

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,

I'd like to start by wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024. This time of year is so busy that we often forget to stop and enjoy the tiny moments with friends and family. I hope you can all do what you enjoy in 2024.

The second half of this school year will go just as fast as the first. We have many exciting things in the works.

- The first of these being the winter session of Community Education. Please review the pages in this publication to see what is offered and follow the online directions to register.
- Second, is the roll-out of the competitive \$2.3 million P-Tech grant awarded to the district. This year's 8th graders will be among the first to start working towards a college Associates Degree when starting high school and 9th grade next year. We partnered with Ingram Micro to offer pathways in Computer Science and Computer Information Systems that will also earn Niagara County Community College credit.
- Third, is the excitement around a North Tonawanda created Student Spaceflight Experiment being chosen to be part of the next space flight to the International Space Station. The astronauts will work on the experiment in space while we work on it here in NT. The results will then be compared and shared.
- Fourth, we are proud to be selected by US Drone Soccer as the District II Western Area qualifier site for 2024. NT will host the qualifier tournament on Saturday, February 17th with teams coming from the Rochester and Buffalo areas.
- Fifth, we are excited for this spring's NY State testing. Our NT staff and students have been working hard. The results of this year's testing should show the rest of the state that good things are happening in North Tonawanda.
- We are also getting ready for the next Capital Project for North Tonawanda and more details on the upgrades will be coming soon. The vote for this project will be the same day as the budget vote on May 21, 2024.

We have so many new and exciting programs in the works for all of you and we are excited for the future. Please enjoy reviewing some of the accomplishments from this year as you go through the pages of this NT SPIRIT.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of North Tonawanda City Schools



College Signing

Congratulations to Aidan Haynes who recently signed to play D1 Baseball at Youngstown State University. Aidan plans to major in Business.



Turkey Trot

Students at Drake Elementary showed off their athleticism at their Turkey Trot! Great job to everyone who participated!



Isabel Witek races for the finish line.



Christopher Fox

NTI Students Take Home People's Choice Award for Art Alive

Congratulations to NTI Art teacher, Karen Knight, and her artists who were named a winner in the People's Choice Awards at Art Alive at the Albright Knox Museum. The students were recognized for their interpretation of Dale Chihuly's *Fiori Boat* (2018) in the K-8 category.

The annual contest invites participants to create living representations of famous works of art. These stunning replicas – often called tableaux – can be made using people, props and their own creativity.



Swimming Champion

Congratulations to Meredith Roberts, NT Lady Jacks' Sophomore, who competed in NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) Championship Swim Meet on November 17th and 18th in Webster, New York.

Meredith placed 5th in New York State with a 1:04:98 in the 100-metre Breaststroke and 22nd with a 2:11:47 in the 200-metre Individual Medley event, breaking both of her school records she set last year!



Fire Prevention Week



Students at Drake Elementary School got a chance to see a fire truck, talk to firefighters and learn safety tips for preventing fire and what to do if there is a fire during Fire Safety and Prevention Week.



Community Education Classes

Aqua Fitness Fun

A low impact but high intensity water aerobics class where no swimming skills are needed. This class is designed to improve flexibility, range of motion, strength, muscle tone and cardiovascular endurance while using the resistance of the water to cushion the feet, knees and back. Exercises are performed to lively, motivating music and are effective and easy to follow. Water hand weights, pool noodles, kickboards are all incorporated. Participants are encouraged to bring their own pool noodle. Non-swimmers welcome!

Instructor: Cyd Green

\$100

On-line Registration Only: <https://ntschoools.coursestorm.com/>

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

January 8 – March 11, 2024 (no class 1/15 and 2/19)

North Tonawanda Intermediate School Pool (enter through door 10)

Hand Me A Harp!

Have you ever wanted to glide your fingers gracefully across the silky strings of a harp? Here's your chance. This two-hour, hands-on workshop will introduce you to the joy of making music on a truly ancient instrument. We will be using various folk harps to make some beautiful sounds. Yes, we will play some tunes. Yes, we will do some awesome improvisation as well. No prior experience is necessary, we won't be using written music for this course. Sign up with a friend (or child 14 or older) to share a harp and share the fun.

Instructor: Karen Harms

\$45 (single participant)

\$60 (double participants sharing a harp)

On-line Registration Only: <https://ntschoools.coursestorm.com/>

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Individual Workshops (choose one date) January 22, February 27, or March 18

North Tonawanda Middle School, room 188

Protecting your House, Retirement, and Lifestyle from Medicaid and Nursing Home Events

This course is designed to help you learn the secrets to protecting everything you have worked for from Medicaid & Nursing Home fraud. Some topics include:

- Avoid losing your house to Medicaid & Nursing Home
- Is your house set up for care correctly
- Avoid impoverishing your spouse
- Avoid affecting your children and grandchildren financial future
- Mitigating the Longevity Risk on your House, Retirement & Lifestyle
- Plan for the expected and unexpected in your life

Bring a notebook

Instructors:

Les Robinson CLTC Author: Protecting your Money from Medicaid and Nursing Home Event

Chrystal Manzare Senior R.E. specialist at Howard Hanna Real Estate Services

FREE

On-line Registration Only: <https://ntschoools.coursestorm.com/>

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

March 6, 2024

North Tonawanda Middle School, room 110

iPhone Photography

The iPhone has the capabilities of producing beautiful camera quality photographs. Participants will be introduced to the camera function on the iPhone from taking good photographs to post processing using the built in editing tool and discuss 3rd party apps such as Snapseed

Instructor: Glenn Dolata

\$35

On-line Registration Only: <https://ntschoools.coursestorm.com/>

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

January 24, 2024

North Tonawanda Middle School, room 112



R3 Weight Loss Plan and Support

Each student will learn how to shift their bodies from fat-storage mode to fat-burning mode and eat foods they like. You can look forward to losing weight and learning how to maintain a healthy weight. An overview from a Wellness company will be presented to introduce more tools to help with the 6-week eating plan. Supportive ideas and recipes as well as numerous success stories will be shared on a Facebook group (R3 weight loss plan) with over 100,000 participants.

Anyone can do this 6-week eating plan! You will be given the background of where this eating plan originated and a cookbook with all the necessary instructions to help guide your meal choices. No counting calories, there are “Yes” and “No” lists of foods. You can choose whatever you want on these lists. Shopping lists and meal planning will be included in this class. Invite your friends and use this season to lose some weight and be a healthier you!

Instructor: : Linda Feagin

\$30

On-line Registration Only: <https://ntschoools.coursestorm.com/>

Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

February 20, 2024

North Tonawanda Middle School, room 112

Yoga 1

Beginning yoga is appropriate for students of all levels, from brand new beginners to experienced students. This course will offer students the opportunity to enrich their practice by slowing down and moving with their breath. There will be a focus on body and mind connection along with body alignment and breathing. Yoga is for everyone and is very beneficial for people of all ages and fitness levels. This class will be taught in a very supportive manner and will be a safe place to explore balance, range of motion, and relaxation. Everyone is welcome!

Also: Many times, I hear people tell me that they really want to try yoga, but they aren't flexible enough. Yoga improves strength, balance and flexibility. These are just some of the many ways that yoga practice can benefit your health and wellness. Come join us!

A yoga mat is required

Blocks, blanket, or bolster optional

Instructor: Eileen Colling

\$70

Registration Online Only: <https://ntschoools.coursestorm.com/>

Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

January 16 – February 13, 2024

North Tonawanda Middle School, cafeteria

Yoga and Flexibility for Beginners

This beginning yoga class will focus on the basics of movement and mindfulness. Infused with a focus on healing and mobility, the class will guide students through a series of foundational poses meant to increase circulation and stability. Students will benefit from practices traditional to occupational therapy, trauma-based healing, as well as traditional yoga practices.

Instructor: Erin Robinson

\$20

On-line Registration Only: <https://ntschoools.coursestorm.com/>

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

January 9 – February 6, 2024

North Tonawanda Intermediate School, cafeteria

Continued on page 4

Community Ed Classes *continued*

Acting and Improv

The class will teach concepts of the interrelated areas of acting and improv, including scene study, improv concepts, auditions, dealing with stage fright, local performing venues "rules", history of improv, memorizing scripts, as well as other concepts. Class will end with a student performance.

Instructor: Mike Kowal

\$35

On-line Registration Only: <https://nts.schools.coursestorm.com/>

Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

January 9 – February 6, 2024

North Tonawanda Intermediate School, room 112

Evan's Music Lessons

Beginner through intermediate classes on Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Electric Bass, Set and Hand Drums and General Music Theory and Improvisation

Instructor: Evan Diliberto

\$170

On-line Registration Only: <https://nts.schools.coursestorm.com/>

Monday: Guitar 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

January 8, 22, 29 February 5

Tuesday: Drums 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

January 9, 16, 23, 30

Thursday: Bass Guitar 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

January 11, 18, 25 February 1

North Tonawanda Middle School, room 188

North Tonawanda City Schools Community Education Policies

ENROLLMENT

Class registration is on a first-come basis. We welcome anyone 18 years of age or older (exceptions are given by some instructors and listed in the class description) to enroll in our Community Education Program. The enrollment deadline is one week prior to the start of class. Our program is open to the entire community; we encourage residents of other districts to enroll in our classes.

Online: Registration is available for our classes at <https://nts.schools.coursestorm.com/>. Our third-party processing company will assess a \$1.99 non-refundable fee for each class registration. If you need assistance registering, please call 716-807-3603.

We do not allow walk-in registrations at the class locations.

REFUND POLICY

Requests for refunds must be made in person or in writing and received no later than five (5) school business days prior to the start of the first class. Weekends and days that the school is closed are not considered business days. Make requests to North Tonawanda Community Education, 176 Walck Rd, North Tonawanda, 14120. There will be a \$7 processing fee applied to all refunds by the district. Please note, refund checks are issued twice a month by our business office.

Classes are held based on a minimum enrollment of students registered for a class. As such, NO REFUNDS will be issued past the deadlines stated above. We regret that no exceptions can be made to this policy due to life events, illness (including COVID 19 illness, quarantines, and mask & distancing policies), personal or business conflicts that would cause you to cancel. NO REFUNDS

CANCELLATIONS

If the minimum enrollment is not met for a class to be held, you will be notified by phone or email within three business days of the class start date. You will be refunded for any class cancellations in full.

Emergency closings due to weather or otherwise will be announced on local radio/TV stations. If the school district is closed, then all evening activities on that day will be canceled.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Our instructors are here to share with you a skill, talent or expertise that they possess. The opinions shared by the instructors are not necessarily the opinions of the North Tonawanda City School District. Instructors are not required to be certified teachers, although many have certifications in their own fields of expertise.

SCHOOL RULES

You must abide by school rules while on campus, and that includes a strict no smoking or e-cig/vaping policy. You will be asked to leave the campus, and we may remove you from enrollment for that semester.

MINOR POLICY (child/youth/under age 18)

If an instructor has opened their classes up for minor/underage children to register, a parent/guardian must be registered and attend the same class. Children must be always in the care of and under direct supervision of their parents/guardian in all locations. At no time shall children be on district property if not registered in a class. Parents/guardians are always also responsible for the behavior of their children during instruction. Failure to abide by this policy will result in the removal of all parties involved from our program. There will be no refunds given in the event this policy is enforced.

NTI Bike Path Ribbon Cutting

The North Tonawanda Intermediate School bike course is officially open and ready for people to hit the trail. The school district and city celebrated the event with a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the new park on October 18th.

Thanks to the efforts of the North Tonawanda City School District, the local neighborhood watch, and a community member, the bike path became a reality. Superintendent Gregory Woytila says, "We are thankful for the donation of this wonderful bike park from the North Tonawanda Neighborhood Watch Group, this is a perfect addition to the Intermediate campus. We hope not only the children in NT, but the whole community will use this new addition to the city. Improving the safety and skills needed to be lifelong bike riders will enhance out NT community."

The park will be open from dusk until dawn with full accessibility for the public to enjoy. The Intermediate school also plans to hold gym classes with students riding bikes on the course when the weather allows for outdoor activity.



NT and Niagara Falls Continue Relationship Building for Second Year

North Tonawanda City School District Superintendent, Greg Woytila, and Niagara Falls City School District Superintendent, Mark Laurie, are looking forward to continuing the work they started last year between their high school students. “We listened to the feedback that we received from the students that participated last year and structured this school year’s interactions around that,” says Mr. Woytila. “Many of the students expressed they would like our meetings to be not so structured and have more time to interact with one another and build friendships. It has been very positive.”

The two leaders, along with school and community representatives, started the school year by continuing to create a space where students could talk about diversity by learning about each other’s culture and experiences. This year’s students held their first get together at the North Tonawanda History Museum located at 712 Oliver Street. Executive Director, Howard Roeske, greeted the students and gave them a tour of the artifacts that this museum holds. The group was fascinated to learn about the history of the “Lumber City” and how it was established. Many of the students did not know that it earned its name Tonawanda from an Iroquois word meaning “swift running water”.



The group was also addressed by Niagara Falls community member Samika Sullivan and Mr. Woytila. “The students are looking forward to getting together again this year,” says Mr. Woytila. “This collaboration started as a response to unsportsmanlike behavior at a soccer game at our school and it has turned into an ongoing conversation about how we are more similar than different. It has been a game changer.” Ms. Sullivan said the students were making history. “These students are part of a unique generation because they question everything. They know if they don’t do anything, they won’t solve anything. I think they are challenging themselves both emotionally and intellectually to make positive changes.”

The students also visited the Underground Railroad Museum. “These field trips are a great way for our students to understand where the other is coming from and learn about their cities,” says Mr. Woytila. We are very grateful to the NT History Museum and the Underground Railroad Museum for opening their doors to us. We are looking forward to another productive school year between our two districts and doing more teambuilding activities.”



College Fair

North Tonawanda High School Counselors and Career Center hosted their annual Northeast College Fair on Wednesday, September 20th, in the gymnasium. All Junior and Senior students were invited to attend. Representatives from a total of 83 colleges, trade schools and Military recruiters were in attendance to answer questions, hand out material, and offer important information on students post graduate decisions.



Camerohn Kozlowski, Amanda Young and Astrid DeMart.



(LtoR) High School Staff: David Musielak (Counselor), Jennifer Schultz (Counselor), Lori Graves (Career Center Mentor), Jennifer Kupiec (Counselor), Alyssa Hawkins (Counselor) and Lynn Wright (Counselor).

High School Students Enjoy Day at Niagara Gorge

Earth Science students experienced an adventurous field trip with raging water, ancient rock layers, and colorful rustling leaves. On a scenic hike into the gorge, students climbed hundreds of steps down into the valley that was carved by the Niagara River over millions of years. Surrounding stone walls expose the history of ocean sediments and ancient sea creatures that formed the sedimentary rock layers. Deep in the middle of the river's path, between Canada and the United States, students had a picnic lunch on an enormous flat rock alongside the Whirlpool Rapids. Tenth grader Monalisa Thompson said, "The field trip to the gorge was jaw dropping! The nature and the formations made years ago were so incredible to see."

Mr. Mohring wanted to ensure students from the Foreign Exchange Program were involved, and they gladly agreed to join in on this field trip experience. Niagara Falls is a "must see" destination and the Maid of the Mist boat tour is one of the best ways to get an excellent view of this natural wonder. Students were able to see and feel the amazing power of water on the boat directly below both the American and Horseshoe Falls. All were splashed and soaked by the thundering water that flows over the falls. Mrs. Criddle said, "We are so fortunate to have such an amazing display right in our backyard, there is no better way to teach earth science than to experience it directly."



NT Awarded New York State Pathways in Technology College High School Grant

North Tonawanda City School District was one of twelve in New York State to be awarded the New York State Pathways in Technology (NYS P-TECH) program funding. The District was granted \$2,313,738 in partnership with SUNY Niagara County Community College and Ingram Micro which will be spent across seven years.

The monies will be used to prepare students for high-skill technology, health care, finance and manufacturing jobs. The program combines high school, college and career training, focusing on academically and economically at-risk students. Students will receive ongoing mentorship by professionals in their chosen career sector. In essence, it will strengthen the pipeline between local talent and industries with a favorable job outlook.

“Early workforce development and career mentorship allows students to discover their passions and talents, develop their skills and build relationships with mentors who can guide them on their career journey and prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow,” says Governor Kathy Hochul. “This program will help ensure thousands of New York students can reach their full potential and gives employers access to a large pool of talent that can bring enterprises to the next level.”

Middle School Explores Varied Topics for Student Professional Development Week

On Wednesday, September 28th, NTHS’ School Counselor, Lynn Wright, Middle School Principal, Dr. Josh Janese, and Assistant Principal, Scott A. Mueller, say that Student Development Week was a huge success. “Our 7th and 8th grade students had the opportunity to engage in learning from nine different presenters, on a wide variety of topics,” explains Mr. Mueller.

The event ran September 18th-21st with a number of guest speakers from various community organizations that presented important information to students on different topics such as bullying, microaggressions, the dangers of vaping, SRO (Student Resource Officer) meet and greet, an administration welcome and health and fitness. Both Dr. Janese and Mr. Mueller want to extend a special thank you to: NTMS counselors and social workers who talked about Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), the NT Family Resource Center who discussed Dress for Success, CHANT (Community Health Alliance of North Tonawanda)

on the dangers of vaping, UB ITTIC (The Institute of Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care) on managing emotions, UB Alberti Center on microaggressions, Lieutenant Herbert – NTMS SRO, NCCC’s Liberty Group for inclusive activities, NT Recreation Center for health and fitness and the Administrative team on basic building expectations.

“Throughout the presentations the students had an opportunity to ask a ton of questions and engage in meaningful conversations on how to be successful both in and out of school,” says Mr. Mueller. “Many of them said it was a nice break from their traditional school day, where they learned about valuable life skills that they will carry with them beyond the middle school years! We hope the students learned how to be kind to their peers, make smart and informed decisions in their life and not be afraid to speak up when they are struggling with their emotions.”



TNT Week

What a fantastic and high energy week it was, October 16-20th! Can you beat Lumberfest, Pep Rally, Car Parades, Chowder and of course that amazing football game? We are so proud of our Jacks!

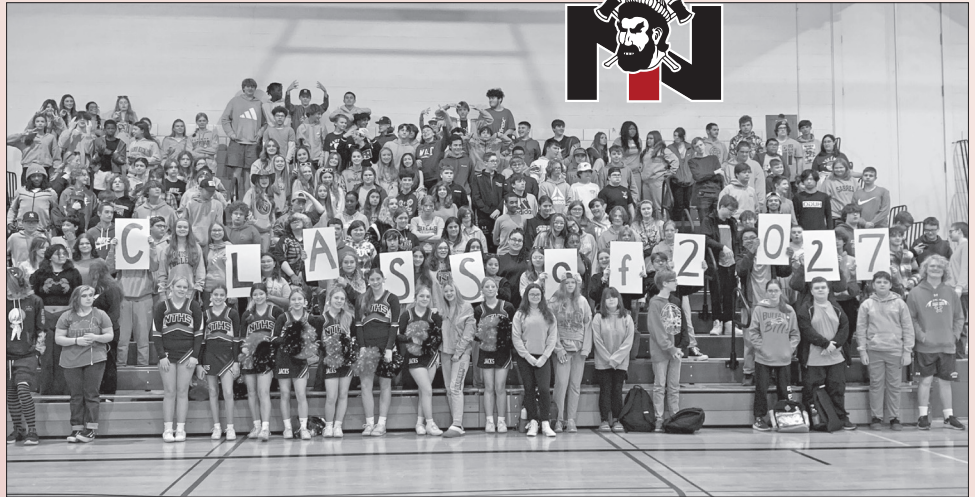


Photo courtesy of Bob Pascucci.

Summer Basketball Camp a Huge Success!

Another successful Boys Basketball Camp was run by Head Coach Ryan Mountain and the rest of the N.T. Boys' basketball program coaches, Jack Mulcahy and Chris Juergens. A total of 32 campers enjoyed a week to improve their skills and character on and off the court.



Generous Lumberjacks



Rayne Moeller and Harleen Nowark

Our Lumberjacks did their part helping to fill up our little free food pantries for the holiday season!

Little Jacks Literacy & Math Labs



Our Little Jacks were back at it this summer in our K-6 Enrichment Program. With the help of our awesome teachers and staff members, we again 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. New to the 2023 program, we were able to provide BOTH math and literacy to all our kiddos for the entire program. Students participated in literacy lessons for half the day and then switched to math for the remainder. Our math labs helped solidify core concepts in arithmetic to provide students the ability to hit the ground running in September.

The Literacy Program utilized the work of Lucy Calkins with a focus on phonics, reading and writing workshops, and comprehension skill work. The math program was built by our talented teachers that allowed for individualized lessons to build a strong mathematical foundation for our Little Jacks. The students actively participated in powerful and engaging lessons to help prepare them for this upcoming school year. With an enrollment of over 130 students, the Little Jack Literacy and Math Labs afforded many families with an opportunity to build the foundational skills needed to be successful.

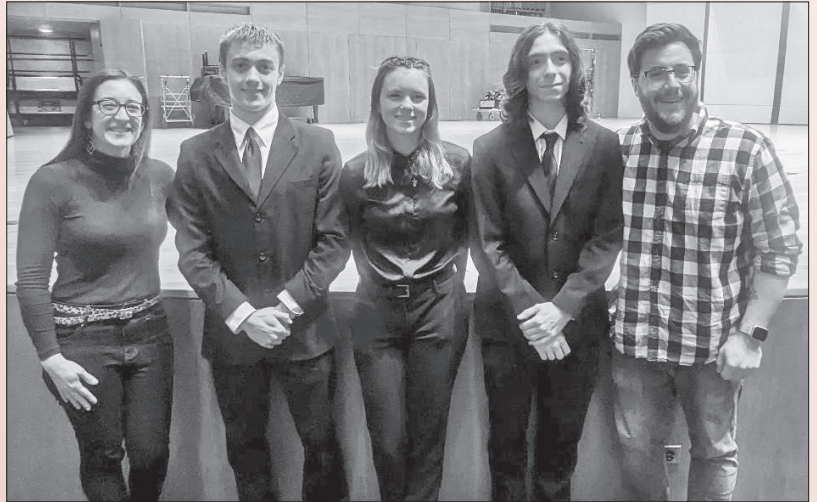
We look forward to building the Little Jacks Literacy and Math Labs in the future and invite you to be a part of this great program. Stay tuned for more information coming Spring of 2024.

NT Students Chosen for NYSSMA All-State

The 2023 NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Zone One Senior High Area All-State Band presented their incredible concert at the Michael C. Rockefeller Art Center at SUNY Fredonia on November 18, 2023.

Area All State participants auditioned in front of judges with accompanists in spring 2023, and they were chosen based on their scores to participate. The concert band practiced and performed original scores under the direction of conductor Dr. Stephen Shewan.

Participating North Tonawanda students are pictured below with their dedicated teachers. From left to right: Band Teacher Angela Dray, Harrison Roberts, Astrid DeMart, Zachary Keiffer and Band Teacher Jason Ferguson.



Remember Ryan Foundation Appreciation from Ohio Elementary

The incredible generosity of the Remember Ryan Foundation helped support another North Tonawanda School initiative in 2023. For the past two years, Ohio Elementary School has been developing a Calming and Sensory Room. This space is available to all Ohio kindergarten through 3rd grade students. This unique room can help de-escalate, distract, and offer a quiet and relaxing environment for students. Often times, it simply takes a change in environment, simple calming toys, and some one-on-one attention to help get students back to being ready to learn and making good choices in the classroom.

The Ohio Elementary School Calming and Sensory Room has walls painted in a relaxing blue (actual color name is Refresh), sensory toys and fidgets, a padded section for tumbling/crawling/jumping, a safe and low mounted swing, non-traditional seating, an ocean theme, therapeutic books, and calm lighting. When one enters the room, it seems to instantly induce feelings of tranquility, fun and engagement.



When furnishing a special room such as this, one of the biggest challenges is funding. Many additional items were needed to make the Ohio Calming and Sensory Room complete and the incredible generosity of the Remember Ryan Foundation filled this gap. Most of the items listed above were purchased through a Remember Ryan Foundation Grant of \$1,000, which is in loving memory of Ryan A. Bertini (1997-2006). Ohio Elementary School feels especially honored and touched to have a Calming and Sensory Room in memory of Ryan because he is a former student at the school.

All of the North Tonawanda City Schools' students, parents, staff, faculty, and administrators are grateful for the Remember Ryan Foundation's generosity and kindness towards helping to support our students, schools, and community. The memory of Ryan continues to thrive due to all of the many Western New York initiatives, donations, and grants organized by this awesome and altruistic foundation!

Spirit Week – One NT Day

Students and staff at Drake Elementary got into the spirit of Homecoming week with a theme day called “We Are One NT” Day. Everyone tried to dress in only one color. School Principal, Janet Matyevich, says, “We never did that one before and it really was fun! We are just trying to support the pillars and the theme of our district.”



NTI Color Run!

The NTI Color Run was a huge success on October 5th! Many of our students and their families took part in the event. This fun and colorful run raised money to help support field trips.



NT CTE Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society



(LtoR) Bridget Cake, Elyssa Pennell, Noah Czerwinski, Kylee Russell, Nicholas Drabinski, Gwendolyn Moran and Zachary Hanna.

Congratulations to our students who attend 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 center, 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:

Bridget Cake in the Health Occupations Technician Program taught by Laura Vendryes. Her future plans include going to Muskingum University to major in nursing. She would like to be a nurse anaesthetist.

Noah Czerwinski in the Welding Program taught by Shane Bartella and Eric Farrell. He hopes to enter the apprenticeship program at UA Local 71 to become a journeyman in the union and attain master level skill.

Nicholas Drabinski in the Electricity/Electronics Program taught by Logan Spain. He plans on attending Alfred State for Electrical Construction to become an electrician.

Zachary Hanna in the Welding Program taught by Shane Bartella and Eric Farrell. He will be attending Niagara County Community College to continue studying Welding and plans on getting a job in the welding industry.

Gwendolyn Moran in the Animation, Film & Visual Effects program taught by Jennifer Manning. She plans on attending college and getting a job as an animator.

Elyssa Pennell in the Diesel Technology/Heavy Equipment Program taught by Westin Blidy. She plans on attending either University of Northern Ohio, Ozarks Technical Community College, or joining the Air Force or the Marines. Her goal is to become a diesel mechanic or welder.

Kylee Russell in the Animal Science Program taught by Rebecca Myers. She plans on attending college for music education and working as a part-time veterinary assistant while in college. She would like to obtain her Masters in Music Education and Instruction Chorus.

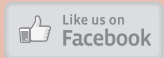


NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS
176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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Biology Teacher Among 15 Educators Chosen for Shipboard Science Workshop

North Tonawanda High School Biology teacher, Melissa Elliott, was among 15 educators from five states surrounding the Great Lakes who became scientists during the 2023 Shipboard Science Workshop on Lake Ontario aboard the Lake Guardian, the U.S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office research vessel. Elliott teaches Biology in an Integrated Co-Teaching classroom and through a program for at-risk high school students.

This unique workshop hosted by New York Sea Grant (NYSG) took place July 6-12 and departed from Rochester making shore stops in Youngstown and Oswego. Elliott and teachers from six other New York-based schools, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin studied alongside scientists from the U.S. EPA GLN-PO, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Cornell University and Great Lakes Research Consortium (GLRC), including GLRC Director and preeminent harmful algal bloom researcher Gregory L. Boyer, Ph.D. NYSG Great Lakes Literacy Specialist, Nate Drag, guided the teachers in developing lesson plans and curricula to take back to their classrooms to inspire students. The group took part in water sampling and analyzing the samples in on-board labs. "This unique hands-on learning experience increases teachers' understanding of the Great Lakes' unparalleled value and fosters creation of personalized teaching resources to spark student interest in the world's largest surface freshwater system," said Drag.

Elliott said it was an amazing opportunity. "Our watershed informs our values, culture and identity and gives us the resources we need to survive. I was excited for this unique opportunity to experience the Great Lakes so that I can uncover the beauty of our water for myself, my students and others around me. Following this experience, I will ground my lessons in Great Lakes curriculum, lead students on stewardship projects directly related to our water, and share my experience with students, teachers, my friends and family, so that they may share in my passion and knowledge."

