

# 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

## Voter 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.

## Superintendent's Message

As we get set to welcome spring and warmer temperatures, the schools are also getting excited to bring more students back to in-person classes and what we hope is a sign of more to come for September. There is no doubt that schools across the state and the country all struggled to make sense of COVID- safe practices while educating the youth of tomorrow. North Tonawanda is focused on a full return to school as soon as possible. In the meantime, we are working on ways to fill in for learning gaps children could have developed while in a hybrid or remote learning model.

The state officials have allotted some monies to each district earmarked for this specific use. We will be developing summer enrichment classes for our K-6 students to help them maintain current levels while moving them forward. Stay tuned to the web page, Facebook, and your child's learning management system for more details soon.

COVID-19 came in like a lion in March of 2020 and we are hoping that it goes out like a lamb in May 2021. Please continue to wear your masks when needed and to keep hands washed as much as possible to keep the spread of the virus down. We are encouraged that more vaccines are available to more people who will opt to take them. We each need to do our part to help keep this under control so we can return to normal as soon as possible.

Please take a few minutes to see the exciting stories we have for you as well as the budget information in this edition of the NT Spirit. We have been working hard to keep all children engaged this past year. The proposed budget allows us to keep moving forward and addressing the needs of all of our students.

Thank you,  
Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools



## School Board President's Message



One year ago, I wrote that "It takes a village to raise a child" and our "village" really stepped up to the plate. I want to thank our community for coming together to make the best out of another unprecedented school year. We look forward to better days and a normal school year very soon.

The Board of Education has been hard at work on the 2021-2022 budget since January. We faced uncertainty on state and federal funding throughout this process. I am happy to report that the district will receive an increase in state and federal funding. Federal funding can be used over the next few school years to address learning gaps due to the pandemic. The board has proposed a fair budget that included the addition of a second school resource officer. We look forward to presenting it on May 11th and answering your questions.

Lastly to the class of 2021; I know this isn't how you expected to end your high school career. Our community could not be prouder of your accomplishments. We can't wait to see the amazing things you will all do to change the world.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Kennedy  
Board President



**Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 18, 2021**

## Celebrating Dr. Seuss

Mrs. Armstrong's class, at Drake Elementary, celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with some fun activities. Here is her class with their Dr. Seuss week crafts.



## NT Grad Becomes One of the Few and the Proud

2020 graduate Private First-Class Johnathan Wittcop, of the Marine Corp, recently visited Mr. Gauld's Psychology and Economics classes. He spoke about his experience as a Marine and answered questions.



We are so proud of Johnathan and thank him for his service!

## HS National Honor Society Shows Love to Nursing Home Residents

It has been a challenge for National Honor Society (NHS) adviser Tammy Stawisuck to help NHS students complete their community service hours this year. "With the pandemic, it limits the things we usually do as far as our worthy endeavors," she says. "We have tried to be creative as we can with doing things online and from home. So far this year we have raised money for breast cancer awareness with the Go Pink campaign, sent letters to our hometown heroes who are working as nurses on COVID hospital floors and committed random acts of kindness like leaving decorated pumpkins on people's porches. We have been striving to do something that is meaningful for the students and would lift their spirits as well. It has been a hard school year."



The students' recent endeavor has been to show residents of Bishop Gibbons a little love on Valentine's Day. Drake Elementary School Principal Janet Matyevich suggested the idea when her school's foster grandmother, Peggy, mentioned how the residents aren't allowed any visitors and how hard the holidays have been on them. Mrs. Stawisuck said her students were enthusiastic about adopting 40 residents and making them goody bags. "Each student got a name and made the resident a card and filled a bag with little gifts. It was such a nice project because not only did the students get service hours, they really brightened somebody's day and felt inspired by the project."

Mrs. Matyevich picked up the beautifully decorated bags and delivered them to the senior housing. "The bags were lovely and I was so proud of the High School kids and the effort they put in to make it special," she says. "I actually got quite emotional of the residents' reactions. They are really locked down and can't even be allowed to congregate or play cards and they were so appreciative of receiving these gifts. I wish the students could have been there to see how tickled they were and the smiles they brought to their faces."





# Literacy Celebrated at NTI

NTI students had a blast participating in Literacy Week right before Spring Recess. Students, in the hybrid and remote model, celebrated their love of literacy by dressing up for theme days. Each day was tied to a part of literacy, and the teachers and students did not disappoint with their creativity. From Wild About Reading, to Dress Like a Character and funniest of all, Dress like an Idiom day. “Our halls and screens were filled with smiles as we saw our fellow Junior Jacks supporting the weeks’ themes,” explains Lauren Miranto, Literacy Specialist.

In extension to Literacy Week, students and families participated in a Light Up the Night-Virtual Family Literacy evening of activities. Students joined from the comfort of their homes on teams, while NTI teachers led fun and engaging literacy activities. Some of the sessions were a Character Trait Escape Room, Character BINGO, Scattagories, Parts of Speech Among Us and more! “It was so great to be able to connect and engage our love of literacy,” says Miranto.

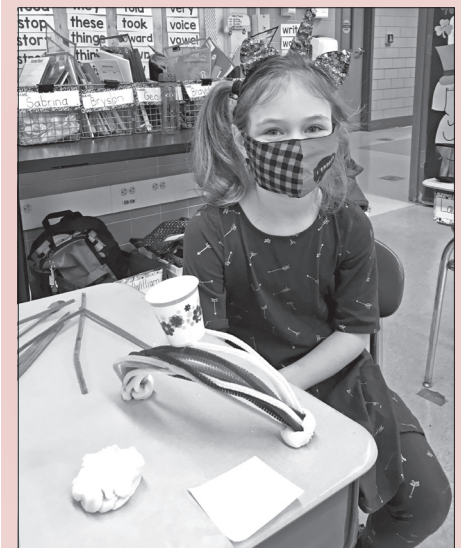


# A Bridge to Knowledge

Ohio School second graders recently did a STEM activity where they learned all about bridges and the best design to support the most weight.

The children had a blast using pipe cleaners and play dough to create the strongest bridge to hold up a leprechaun’s gold, just in time for St. Patrick’s Day. They then balanced a small cup on top of their bridge and added the gold (pennies) one by one to see how much weight their bridge could hold before collapsing.

The luck of the Irish was with the students because they had so much fun with this activity!



# Remembering a Bright Light – Stella Usiak

The North Tonawanda community suffered a devastating loss when Stella Usiak passed away in January.

Not only did she have a huge impact on the students and staff at NT, she made an impact on Western New York with her tireless efforts to raise money and awareness for leukemia, which she valiantly fought until her tragic passing.

Stella excelled at North Tonawanda High School, earning her New York State High Regents Diploma and winning awards for her creative writing talents. She was a true inspiration and bright light to many and she will be missed.





## Albright Knox Honors NT Student

The Albright Knox Art Gallery has selected Eleanor Collins to show in the Future Curators 2021 Exhibition.

Her painting “New Year” was selected from student work submitted from across Western New York to hang at the gallery’s alternate locations as well as virtually. Eleanor is a sophomore at North Tonawanda High School where she is a Visual Art student in the studio of Christina Davis. Mrs. Davis is extremely proud of her student. “Eleanor is so advanced and driven,” says Mrs. Davis. “She pushes herself to learn and perfect the next skill. I am always adapting lessons to challenge her.”

District Director of Fine Arts, Dean Vallas, is also thrilled over the honor. “It is an incredible piece and I am so proud of Eleanor and the Visual Art Faculty who have helped her get to this level. March was Arts in Our Schools Month and this is a special addition to the celebration.”

Eleanor is hoping to pursue a career in the Arts and also enjoys writing.



## Middle School Students Show Off Creative Skills in New Apparel

Seventh grade students on Team Orion recently participated in a team building activity by designing, printing, and tie-dyeing Lumberjack logo t-shirts. Math teacher Todd Bush says the students were part of the entire process from start to finish, culminating in each student creating their own tie dye t-shirt. “Kim Sinon also graciously donated white fabric masks for each student and they were also tie-dyed. One of the days during Middle School Week was “Twin Day”, Team Orion though took it one step further and celebrated “Team Day” by wearing their tie dye shirts on the same day.”

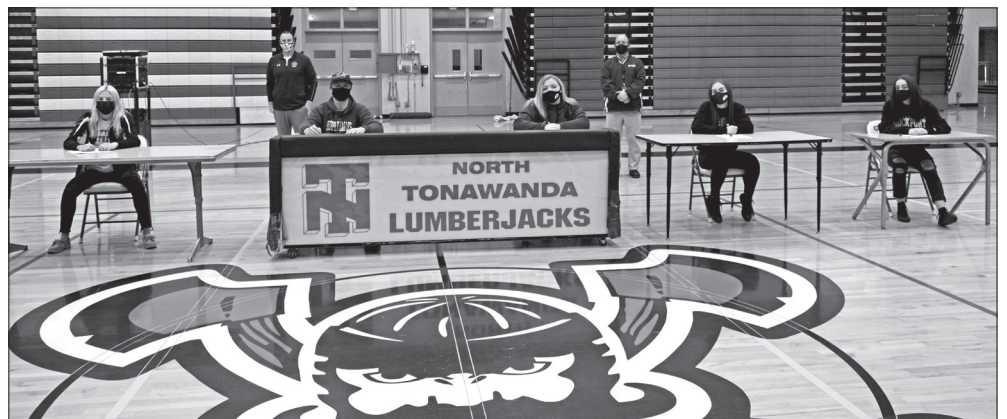


## Five NT Student-Athletes Celebrated at Signing Day Event

Congratulations to five North Tonawanda High School student-athletes who signed their letters of intent to their chosen colleges.

March 17th, Olivia Annunziato, Jessiaca Hanes, Jessica Tyrell, Casey O’Bryan and Alex Buckley committed to their colleges in front of family and friends on a live streamed event at the High School gym.

Olivia will be on the Cross Country and Track and Field teams for SUNY Brockport, Jessiaca will be a member of the Track and Field team for Niagara University, Jessica will be playing soccer for Medaille College, Casey O’Bryan will be playing baseball for Niagara University and Alex will be playing basketball for Bethesda University.



Alex Buckley, Casey O’Bryan, Jessica Tyrell, Jessiaca Hanes and Olivia Annunziato. Back Row: Athletic Director Matthew Cook and High School Principal James Fisher.



# NTI Student Donation Drive Benefits SPCA

Sixth grade NTI student, Jessica Lindhurst, has spent the last seven months trying to get a donation drive up and running for the Niagara County SPCA. Jessica first approached Literacy Specialist Lauren Miranto via email in June during remote learning. “While most kids were thinking about summer break, Jessica was thinking about helping animals,” says Miranto. “She had a PowerPoint prepared as to why we should support the SPCA with a school-wide collection drive. Knowing that the school year was coming to an end and so many safety precautions were in place, I knew this project had to be placed on the back burner. Fast forward to January of this year when our Friends of NTI created a Junior FONTI Jr. Council Board. Once Jessica got word of this new student-led initiative, she once again reached out to me. This time I knew we could see her vision through. Jessica presented her presentation to the board of her peers who loved and supported the idea.”

The collection ran through the entire month of February. Jessica took charge by creating posters to advertise around the building, looked up and contacted the SPCA to see what donations were acceptable and added the campaign to the recorded morning announcements. Jessica knew that she wanted this to be more hands-on for all the students of NTI than just bringing in donations, she wanted everyone to feel included. “Together, we came up with the idea of grab and go cat and dog toy kits,” explains Miranto. “Bags of materials were placed in our cafeteria to give all our Junior Jacks the opportunity to make a toy for a shelter animal. Each bag contained the directions and materials needed for the toy. Jessica led and organized this idea with fellow FONTI Jr. Council members.”

Jessica was able to drop off the donations of dog and cat treats, toys, and handmade fleece blankets to the Niagara County SPCA after the collection period ended. There she was greeted by the staff with gratitude and given the VIP treatment. She was able to visit with some of the shelter cats and bunnies. Miranto could not be prouder of Jessica and her schoolmates. “Here at NTI we want all our students to demonstrate PRIDE, Jessica is a great example of what it means to be a Junior Jack,” says Miranto.



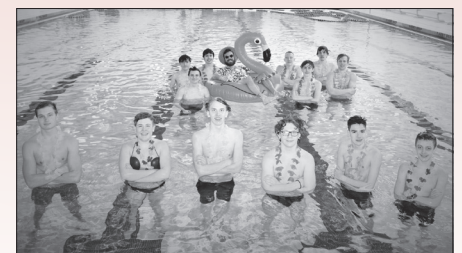
## A Huge Thank You from Spruce

Spruce Elementary students put their creative talents to use to thank their community heroes. As part of a lesson students learned the role of essential workers.

Library Aide Dolly Cairns asked the students to write notes and color pictures to celebrate the heroes. “We delivered them to DeGraff Memorial Hospital, Department of Public Works, post office, police department, fire stations and Walmart,” explains Ms. Cairns. “It put a smile on the workers’ faces for sure.”



## Swim Team Goes Hawaiian



To celebrate making it to the semifinals – the Swim Team celebrated with a Hawaiian theme photo shoot. A great time was had by all!

## Guidelines for School Visitors During Budget Vote

Please be aware we will follow the guidelines listed below to provide a safe voting environment:

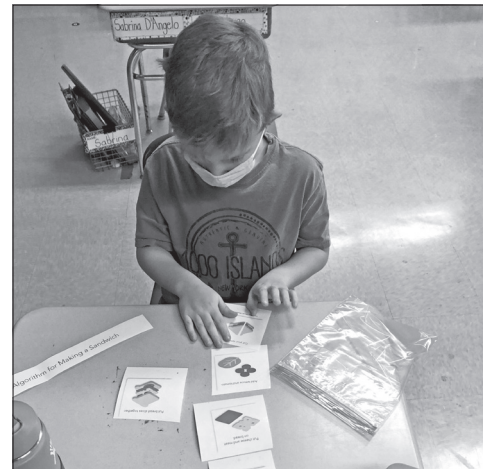
- All visitors to the school must wear a mask.
- All visitors should use the hand sanitizer provided when they enter the voting area.
- Everyone must practice social distancing allowing at least six feet from another person or person(s).
- All visitors should complete a self-check before entering a school building.
- Visitors with fever greater than 100.4, congestion, dry cough, breathing difficulties, sore throat and/or chills should NOT enter our school buildings or offices. It is extremely important that you do NOT come to our schools if you are sick. Please do not place our students and employees at risk.



## Ohio Elementary Students Become Coders

Recently Ohio School second grade students had the opportunity to try out programming and became coders! They started out learning about terms such as algorithm, program, and conditional through organizing cards and creating Lego mazes. They then continued on using Coding Awbie on Osmos and the app Scratch Jr to learn all about looping, events, and so much more!

Teacher Kelly Castronova says, "The children gained a great deal of knowledge about the tech world and enjoyed every second! These students' futures are bright!"



## SNOW Much Fun at Ohio Elementary

A collaboration between Mrs. Castronova's and Mrs. Hromowyk's second grade classes at Ohio Elementary provided a week's worth of cross curricular literacy and STEAM learning.

The students participated in various indoor and outdoor STEAM challenges. Throughout this unit, creativity and determination played a major role in helping students expand their skills in engineering design, art, and measurement.





# Four North Tonawanda Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to four of our North Tonawanda High School students who attend the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center. They were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.

Out of all the high school students in the United States, the National Technical Honor Society students who receive this honor comprise 1.6 percent of that population. For staff at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES center, they represent the four pillars of the National Technical Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The students were honored at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES' technical education center with their certificates in front of classmates. The students had to maintain an 89.5 grade average in their career and technical education programs and an 84.5 average at their high schools, have superior attendance, exemplary behavior, be a member in good standing with SkillsUSA and have a recommendation from a faculty member.

Congratulations go to: Daniel Zea who attends the Web and Game Development program, Braeden Dempsey who attends the Automotive Technology program, Aden Spina who attends the Electricity/Electronics program and Kelsey Zalewski who attends the Security and Law Enforcement program.



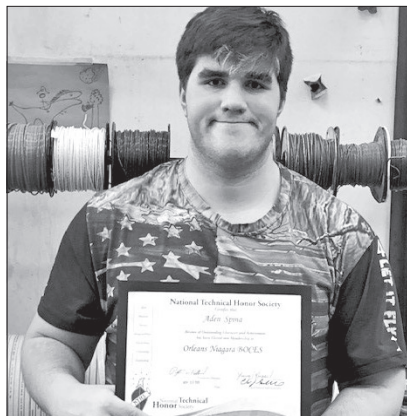
*Braeden Dempsey with Auto Technology teacher assistant Brian Strickland and teacher Joe Croff.*



*Daniel Zea with his Web and Game Development teacher Michelle LeFauve.*



*Kelsey Zalewski with her Security and Law Enforcement teacher Jess Traver.*



*Aden Spina*

# Drama Club Gets Ready to Unveil Superhero Play

North Tonawanda Drama Club was fortunate to produce the hilarious play "The People Vs. Hero & Sidekick", written by our own Fine Arts teacher John Szablewski.

Mr. Szablewski teaches Visual Art at the Middle School and Drake Elementary. He is also a theatre buff and dreamt up a comedy where a superhero needed a double hip replacement, but had no healthcare because his policy was cancelled due to there being no crime.

What is a successful crime fighter to do except devise a plan to create crime to fight? The community will be able to watch the calamity on District resources later this spring. Watch for this world premier announcement on the District's Fine Arts webpage and social media.



## PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

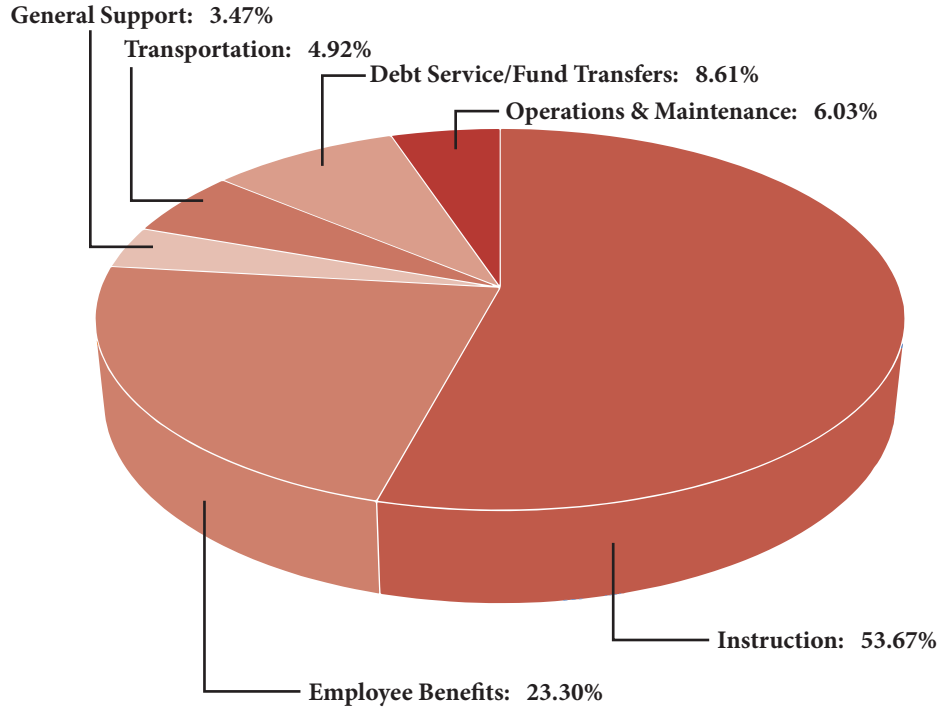
Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$81,854,500 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount 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.

## PROPOSITION #2 ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW 2021 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND TRANSPORTATION RESERVE FUND

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (the "Board") of the City School District of the City of North Tonawanda, Niagara County, New York (the "District") is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law of the State of New York (the "Fund"); that the Fund shall be known as the "2021 Capital Improvements and Transportation Reserve Fund" of the District; that the Fund shall be established for the purposes of financing, in whole or in part, (a) the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, renovation, alteration and improvement of buildings, facilities, sites and real property by the District, or the District's share of the cost of any capital improvements project undertaken by a Board of Cooperative Educational Services ("BOCES") of which the District is (or may become) a component district, including, in all cases, the acquisition of necessary furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus and (b) the acquisition of various school buses, school bus-type vans/minivans/suburbans, and similar vehicles (and related equipment) for use in the transportation program of the District; that the ultimate amount of such Fund shall be not greater than \$15,000,000 (plus interest earned thereon); that the probable term of such Fund shall be not longer than ten (10) years; and that the permissible sources from which the Board is authorized to appropriate monies to such Fund from time to time shall be (a) amounts applied thereto from budgetary appropriations of the District; (b) unappropriated fund balance of the District; (c) State aid received as reimbursement for expenditures by the District in connection with District capital improvements or transportation-related purchases (whether or not such improvements or purchases were financed in whole or in part from the Fund); (d) the proceeds from the sale of unneeded real or personal property owned by the District, if permitted by law and if so directed by the Board; (e) such other sources as the Board or the voters of the District may direct from time to time, all as may be permitted by law.

This will allow the District to keep the tax levy low and use reserve fund savings to pay for future capital project expenses and future purchase of buses using reserves. This is part of the long-term financial plan put in place last year to use savings to finance project costs and the purchase of the vehicles for the District fleet to reduce the tax cap increase on local residents.

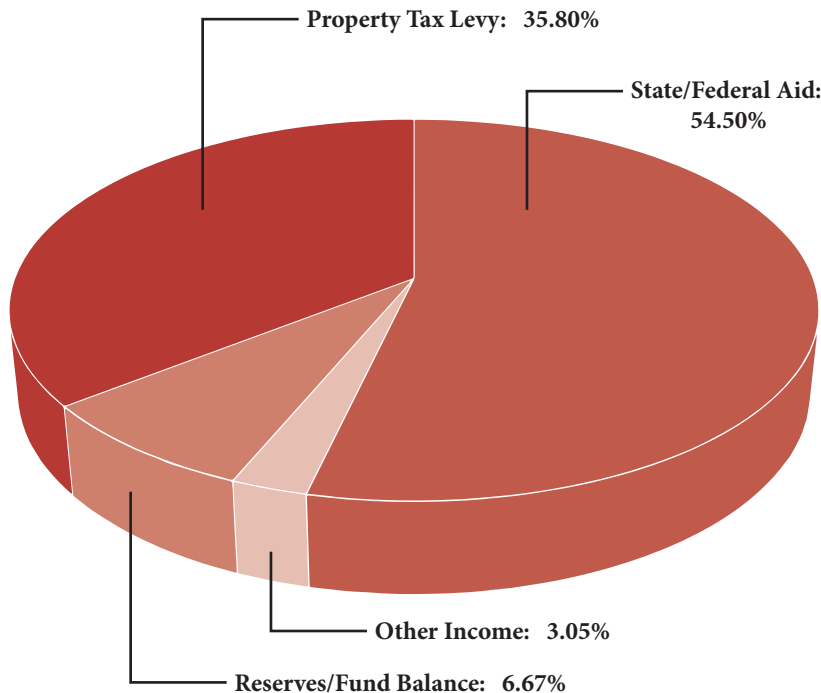
## EXPENDITURES



	2020-2021	2021-2022	Percent Change from 2020-21
<b>Instruction</b>	\$43,897,021	\$43,931,668	0.08%
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.			
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	\$18,350,000	\$19,075,000	3.95%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, social security and worker's compensation.			
<b>General Support</b>	\$2,911,044	\$2,837,956	-2.51%
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.			
<b>Transportation</b>	\$4,550,650	\$4,027,276	-11.50%
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
<b>Debt Service/Fund Transfers</b>	\$7,154,523	\$7,050,905	-1.45%
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, includes District's share of special education summer programs.			
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance</b>	\$4,153,702	\$4,931,695	18.73%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	\$81,016,940	\$81,854,500	1.03%



# PROJECTED REVENUES



	2020-2021	2021-2022	Change from 2020-21
State/Federal Aid	\$43,452,270	\$44,605,183	\$1,152,913

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2021-22 school year, it is projected to be 54.49% of all revenue. This represents an aid increase of \$1,152,913.

Other Income	\$2,139,045	\$2,498,567	\$359,522
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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 receipts.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$6,550,000	\$5,450,000	(\$ 1,100,000)
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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	\$28,875,625	\$29,300,750	\$425,125
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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 2021-22 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$404,407 which represents a 1.4 % over the previous year. The District will be using \$700,000 in reserves to offset the loss of tax revenue to support the budget as a temporary measure to provide relief to taxpayers.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$81,016,940	\$81,854,500	\$837,560
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## Transportation

### Capital Expenditure

In the 2021-2022 budget year, the district is proposing to purchase five type "C", 66-passenger big buses, three type "A", small buses, and additional school bus-type vans/minivans/suburbans, or similar vehicles for the purpose of transporting students as part of home to school and extra-curricular services. These vehicles will be replacing vehicles that will be retired from the current district fleet that are aging out.

## \$100,000 Capital Outlay and Capital Improvement Projects

**What is the capital outlay project that is included in the 2021-2022 school budget this year?**

Capital outlay projects were established by NYSED Department of Facilities Planning as a method for districts to maintain facilities, make modest upgrades, and improvements of up to \$100,000 between larger capital projects. The most important aspect of these projects is that they will generate state aid for the school district to cover a portion of the cost of construction. In the past these necessary repairs and improvements would all be paid for through local funds as building repairs in the budget, or the district would have to delay repairs until the district could put together a large capital project. Now, using capital outlay projects the district will only pay for approximately 16% of the costs with local funds because the state will provide aid for approximately 84% providing a funding source for the district to reduce the local cost to taxpayers. In the 21-22 budget year the district is proposing to use these funds for a construction/reconstruction project to address improvements to the Meadow Campus which would include but not limited to flooring, finishes, ceilings, wiring, heating and ventilation systems in school buildings.

## Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education anticipated candidates can be found on the district website: [www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org).

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

# OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools Budget Notice

## OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2020-21 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2021-22 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2021-22 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$81,016,940	\$81,854,500	\$80,401,500
Increase/Decrease for the 2021-22 School Year		\$837,560	(\$615,440)
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.03%	-0.76%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.23%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$28,875,625	\$29,300,750	
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	\$	\$	
<b>E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)</b>	<b>\$28,875,625</b>	<b>\$29,300,750</b>	<b>\$ 28,896,343</b>
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$225,112	\$361,226	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$28,789,101	\$29,003,229	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$28,650,513	\$28,939,524	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$138,588	\$63,705	
Administrative Component	\$7,459,026	\$6,607,021	\$6,571,021
Program Component	\$59,891,336	\$61,104,025	\$60,767,025
Capital Component	\$13,666,579	\$14,143,454	\$13,063,454

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$1,453,000 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 2021-22 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$509

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-2022 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, NY will be held at the Fine Arts Center in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 pm (noon) and 9:00 pm at which polls will be open to vote by voting ballot or machine. Absentee ballots are due back to the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021.

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

## Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 18, 2021



# Mardi Gras Dance Party

North Tonawanda Intermediate (NTI) School once again danced the night away to the music and moves of DJ Keidel.

This time, the theme was 'Dancing in Disguise' to celebrate Mardi Gras. Students had the opportunity to grab a mask template in school and get creative with their mask decorating skills. Students then wore the masks the night of the virtual dance party. Literacy Specialist Lauren Miranto says, "Our Junior Jacks did not disappoint. Our TEAMS screen was loaded with beautiful, colorful, and artistic masks. Mr. Burgess, our band teacher, was the special guest and entering mid-party to play "When the Saints Go Marching In" on his clarinet. The night was a blast and proves that even though we must be distant, we can still all come together and have fun in new ways!"



# First Graders Learn How to Catch a Leprechaun

First graders in Mrs. Zintek's and Mrs. Davignon's class, at Ohio Elementary, made leprechaun traps at home with their families in time for St. Patrick's Day. The students spent a few weeks learning in the classroom about force and simple machines. Then, they applied their STEAM knowledge to incorporate at least one simple machine to trap a leprechaun. Students loved explaining and testing their traps out with their classmates.





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

### Board of Education

Matthew Kennedy, President  
Colleen Angelhow, Vice President  
Erik Herbert  
Zachary Niemiec  
Gabrielle Richards  
Erica Robinson  
Krista Vince Garland  
Megan Orrange, Student Member

Gregory J. Woytila  
Superintendent of Schools  
[www.ntschoools.org](http://www.ntschoools.org)



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NY

ECRWSS EDDM  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

## Student Spotlight Art Show Huge Success

Congratulations to all our students who had their artwork on display at the 2021 Student Spotlight Show at the Carnegie Art Center from March 3rd to the 24th.

Attendees were invited to see the amazing display of our talented students either virtually or in person. On the Virtual Family Night on March 18th, students and their families were able to access free art lessons and activities designed by the art educators of North Tonawanda City Schools. Art teacher John Szablewski said, "It was a wonderful opportunity for these young artists to see their work on display in public. It was a great opportunity to share our love, support, and excitement about art. Students need art now more than ever before."

