

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

Excellent schools are the cornerstone of all great communities. Our Board of Education, along with our administrative team, has produced an annual school district budget that reflects the priorities of this community so that we continue in our tradition of promoting outstanding learning opportunities for every student through excellence in teaching. The 2016-2017 budget allows us to maintain our current level of academic offerings while expanding in some areas to bring back classes that have not been able to be offered in recent years. The level of student services and all our extracurricular programs, including clubs, performing arts and athletics have all been maintained. This is the first time in the last four years that we have been able to accomplish this.

The 2016-2017 school year will also be the start of the exciting capital project that is projected to be completed for the 2018-2019 school year. Planning is being completed so documents can be approved by the New York State Education Department. Likewise, district staff will begin planning for the new grade level configuration that this will bring to the district in the 2018-2019 school year. The community will be kept up to date with quarterly video updated messages that will be posted on the district web page beginning this summer.

It is an exciting time to be part of the City of North Tonawanda with the city and school initiatives that will continue the renaissance of this community we call home.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of North Tonawanda City Schools



School Board President's Message

It is spring time in Western New York and for school districts that means budget time. North Tonawanda has been fiscally responsible by staying at or under the tax cap for a number of years. Last year we were able to hold the line and created a zero increase for taxpayers. Since the tax cap started over five years ago, we have worked hard to try and maintain a number of core subject offerings while tightening the budget. This is a daunting task and I wish to thank past and future boards for working so hard for the children and taxpayers of this district.

This year we plan to start on a number of educational ventures which will enhance students' academic performance and increase the graduation rate. While we are striving to reach the district's goals and offer more to the future generations of North Tonawanda citizens, we are still staying under the tax cap amount. A 1.25% increase will keep us financially sound and help provide more offerings to the students in our community. Students are dealing with a set of new distractors and roadblocks that we need to address as a town, community and school district by working together as a NT family. Together we can and will make a difference! Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, May 17 for a stronger and brighter future for North Tonawanda.

Sincerely,

Cheryl McMahon
North Tonawanda School Board President



Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 17, Noon - 9 p.m.
Alumni Student Activity Center, 405 Meadow Drive

Joseph Dawes and Brittany Nicpon Place at Regional SkillsUSA Competition

We are so proud of Joseph Dawes, a junior, and Brittany Nicpon, a senior, who placed at the Region 1 SkillsUSA Leadership Conference and Skills Olympics at Alfred State University on March 8. Both students attend the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center.

Over 1,000 BOCES students competed in various competitions, based on their field of study, to see who will advance to the State Championships in Syracuse next month. SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry that work together to ensure America has a skilled workforce while encouraging students to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.



Joseph came in second place in the Automated Manufacturing Technology Team competition with his two teammates from the Project Based Engineering Program. The contest evaluates teams

for employment in integrated manufacturing technology fields of computer aided drafting/design (CAD), computer aided manufacturing (CAM) and computer numerical machining (CNC).



Brittany, who is in the Emergency Medical Services Program, placed third with her three teammates in the Health Knowledge Bowl. The Health Knowledge Bowl tests teams of students on their collective knowledge

of health occupations and they are judged on their speed and accuracy answering questions in nine categories: (1) Academic Foundations; (2) Communication; (3) Systems; (4) Employability; (5) Legal Responsibility; (6) Ethics; (7) Safety Practices; (8) Teamwork; and, (9) Health Maintenance.

Architecture Students Take First Place at Bridge Construction Competition

North Tonawanda's Matt and Tyler Slominski recently took first place at the ABCD (Association for Bridge Construction and Design) Balsa Wood Bridge Competition. The event was held on February 25 at Classic V on Niagara Falls Boulevard. Nine schools were represented and 87 bridges were entered.

North Tonawanda Art and Architectural teacher Christopher Cook sent 44 students to the event.

"This is the second year in a row we took first place and this year Matt and Tyler were the top bridge designers," he said. "Their bridge weighed 38 grams and held 113 pounds! I also had students who took third, fourth and ninth in the top ten."

Students worked afterschool to build truss-type or arch-type bridges using balsa wood and carpenter's glue. The models were judged on their aesthetics, the appearance and quality of construction, and then weighed and loaded to failure by a testing machine.

Tyler said he and Matt were glad to beat last year's placement. "Last year we took second place and it was nice to do better. I really enjoyed designing the bridge and building it." Matt said they were excited when they won first



(LtoR) Christopher Cook, Matt Slominski and Tyler Slominski.

place. "For a while we were in fourth place, so to be able to get to first was great."

Both students are seniors and will be attending the University at Buffalo School of Engineering and Applied Sciences this fall. "We always knew we wanted to go into engineering, but Mr. Cook's class helped us to get there," said Matt.

Mr. Cook says, "We have been in the competition for the last eight years and have come in first place four times. North Tonawanda always has the most students participating out of all the schools attending. The students love the challenge of the competition and are always improving their designs year after year. Last year Matt and Tyler took second place, this year they made modifications and got to first. I am very proud of all my students who participated."

Students Artwork at Carnegie Arts Center Impresses Art Goers

North Tonawanda students from second to twelfth grade wowed attendees at their opening reception at the Carnegie Arts Center. On display were pieces of art that had been created in a variety of mediums by the talented young artists.

The evening was a huge success with over 280 people attending says art teachers Melinda Wright and Sue Zobrist.



Jesse Bennett shows off his artwork celebrating Mexico's Day of the Dead.



Jordan Shaffer in front of her watercolor.

ENL Classroom Celebrate the Year of the Monkey



Students from Belarus, China, Puerto Rico and the United States stand in front of the Chinese symbols for luck and happiness. Students are: Peter Ilyenko, Shihua Huang, Shijing Huang, Alex Yu, Olga Kudrashova, Zorianne Lucca-Sepulveda, Andrey Tupchik and Dzianis Supruniuk.

February 8 was the start of the Chinese New Year and 2016 is the Year of the Monkey. The Monkey is the ninth of the 12-year cycle of animals which appear in the Chinese zodiac related to the Chinese calendar.

Students in Mr. Chris Heyer's English as a New Language (ENL) Course at North Tonawanda High School, decided to celebrate the Chinese New Year together. "My students read information to each other, along with our school counselors Mrs. Wright and Mrs. DeMarchis, about the customs and traditions associated with the Lunar New Year. We also discussed the similarities and differences between the holidays in Asia and the United States," he said.



School Social Worker Kim Capriotti tries her hand at writing Chinese with the help of some students.

The classroom also enjoyed a feast of traditional New Year's food which was graciously donated by China Wok in North Tonawanda.

Reading is Where It's At Says the Cat in the Hat

Drake Principal Patricia Adler and her staff have been encouraging students and their families to read 25 books throughout the school year. "Based on New York State Standards, our Shared Decision Making Team has come up with some creative ways to celebrate the students' progress in meeting this goal," says Mrs. Adler. "It's called Strive for 25 and the team has come up with different ideas to reward students for reaching their target number."

One day each class picked a favorite book to celebrate and made necklaces and decorated their classroom door to honor their choice. Staff members dressed like characters from the book and even Mrs. Adler got in on the action with dressing up as one of her favorites, "The Cat in the Hat!"



Mrs. Alicia DePrima, dressed like Miss Viola Swamp, and her 1st Grade Class show off their pick of favorite book, "Miss Nelson is Missing" by Harry G. Allard, Jr. to Mrs. Adler.



Mrs. Lisa Trimboli's Kindergarten Class show their love for 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle.

NT Celebrates Social Worker and Counselor Weeks

We are very grateful to our social workers and counselors who work with our students on a day to day basis to realize their full academic potential.

The month of February recognizes the impact that school counselors have on helping students achieve school success by helping them plan for a career and assisting them with personal and social skills.

In the month of March, School Social Workers are celebrated for their contributions to the needs of students and their families. These licensed mental health professionals assist in the prevention of academic failure and school dropout.

Thank you for all you do!



High School Counselors: Cindy DeMarchis, Lynn Wright, Bob Derrett, Jennifer Schultz, Melissa Giles and Career Counselor/Teaching Assistant Lori Graves with some of the hundreds of students they help each day.



Social Workers: Back Row: Dawn Lowry, Jill Lyons, Amy Gorman and Christopher Janicki-Howe. Front Row: Karen Dillon, Jacqueline Rose, Kimberly Capriotti.



Bye Bye Birdie

The North Tonawanda High School Drama Club's production of "Bye Bye Birdie" brought audience goers back to 1958 in Sweet Apple, Ohio. A great time was had by all as the talented cast members bid Conrad Birdie a fond farewell and entertained the audience with some great music.



North Tonawanda Families Show Off Artistic Skills at Family Fun Night

About 200 people came to the Carnegie Art Center on March 15 for the North Tonawanda School District's Family Fun Night. The event was coordinated by the district's art teachers and students. Their families were invited to work together to create works of art in drawing, painting, sculptures and Art Bots.

Many people lined up to make an Art Bot, which is a motorized artist with legs that wobbles across a piece of paper and creates drawings as it goes. "It was another great night at the Carnegie Art Center," says art teacher Melinda Wright. "There were a lot of great activities that families could work on together and everyone had a good time."



Bella Smith (4th Grader) and Adien Durning (4th Grader) work on ladybug paintings.

Social-Emotional Learning Program Implemented at NT Schools

Thanks to being awarded the nearly \$1.2 million dollar Elementary and Secondary School Counseling grant, the North Tonawanda City School District has rolled out a social-emotional learning program known as RULER. Created by Yale University's Center for Emotional Intelligence, RULER stands for Recognizing emotions in self and others, Understanding the causes and consequences of emotions, Labeling emotions accurately, Expressing emotions appropriately and Regulating emotions effectively. With grant funds, the District has been able to hire four school counselors, purchase them iPads for presentations with District Smartboards, RULER apps, and other supporting material to roll the program out in their elementary schools this past December.

Ron Barstys, Director of Student Services at the District, says that they believe that emotional skills are crucial to academic performance and preventing bullying and school violence. "We have seen over the years that our elementary students are having more and more issues that traditionally we would see at the middle school level. The Middle School is seeing issues that traditionally we would see at the high school level. Many of the students do not have the coping skills to deal with their emotions or conflicts. Our social workers are working around the clock conducting mandated IEP counseling, while traditional prevention and awareness counseling is being left at the wayside. Instituting this program with our new school counselors will help pick up that piece. We aren't talking just prevention as much as we are talking about being proactive and skill building for the kids. Our hope is down the road they will be able to process their own emotional issues in a way that will keep them out of trouble and in the classroom."

Kim Zackey is the counselor assigned to Meadow Elementary School. She along with counselors Nathan Schelble, assigned to Drake Elementary, the Middle School and part-time at Meadow, Bernadette Clark, assigned to Spruce Elementary and Jennifer John who is assigned to Ohio Elementary have been going to each of the classrooms and started delivering 16 systematic lessons. "What I like most about this program is that it gives effective tools and what we call a tool kit for the students to use. Our hope is by June, the students will be able to go into the tool kit in their mind and come up with effective strategies to use if they are in the middle of a conflict or an intense emotion. We are teaching



Counselors (ltoR) Kimberly Zackey, Jennifer John, Bernadette Clark and Nathan Schelble.

the students about how to have effective strategies and coping mechanisms to really manage and self-regulate their emotions. We use four different tools: The Charter, the Mood Meter, the Meta-Moment and the Blueprint."

The Charter is a collaborative document that the school has drawn up to use as a guideline on how to prevent and manage unwanted feelings and conflict and how students should treat each other. The Mood Meter helps students to identify and label their emotions and helps them to track how their emotions change throughout the day. The counselors have an app they use on their iPads and Smartboards that accomplishes this. It is separated into four different quadrants where four colors represent various emotions and energy. "If a student tells me they are in the Red," says Mrs. Johns, "I have them point in the red quadrant to a word that represents how they are feeling. The student might say angry. It helps them to clarify how they are feeling and then I ask them how they would like to feel and they may say they want to be calm in the Green quadrant. We talk about strategies to get them to deescalate their present emotion and get to their goal." The Meta-Moment aids students to handle strong emotions and helps them make better decisions for themselves and classmates. The Blueprint teaches the students empathy and how to see a disagreement from the other person's perspective, as well as their own."

Mr. Schelble says what he likes the most about the program is that it gives the counselors a common language to use not only in the classroom, but outside of the classroom as well. "Because each of the schools has a different

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Meadow Sensory Room Dedicated to Former Student Ryan Bertini

Ryan Bertini was an eight year old student at Ohio School, who passed away in 2005 from several medical conditions he bravely fought his whole life. To honor his life, the Remember Ryan Foundation was created to give grant money to support the visual and performing arts in schools.

Meadow Elementary is the grateful recipient of a sensory room that was funded by the foundation. Ryan's mother, Alexandra Bertini, several family members, Superintendent Greg Woytila, and North Tonawanda School staff were on hand for its recent dedication as it was named "Ryan's Sensory Room".



(LtoR) Jacqueline Rose, Alexandra Bertini and Amy Gorman.

For the school's social workers, Jacqueline Rose and Amy Gorman, this is a dream come true. "We have been seeing the need for a room like this for a while," says Ms. Rose. "There are children who have a very hard time calming themselves down or are having sensory overload and need a place that would be therapeutic for them. We are so pleased to have this option now. It has made all the difference and we even have students who are being proactive and asking to be sent down here. It has been great."

A sensory room is a place where a child can spend time in to remove themselves from bright lights, loud noises and other sensory experiences that can trigger anxiety and behavioral disturbances. Its goal is to give children a safe place where they can self-regulate and relax. The room was completed before the holidays and contains an aquatic mural painted by the students at the school, special lighting with a projector, music, a waterfall, a tent, a bean bag chair and various tactile items that help to calm them. "It feels like being under the ocean," says Ms. Rose. "We are just thrilled that we have this option now. Kids are learning to manage their own overstimulation and feelings when they come here."

The staff presented Alexandra with a book detailing the building of the room and she was very touched that this would be part of her son's legacy. "This room is very important because it helps to keep Ryan's memory alive. A lot of the counselors here worked with him and I am very grateful for that. I am glad that his memory will live on with this room that will help other children."

Spruce Students Help Out SPCA

A visit from Robert Schildhauer, Niagara County SPCA Shelter Maintenance Manager, inspired the Spruce Elementary students to see what they could do to help out the animals at the Niagara Falls facility. Mr. Schildhauer talked to the children about what they do at the shelter and the many needs of the animals. The students have started collecting donations from the shelter such as cat and dog food, cleaning supplies and blankets.



(LtoR) Keimera Pitner, Natasha Barringer, Robert Schildhauer and Michael Perfetti.

RULER Learning Program

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culture, it sets the tone and puts us on the same page. Thanks to Mr. Barstys we were able to purchase RULER posters for each of the classrooms and the iPads, Smartboards, movies and apps that we can teach the students with. Not having to design the materials ourselves allows us to focus on the lessons. They are great visuals and the students are drawn to how interactive they are."

Mr. Barstys says that the teachers are as invested in RULER as the counselors. "The RULER lessons being conducted by the counselors is not time teachers get to go make copies or grade tests, these lessons help them in the classroom to move students towards different emotions and understanding. They are buying into this and learning the skills to help the students, and it is making them experts in the district, as well." Mrs. John says a great byproduct of the training has been getting to know the teachers and students. "We are all new to the schools and this has allowed us to make connections and develop a rapport with them. They are very supportive and see us as an asset in their classrooms and not something that is taking away from their teaching time."

The bottom line is that everyone in the district knows how being anxious and agitated is not a healthy state for a child to be in. The skills they learn now can help them to become healthy and productive adults. Mrs. Clark says many of the students come from broken homes and don't know how to cope with what they are feeling. "They are experiencing a lot of negative and unpleasant emotions. I heard one student say to another, 'you are supposed to keep your feelings in your tummy'. We are helping them manage their emotions and recognize emotional cues in others and ultimately we hope that by recognizing and managing their feelings they can reach their true potential."

The counselors are also reaching out to adults on the RULER approach. They encourage the students' adult family members to visit the North Tonawanda CSD website www.ntschoools.org for more information and strategies to promote social and emotional development at home. The information can be found under each of the elementary schools' links.

Nominees Sought for Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame

The North Tonawanda City School District recently sought nominations for their Visual and Performing Arts Wall of Fame.

The Wall of Fame honors alumni or staff members of North Tonawanda High School who have enjoyed success in, or contributed, either individually or collectively, to the promotion or betterment of any visual or performing art. Past honorees have been in the fields of Fine Arts, Graphic Art/Design, Broadcast Media, Music Performance, Art Education, Theater Arts and Music Education.

The Wall of Fame is primarily funded by the Remember Ryan Foundation, Inc., which was established in memory of former North Tonawanda student Ryan A. Bertini. The Foundation provides financial support for visual and performing arts activities in area schools through grants, direct gifts and corporate sponsorships.

Drake Elementary Sheds Light On Reading

Recently at 3:00 PM on Fridays, Drake Elementary Principal Patricia Adler tells students and staff to drop everything and read and they gladly obey.

When Mrs. Adler rolled out her reading initiative DEAR

(Drop Everything And Read) she thought a great idea would be to have Flashlight Fridays. At the designated time she gives the announcement the teachers turn out the lights as students turn on their flashlights, find a chair and read. "We thought it would be a fun way to get the students to read more. Normally you have flashlight reading at night, but winter is so gloomy that it is a perfect time to do it as well and the students really look forward to it. And the staff does too. I know I can't wait to pick up my book again."



Kindergarten student Liam Helmbrecht reads his book on Flashlight Friday.



Aneisha Martin, Derrick Weaver, Dylan Eliseo-Baker, Christopher Gaze, Jaslieen Morales-Salgado, Joshua Kennedy, Ayden Templin, Mrs. Conlan, Jaydan Felito, Mikayla Kulp, Payton Barker, David McFarland with Tim Payne.

Local Hero Talks to Meadow Students About War Experience and Life

Meadow Elementary teacher Judy Hagan can still remember Tim Payne as a little boy when she taught at Gilmore Elementary over 20 years ago. "I love to hear what past students have been up to since they were in my class," she says. In 2011, one of Tim's nieces told Mrs. Hagan that her Uncle Tim stepped on an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in Afghanistan while serving as an Infantry Squad Leader in the Army and lost both of his legs. "I was very saddened about that. I knew he was a fighter and I was so happy to hear that he was recovering and turning this incident into something positive."

Tim underwent 130 surgeries, 100 blood transfusions, fought bacterial infections and flesh-eating fungal infections and thanks to the medical staff at Walter Reed Hospital and sheer will, he recuperated and began another chapter of his life's journey. He was awarded several medals, including the Purple Heart, and the Lifetime Achievement Award by President Obama. He also wrote a book called "The Squad Leader's Bargain". He now spends his time touring the country to talk about his experience that he says physically and spiritually altered his life.

Mrs. Hagan was thrilled to see Tim after she placed third in her category at the Veterans Race at the Erie County Naval and Military Park. Tim was the Honorary Race Starter and saw Mrs. Hagan receive her plaque. "He told me it was always a pleasure to see me and I invited him to visit my class and talk to the students at Meadow and he said he would be glad to."

Tim showed up as promised and talked to the 3rd grade students about why he joined the military, why he loved it and what happened when he stepped on the IED. He also shared with them his goals for the future. "I joined the Army Airborne Infantry Regiment, right after 9/11 because I wanted to fight for our country," he told the students. "I loved it. My friends were my battle buddies and they were like brothers to me. It is where I learned my values that I live by and got me through the most intense experience of my life. Those values are: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selflessness, Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage." He shared what happened to him on July 3, 2011. "I was on my last patrol with my men and I stepped on an IED. It was so intense it caused my clothing to completely disintegrate. I lost my right leg below the knee and my left leg was blown wide open from the groin down. My left arm was blown open from the elbow to the palm. There was a bunch of holes and burns on my right arm. I was thrown backwards and into some trees, approximately nine feet. I really should have been dead."

He told the students it was his faith and a higher power that guided him through his injuries. "I look at what happened to me as an opportunity to rediscover and reassess my life. I wanted to go around the United States and talk to people about overcoming things in their lives and how it takes a lot of hard work to do that. My job now is teaching values and I want to tell you a big one is integrity. Always try to do the right thing, even if no one is watching. Respect yourself, your teachers and each other. Living by your values will make you a wonderful person."

"The students all wrote him thank you notes," said Mrs. Hagan. "They were very inspired to never give up and always put forth their best effort to succeed. We are all so proud of Tim and hope to see him in the Paralympics in Brazil next September."

Track Team Shines at Section VI Qualifier



Several members of the North Tonawanda Indoor Track Team stood out at the NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) Section VI State Qualifier at Houghton College.

Cody Sikora not only won 300 Meter, but broke his own school record, the Section and the Federation records by running at 35.21. He, along with teammates Chris Manth, Ed Gath and Connor Essenburg, also finished in second place in the 4x400 Relay – pulling in an impressive time of 3:31:41 that shattered the old school record of 3:35.4. They missed out on the first place finish by .6 seconds.

Chris Manth also finished third in the 600 Meter Race.



Track and Field Coach Sean Kibrick, Cody Sikora, Connor Essenburg, Ed Gath, Chris Manth and Coach Kevin Wartinger.

Lumberjacks' Troy Keller Takes Sectional Leadership and NYS Second Place In Wrestling

Troy Keller, a senior at North Tonawanda High School, added more wins to his astonishing wrestling career. Not only did he pin all three of his opponents at the 2016 Section 6 Division I State Qualifier, he was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler. At the New York State NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) Wrestling Championships he took second place.

Keller, who is senior, has over 200 wins to his name and is the Lumberjacks' all-time leader in wins. He is also ranked Number One at 145 pounds by Wrestling Review of Western New York. He has been a member of the North Tonawanda Wrestling team since he was in 7th grade.

North Tonawanda CSD Athletic Director Jeff Alger says he is very impressed with the talent Troy has. "He is a very humble young man. To get over 200 wins in a wrestling career takes a lot of talent and commitment. For someone to have over 180 wins is awesome and almost unheard of. I feel that he is going to do very well at the State Championships."



Varsity Wrestling Coach Dan Fire and Troy Keller.



2006 Photo (LtoR) North Tonawanda High School Bowling Coach Bill Rohring, Jr., Professional Bowler Carolyn Dorin-Ballard and John Szczerbinski.

North Tonawanda Graduate Takes Fourth Place at PBA Japan Invitational

Anyone tuning into ESPN recently saw professional bowler and North Tonawanda CSD graduate John Szczerbinski take fourth place at the DHC PBA Japan Invitational at Tokyo Port Bowl.

John is a 2006 graduate from North Tonawanda High School and was a Varsity bowler for six years. He is a five time Team USA winner and has won a gold medal (Doubles with Chris Barnes) in 2013 at the WTBA World Bowling Championships.

Way to go John!

Athletic Wall of Fame

The North Tonawanda City School District has a proud history of athletics. The Athletic Wall of Fame honors alumni, coaches and significant contributors to the athletic program. It honors those who have contributed either individually or collectively to the promotion or betterment of athletics at North Tonawanda City Schools.

Nominations are sought for the Athletic Wall of Fame. Nominations can be submitted using the online submission form or by printing the paper nomination form and mailing it to the athletic department at NT High School. Induction ceremonies will be held periodically.

PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2016-2017 school year in the amount of \$72,315,050 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources provided by law.

☐ Yes ☐ No

PROPOSITION #2

Shall the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District ("District") be authorized to enter into an operating lease with the lowest responsible bidder following solicitation of competitive bids, for use of 24 school buses as follows: 21 sixty six (66) passenger buses, 2 thirty (30) passenger buses, and 1 twenty-four (24) passenger bus; for a term not to exceed five years; at an estimated total maximum lease price during the five year term not to exceed \$1,969,000; and shall the Board of Education be authorized to raise the specified sum for these purposes, or so much as may be necessary, by levying a tax upon the taxable property of the District?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Vote Qualifications

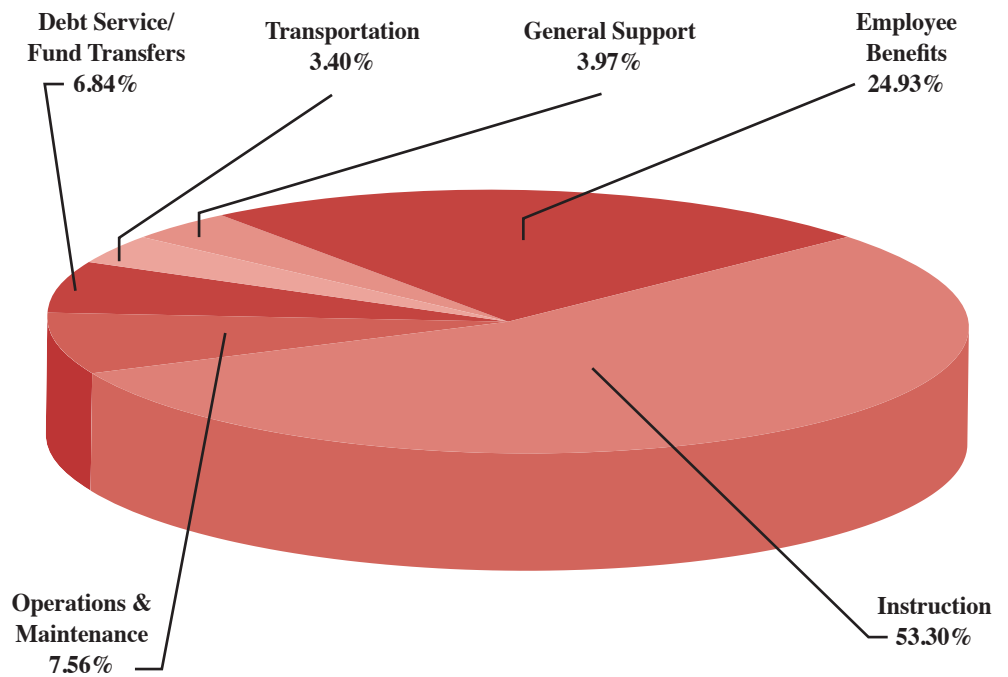
- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be 18 years of age.
- You must be a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.

Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education candidates can be found on the district website: www.ntschoools.org.

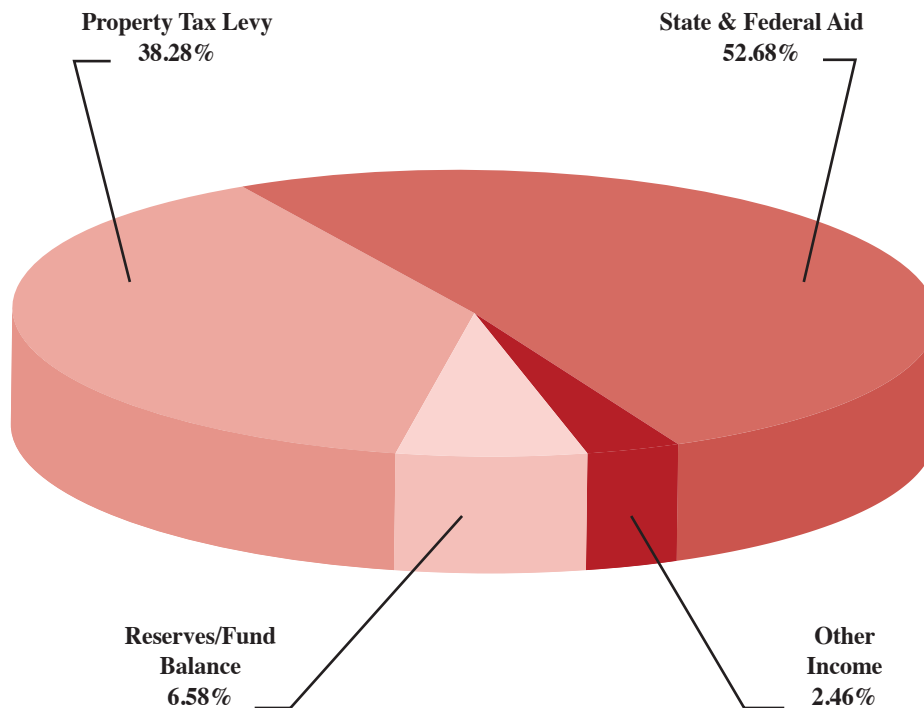
The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) at-large vacancies on the Board. All seats are for three (3) year terms.

EXPENDITURES



	2015-16	2016-2017	Percent Change from 2015-16
Instruction	\$38,432,746	\$38,544,545	0.29%
Includes: K-12 Instructional program, supervision, curriculum development, BOCES, special education programs, occupational education, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular programs, health services, library media, computer instruction, pupil personnel services.			
Employee Benefits	\$16,933,169	\$18,033,824	6.50%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, Social Security and Worker's Compensation.			
General Support	\$2,852,196	\$2,869,454	0.61%
Includes: Legal services, personnel, insurance, school board, refund on property tax, BOCES administrative charges, administrative and financial services, public information, central data processing and auditing.			
Transportation	\$2,394,895	\$2,455,707	2.54%
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
Debt Service/Fund Transfers	\$4,606,587	\$4,945,009	7.35%
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, this includes the District's share of special education summer programs.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,329,371	\$5,466,511	2.57%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$70,548,964	\$72,315,050	2.50%

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2015-16	2016-2017	Change from 2015-16
State/Federal Aid	\$36,010,852	\$38,098,770	\$2,087,918

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2016-17 school year, it is projected to be 52.68% of all revenue. Last year it was 51.04%. This year, the aid increased by \$2,087,918.

Other Income	\$2,442,675	\$1,778,842	-\$663,833
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Any income received by the School District other than State and Federal Aid, Fund Balance or Tax Levy is included under this heading. Examples of other income would be: rentals, interest earnings, payments in lieu of taxes, refunds of prior year's expenses, gifts, fees, tax penalties, commissions and athletic event gate receipt.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$4,757,385	\$4,757,385	\$0
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Reserves: The District maintains Reserve Funds in accordance with guidelines established by the State of New York and adopted and accepted by the Board of Education. With the significant financial issues currently affecting districts across the State, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available. They have adopted a process which attempts to maintain quality programs while keeping the tax levy reasonable and within the Tax Cap threshold.

Fund Balance: Funds which are budgeted but unexpended at the end of the budget year, and revenues which are realized in excess of those budgeted for the year, are available at the end of the fiscal year to be carried forward as fund balance.

Tax Levy	\$27,338,052	\$27,680,053	\$342,001
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This is the amount to be raised through local property taxes. The Board of Education desires to keep any increases in the levy as low as possible. For the 2016-17 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$342,001 which amounts to a 1.25% increase.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$70,548,964	\$72,315,050	\$1,766,086
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DECA Students Moving on to International Competition



Front to back, left to right: Jeslyn Zakes, Chloe Zuch Grace Proefrock, Annie Williams, Dan Hooley, Logan St. Cyr, Lilly Williams, Natalie Prims, Desiree Doucette.

Our DECA students made us proud after their performance at the DECA State Career Conference. Out of the nine students that competed, five of them accumulated 14 medals for placing in the top ten in four different categories! They brought home a 1st place trophy and two fourth place trophies.

Advisor Laurie Widman says she could not be prouder. "They did an outstanding job and now they will be moving on to the international competition in Nashville." For the international competition, the NT participants will compete in three events. For these events, the students had to prepare a 30-page comprehensive report complete with graphs, and charts, according to Widman. She said they must also prepare presentation boards, similar to those seen in professional business positions. The students will then present to the judges and answer their questions. The goal is to convince the judges that their plan is the best.



OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools Budget Notice OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$70,548,964	\$72,315,050	\$72,137,550
Increase/Decrease for the 2016-17 School Year		\$1,766,086	\$1,588,586
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		2.50%	2.25%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Tax Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$27,338,052	\$27,680,053	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$27,338,052	\$27,680,053	\$27,502,553
F. Permissible Exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit			
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$27,856,524	\$27,797,803	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy for School Purposes, Excluding Permissible Exclusions and Levy for Library Debt, Plus Prior Year Tax Cap Reserve (E - B - F + D)	\$27,338,052	\$27,680,053	
I. Difference: (G – H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval – See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions)**	\$518,472	\$117,750	
Administrative Component	\$6,565,304	\$6,693,774	\$6,677,344
Program Component	\$52,712,648	\$53,743,965	\$53,612,048
Capital Component	\$11,271,012	\$11,877,311	\$11,848,158

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$177,500 reduced from student supplies and materials, equipment, nonessential maintenance, and non-instructional non-unionized salaries. Also, due to the contingency budget regulations, school facilities would not be available for public use at no cost.

List of Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:	Description	Amount
	Proposition #2: Competitive bid to lease 24 buses over a 5 year term.	\$1,969,000

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$616

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-2017 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City Schools, Niagara County New York, will be held at 405 Meadow Drive in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00pm, prevailing time in the North Tonawanda City Schools.

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Middle School Students Get Lesson on Baking and Giving Back to Community

Kristen Kelly, one of the Consumer Science teachers at North Tonawanda Middle School, presented the 7th grade students with an exciting opportunity recently. Thanks to an application she filled out, the students were able to participate in the King Arthur Flour's "Learn Bake Share" program. "It was such a great opportunity for students to not only learn how to make bread, but incorporate math, science and reading skills, into the lesson. They had a great time."

A King Arthur Flour educator came to the school from Norwich, Vermont, where the company is located, and showed the students with a little bit of science and good flour that they could make delicious bread to share with their family and those who are in need in their community. "They gave each of the students a bag with an instruction book and ingredients so that they could make two loaves at home. They were able to keep one and bring one to school for the North Tonawanda Food Pantry," says Ms. Kelly. "It's a great life skill for the students to learn how to bake bread and a service learning opportunity to become aware of how many people, right here in our community, are in need of help. We even had one student whose kitchen was being renovated so they could not bake, but they went to the store and bought a loaf to donate."

Ms. Kelly says she was very proud of the students who brought in their loaves. "Out of 250 students, I had 165 loaves of bread given to me the Monday after the lesson to take to the food pantry. I think what was really great about it, is that many of the students made this a family project and spent time with a relative to make the bread together. I think it meant a lot to them to have this activity to share. I have gotten nothing but positive feedback about the lesson. I am hoping to incorporate these lessons into my curriculum next year since many students expressed interest in it. It's a great way to teach them a skill and to give back."



Kristen Kelly



Sarah DiNardo (left) and Sophia Scime (right) toss pizza dough with the King Arthur Flour educator.



International Dinner Huge Success

The Middle School Foreign Language teachers did an outstanding job at organizing the International Dinner. A very special thank you and congratulations go out to our awesome teachers Michelle Morgan, Lisa Czora, Christine Stevens and Tina Bialkowski for the fun and informational evening. Also to Andrea Converso for her assistance, the students from the Academy of International Studies who volunteered their time and Principal Greg Burgess and Assistant Principal Jinelle Burger for showing their support for the Foreign Language Program by attending.

The dinner saw a huge turnout of families and students who brought international dishes to pass, answered culture-based questions and participated in a Mardi Gras mask contest.

Army Corps of Engineers Helps Spruce Class Celebrate Black History Month

Fifth graders in Mrs. Cheri Zintek's class at Spruce Elementary joined together with Army Corps of Engineers to participate in an activity celebrating Black History Month. The students in Mrs. Zintek's class did a lesson on Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. After reading and learning about the Underground Railroad, they illustrated pictures of what it would have been like to have traveled it during that time period. These drawings were sent to the Army Corps of Engineers as part of a contest they were sponsoring during Black History Month.



The winner, chosen through a voting process by employees, was Amelia Blake. Amelia's artwork was returned to her, framed, and accompanied by a beautiful certificate. All the other students who participated in the class also received recognition certificates, a Frisbee, and activity booklets during a visit to Mrs. Zintek's class by several representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers. This was a great learning experience for the students and a nice way to build a partnership with a local community organization.



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOLS

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Connor Matteson Receives Highly Coveted Congress - Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship

North Tonawanda senior Connor Matteson will be joining an elite group of students to study in Germany for the 2016-2017 school year.

Every year the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs launch a highly competitive process to select 250 American students to receive a coveted scholarship that fully funds an academic year of study and cultural immersion. The scholarship is valued between \$12,000 and \$14,000 and is an extraordinary opportunity for students to act as "youth ambassadors." The goal is for them to gain new perspectives on global current affairs and German social, economic and political life, all while learning the German language through day-to-day life, attending a local high school and living with a host family.

Connor said he knew he wanted the experience of living in Germany after spending almost three weeks in Germany with some of his German class. "I felt it wasn't long enough to really understand the culture and I knew if I won the scholarship, it would be the opportunity of a lifetime."

Connor had to go through a lengthy application process that included an interview, writing essays, getting letters of recommendation and a medical exam to be in contention for the scholarship. "I was so excited for him, but not at all surprised that he won the scholarship," says his German teacher Robert Lucas. "He's a great student and has been a member of our Academy of International Studies, he has taken Spanish since 7th grade and he has taken German for four years. He has been an all-star student all along and he is a great candidate for the scholarship."

Asked if he was nervous about living in Germany for a full year, Connor says his family has hosted some German students in the past because of an exchange program North Tonawanda School District has with a school in Hamburg. He is looking forward to reconnecting with them and also meeting new friends. "I am not sure what city I will be staying in since the host families pick who they want living with them. I am really looking forward to developing a relationship with my host family and staying



Connor Matteson and German teacher Robert Lucas.

in contact with them after I return home. I think that is going to be really cool to have a second family."

Connor says he would encourage every student to take a language. "I took Spanish and I had a 98 in that class and I thought, I like this foreign language stuff, let me see what else I can do so I took German. They are definitely one of those classes you look forward to during your day. Signing up for German completely changed my life. It's going to be so nice to go to Germany. The few weeks I stayed there affected me so strongly, can you imagine what I can do in a year?"