the generous support of a grant received from the Remember Ryan Foundation and the hard work from Ms. Alexandra Gerbec, Art teacher at Spruce, the Tree Mural was created.

Every student who currently attends Spruce had a “hand” in the creation of this mural that overlooks the front foyer. The entire staff was also part of the design by helping choose the quote that accompanies the tree, “Plant Kindness Wherever You Go”.

The goal of this mural is to instill a sense of pride and connection to the school for these young minds as they go forward into the world. The next time you visit Spruce Elementary be sure to take note of this mural and we hope you too will plant a little kindness wherever you go.

