

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

Spring is an exciting time in Western New York. We can finally start to enjoy the outdoors once again and this is evident in the sports and activities the school has going on. This season our annual fun walk/run promises to be the best yet, as we celebrate our 150th anniversary as a school district.

Spring also means the district and school board have been hard at work developing a budget for the community to approve. Over the last two years the school board was able to keep increases at zero percent (0%) and at a half percent (0.05%) over those years. Right sizing and selling or renting district buildings has helped the district stay the course of keeping taxes in check while growing program.

This year's budget will be below the tax cap limit again as the board stays committed to keeping taxes in check. The districts tax cap calculation is 1.48% but the BOE is well below this at only 1.25%. Because of projected increases in assessments in the district, taxpayers will see an increase in their taxes of only 0.97%. This will be the 5th year in a row the district was able to stay below the tax cap limit. The restructuring of the district to an intermediate building (grades 4-6) and a 7-12 combined Middle School/High School campus further improves our ability to provide quality instruction in an efficient manner. We encourage you to study the budget documents in this edition of the NT Spirit and contact us or visit our website for the latest in budget and capital project news. www.ntschoools.org

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of North Tonawanda
City Schools



School Board President's Message

Hard work and dedication immediately come to mind when I think of the Board of Education in North Tonawanda. Our students' education is our number one priority. Most NT residents feel this way as well. With that being said, we will continue to research the best way to offer a premier education while holding the line on our budget. We are fortunate enough to begin our capital project this spring which will enhance our student experience and showcase North Tonawanda Schools as a progressive, state-of-the-art facility. This was done by the support of our NT parents and taxpayers together. This will be the key to our success in raising our graduate rate, enhancing the student experience and increasing property values. The key to great communities are great schools. By working together, we can find solutions that will accomplish our goals. We need to make North Tonawanda a community to move to, not from.

In this budget, we make necessary cuts due to decreasing enrollment, but keep intact the improvements we have made to student offerings and sports programs. Transparency to our taxpayers, both business and homeowners, is paramount to our agenda. We encourage our citizens to be part of the solution to move our district to the top of the list of "Best Schools in Western New York". Come to our Board meetings and voice your concerns, suggestions and accolades. Our students are our pride and joy. See the great things that are happening in NT schools!

Sincerely,

Michele Golding
North Tonawanda School Board President



Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 16, Noon - 9 p.m.
Alumni Student Activity Center, 405 Meadow Drive

Character Education at Spruce Elementary School

At Spruce Elementary School each and every student learns with a positive attitude and gains the skills needed to become a leader. The school follows Steven Covey's *Leader in Me* book that embraces the 7 Habits of Healthy Kids. The seven habits include: Be Proactive, Begin with the End in Mind, Put First Things First, Think Win-Win, Seek First to Understand Then to Be Understood, Synergize, and Sharpen the Saw. Each habit teaches students leadership and life skills while creating an environment of empowerment, where every child is a leader. Each month, Spruce holds a character education assembly where Ms. Gierke, School Counselor, and Mr. Janicki, Social Worker, recognize students who have demonstrated stellar characteristics of the habit of the month. Spruce is currently encouraging Habit 3: Put First Things First.



Habit 1: Be Proactive



Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

Architecture Students Take Top Three Spots at Bridge Construction Competition

North Tonawanda Art and Architecture teacher Chris Cook could not be prouder of his three teams of students; they took first, second and third place at the Association for Bridge Construction and Design (ABCD) 25th Annual Kenneth T. Rybarczyk Memorial Bridge Contest. "I am obviously very proud of the work, time and effort that they put into the bridge competition. Obviously the results speak for themselves," says Mr. Cook.

"Seventy-eight bridges were presented, judged and tested until failure. Bridges were checked to ensure all requirements were met on the bridges' weight, length and height," explains organizer Mike Barrett. "The judging consisted of review and assignment of scoring for: Complexity, Engineering, Workmanship and Efficiency. The best possible score was 40 points."

Seniors Mike Orlowski and Brandon Wade took home first place with a bridge that weighed 126 grams and carried a load of 308 pounds and had a total score of 37.6 points. The team of David Zak, Colin Hebler and Noah Senft followed in second place and Isabelle Thompson and Yeva Sukhov took third place. "It was a lot of fun," says Brandon. "It felt good to find out we won. It's the first time that Mike and I won anything." "We were convinced it was going to fall apart when they were testing it," says Mike. "But I guess it worked. We were really happy because last year it did fall apart."

This is the third year in a row that Mr. Cook's students have taken first place at the event, which was held at Classic V on Niagara Falls Boulevard in February. The competition is open to all high school students in the Western New York area.



(LtoR) David Zak and Noah Senft, (Second Place), Mike Orlowski and Brandon Wade (First Place) and Isabelle Thompson and Yeva Sukhov (Third Place).

Buffalo Bandits Spread Anti-Bullying Message to Spruce Students

Recently the Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse team paid a visit to Spruce Elementary. The team talked to the students about the importance of teamwork and also the importance of not being a bully.

What an inspiring message!



(LtoR) Dhane Smith, Addalynn Berry (in red), Meredith Roberts, Henry Stevens & Mark Steenhuis. Standing in back is Craig England.

North Tonawanda Schools Staff Take Over McDonald's for McTeacher's Night

Staff from Drake Elementary School manned the registers and the drive-thru at the McDonald's on Meadow Drive recently. It was all part of the McTeacher's Night fundraising opportunity where the restaurant chain invites school districts to work in the restaurant to help with school needs. Part of the sales from the evening goes back to the school for them to use at their discretion.

Drake Elementary School Principal Katie Smith says the proceeds from McDonald's and the Friends of Drake raffle will go to an upcoming Family Night that will focus on literacy and math and to continue to grow the classrooms' libraries. "We had a spectacular turnout and McDonald's manager Jeff Gerber was not only enthusiastic, generous and helpful, but he and McDonald's donated two child bikes for our raffle as well. We raised \$877.90. We are very fortunate to be able to partner with this establishment each year."

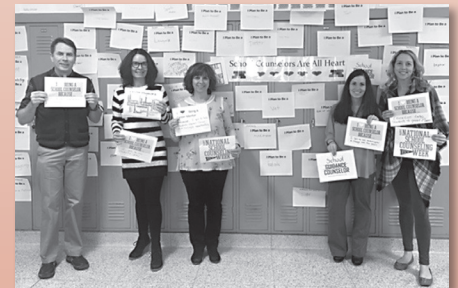


(LtoR) Marissa Greenwald, Maureen Byrne, Jeff Gerber (Manager of McDonald's), Katie Smith, Annette Beutel, Maria Sanders, Brianna Larson and Nathan Schelble.

National Counseling Week

National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA), was celebrated from Feb. 6–10, 2017, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems and how students are different as a result of what school counselors do.

National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. The counselors celebrated the week by going into the lunch periods at the High School and had students sign what career paths they were planning on after graduation.



(LtoR) Robert Derrett, Lynn Wright, Lori Graves, Jennifer Kupiec, Jennifer John. Missing is Melissa Giles.

Boys & Girls Indoor Track and Field Capped Off a Successful Season

Students Hallie Daigler and Anton Kunas were sent to the State Championship Meet after a highly successful season for the Boys and Girls Indoor Track Field season.

Hallie qualified for the meet as the 200m leg of the Intersectional Relay. Hallie ran a half second personal best time with a split of 26.8 seconds. Anton won a State Championship title in Pole Vault after jumping a personal best height of 15'6". The following weekend Anton competed at the New Balance High School National Meet in New York City. He finished 15th overall against the best high school pole vaulters in the country!

The coaching staff is looking forward to continued success during the outdoor season," says Coach Kevin Wartinger.



Ohio Students Participate in Earth Day Painting Contest

The Art Studio at Ohio Street School has been hard at work getting ready for the 2017 Earth Day Rain Barrel painting contest.

Art teacher Sue Zobrist saw the contest that is sponsored by the Erie County Department of Environmental and Planning, and thought it would be a great project for the 6th grade students. "The theme of the contest is Harvest a Resource, Recycle the Rain. So you can do anything you wanted to do," says Mrs. Zobrist. "We decided to tie it into North Tonawanda's 150th anniversary. So we went with the canal, the river, the carousel and the jukebox for designs. One of the students came up with the idea of making it look like an old rain barrel so we painted it to look like a wooden rain barrel and then the students picked their theme and did a sketch and transferred to the barrel and painted it."

The students are using a 35 gallon syrup concentrate drum donated by the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Buffalo for the project. Rain barrels are used to collect and store rain water that would otherwise pick up contamination from dirt, oil, chemicals and fertilizers that could run into waterways. The contest hopes to promote how to protect water quality in our rivers, streams and lakes.

Mrs. Zobrist says it is turning out so nicely that they are going to raffle it off to raise money for the North Tonawanda History Museum.



Mrs. Zobrist with Art Studio students: Cori Racinowski, Alex Zielinski, Jaeden Hewett, Raygen Manzare, Warren Bennett, Tessa Moderacki, Rylee Keifer, Kate Crago, Emma Harnden and Ashlyn Wilczynski.

Drake Elementary Students Bring Famous Figures to Life

Recently 4th grade students at Drake Elementary School brought some historical and popular figures to life. The students in Trisha Anson's, Amanda DePasquale's and Maria Sanders' class took on the role of people like Benjamin Franklin, Sacagawea, J.K. Rowling, Brett Favre and Taylor Swift.

Family members were invited into the school's cafeteria to question the students to see if they could determine what person they were portraying. "We have a partnership with the North Tonawanda Public Library," explains Ms. Anson. "Each month we go to the library and do a book genre study and for the month of January, we do biographies. So the students picked a biography person and then throughout the month they were reading, taking notes and finding information about them."

The students then created a project where they made a timeline and a postal stamp. Then as a culminating activity they brought in props or costumes for their characterizations. The students did a great job bringing these figures to life and were ready to answer any question that was thrown at them by their guests.



Nathaniel Heiss, Sean Norris, Kadence Russell, E'lonnah Morath, Bryan Weaver.



Sylar Hachee, Annessa Kramer



Makenzie Hayes, Danielle Kish, Isabella Berhalter, Brianna Lowe, Parker Palmer



Brianna Lowe, Parker Palmer, Charles Cain III, Kaylee Juliano, Reagan Carney

Sensory Safari

On Monday, March 13, 2017, Lynette DePlato presented to the ninth grade class about African culture. Her presentation is entitled "Sensory Safari" whereby students get to touch pieces of African tribal culture and view a slideshow of various tribes and animals native to different parts of Africa.



Lumberjacks Basketball Team Ends Season As Sectional Champs

The North Tonawanda Lumberjacks Basketball team and their coach Ryan Mountain ended a historic season with becoming the Section VI Class A-1 Champions, then defeated the Class A-2 Champion Amherst Tigers becoming the overall Section VI Class A Champions. Although they were not able to beat the eventual Class A State Champion Irondequoit in the New York State Class A Far West Regional, Coach Mountain says



his team can hold their heads up high. "If people knew how hard we work they would have a deeper appreciation for what we do," he says. "We have had a very successful run over the last 10 years and this was a very exciting year for us. We succeed 'The N.T. Way' which is to focus on the present moment, deny selfishness, accept reality, and seek improvement daily while putting the team above all else. Unifying as a team was the key to our success. We felt that it was our championship to earn."

It was the first sectional title for the team since 1961. They Lumberjacks upset the #1 ranked team in Western New York and #3 ranked team in New York State, Williamsville South, with a 60-54 win at Buffalo State College. "We are very proud of what has been a historic season," says Coach Mountain. "We had a very talented group of players who were striving to be leaders to each other and were very invested in the team. They were a very unselfish group, with 8 players scoring over 100 points, which is almost unheard of in high school basketball. We had 423 assists, a school record as well as 1649 total points scored. We actually broke 10 school records including 152 three point shots. Twenty wins that is the most we have had since 1921. It is amazing what gets accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit. It was beautiful thing to watch."

Coach Mountain says he and his players have been very moved by the outpouring of support and congratulations from the community. "We received a letter from Mayor Arthur Pappas and other athletic departments in the area congratulating us on our achievement. Strangers were approaching me at the NCAA games downtown telling me how inspired they were by how hard the boys played and how well they attacked and played as a team. One gentleman said that the way the team embraced me after we won was rare and that everyone could tell the team loved playing for me. It was the greatest compliment I could have received, and the guys know it's reciprocal, I love coaching them. It was just so special to have won the championship with them and see many of our former players in the crowd rooting us on. Our student body, administration and the families deserve a big part of the championship. They were there for us. The parents took turns hosting team meals and it meant a lot to everyone when our Athletic Director, Jeff Alger, set up buses that took the student body to Buffalo State for all of the games. My friend printed 200 special t-shirts that read, "Not Just Basketball – North Tonawanda Basketball" that were handed out to the student body and families at the 1st Sectional game to show our appreciation. The Monday after the Williamsville South win the team wore their Section 6 Champion t-shirts to school and they said they were treated like royalty. It was a magical year!"

Congratulations Kayla!

Kayla Glennon, a NTHS senior, was accepted Early Decision to Geneseo State College where she will major in Biology.



Kayla and her School Counselor, Lynn Wright.

Ohio Elementary Students Heart Northgate Health Care Residents

North Tonawanda City School District's Ohio Elementary students made Valentine's Day cards for the residents of Northgate Health Care Facility recently. The activity was in conjunction with a lesson on "Empathy" with school counselor, Jennifer Schultz.

One student from each classroom, accompanied by Mrs. Schultz and school principal, Michael Hiller, delivered the cards to the residents on Valentine's Day.



Pictured are the students, Mrs. Schultz, and Mr. Hiller at Northgate Health Care Facility holding a poster showcasing some of the younger students' valentines.

First Row LtoR: Lennea Caccamise, Marley Conway, Giana Mansour, Brianna Fellenz, Georgia Dentering, Morrison Brown, Tara Allen, Aiden Raymond

Second Row: Marissa Lafferty, Emeline Sparks, Aaron Bonk, Anila Sopi, McKenna O'Neil, Addison Hart, Tyler Campas

Last Row: Mrs. Schultz, Max Lesmeister, Jesse Bennett, Autumn Kasprzyk, Warren Bennett, Claire Stutz, Thomas Polek, James Campas, Mr. Hiller

Family and Consumer Science Class Keeps Busy

The students in the Family and Consumer Science class have been busy this year with lots of great activities. Courses included: Clothing and Textiles where the students made pajama bottoms and log cabin quilts. For the Life On Your Own class, students decorated a Christmas tree and had a spaghetti challenge. They also had a Food and Nutrition course, students made cakes, tacos and chocolate covered strawberries.



Spruce Elementary Students Learn About Poison Prevention

Students in Deborah Dexheimer's class at North Tonawanda's Spruce Elementary recently had some guests in class to teach them some valuable safety tips.

Pharmacy students from the University of Buffalo spent some time during National Poison Prevention Week (March 19-25) to talk to the students about how to prevent unintentional poisoning and raising awareness. "They reviewed what poisons are, when medicine should be taken and who they should get their medicine from," says Ms. Dexheimer.

The students were asked to identify poison from different photos that were shown to them and received certificates and poison control magnets at the end of this valuable lesson.



(LtoR) UB students, Garrett Martin, Brenna Gallivan, Leslie Aurelio and Justin Roulley. Spruce students (LtoR) Mateo Rosa, Paige Hill, Addalynn Berry, and Maximus Glurich.

Breaking Ground

North Tonawanda CSD Administration and Board of Education members broke ground at the High School on April 5th to make room for Capital Project renovations. The High School plans include: converting the gymnasium to a fixed auditorium, roof replacement, a new multi-sport stadium that includes turf, lighting, bleachers, press box, concession stand and ticket booth, six new tennis courts, construction and reconfiguring of four natural grass sports fields, upgrade of kitchen, a new STEAM(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math)-based Technology Academy, converting existing tech room into a clean tech room and converting the existing dark room into a digital media lab.



(LtoR) Alan Getter (Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services), Colleen Angelhow (Board Member), John Zloty (Board Member), Thad McMurray (Board Member), Cheryl McMahon (Board Vice President), Michele Golding (Board President), Gregory Woytila (Superintendent of Schools) and Ann Finkle (Board Member).

Composting has come to Ohio Elementary School!

In a collaborative effort between teachers and parents, students are learning the benefits of composting while running a compost program at school. Students are now collecting leftover apple cores, banana peels, and other fruit and vegetable scraps during their lunch. At the end of lunch periods, student volunteers empty the scraps into the new compost tumblers that the Ohio Parent Association generously funded. Fifth and sixth grade students assembled the four new compost tumblers during their block time. In addition, fifth grade students have been visiting students in Kindergarten through second grade to teach them the do's and don'ts of composting. In the spring, finished compost will be added to our school garden to improve the health of our soil and plants.



Cierra Williams and Skyla Behrens work on assembling the compost lid.

Spruce Students Learn Lesson on Entrepreneurship

Students in Mrs. Deborah Dexheimer's kindergarten class at Spruce Elementary School spent a day in class showing off their entrepreneur skills. They asked their parent to partner up with them to be their business partner. The students came up with a variety of businesses and sold items ranging from pencils, erasers, balloons, candy and baked goods. Their families helped them put together their shops before they opened for business. Mrs. Dexheimer even had a little pet shop, so students could buy a new friend.

To kick off the event, the students sang a song to their parents thanking them for their help and then their customers, the other kindergarten classes, were invited in to purchase their items with fake money they were given out. "Not only were students learning the correct coins to use for purchasing and giving change, the business owners had to give out receipts and complete their paperwork when business was slow," explains Mrs. Dexheimer. "Not only does it help the students with learning the value of money, it teaches them manners and kindness and how to treat other people. It was a very fun day of learning."



Shaylee Klaes and her dad, Dan Klaes.



Eleanor Steves with her dad, Aaron Steves.

Shelby Walter Recognized for Doing the Right Thing

Drake student Shelby Walter was recently recognized by the Juvenile Task Force in conjunction with the Niagara County Sheriff's Department and the Niagara Police



Athletic League for their "Do the Right Thing" program. The program is designed to positively impact the youth of Niagara County by publicly recognizing children who distinguish themselves through behavior and establishing themselves as role models for their peers.

NOCO Secures Grants to North Tonawanda Schools

North Tonawanda Middle School and High School are the recipients of \$6,000 in education grants from ExxonMobile Education Alliance Program through NOCO.

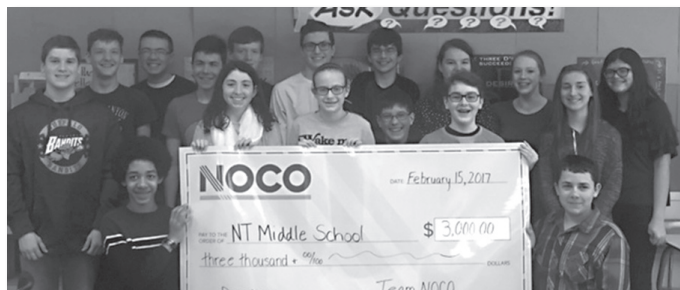
The program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobile retailers and distributors, like NOCO, with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools and academic programs. John Duffy, NOCO representative, has a connection with North Tonawanda City Schools since his wife Angela works as a school counselor at the Middle School. "My husband has helped other schools get the grant in the past and I told him about the amazing programs that we have here with the Academy of Engineering at the High School and our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs here at the Middle School," she says.

The ExxonMobile Educational Alliance supports education one school at a time by granting \$1.8 million each year to be used for math, science and engineering activities. The money is used to benefit schools for program enhancements such as films, speakers, field trips to science centers; student volunteer programs, scholarships

or awards to encourage academic or leadership excellence in math and science, science fairs, parent/student events or educational tools such as computers, math or science books, calculators and software geared toward math, science and engineering.

Teacher Chris Cook, who runs the Academy of Engineering says, "We are in the process of taking the Academy of Engineering and Architecture into the future of design and manufacturing. More and more the ever evolving technology of 3-D printing is becoming the norm during the design/drafting step as well as the final means to produce an item. The ever-changing process has recently produced prosthetics, automobiles and even houses. We want to be on the cutting edge of this technology and provide our students the knowledge and experiences with this process. The NOCO ExxonMobile grant will enable us to buy an updated 3-D printer, taking our students into the future."

Middle School Principal, Greg Burgess, says, "The ExxonMobile grant will provide us with some additional funding for science and math related items such as: supplemental math materials (Castle Learning), science lab materials and equipment. This additional funding will benefit students at both grade levels."



PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of \$ 73,491,613 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

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

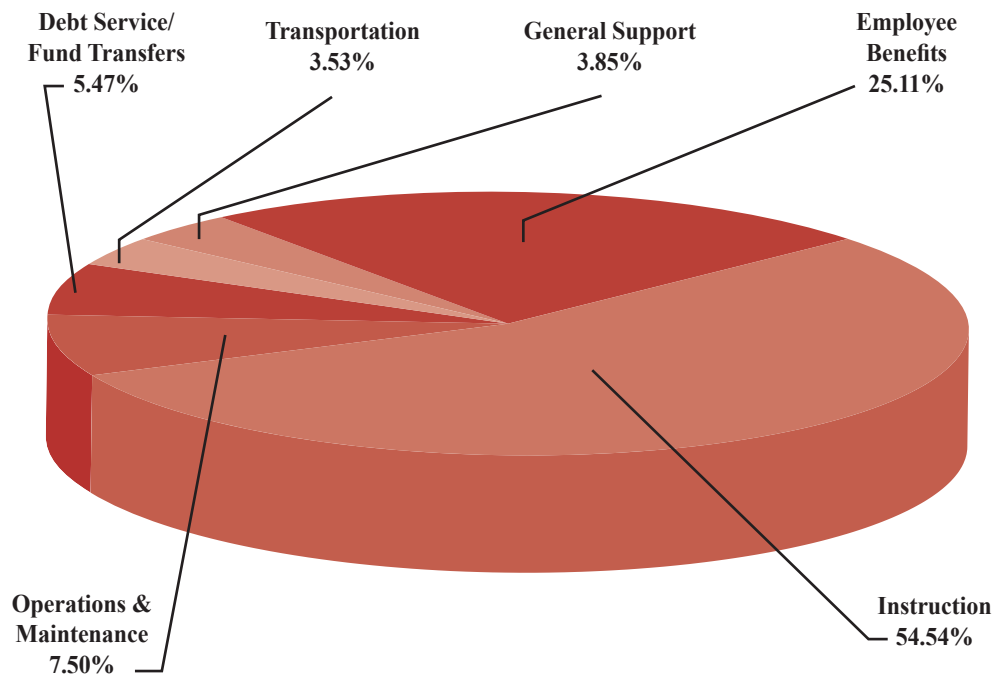
Information on Board of Education candidates can be found on the district website: www.ntschoools.org.

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.

Candidates listed below are in alphabetical order:

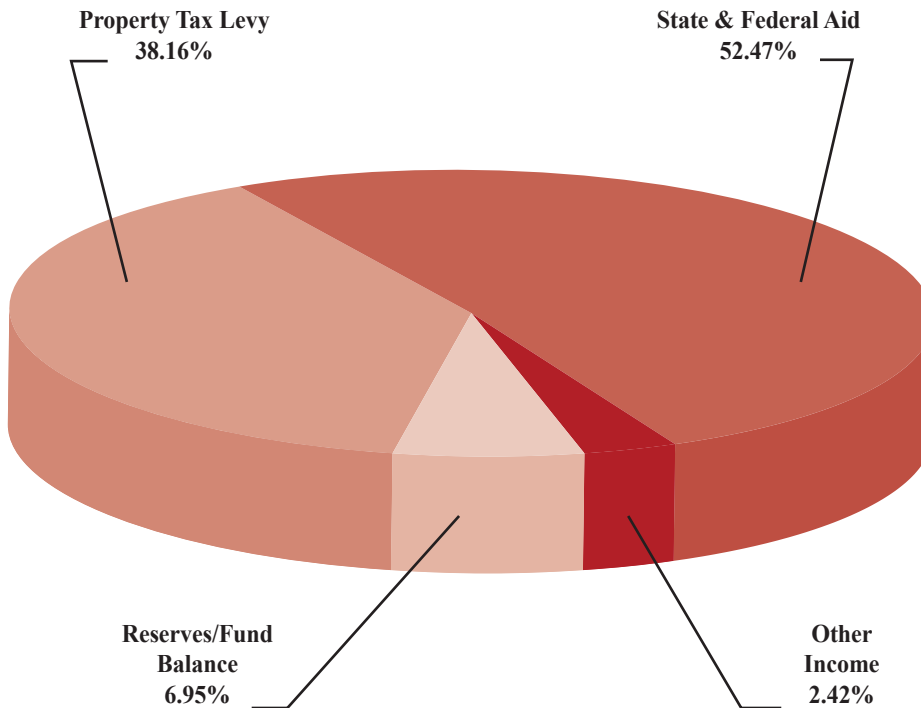
- Matthew Kennedy
- Bonnie Litten-Shiesley
- Barabra McCarthy
- Zachary Niemiec
- Elizabeth Sanderson

EXPENDITURES



	2016-17	2017-2018	Percent Change from 2016-17
Instruction	\$38,544,545	\$40,083,679	3.99%
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	\$18,033,824	\$18,454,722	2.33%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, Social Security and Worker's Compensation.			
General Support	\$2,869,454	\$2,826,950	-1.48%
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	\$2,455,707	\$2,594,560	5.65%
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	\$4,945,009	\$4,022,561	-18.65%
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	\$5,466,511	\$5,509,141	0.78%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$72,315,050	\$73,491,613	1.63%

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2016-17	2017-2018	Change from 2016-17
State/Federal Aid	\$38,078,401	\$38,558,709	\$480,308

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2017-18 school year, it is projected to be 52.47% of all revenue. Last year it was 52.66%. This year, the aid increased by \$480,308.

Other Income	\$1,778,842	\$1,778,842	\$0
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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	\$5,107,385	\$350,000
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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 (Includes Prorated Taxes)	\$27,700,422	\$28,046,677	\$346,255
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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 2017-18 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$346,255 which amounts to a 1.25% increase.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$72,315,050	\$73,491,613	\$1,176,563
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Three NTHS Students Win Big in NCCC's About Place Writing Contest

Three North Tonawanda High School students have been named winners in the 2017 Niagara County Community College's About Place contest. The Environmental Task Force of NCCC coordinates this yearly project. The coordinators welcome essay and poetry submissions from high school writers who feature the importance of nature writing, preservation, and protection of the environment.

Under the Regional Essay contest, North Tonawanda junior Emily O'Bryan placed second with her piece entitled, "Fame Falls." Honorable mentions also hailed from North Tonawanda and include junior Madeline Moran's "Goodnight Violet" and junior Brandon Lynch's "Cotton Candy."

North Tonawanda students also won both the first and second place within the Regional Poetry division. Brandon Lynch's "Golden," placed first and Emily O'Bryan's "Lore of the Forest" placed second within the division. The three students are enrolled in NTHS Advanced Placement English course under the instruction of Tammy Stawisuck.



From left to right: Emily O'Bryan, Brandon Lynch, and Madeline Moran.



OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools Budget Notice OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2016-17 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2017-18 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$72,315,050	\$73,491,613	\$73,124,989
Increase/Decrease for the 2017-18 School Year		\$1,176,563	\$809,939
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.63%	1.12%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.26%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$27,680,053	\$28,046,677	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$	\$	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$	\$	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$	\$	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$27,680,053	\$28,046,677	\$27,680,053
F. Total Permissible Exclusions			
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$27,797,803	\$28,111,045	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E – B – F + D)	\$27,680,053	\$28,046,677	
I. Difference: G – H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval –	\$117,750	\$64,368	
See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **			
Administrative Component	\$6,693,774	\$6,931,557	\$6,896,855
Program Component	\$53,743,965	\$55,656,223	\$55,377,426
Capital Component	\$11,877,311	\$10,903,833	\$10,850,708

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$366,624 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.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2017-18 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$536

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2017-2018 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 16, 2017 between the hours of 12:00pm (Noon) 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.



North Tonawanda City School District



Health Fair 5th Annual 5K Run/1 Mile Family Fun Walk

In conjunction with our District's Health Department, we are hosting our fifth annual 5K Run and 1 Mile Family Fun Walk. This event will be offered to our community at a very low cost. Our goal is to increase parent involvement, increase community involvement, maximize participation, and promote good community health and well-being.



When: Saturday, May 6, 2017 - 9:00 AM Start

Where: NT Middle School, 1500 Vanderbilt Avenue, North Tonawanda

Cost: \$5 per North Tonawanda Resident, \$10 Non-resident

This USA Track & Field sanctioned race begins and ends at NTMS and runs through Wurlitzer Park. This race course is certified. Any questions regarding this event may be directed to 807-3715.

Fee includes t-shirt for first 300 pre-registered runners & refreshments after the race. A runner's fair, family activities and door prizes including a **Fitbit Charge** will take place while times are being calculated. Prizes will be awarded to top three male and female runners. Male and female winners in age brackets as follows: 14 & under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-39, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70+. Race timing will be provided by *WNY Finish Line & Timing Services*.

Packet Pick Up: North Tonawanda Middle School 3-6 PM on Friday, May 5th and beginning at 7:30AM on race day.

Payment & Registration: Checks should be made out to *North Tonawanda City School District*. Checks can be dropped off at any North Tonawanda school or mailed to: North Tonawanda Middle School, Attn: Sue Evarts, Race Director, 1500 Vanderbilt Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120.

Register in person or by mail. Cash or check only, please.

Cash _____ Check _____ Bib# _____

Name _____ Male or Female _____ Age on race day _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____ Register for: 5K _____ Fun Run _____

T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL Please read and sign liability waiver below. Parent must sign for child under 18.

I, the undersigned, understand that the North Tonawanda Health Fair 5K Run/1 Mile Family Fun Run ("the Event") sponsored by the North Tonawanda City School District ("the District"), is an athletic event that should only be engaged in by persons who are physically capable of participation. I also understand and acknowledge that my participation entails risks, including, but not limited to, serious bodily injury or death, caused by my actions as well as the acts or omissions of others.

I am voluntarily entering the Event, and I assume all risks of injury or damage to my person or property resulting in directly or indirectly, wholly or in part, from my participation in the Event. In consideration for, among other things, my being permitted to participate in the Event, I waive, release, covenant not to sue, and hold harmless the District and USATF (which is to include, for purposes of the Waiver, all of the District's agents, employees, and representatives along with USATF, its employees, directors, assigns & USATF Certified Officials) of, from, and for any and all claims, suits, or damages of any kind, in whole or in part by the District or any other person or thing at the Event even though such claim or liability may arise out of the negligence or fault on the part of the District.

I also understand and agree that any sponsor may subsequently use, for publicity or promotional purposes, picture of me participating in the Event without liability or obligation to me.

If the participant is under 18 years of age, the undersigned represents and warrants that he/she is the participant's parent or legal guardian, and has authority and knowledge to make the above representation and execute this Waiver on the participant's behalf.

Participant _____

Date _____

Parent or Legal Guardian (if participant is under 18) _____

Date _____



**NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS**

176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

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North Tonawanda Middle School Takes Part in American Heart Association Event

The American Heart Association recently presented to the students and staff at the North Tonawanda Middle School. They were promoting their Jump Rope for Heart campaign which promotes healthy eating and exercise and raised money and awareness for those who suffer from heart-health issues.

Health Education teacher Lindsey Turner,
Physical Education teacher Patrick Kennedy and

Physical Education teacher Deb Giglia decided to promote it by allowing the students to work their way around through different stations in the gym. "Everyone has to go to every station and participate in the heart healthy activity," says Mr. Kennedy. "We are talking to the students about adopting a heart healthy lifestyle and keeping themselves active throughout their lives."

Students also spent time setting up an account

online so that they could raise money for the charity. Mrs. Turner says the students fundraised just shy of \$1,000. "I love working with the American Heart Association because it is such a worthy cause. This event helps to remind our students that we can make a difference and help those that are not as fortunate health wise as we are. It gets students to get out in the community and give back. It's a humbling experience for us all."



Andon Woodward, Sal Alessandra, David Kuntz and Gabe Christopher.



Brooklyn Hoefert, Isabella Mathreson sign up for the American Heart Association accounts.



Nolan Yanacek and Nolan Szczesniak.