A Brief History of the Quality Student Program

Quality Students of the Tonawandas began in 1966 when a group of businessmen in the Tonawandas met to discuss how they might call attention to the high quality of the young men and women who attended and graduated from Tonawanda, North Tonawanda and Bishop Gibbons high schools and who someday would assume positions of trust and responsibility in our communities. Thus was founded the unique Quality Student program, which has melded business and education in a program which honors these young people.

In 1971, when Bishop Gibbons closed, many students from the Twin Cities continued their education at its sister school, Cardinal O'Hara High School, which then became the third high school in the program.

The students are selected by teachers and a selection committee at each school based on the following criteria:

Leadership in the classroom and/or community
Participation in extra-curricular school activities
Exemplary qualities of citizenship
Academic achievement

The honored students represent their school at the awards dinner where they also recognize a memorable educator that has made a great impact on their lives.

Aims

- To inform young people of the importance of leadership, scholarship, service and character, not only in school, but later in life as well.
- To meld business and industry with education by encouraging area businesses to sponsor a student and their parents.
- The committee hopes that this program will serve as a memento for students chosen to be honored as Quality Students 2024.

City, School Board Officials

North Tonawanda Austin Tylec, Mayor Cardinal O'Hara Board of Trustees Michael Rizzo, President Tonawanda John White, Mayor

Common Council
Frank DiBernardo, President
Joseph Loncar
Joe Marranca
Robert Schmigel
Joseph Lavey, Jr.

Common Council
Jenna Koch, President
James Shiesley
Christopher Fisher
Sean Rautenstrauch
David R. Mileham

Board of Education
Matthew Kennedy, President
Gregory J. Woytila,
Superintendent

Board of Education Kristin Schmutzler, President Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed. Superintendent



Program

Welcome

Gregory J. Woytila, Superintendent of Schools, North Tonawanda

Invocation & Benediction

Fr. Jim Fliss

Presentation of Awards

Joleen Dimitroff Principal, Cardinal O'Hara High School

Bradley Rowles Principal, North Tonawanda High School

Dinner

Presentation of Awards

Lyndsey Todaro Principal, Tonawanda Senior High School



Facility Director/Facility Management Planning Officer for UB's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences



Michael J Odojewski was born and raised in North Tonawanda, and currently resides in Amherst with his daughter and son. Mike was recognized as a Quality Student and graduated from Cardinal O'Hara in 1989. He earned his undergraduate and masters degree from Canisius College in History and Communication in 1993 and then in 2000 with his Masters' in Sport Administration.

Mike is currently the Facility Director / Facility Management Planning Officer for the UB's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in downtown Buffalo. He oversees the spaces occupied by the Medical School, on south campus, at various hospitals, clinics on the downtown campus. His duties include, managing the event schedules for the facilities, making sure the laboratories are operational as well as the safety and security of the facilities for Faculty and Staff that work and learn in these facilities.

Previous to that Mike worked at Canisius College for 20 years from 1994 to 2014, first as the Special Event Coordinator, and finishing there as the Assistant Director of Events and the Student Center, where he oversaw over 7000 events a year in over seven facilities on the college campus.

From 2014 - 2018 he was the Associate Director for Student Unions (north and south campuses) at the University at Buffalo before moving to this current role.

In 1994, he was hired as a member of the Buffalo Bills inaugural gameday scoreboard team as a graphics and replay operator and was the assistant director of gameday production in 2000. In 1996, Mike was hired on a gameday basis on the JumboTron crew for what is now the Key Bank Center. Over the past 27 ½ years, he has worked as either a replay, audio or graphics operator for a multitude of events including Sabres Hockey, Bandits Lacrosse and College Basketball.

He also serves as a member of committees at St Christopher's School, Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart and Cardinal O'Hara High School as well as a leader with Boy Scout Troop 58.

In 2021, Mike was inducted into the Cardinal O'Hara Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 1989 O'Hara Baseball team that was the first in the area to win the Georgetown and Mayor's Cup.

Due to his many memorable career experiences and as a past recipient of the Quality Student recognition program, Mr Odojewski is honored to address the 2024 Class of Quality Students.

Closing Remarks

Gregory J. Woytila, Superintendent of Schools, North Tonawanda

Cardinal O'Hara High School





child of Janeen & Lenard Bauer

Honors & Activities: Archery, Bible Study, Song Corp, Hospice Home, Honor Roll, National Honor Society, Presidential Excellence Future Plans: Plan to attend D'Youville and University at Buffalo for Pharmacy

Memorable Moment: My most memorable moment from high school has been when I was accepted into NHS. I later on became NHS treasurer.



Kelly Brown child of Kristin Ott and Eric Brown

Honors & Activities: International Club, Student Government, Varsity Soccer, Varsity Tennis, Varsity Bowling, Cheerleading, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, National Honor Society, Presidential Award Academic Excellence, Performing Arts Department Award, High Honor Roll, Math Department Award

Future Plans: Business

Memorable Moment: Hearing my dad make fun of me during my NHS induction speech in front of the whole school.



Holden Cenczyk

child of Mary and Robert Cenczyk

Honors & Activities: Student Council, Honor Student, Class President, Wind Ensemble, Performing Arts Production Crew, Varsity Soccer, JV Baseball, Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Golf

Future Plans: Become a Professional Musician

Memorable Moment: Winning the soccer championship as captain my sophomore year.



Brittany Day

child of Michelle and Adam Day

Honors & Activities: Varsity Basketball, Varsity Track, Best Buddies, Ride for Roswell, Cleaning St Andrews, Painting Amherst Little League, Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital, Presidential Award, All Catholic Track, Best of Buffalo, Heart & Soul Award Future Plans: Attending D'Youville University or Niagara University for Pediatric Nursing Memorable Moment: Going to Florida for a basketball tournament.



Max Hendershot

child of Denise and Scott Hendershot

Honors & Activities: Good Samaritan Club, Student Government President and Vice President, School Musicals, Volleyball Capitan, Chess Club, Song Corp, National Honor Society, Mike Brennan School Spirit, High Honor, Academic Gold Award, Altar Server Award

Future Plans: Attending Bowling Green University or West Virginia University for Electrical Engineering

Memorable Moment: Being in our schools musical, Mamma Mia!.



Gavin Lombardi

child of Jennifer & Frank Lombardi

Honors & Activities: Baseball, Volleyball, Bowling, Track & Field, Chess Club, Young Life Ministries, Archery, National Honor Society, Thomas Swopp Award, Presidents Academic Excellence, Honor Roll Future Plans: Attending Niagara University, Hilbert College, Daemen University or Canisius University

Memorable Moment: Watching Mr. Lamping being chased by kids at Get Air.





Romeon Alriche

child of Charlene and Midelton Alriche

Honors & Activities: Scholar Athlete, Perfect Attendance, Excellence in Architecture, Student of the Month, Basketball, Volleyball, Track, Tennis

Future Plans: Joining the Air Force then college for Engineering or Architecture Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Kouzan because she made one of my hardest classes easier for me.





Leah Anson

child of Patricia and John Anson

Honors & Activities: Honor Roll, Student of the month, 2-time MVP for Outdoor Track, MVP of Indoor Track, Most Improved Outdoor Track, Sunshine Award for JV Soccer, Sergeant-at-arms of National Honor Society, Treasurer of Outdoor Awareness, Treasurer of Senior Class, Captain of Indoor and Outdoor Track, Varsity Soccer, Varsity Indoor Track, Varsity Outdoor Track, Varsity Cross Country Future Plans: After high school, I plan on attending Penn State University or Syracuse University where I will be studying journalism/broadcasting. I aspire to become a Sideline Reporter for the NFL.

Memorable Teacher: One of my most memorable educators at North Tonawanda High School was Mrs. Sommer (11th Grade AP LANG Teacher). Her kindness towards her students, speaks volumes about the person and teacher that she is. Mrs. Sommer has taught me many important lessons about life that I will take with me forever. I am so glad to have had her as a teacher, and I am forever grateful for the impact that she has had on me!

Jack Baker child of Maureen Baker

Honors & Activities: Triple C Award, Scholar Athlete Award, Honor roll, Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Basketball **Future Plans:** Going to ECC for HVAC degree

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Brochey is one of my favorite math teachers. She always made the class fun but we had to work hard. I really appreciated her greetings and knew that she cared.





Ebin Bush

child of Danielle and Todd Bush

Honors & Activities: 2024 NTHS quality students award, AA Travel hockey, varsity hockey and lacrosse for the school Future Plans: Planning on attending Niagara University and pursuing a sports management degree. I aspire to work alongside a profes-

sional sports team in their management dept.

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Dipasquale (now Mrs. Wolfe) brought me out of my shell in 6th grade. I was quiet, and didn't have too many friends until Mrs. D taught me that you should just be yourself and people will like you for who you are.



Honors & Activities: High Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete, Perfect Attendance, National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Student of the Month, Certificate for Most Hard Working and Focused, Hot Dog Committee, USBC, Senior Class Historian, Skills USA

Member and Officer, Lumberjack Leader, Varsity Bowling, Varsity Track and Field

Future Plans: I will attend Muskingum University to major in Nursing and become a CRNA, and compete on their bowling team.

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Edmister was my 8th grade algebra teacher. She is my most memorable teacher because she was always there for me and always brightened my day. She never failed to make me laugh and was always willing to help me with whatever I needed.





Reilly Carney

child of Carrie and Henry Carney

Honors & Activities: MVP- swim, Most improved- swim, Rookie of the year- swim, Remember Ryan award- Art, Student of the month, Varsity Swimming, Varsity Lacrosse, Model UN

Future Plans: Go to Buffalo State to major in Childhood Education

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. McAndrew- walking into ceramics last year I was very nervous. I didn't know if the teacher would be rude or mean but I got lucky. Mrs. McAndrew is the kindest teacher I know. She is always willing to joke around with me about my art, life, or anything. Going to her room 3 times a day really brightens my day.





child of Rachel and Brian Colegrove

Honors & Activities: High honor roll, Hugh O'Brian Award, Student of the month, WNY Academic Excellence scholarship, Top 10 in class, Senior class President, National Honor Society Treasurer, Outdoor awareness, Unified Bowling, Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Flag Football, YAC/Unified, Hot Dog Committee, Newman Center Church Religion Teacher, NT Food Pantry

Future Plans: I am still undecided on a college but definitely plan on attending a University for accounting.

Memorable Teacher: My most memorable teacher would definitely have to be Mrs. Licht. Mrs. Licht was my pre-calculus teacher who is the most patient, caring, and helpful teacher. She never fails to take the time to help her students understand the material better and is always there for anyone who needs her. Her door is open for anyone anytime during the day and is more than willing to help out any student



child of Erin and Matthew DeVantier

Honors & Activities: Top 20 Student, high honors, Student of the month, Editor in Chief for Yearbook, Cross Country, Track and field, NHS,
Unified Basketball, Metagenomics Partnership Project, NASA Student Spaceflight Experiment Program, YAC,
Basketball & Volleyball, Drama Club

Future Plans: University of Southern Carolina or Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges to become an Elementary Education Teacher Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Stawisuck is unlike any teacher I've ever had. She sings in joy during class, always has a pun for every lesson & never has a boring assignment. Ever since the start of the year, she's turned our class into the most creative & unique English class I've ever taken. We've done art projects to express the power of words along with reading every Friday. Because of her, I've learned to enjoy reading & now feel more in tune with my creative side. She is extremely understanding and really puts her students first. Mrs. Stawisuck is such an inspiration to me for when I become a teacher, as I want to give my students the creative independence she has provided for her own students. Thank you Mrs. Stawisuck for being such an important role model in my life.



Natalie Endres

child of Melissa and Steve Endres

Honors & Activities: 2 Lady Jack Awards, Captain of Softball, Quality Student, Varsity Softball, Varsity Volleyball, Model UN, Student council. Outdoor Awareness

Future Plans: Slippery Rock 2024-2029 for Physician Assistant Program to become a Pediatrician, Pediatric Nurse Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Gerfin, even though she wasn't my teacher I would not have made it through high school without her. She was so kind and thoughtful to me throughout my 4 years here.



Avery Geartz

child of Julie and Jeremy Geartz

Honors & Activities: National Honor society, Scholar Athlete, Lumberjack leader, Varsity Volleyball, Varsity Lacrosse, President of Outdoor Awareness, Unified Basketball, YAC

Future Plans: Attend a 4 year college to study nursing and become an aesthetic nurse **Memorable Teacher:** One of my most memorable educators was Mrs. Licht. She was memorable to me because she always had a

Memorable Teacher: One of my most memorable educators was Mrs. Licht. She was memorable to me because she always had a positive energy that uplifted everyone around her. She was always there for me whether it be for school advice or life advice.



Samantha Holenstein

child of Kelynn and Michael Holenstein

Honors & Activities: AP Scholar with Distinction, Nomination for the NYS Series Scholarship for Academic Excellence, National Student Leadership Conference, All County Senior High Band, Niagara River Greenway Environmental Conservation Grant, Student of the Month Awards, Champions for Outstanding Academic Achievement, Student Council, Band Council, Garden Club, Foreign Language Club, National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Pep Band, Jazz Band, SADD, Forensics Club, Scholastic Bowl, Amnesty International

Future Plans: I plan to major in a scientific or mathematical field, with a minor in Spanish Language Studies and possibly Music Performance. **Memorable Teacher:** One of my most memorable educators has been Mr. Ferguson, who has taught me for over 5 years. His ability to push me to my fullest potential has allowed me to become a more talented musician than I ever could've imagined. He has not only taught me most everything I know about playing the trumpet, but has also taught me the true value that music can have in our lives. His ability to provide his students a safe space to express themselves through their music is one of the many reasons I consider him to be one of the most influential educators of my entire school experience.



Erika Kellar child of James McPartland

Honors & Activities: National Honor Society, Tri-M, Flag Football Captain, Travel Softball, Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track, Leah Manth Track Award, MVP Outdoor Track, Coaches Award (outdoor track), Honor Roll, Most Positive Award (indoor track), Jazz Band, Rince Na Tiarna Irish Dance, Camp Counselor, Model UN

Future Plans: Attend University at Buffalo Honors Nursing College to become a RN and work in a hospital to help people Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Kupiec because she is always helping people. Her whole career is based on helping students navigate their future. Whenever I am having a bad day, she never fails to help me out. She is such a kind and understanding person.





Noah Matyevich

child of Janet and Nicholas Matyevich

Honors & Activities: Honor Roll, Varsity Golf, Varsity Tennis, National Honor Society **Future Plans:** Attend Daemen University for Physical Therapy

Memorable Teacher: Mr. Lemar has been the most memorable because he has taught me so much. He was my coach the past 5 years. He's taught me to be a leader and role model for younger players. He has taught me to always have fun no matter what. He was able to give me a good balance between having fun while also improving at my sport. He was always so nice and encouraging to everyone on the team no matter how good each player was, he treated everyone the same.





Shea O'Rourke

child of Lori and Christopher O'Rourke

Honors & Activities: Honor Roll, High School soccer captain 11 and 12 grade, Quality Student, Defensive Player of the year on soccer, Rookie of the year in soccer, 2nd team all NFL, Varsity Soccer, Varsity Cheer, Varsity Flag Football, NWAA Lady Renegades Premier Soccer Future Plans: I'm going to Oswego to play soccer and study Adolescence Education in English to become a High School English Teacher Memorable Teacher: Mrs Kupiec is my most memorable educator. She has truly helped me get through high school. I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for her. She has to deal with hundreds of students but she's always made time to always check in and make sure I was okay. She truly cares for each and every one of her students and will do everything in her power to make sure we all succeed. I will always cherish everything Mrs Kupiec has done for me and it will be impossible to ever forget her.

Ella Royer

child of Elizabeth and Paul Royer

Honors & Activities: Excellence in Architecture, High Honor Roll, Academy of Engineering and Architecture, National Honor Society

Secretary, Tri-M President, Drama Club Treasurer, Chorus Treasurer

Future Plans: University at Buffalo for Architecture

Memorable Teacher: Mr. Vallas has always been one of my most memorable teachers. Even since before I had him as a teacher he has pushed me to be the best version of myself, he has always supported and believed in me when it felt like I had nobody else. I can talk to Vallas about anything and he will find a way to help me solve my problems. He taught me how to be the person that I strive to be, and i could not be anymore grateful for Mr. Vallas than I already am.





Isabelle Schrock

child of Susan and Kenith Schrock

Honors & Activities: Girl Scout Gold Award, Scholar Athlete, student of the month, perfect attendance, Track & Field, drama club, tech club, science Olympiad, ACE program, Girl Scouts of WNY, Jr. Firefighter Adams Co., forensics club, improv club

Future Plans: Niagara County Community College for Engineering

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Holbrook is a teacher I had my sophomore year of high school. I still, to this day, find time to go down to her class. Mrs. Holbrook helped me with so many problems in and outside of the classroom. She is very kind and caring to everyone and helped me improve my confidence in every way possible. She is now my drama club advisor and continues to help me improve.



child of Lynda and Sal Sciandra

Honors & Activities: National Honor Society, Niagara PAL Award Nominee, Scholar Athlete, varsity soccer, varsity basketball, varsity lacrosse, unified basketball, outdoor awareness club, senior class officer

Future Plans: I plan on attending John Carroll University and playing lacrosse. I would like to study criminology Memorable Teacher: One of the most memorable teachers that I had throughout my time at North Tonawanda was Mrs.Kouzan! She is a very selfless and kind teacher that cares about her students like they are her own kids. She is always there for her students!





Shelby Walter

child of Susan and Robert Walter

Honors & Activities: Prudential Spirit of Community, National Honor Society, Tri-M National Music Honor Society, Niagara County Do the Right Thing, National Honor Society, Box of Hope, Tri-M National Music Honor Society (co-Vice President), Band Council (President), Pep Band, Drama Club, Pit Member, NT XMAS Trailer, Shelby's Stuff, Tri-Bella Dance

Future Plans: Hilbert College to study Crime Scene Investigation - Blood Splatter Analyst

Memorable Teacher: Mr. Fraizer, the retired middle school band teacher helped me at my lowest points in life mentally. He taught me important lessons and helped me become the person I am today.





child of Kathleen and Roger Steele

Honors & Activities: 14 Honors, SADD, Pep Band, Jazz Band
Future Plans: Plan to attend LIU or Clarkson to be a coder or programmer

Memorable Moment: Mrs. Dray, my jazz teacher. She has not given up on me and has helped me learn and grow in jazz.



Julian Wydysh child of Bonnie and Richard Wydysh

Honors & Activities: National Honors Society, Tri-M, Varsity Lacrosse Future Plans: Attending St. John Fisher to become a Radiologist Memorable Moment: Mr. Donovan taught me the best way I learn math and turned my grades around.





Michael Arburtina

child of Danielle and Paul Arbutina

Honors & Activities: varsity lacrosse, NHS, Varsity golf, Connect life club

Future Plans: I intend on going to college then graduating from a 4 years school and going into med school.

Memorable Teacher: My most memorable educator is Mrs Kasprowicz. I first had Mrs. Kasprowicz my junior year in AP Biology and then the following year for human anatomy and physiology. Kasprowicz is my most memorable educator not just because of the information and knowledge she's instilled in me but also the way she's inspired me to further my education and go to college for pre-med.





Olivia Castillo

child of Christina and Justin Castillo

Honors & Activities: HOBY award, All County musician, Jazz and Concert Band, Theater, Cross Country, Honor Society

Future Plans: SUNY Fredonia or Buffalo State for music education

Memorable Teacher: Mr. Rudroff always makes his classes fun and informative. He is persistent in his teaching and aspires to bring out the best in his students. His energetic and unique teaching perspective creates a dynamic learning environment that has inspired me to go into music education. I am very thankful for his time and effort that has made a great impact on me and my peers.



child of Kathy Clayton

Honors & Activities: St Bonaventure Scholarship, Honor roll throughout high school, Scholar athlete throughout high school, Lacrosse team captain, Inducted into NHS, Varsity Lacrosse Team, Varsity Football Team, Varsity Wrestling Team, NTAA Lacrosse Team, Connect

Life Club, Best Buddies Club, Unified Basketball

Future Plans: Accepted into RIT, applied to SUNY Binghamton to become an Electrical Engineer f my most memorable educators. Having him for so many years in school and his impact on every-

Memorable Teacher: Mr Gast is one of my most memorable educators. Having him for so many years in school and his impact on everybody is very memorable. Any high schooler will know who he is which can't be said for many teachers. I've also partly had him as a coach as I was a helper in unified basketball.





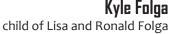
Madi Feng

child of Allison and Michael Feng

Honors & Activities: TEAchers choose award for mathematics, RIT women in STEM award, Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award (via University of Rochester), Rensselaer Medal Award (for math and science), Department awards, NHS, Drama Club, French Club, GSA

Future Plans: Niagara University and then vet school

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Urbaniak has always given me a place where I am comfortable. She is the music teacher at our school. For anyone who has not performed before, it makes you feel very vulnerable. She has helped me become more confident in myself, and I'm forever grateful for that.



Honors & Activities: National Honor Society, Cross country Coaches Award, Honor Roll every semester, Cross country team captain

Future Plans: Go to college to pursue a degree in computer science

Memorable Teacher: My most memorable educator is Mr. Sesnie. He is memorable to me because he always motivated me to improve and further myself academically and he inspired me to always give it my all.





Nathan Hengst

child of Sara and Troy Hengst

Honors & Activities: National Honor Society, All marking periods honors or high honors, Warrior Way, Physical Education 11 Department Award, Physics Department Award, Boy Scouting (Working on Eagle Scout Rank and Project), Youth Bureau, Drama Club, Theater Club, Diversity Club

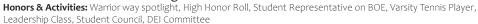
Future Plans: Work a job I won't want to retire from, make new friends and connections in college, have a family.

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Gregoretti, the teacher I've know since middle school has always found fun and engaging ways to teach her students. She gives a safe space for weirdness and laughs that all classrooms need. Though French may be very difficult and sometimes frustrating, the shenanigans and laughs encouraged me to continue my French education. Thank you, Mrs. Gregoretti!





child of Jessica Lawson-Santiago





Future Plans: Being accepted to Niagara University and doing a lot of traveling. Having a private practice in mental health counseling Memorable Teacher: Mr. Maier has been the greatest teacher I've had the pleasure of knowing my last three years of high school. He has always given me and all of his students a safe space to articulate their ideas and talk about things that they are passionate about. We all know his door is always open and he is always there for any conversation, whether you're telling him about your day or if you need advice. I've never met a teacher so dedicated to their students and generations to come are lucky to have a teacher like Mr. Maier. I'm very grateful for being part of his first students at Tonawanda and being able to watch him grow as a teacher. I am very lucky to have a teacher that I know is always in my corner rooting for me.

Rowan Leader child of Eric and Melissa Leader

Honors & Activities: Honor roll every year, 2nd place regents scholarship competition, RIT Computing Award, Hand in Hand Program, Jazz Band, Varsity Football, National Honor Society, Boy Scouts of America, Drama Club, Concert Chorale

Future Plans: Siena College for Business Administration

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Coppins, our AP US History class only had 5 students. It led us to get to know Mrs. Coppins more personally.



Alyssa McGuire

child of Kristina and Brandon McGuire

Honors & Activities: Honor Roll throughout High School, Competitive Dancer, National Honor Society, Best Buddies, Unified Basketball Future Plans: Receive my bachelors degree in occupational therapy and major in dance

Memorable Teacher: My most memorable teacher is Mrs. Schultz. Not only did she make an impact during my 8th grade year despite covid making it short and maybe even a little difficult, she has continued to make an impact through my four years of high school. One specific year for me was my sophomore year, I was struggling with both personal and school issues and she was there every day after school to listen and help no matter what it was. Her words of encouragement and wisdom will always stick with me and I'm forever grateful for her. I can't thank her enough.



Matthew Mysliwy child of Jen and Brian Mysliwy

Honors & Activities: NHS member, Honor roll every quarter, football team, Swim team captain, lacrosse team **Future Plans:** Enlisted in the Coast Guard

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Edholm-McNelis is definitely my most "memorable educator" always love going into her class and joking around having fun, but still being able to get work done and make cool art. It made school fun.



Rebecca Oates

child of Rhoda and Richard Oates

Honors & Activities: National Honor Society, Scholar Athlete 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, Erie County section VI All-Star softball player 2022,2023, Varsity Softball MVP 2021,2022,2023, Varsity Softball Captain 2021,2022,2023, Varsity Volleyball Captain and Coaches Award 2021 and 2023, Varsity Cross Country Coaches Award 2021, Varsity Softball, Travel Softball, Varsity Volleyball, Youth Bureau, Young Life, Best Buddies Club, JV Volleyball, Varsity Cross Country, JV Basketball

Future Plans: Attend college and pursue Marketing while playing softball.

Memorable Teacher: One of my most memorable teachers is my Spanish teacher, Mrs. Passalaqua. I've had her for the past four years of my academic career. She has helped me advance my Spanish skills and has pushed me to be the best student I can be. Mrs. Passalaqua is always supportive of everything that I do and has even given me supplies for missions trips. It's clear that she cares and truly wants every student to succeed.



James Ostrander

child of Penelope Petko and Tom Ostrander Jr.

Honors & Activities: Scholar Athlete, National Society of High School Scholars, Honor Roll, Varsity Lacrosse, Varsity Football, Varsity Wrestling, Connect Life, Jim Harszlak Foundation

Future Plans: Attend Saint Bonaventure University with a Major in Pre-health and a minor in psychology, then pursue a career in Physical

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Miller always tried to connect to every student and not only tried to be their teacher, but also a friend. In addition to teaching English, she also taught many valuable life lessons, many of which I have applied to my own life.







Lydia Philibin

child of Amy Smyers-Philibin and William Philibin

Honors & Activities: Warrior Way, Honor role, MVP, Unsung hero award, most improved, best offense school volleyball, travel volleyball, NHS, Best Buddies Club, Christmas for kids, Special Olympics, boys and girls club, Kiwanis club, softball Future Plans: Attend college for nursing to be a Pediatric Oncology Nurse.

Memorable Teacher: Mrs. Smith, throughout high school she has been my gym teacher, athletic director, coach, and vice principal. She has always believed in me and supported me in every way possible.

Olivia Scott child of LeeAnne Hunt

Honors & Activities: Honor Roll/ High Honor Roll, NHS President, Quality Student, Soccer, Basketball, Softball, Buddies to Buddies

Future Plans: Start at NCCC and transfer to study law and go into family court

Memorable Teacher: The most memorable teacher that I have had during these past few years has been Mr. Lodovico. I met him my freshman year, he had helped my brother a lot during his time at the high school and he has now helped me. He always makes sure that I know the extent of my accomplishments and never think anything less about the things I have done. Throughout the past four years I have come out of my shell more and more each year and I would like to thank Mr. Lodovico for a part of that. He also makes sure that every year each and every student has a memorable TNT week.



Madison Smith-Gurbacki

child of Amanda Smith

Honors & Activities: Honor Roll, National Honor Society Treasurer, Bonnie Scholarship Award, Scholar Athlete, Defensive MVP for volleyball last year, Most improved for volleyball this year, Captain of volleyball team sophomore and senior year, Warrior of the week or student of the month, Teacher choice award in art class, National Honor Society, Lady Warriors Volleyball

Future Plans: Go to University at Buffalo to pursue graphic design

Memorable Teacher: Mrs Randell is my most memorable staff member. She used to teach art but she's sadly retired now. She taught me everything I know about art and pushed me to do my best even when I didn't believe in myself. I've gained so many artistic abilities and confidence solely because of her and I will never forget that. I'm beyond thankful for her and hope she's doing well.

Casey Wright

child of Emily and David Wright

Honors & Activities: Honor Roll 13/13, Varsity Basketball and Baseball all 4 years of high school, ECIC 4 first team baseball (sophomore year), ECIC 4 honorable mention basketball(junior year), ECIC 4 Honorable mention baseball(junior year), Scholar Athlete, MVP basketball junior year, Varsity Basketball 2020-2024, Varsity Baseball 2020-2024, Travel Baseball since I was 7

Future Plans: Going to attend ECC to play baseball and study liberal arts in science then transfer to a 4 year for physical therapy

Memorable Teacher: Mrs Wright Boces Teacher. Mrs Wright has been my most memorable teacher in high school because her BOCES

program really helped me realize what I want to major in college and she has helped me with colleges and I will forever be grateful.





Madeline Zastrow

child of Kim and Eric Zastrow

Honors & Activities: NHS, Mother Colette Scholarship, Hilbert College Honors Scholarship, Scholar Athlete, Scholar Athlete, Tonawanda Theater, Varsity Bowling, Varsity Track and Field, Tonawanda Youth Court, Tonawanda Christmas for Kids, Special Olympic Track and Field Volunteer, Altar Server St Francis of Assisi, Girl Scouts

Future Plans: Hilbert College Honors to work in criminal justice as a computer forensic analyst.

Memorable Teacher: My most memorable teacher is Mrs Shaffer. My first memory of her is the cheerful, organized lady who ran Christmas for Kids. In HS, I heard horror stories about the 11th grade Math teacher - who gave so much homework your knuckles would bleed and required early Saturday math review. How could this be the same wonderful lady who made Christmas so special for the children of Tonawanda. I obsessed for two years over this math class. Mrs Shaffer's love for math and willingness to go the extra mile, is the only reason I passed algebra 2. She spent so much extra time with me, I consider her part of my family. Her dedication to helping me with my studies, made me want to work harder and believe in myself. I will always remember my favorite teacher.

Sponsors

Businesses, organizations and individuals join in sponsoring the Quality Student Scholars program.

The committee thanks the sponsors for their interest in and commitment to the program as well as the future of our communities and the young people.

- Armenia CPA, PLLC
- Assemblyman William Conrad
- Bradley Rowles; NTHS Principal
- Cardinal O'Hara Boosters
- Cardinal O'Hara Home School Association
- Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas
- COT Neighbors United
- Dr. and Mrs. Henry Stempin
- Friends of the North Tonawanda Library
- Hon. Joseph J. Cassata
- James Carey, Edward Jones Wealth Management
- James Hoddick DDS and Thomas Balazs, DDS
- James Shiesley, 1st Ward Councilperson
- Joan and Mark Mullin & Patty Johnston
- Judge Dean Lilac Jr, Tonawanda City Court
- Judge Mark Saltarelli, Tonawanda City Court
- Niagara County Legislator Randy Bradt
- Niagara County Legislator Richard Andres
- Niagara Region Federal Credit Union
- North Tonawanda Board of Education
- North Tonawanda Catholic Club
- North Tonawanda Mayor Austin Tylec

- North Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association
- North Tonawanda Professional Firefighters,
 Local 859
- North Tonawanda Professional Firefighters,
 Local 1333
- Niagara County Republican Committee
- North Tonawanda United Teachers Union
- NT Clerk/Treasurer Donna Braun
- NYS Assemblyman Bill Conrad
- NYS Senator Robert Ortt
- Stange Agency
- The Exchange Club of the Tonawandas
- The Kiwanis Club of the Tonawandas
- Tonawanda Administrators and Supervisors
 Group
- Tonawanda Board of Education
- Tonawanda Education Association
- Tonawanda Fire Department
- Tonawanda Mayor John White
- Tonawanda Police Benevolent Association
- Tonawanda Youth Court